

TRENDY TIMES



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APRIL 5, 2022 VOLUME 13, NUMBER 13

3 Cross Vermont Trail Communities Receive Major Grants

Governor Scott and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation announced on Monday March 28 the award of nearly 5 million dollars in funding to 24 outdoor recreation projects statewide including three - in Groton, Cabot and Montpelier - that will help extend the Cross Vermont Trail network.

Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) Board Chair Mike Thomas, from Wells River, was quick to offer congratulations. "This is what the Cross Vermont Trail Association calls a success story, when neighboring communities each buy in to the larger dream of a connected four season multi use path across their respective boundaries, from Lake Champlain to the Connecticut." CVTA supported each community's ap-

plication, and is looking forward to working with them as the work is done.

These grants are a part of the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). VOREC is a State program, guided by a steering committee made up of Vermont businesses and non-profits including outdoor manufacturers, retailers, brand representatives, trail and user groups. The goal of VOREC is to support recreation in natural settings in order to help maintain a healthy outdoor economy that invites visitors to our State, while also promoting a good quality of life for residents.

The three grants are:

Town of Groton: "Gateway Project", upgrading the Cross Vermont Trail that connects from the Village to Groton State Forest and to Pine

Mountain wildlife area. Also securing new public green-space along the Wells River, building new parking lot near the Village and improving signage town wide along the trail.

Town of Cabot: Building connections between the Village of Cabot, the Town's four-season trail network, the Cross Vermont Trail and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.

City of Montpelier: Strengthening downtown connection to existing outdoor recreation assets through the construction of two connector trails, tying together with Cross Vermont Trail projects now underway in neighboring East Montpelier.

Michael Nahmias from the Town of Groton Planning Commission accepted the grant award from Governor

Scott on Monday. "The village of Groton is a natural trailhead to explore this great area" said Nahmias. "We can't wait to get started on the Gateway Project and clearly tie our village center via the upgraded Cross Vermont Trail to the state forest lands and beyond."

The Cross Vermont Trail Association is a statewide, member based non-profit that works by collaborating with landowners, community groups and local governments. We help to foster regional trail networks with the Cross Vermont Trail as the connection among them, with the ultimate goal of a multi-use trail across Vermont through the Winooski



A family bikes on Cross Vermont Trail near the village of Groton. (photo by CVTA)

and Wells River Valleys between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River. CVTA's vision is public recreation that is inviting and accessible; safe off-road travel to desired destinations; convenient locations for healthy activity; and a permanent greenway for enjoyment of the natural world. More information including trail maps at <https://crossvermont.org/>.

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TRENDY Dining Guide

Woodsville Village Pizza

by Gary Scruton

The last time I did an article about Woodsville Village Pizza was shortly after new owners took over. That meant that there were some changes, and some things were the same.

This time when Janice and I stopped in, on a Wednesday evening, the first thing we discovered was that the new menus had been finalized, produced, and were on display at the front counter. With that discovery the first thing we did was grab one, find an empty booth, and go over what might be tempting to the taste buds for the evening.

The front of the menu offers up the name as Woodsville Pizza & Roast Beef, though we all understand that for many years it will still be referred to as Vil-

lage Pizza by the regulars. Beyond that we noticed as well that the menu seems to be much larger. Almost one whole panel is simply side orders. Another is dedicated to Specialty Pizzas and the back panel has Dinner & Pasta Dishes plus a "For the Kids" section. The other panels of the menu still give you pizza options along with hot and cold subs, salads as well as the "From the Grill" section. It was a lot to take in and decide on one thing for the evening.

Janice finally settled on a way to sample a number of options. On the sides portion there is a Village Sampler option. The menu describes it as: A bunch of freis, three mozzarella sticks, three chicken fingers, three wings, and onion rings served on a filling platter. She also got to choose a dipping sauce.

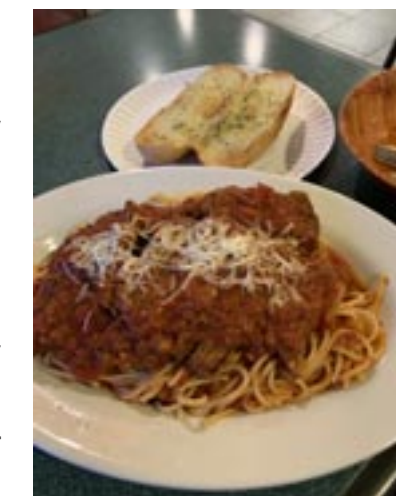
I went with an option that may not be so popular, as proven by the fact that our counter person was not sure just how to put it into the register. He found some help and away we went. I had seen a listing for Veal Parmesan. It's listing offered Breaded filet of tender veal, fried golden-brown, served on spaghetti or penne topped with our savory sauce. Along with this I also got a bowl of garden salad (1000 Island dressing, please) and a side dish with two pieces of garlic bread.

We also both picked out a bottle of lemonade from the cooler just to the side of the front counter and paid for the entire order, \$36.68, with a credit card right then and there. Janice also left a nice tip for our counter person to encourage him as he



learned more about the cash register. We received our slip and went back to the booth to wait for our number to be called.

We were seated for a while when someone came out of the kitchen with my salad in hand and headed our way speaking our number. With a nod from me



she left the salad and returned to the kitchen. I would like to note that the kitchen

is very open so you can see much of what goes on during food preparation.

The salad was generous with lettuce, onion, bread cubes, a slice of green pepper and even some tomato (which I shared with Janice). I had almost finished my salad when our meals also came out of the kitchen and were brought to our booth. In fact this delivery person needed to make two trips to bring it all out.

When close to being finished I asked Janice which part of her sampler she like the best. She really had to stop and think about it. She said she thought it would be the onion rings, but that the chicken fingers were real chicken, not chicken parts, and were cooked just right. But...the fries are always good.

As for my Veal Parmesan I very much enjoyed it. It is a dish I like but seldom see it offered. So it was a real treat for me. There was plenty of veal that I cut with a fork. There was also plenty of spaghetti on the platter. And the two slices of garlic bread were just the addition to make it all quite enjoyable.

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April Is Alcohol Awareness Month

Wells River -- According to CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America), there is both good news and bad news regarding underage drinking in this country. "While national figures show a downward trend in the number of young people who use alcohol, alcohol remains the number one drug of choice for America's youth, and is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined."

Our own community coalition based in Wells River, 302 Cares, will mark Alcohol Awareness Month in April to increase public awareness and educate people about the treatment and prevention of alcohol misuse. 302 Cares is asking local businesses and organizations to illuminate their buildings in red during Alcohol Awareness Month. Lights and a lawn sign explaining the purpose will be provided to all who choose to participate. Questions and requests may be directed to 302cares@gmail.com.

Kelsey Root-Winchester, Program Director for 302 Cares, stated, "With good

reason, our community has lately been highly focused on how to manage the growing problem of opioid misuse, particularly with an eye to protecting our youth. But we don't want to lose sight of the fact that problems with alcohol misuse are still with us and still serious. We encourage all our neighbors to join us in observing Alcohol Awareness Month."

Results from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey at Blue Mountain School bear out this concern. Although the number of students reporting some use of alcohol was 45%, lower than the State average of 55%, 12% of BMU students indicated they had consumed alcohol before age 13, and 64% felt it is easy to obtain alcohol.

302 Cares is a community organization committed to supporting and celebrating the health and wellness of all people. Impetus for the coalition was sparked by a neighborhood forum in Wells River in 2016 as community members gathered to discuss the rising incidence of opioid misuse.

Peacham Community Bread Oven Raises Funds for Ukraine Families

Students, teachers, parents and volunteers conducted a successful fundraising event in Peacham Vermont to benefit Ukraine families.

What started out as a gesture to ease a busy parent-teacher conference week - by offering pizza and salad dinners for sale - quickly shifted into making dinners to raise funds for families in Ukraine. Over 80 pizza and salad dinners were sold from the Peacham Community Bread Oven at the Peacham School - surpassing students and teachers expectations by raising over \$1,700 in 48 hours. Funds will be donated to the charities Americares, and World Central Kitchen: Chefs for Ukraine that provide medical supplies, food, humanitarian aid. Peacham School Principal, Sam McLeod says he researched over 22 charities in making the final decision, and that the two charities that were selected appeared to be able to provide the most direct impact to families in Ukraine.

The community bread oven was conceived of in

2019 with students and staff at Peacham Elementary School. Teachers and the after school program director assisted students in the application for grant funds from Vermont Rural Education Collaborative. Students wanted to build a community bread oven with the intent to allow classes to enjoy experiential education and applied language arts and math through baking activities. Students envisioned the oven to also serve as a community gathering space connecting school to the broader community. It was also conceived of as a viable fundraising tool to help fund student activities and offset the costs of a town funded after school program.

After Covid delays, The Peacham Community Bread Oven was built in 2021 by an all volunteer team of students and community members. It now sits in the front of the school building - with easy access to the certified kitchen at the school. Sam McLeod said of the Ukraine fundraising event, 'conversations about the news from Ukraine were being discussed in age appropriate ways, throughout the school, and community. We all felt we needed to do something to help. Students need to see adults role-model behavior: When you see others struggling, doing something, no matter how small. It can make a big dif-

ference." McLeod said that all classes participated - from second and third graders helping to make posters and flyers announcing the pizza dinner sale, to 4, 5, and 6th graders preparing toppings for the pizzas, assisting making the salads, and managing the orders and sales. Parents and community members also stepped in: donating wood for the oven, firing and running the oven, and helping prepare, bake and sell the pizza dinners. And of course many in the community ordered the pizza dinners to go, enjoying what some called a "peace a pie".

The Vermont Rural Education Collaborative - a non-profit organization and regional consortium of school districts - offers annual grants for student-led projects, literacy grants, and professional development opportunities to small schools across Vermont. The Peacham Community Bread Oven project also benefited from in-kind donations of services and materials by a number of community partners, including Joseph Kiefer, who has built many bread ovens at schools including Montpelier High School, Barnet School, and others. (More can be read here on the VREC website - vttrued.org - under the 'stories from our region' tab).

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April 5, 2022

Volume 13 Number 13

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Grants to Benefit NH Agricultural Fairs Gets Green Light!

The NH Statewide Fair bill, HB 1584-FN, was unanimously approved by the NH Hampshire House of Representatives on March 31. Passage of this bill will certainly benefit the North Haverhill Fair along with NH's other 12 state fairs which are so much a part of local culture, and capture fair visitors, exhibitors and operators from all parts of the state, New England and beyond.

Prior to introducing HB 1584, I found it difficult to actually pin down the health of NH's fairs, as it has been years since their financial impact has been properly studied. The last full reports that I could locate, dated to 2002 when Plymouth State University conducted a statewide fair study finding that fairs brought into the state an estimated \$40.6M spent by visitors, exhibitors

and operators, and in a follow-up report dated 2011, the sum total of spending dropped to \$37M. The reports further noted that fairs generated approximately 900 jobs, and that fairs were maintaining primarily upon the reliance of volunteers. This is in fact the case with the North Haverhill Fair, which has strong community support and is successful due to in kind contributions and a volunteer force of 300 plus community members.

From 1937 through 1987, when parimutuel betting at Rockingham Park occurred, all bets were placed in a pool from which a percentage of the pot was taken by the state of New Hampshire. Annual distributions were then provided to support capital improvements at NH's summer fairs, of which 13 remain today. In 1979, the distribution to assist cap-

ital costs of fairs amounted to \$275,000, and in subsequent years, the amount dropped to \$50,000 and eventually stopped when Rockingham closed.

Many of the fairs, such as the North Haverhill Fair, are now struggling to keep up with maintenance on their aging buildings and infrastructure. The grant created in this bill will provide funds to repair buildings on the fairgrounds and will assist in bringing the buildings up to current code requirements. The state will appropriate \$250,000 annually to this fund. The fund will be managed by the Commissioner of Agriculture with audit requirements as a control measure.

Having been passed by several House committees, including Ways and Means, the bill now moves to the Senate where I remain positive that body will concur, seeing the wonderful benefits that this bill provides for the state and local communities.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rep Rick Ladd
Chair, House Education

American Association for Justice Endorses Democrat Molly Gray for Congress

Burlington, VT — Today, the American Association for Justice (AAJ), an organization of trial lawyers dedicated to defending Americans' right to trial by jury, endorsed Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray for Congress. AAJ's priorities include bringing an end to forced arbitration, defending clients' rights, and encouraging the nomination of diverse judges.

"As a human rights lawyer, a former board member of the Vermont Bar Association, a former clerk on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and a former Assistant Attorney General, Molly has been a leader in the Vermont legal community and will be an excellent member of Congress," said Linda Lipsen, AAJ's Chief Executive Officer. "We know that in Washington, Molly will fight to protect civil rights, defend our Constitution, and strengthen our civil justice system. We're proud to endorse her candidacy for the U.S. House of Representatives."

"As a lawyer, I worked to protect and defend the Constitution. In Washington and as Lieutenant Governor, I worked to improve the law itself. I'll be ready on day one to fulfill my duty to uphold constitutional rights, to advance civil liberties, and to make real progress on meaningful justice reforms," said Gray. "I'm proud to have the support of this strong coalition of lawyers, law professors, paralegals, and law students who work every day to ensure every American has access to justice."

After graduating from the University of Vermont, Gray worked on then Vermont Senate Pro Tem Peter Welch's successful 2006 congressional campaign before serving as an aide in his Washington office. She went on to the International Committee of the Red Cross, where she worked to promote compliance with the Geneva Conventions. Gray received her JD from Vermont Law School in 2014; she then served as a law clerk to the Honorable Peter W. Hall of Rutland, Vermont's judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She went on to earn her LLM in International Law from the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies. Before being elected Vermont's 82nd Lieutenant Governor, Gray served statewide as an Assistant Attorney General and was an adjunct professor at Vermont Law School where she taught international human rights law.

If elected, Gray would be the first woman to serve Vermont in Washington. More information about Gray's campaign can be found at <https://mollyforvermont.com>

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HAPPY

Easter

Sunday, April 17, 2022

A Month in Italy - 7

by Elinor Mawson

At 4 AM I heard a brass band go by--a bunch of guys dressed in raincoats and playing horns and drums in the bed of a huge truck. Hollar and yelling, they went by again at 6 AM. I don't know what it was all about but it sure was interesting--and something different!

Yesterday we went to a town about 25 miles away called Sansupulchro. We were going to see the most beautiful painting in the world, but when we got there, it was closed for repairs. So instead we had a gourmet lunch consisting of bruschetta made with "new" olive oil from Tuscany. RARE veal, cooked like steak au poivre, and salad. It was elegant and expensive and we loved every minute of it.

Martine stayed at La Torre and when we got back she had made French onion soup and meatball sandwiches for supper. And for dessert she had bought a tiramisu and we hoped no-

body was going by while we were eating it because it sounded like we were having an orgy. I had never tasted anything like it in my life.

Today we are laying low and tomorrow we are taking a picnic lunch to a mountain-top somewhere. Sunday Nancy and Carole are taking the car and going to Pompeii, coming back on Monday. I have been to Pompeii and I guess Martine doesn't want to go. The car has been great--it has opened up vistas that we wouldn't have seen otherwise, but it has been a great expense. It gets 40 miles to the gallon but it cost \$40 to fill up the tank. It takes diesel.

Yesterday Nancy asked our grocer Angelo for some fresh bread. Between her Pidgin Italian and her hand signals, she asked for something pornographic, which made Angelo smile and Nancy turned beet red. She doesn't want to go to Angelo's ever again.

We have met our neigh-

bor Anna Gloria. She lives with her 90 year old mother and feeds the cats in the area. She came in today and talked about her family. She has a famous sister and a "mother's baby darlin'" brother who sounds familiar. She has ended up with the work detail that happens in every family I guess.

Everyone has moved rooms again, for the last time. Carole is sleeping in Andrew's room which is the most comfortable but you have to defy death to get there. It is through a tiny little door and down a terrifying ladder - like set of stairs. She only sleeps there and keeps her stuff in another room. We have had to leave our suitcases on the ground floor because it is so treacherous to take them upstairs. We will take small increments of our things down over the ladder. Our landlady says you get thighs of steel if you are here long enough. I don't think it has had the same effect on my knee.

Only four more days in this wonderful place. I am so thrilled to have had this experience.

In my next (and last) account of this trip, I will talk about our 2 days in Rome. And then I will resume my more "mundane" bi-weekly columns.

Northern Grafton County Republican Committee To Hold Primary Gubernatorial Platform

The Northern Grafton County Republican Committee will hold a Republican Primary Candidates for governor of NH platform and question answering session. It will only include Candidate Thad Riley and Candidate Karen Testerman. Governor Sununu will not be in attendance due to other commitments.

The NGCRC Meeting will take place on Monday, April 11, 2022 at the Littleton Elks

Club, Lodge #1831 located at 42 Main Street, Route 302, Bethlehem, NH. There will be refreshments and socializing at 6:00 PM, and the meeting and candidate session will begin at 6:30 PM.

Republican and Like-Minded Conservatives are Welcome to attend. Interested persons may contact janicenovak@myfairpoint.net or call 603-823-5011.

Be a part of Keeping New Hampshire RED!

DAR Good Citizens Announced

The White Mountains Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is honored to announce this year's DAR Good Citizens from among the seniors at five area high schools.

The DAR Good Citizen program and scholarship contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship: dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.

The Chapter Good Citizens for 2021-2022 are: Madeline Carbonneau from Littleton High School; Kendal Clark from Lisbon High School; MacKenzie Craig from Profile School; Emily Schafermeyer from Groveton High School; Justin Wentworth from White Mountains Regional High School.

Each school winner was invited to submit an application and essay for the scholarship competition. An independent panel of judges selected one winner to represent the Chapter at the state-level competition.

Justin Wentworth was chosen the Chapter winner and was then selected as the male New Hampshire DAR Good Citizen. Justin's application has advanced to the Northeast Division competition.

The five Chapter winners and their guests will be honored at a luncheon at the regular White Mountains Chapter meeting on Saturday, May 21, 2022 in Littleton, NH. For more information, please contact Karen Whalen, Vice Regent, at karenhndar@gmail.com.

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Calendar of Events

EVENTS FROM LOCAL NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS AND TOWNS. PRESENTED FREE BY TRENDY TIMES.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

WOODSVILLE WELLS RIVER 4TH OF JULY
7:00 PM
Baldwin Memorial Library, Wells River

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 8 & 9

LOVE LETTERS by Old Church Theater
7:00 PM See Ad on Page 8
Bradford Academy Building

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

PEACHAM LIBRARY COFFEE HOUR
7:00 PM
Via Zoom

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

BENEFIT TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
10:00AM-5:00 PM Cash Games All Day
Moose Lodge 1779, St. Johnsbury

LOVE LETTERS by Old Church Theater
3:00 PM See Ad on Page 8
Bradford Academy Building

MONDAY, APRIL 11

UNIT #20 AUXILIARY MONTHLY MEETING
6:00 PM
4 Ammonoosuc Street, Woodsville

HAVERHILL SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
Clifford Memorial Building, Woodsville

NGCRC MONTHLY MEETING AND CANDIDATE
SESSION
6:00 PM See Article on Page 5
Littleton Elks Club, Bethlehem

HAVERHILL LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING
6:30 PM See Article on Page 5
Haverhill Library, Court St., Haverhill Corner

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION
MONTHLY MEETING
6:00 PM
4 Ammonoosuc Street, Woodsville

A COMMUNITY TIME OF WORSHIP
PRAISE, PRAYER, & SONG!
6:30 PM See Article on Page 6
Bethany Church, Pike, NH

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

VFW POST #5245 MONTHLY MEETING
7:00 PM
VFW HALL, NORTH HAVERHILL

MONDAY, APRIL 25

HAVERHILL SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
Clifford Memorial Building, Woodsville

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
6:00 PM
4 Ammonoosuc Street, Woodsville

SUNDAY, MAY 1

MEET THE AUTHOR OPEN HOUSE
3:00 - 4:00 PM See Ad on Page 3
Clifford Building, Woodsville

SUNDAY, MAY 8

AN EVENING OF BACH
3:00 PM See Article on Page 9
Clifford Building, Woodsville

EVERY SUNDAY

BETHANY CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES
9:00 AM "the church set apart on the hill"
Mt. Moosilauke Highway, Pike, NH
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WEEKLY EVENTS AT CLIFFORD MEMORIAL BUILDING

South Court Street, Woodsville Antique
STROLLERS WALKING PROGRAM
Monday – Friday from 11:00-12:00
MOVEMENT AND STRETCH CLASSES
Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
1:00 – 2:00 PM
PICKLEBALL
Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM
Saturday mornings at 9:00-10:30 AM
LINE DANCING every Wednesday evening
6:00 - 7:00 PM

ATTENTION

All Non-Profit Groups, Schools & Towns

Your notice of upcoming meetings, fund raisers or other gatherings can be listed FREE in our Calendar of Events. Just send us the date, name of event, time, and location. You are also welcomed to send along a Press Release for possible inclusion in Trendy Times.

*Best of all there is no charge
for either of these services.*

A Community Time of Worship

During this long-awaited new season of Spring and Resurrection, "A Community Time of Worship" is being held at Bethany Church in Pike on Wednesday evening, April 13th starting at 6:30 pm. Several leaders of our area Christian churches are coming together as a body of believers to embrace the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," (Ephesians 4:3) this evening will be filled with uplifting songs of praise, expressive worship, traditional hymns, words of inspiration, and prayer. Refreshments will be served following the service.

There will be special services at other area churches that week as well. Maundy Thursday Services will be held at Haverhill UCC and Orford UCC. A Good Friday Service will be held at Piermont Congregational Church. The public is invited to any and all of these Easter Week services. For more info on any of these gathering times, please contact Jo Anne at (603)787-6658.



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Oh, You're a Forester...Do You Plant Trees?

By Jim Frohn,
Grafton County Forester –
UNH Extension

As a forester, a common question I get is “do you plant trees after logging?” While this is common practice in other parts of the country and the world, here in New England tree planting as a part of forestry is unusual. Instead of planting, we typically rely on natural regeneration of trees. There are several reasons for this.

Why Utilize Natural Regeneration

Due to adequate year-round rainfall and reasonably fertile soils, trees readily regenerate on their own in our region. Consider that one time much of New England was cleared of its forests and converted to agriculture, then forests readily grew back on their own after farm abandonment, with limited planting by people.

Because trees regenerate well on their own, planted trees have lots of competition. Controlling this competition is costly and time consuming. (I managed a property where a stand had been cleared of hardwoods and planted with spruce twenty years prior. It was hard to tell it had been planted due to the dense growth of sugar maple and yellow birch. The spruces, which represented a substantial investment of money, time, and labor, were shaded out by the hardwood growth.) In our region, most species that regenerate naturally have commercial value. Therefore, planting to ensure a steady supply of favorable species is not as necessary as in other areas of the world where only a few species have marketable value.

Growth rates are another factor, as it takes a long time to grow a tree to sawlog size in New England. Usually, the cost of waiting for trees to grow outweighs the investment to plant the trees. In other regions with shorter time spans from seedling to harvestable tree, it makes economic sense to plant.

While most of our tree species have commercial value, some species are worth more than others in the market. Similarly, some species benefit wildlife more than others, or are more adapted to a changing climate. The task for foresters is to create conditions for the natural regeneration of desired species, whatever the goal might be. This is where silviculture comes in.

Silviculture, according to silviculturist David M. Smith, author of a widely used text

on the subject, can be defined as “the theory and practice of controlling forest establishment, composition, structure, and growth”. Foundational to silviculture is silvics, “which deals with the principles underlying the growth and development of single trees and of the forest as a biological unit” (Smith).

Sunlight and Shade

One of the most important concepts in silvics is shade tolerance. Tree species are on a spectrum of shade tolerance, from very shade tolerant to very shade intolerant, and different gradients in between. A tree species' shade tolerance characteristics are critical when considering how to get new seedlings established.

Very shade tolerant species include hemlock, red spruce, and beech. These species can germinate and persist in the deep shade of a closed canopy forest. They don't necessarily thrive in these conditions, but they will persist, which gives them a competitive advantage over less shade tolerant species. A sapling size hemlock may be mistaken for a young tree, but in reality, it may be 40 or 50 years old or more.

On the shade intolerant end of the spectrum, we find species such as paper birch and aspen. These species won't regenerate in shade. They need full sun and warm soil to germinate and thrive. Known as pioneer species, their competitive advantage is that they are among the first trees to establish after a heavy disturbance such as fire or clear-cutting.

Between these two extremes lie numerous species. Red oak, white ash, yellow birch, and white pine all exhibit intermediate shade tolerance. They tend toward one end or another of the spectrum - for example, yellow birch is less tolerant while white ash is more tolerant of shade.

Site Plays a Role

Site is also a factor in silviculture. Soil fertility and structure, drainage, slope, aspect, and elevation all play a role in which species of trees can be regenerated on a site.

Site characteristics need to be taken into consideration in forestry planning, but there is little, if anything, the forester can do to influence them. The forester can, however, manipulate the light levels that reach the forest floor. This is done through different silvicultural treatments, which involve cutting trees and often include sell-

ing the harvested wood.

Based on stewardship goals, site characteristics, and shade tolerance of the desired species, foresters develop various silvicultural treatments. They range from clearcutting to regenerate shade intolerant species to single tree selection to regenerate very shade tolerant species, and many variations in between.

Planting Can Play a Role

Efforts at natural regeneration aren't always successful. Excessive deer and moose browsing can keep natural regeneration from developing, and invasive plants can prevent successful establishment of native tree species. Poor logging practices that haven't taken the future forest into consideration can hinder regeneration of desired species. (For example, the stand may have had spruce and fir seedlings that became established in the shade, but skid trails weren't planned to avoid damage to the seedlings, resulting in their loss.) Along with this, misunderstanding the silvics of the target species can result in regeneration failure. (Clear-cutting in spruce-fir when no seedlings were established prior to harvest will result in shade intolerant hardwoods occupying the site, rather than the desired spruce and fir.)

In these situations, enrichment planting is an option to enhance the regeneration. The goal is to enrich the species composition, improve timber value, or increase stocking. The focus isn't on establishing plantations of trees, but rather to fill in places where regeneration may have failed or where species composition lacks diversity. (I worked on a planting project in Maine where the understory prior to harvesting was almost entirely beech. The goal was to improve the species composition and future value by planting spruce and pine with the existing hardwoods.)

Planting can also enhance wildlife food sources. Native dogwoods, elderberry, and winterberry, or introduced, but non-invasive, species such as apple all benefit wildlife. Like all plantings, these shrubs and trees need to be protected from competition and wildlife damage while they become established. Before deciding to plant, examination of the site is important. See if fruit and nut-bearing plants are already there and can be helped along by cutting trees that are shading them out.

Recreational Trails Program Grant Applications Available for 2023

The New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications for 2023 are now available.

RTP is a competitive grant program that offers funding for quality public trail projects throughout New Hampshire.

Grants are available for motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities, and educational materials for trail related activities and safety. Applicants may be non-profit organizations, private groups or government entities.

Applications are due June 17, 2022. For an application and more information, visit the Recreational Trails Program page at www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/trails-bureau/grants/recreational-trails-program

The Bureau will be holding three informational workshops about the program. Attendance to at least one of these workshops is mandatory to apply for RTP funds. The workshops will be held on/at the following dates, times, and locations:

- May 18, 2022, at 1:00 pm, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301.
- May 18, 2022, at 6:00 pm, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 172

Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301.

• May 25, 2022, at 6:00 pm, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, 629 B Main St., Lancaster, NH 03584.

The RTP Information Presentation (shown at the workshops) is available on the webpage along with current RTP guidelines. Please read them carefully and email Alexis.M.Rudko@dncr.nh.gov for any questions you may have.

Funding for the Recreational Trail Program is generated from federal gas tax dollars paid on fuel purchases for off-highway recreational vehicles and snowmobiles. These funds are appropriated to the states by the Federal Highway Administration as authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The program in New Hampshire is administered by the Division of Parks & Recreation's Bureau of Trails.

The Division of Parks and Recreation is comprised of the Bureau of Park Operations, Bureau of Historic Sites, Bureau of Trails, and Cannon Mountain. The Division manages 93 properties, including state parks, beaches, campgrounds, historic sites, trails, waysides, and natural areas. The Division of Parks and Recreation is one of five divisions of the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. To learn more, visit www.nhstateparks.org, follow NH State Parks on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, or call 603-271-3556.

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Windsor Lane Reopens in New Location

by Gary Scruton

For those who either live in North Haverhill village or travel thru on a regular basis you may well have noticed many changes going on at 2743 Dartmouth College Highway. Another way of describing its location is at the very end of Route 116 in North Haverhill, by the monument. Long time residents may well remember this as the former location of Aldrich General Store. More recent inhabitants think of it as Jim's Discount. After being vacant and even going to auction over the past few years, it has been given a new life with new owners.



Aaron & Meagan White have purchased the property, not only for a space to reopen their business, Windsor Lane, but also as a new residence for them and their four children aged 11 to 16.

While this does mark a new space for their business it does not mean that the business has been entirely closed during the pandemic. Meagan noted that she has continued to do sales in her Etsy account on line. It is also not reopening as it once was. There are a number of changes.

One of the biggest changes to the new Windsor Lane is that they will no longer be accepting any items on consignment. Rather they are buying outright products from many area crafters for resale. This is true even though much of their inventory is self produced. Both Aaron and Meagan are true crafts people. In fact about two thirds of the ground floor of the building is devoted to their workshops, both having about a third of the area with the final third being the retail space. And what will you find in that retail space? Handmade wooden signs, take one off the shelf or custom order one, Joyful jewelry, NH & VT

games, books & toys, old fashioned and nostalgic candy, Warmies (lavender scented warmable stuffies for young and old to cuddle) plus they are expanding their offerings of T-shirts and women's apparel.

With Easter just around the corner they also have a special Easter corner with all the fixings you need for a traditional, or exotic Easter basket. And don't forget about the kids. There is another special corner set off just for the kids to browse and find that one of a kind gift for most any occasion.

One thing that has not changed with the reopening of Windsor Lane is the name itself. When asked about the origin of the name it was noted that that was the loca-

tion of the beginning of their business, and they did not ever want to forget where it came from some six years ago - the kitchen table in their home on Windsor Lane in Mt. Lakes. It will always be a reminder to them of their roots and what the whole purpose of their business is, the chance to work together for the betterment of their family and themselves.

The new location of Windsor Lane will be open Tuesday thru Friday from 10 am until 6 pm and on Saturday from 10 am until 3 pm. Plus as a special treat the Easter Bunny is scheduled to make an appearance on Saturday, April 9. Come in and say Hi!



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Volume 13 Number 13 April 5, 2022 Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

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Old Church Theater Opens Season With Some Love Letters

by Janice Scruton

Old Church Theater has officially opened their 2022 season of plays. Friday night, April 1, Gary and I attended the opening night of the Pulitzer Prize nominated play "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney and directed by Scott Johnson. I opted to write this review as I was captivated by this performance.

Before seeing it, I thought two actors reading letters that they wrote to each other over the years would most likely put me to sleep. That was not the case. I got wrapped up in Melissa and Andrew's lives as they emerged from young children slowly aging into adults over the period of a lifetime. Many of their letters brought to light some of my memories, the emotional joys and turbulences, that form the threads of my own life.

And was viewing the same very simple set on stage for the entire play boring? Not at all. With very little actual movement on stage, I tuned in to the very subtle changes that were taking place. The slight shifting in the chair, the crossing

of legs, the repositioning of arms, even the angle at which they held their heads, helped to define their appropriate ages throughout. These combined with the language used in the letters themselves, (please note, there is some strong adult language used in appropriate manners) mentally enlarged the complexity of the setting for me. Pay attention to the details and this is a performance that will more than satisfy you.

Different to this play for Old Church Theater is that there are six different performers playing the two roles. Each performance will bring a pair of performers, one female and one male, together. The role of Melissa Gardner will be played by Meghan Ashley, Beth Conklin or Caroline McCart Swaney. Andrew Makepeace Ladd III will see Chris Leary, Miles A Conklin or D. Gary Jesseman. We were treated to the impressive abilities of Beth Conklin and Miles Conklin. In talking to the Director Scott Johnson after the show, Scott told us that each set of performers brings a unique set of nuances to the performance.

Knowing this makes me want to see it again and again with the other two sets of performers. I plan on making it to at least one more performance before closing.

As most of you are probably aware, Old Church Theater is in the midst of major fundraising projects to renovate the Old Church Theater building itself so they can once again offer their productions on their own stage. This season will see all performances presented on the stage at the Bradford Academy building, just across the street. It was announced before the opening curtain that they had recently received a \$25,000 matching grant, which makes this a perfect time to consider donating to them as each donation made will be matched, this essentially doubles your donation. Also in process is a Plant sale where 50% of the proceeds will be given to Old Church Theater.

The final weekend of "Love Letters" will be staged on Friday & Saturday, April 8 & 9 at 7:00 pm, with a final performance on Sunday, April 10 at 3:00 PM.

An Evening of Bach At Alumni Hall

CAMEO Arts Foundation, Inc. (CAF) organizes and underwrites Benefit Concerts in the Vermont/New Hampshire region, so that communities have access to high quality, affordable live music, and organizations that work to meet basic human needs receive much-needed support.

Our concerts support the arts economy of Vermont and New Hampshire, by compensating musicians for a portion of their time and effort and by providing a variety of live music experiences in many small and scattered communities. Through our Benefit Concerts, we generate resources for organizations that support the most vulnerable in our society; and we give our venue partners more opportunities to be utilized by the wider community and recognized as the local treasures they are.

Court St. Arts at Alumni Hall will host this group in a concert of music by J.S. Bach on Sunday, May 8th at 3:00 pm at their facility on Court Street in Havehrill, NH. Performers include Beth Hilgartner, recorder and voice, Leslie Stroud, traverso, Laurie Rabut, viola da gamba and Ernie Drown, harpsichord.

Admission is by a free will offering which will go to support the Good Shepherd Ecumenical Food Pantry in Woodsville.

In 2021, The Good Shepherd Ecumenical Food Pantry, supported by six local churches, provided almost 16,000 meals to 1,300 Havehrill individuals from over 450 households. The pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10am - 1pm and Wednesdays from 6-7pm. They are located in the Clifford Building in Woodsville, NH.



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April 5, 2022

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Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times April 5, 2022 Volume 13 Number 13

Letter to the Editor: Bye, Bye Fossil Fuel

To the Editor,

Semper Paratus (always ready) is the motto of the U.S. Coast Guard. It is a motto worth taking to heart because without fossil fuels you will need to get prepared... NOW. Without coal, gas, or oil there will not be any PVC pipe to construct indoor plumbing. PVC pipe is made from oil. You cannot revert to cast iron indoor plumbing because solar and wind provide insufficient energy to smelt iron ore into iron or steel. You will need to build and dig an outhouse. (try Jamai-cacottageshop.com out of Vermont) Don't worry, solar and wind can heat the outhouse. No, you can't rent a port-a-potty because - you guessed it - they are made of plastic - unavailable without fossil fuels. Without fossil fuels you will need a backup source of heat because the sun doesn't always shine nor the wind blow. You will need to convert your fossil fuel heating system to an all-electric system powered by solar or wind. You cannot revert to

burning wood because: wood burning is highly air polluting. And where will you burn the wood? Not in a wood stove because wind or solar energy provide insufficient heat to make metal wood stoves. Sorry, won't be able to use a ceramic stove because very high heat is needed to set the ceramic. Solar and wind won't produce enough heat for the process. So, dig the pit and construct your own or buy an outhouse now. Buy a wood stove now because the supply will not last much beyond the end of fossil fuels. Without fossil fuels the earth will revert to a time long ago, similar to what is predicted after a nuclear war holocaust - a long nuclear winter. Don't see my point? Look up and investigate for yourself. Man-made climate change - if such exists - is the lesser of all the other perceived evils associated with the use of fossil fuels and is preferable to life without them.

Robert A Peraino, MD
Franconia, NH

Robert,

When I grew up my grandmother's home only had an outhouse. Actually a second story outhouse, so no need to dig a hole, just take the boards off the side once a year to clean it out. But I do understand that is obviously not your point.

However I do not think entirely getting rid of fossil fuels is not the intent of most people. In fact extremes are usually not the intent, or at least should not be the intent of discussions. Rather a compromise where wind, solar and hydro are added to the current mix in order to prolong our supply of oil. After all I have been told before that "they are not making any more dead dinosaurs".
Gary Scruton, Editor

"From my cold, dead hands!" ¹¹

Op. Ed. by Nick De Mayo,
M. Ed., Northern Grafton
County Republican Commit-
tee (NGCRC), Chairman
Sugar Hill, NH

As we watch the brave and fearless patriots of Ukraine stand up for their freedom, and muster resolve in the face of danger by not capitulating to Butcher Putin and his brand of tyranny, we should make this moment in history a clarion call for all Americans to ensure our Second Amendment Rights which are prominently included in our "Bill of Rights" as our FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS!! Never let the government take away our guns!

We are so lucky!! We should thank God for the foresight of our Founders' insistence of incorporating THE BILL OF RIGHTS or the first 10 Amendments into our Constitution... Let's see if you remember what they are?! First Amendment includes freedom of speech; freedom of the press; freedom of religion; freedom of assembly; right to petition the government; Second Amendment includes right to keep and bear arms; Third Amendment includes protection against housing soldiers in civilian homes; Fourth Amendment includes protection against unreasonable search and seizure; and protection against the issuing of warrants without probable cause; Fifth Amendment includes protection against: trial without

indictment; double jeopardy; self-incrimination; property seizure; Sixth Amendment includes right to a speedy trial; right to be informed of charges; right to be confronted by witnesses; right to call witnesses; right to a legal counsel; Seventh Amendment includes right to a trial by jury; Eighth Amendment includes protection against excessive bail; excessive fines; cruel and unusual punishment; Ninth Amendment includes rights granted in the Constitution shall not infringe on other rights; Tenth Amendment includes powers not granted to the Federal Government in the Constitution belong to the states or the people.

Now, let's look at what happened to the good people of Ukraine. They voluntarily gave up their nuclear weapons to Russia in return for peace. The Russians were supposed to destroy these newly acquired Ukrainian nuclear weapons. No evidence of that situation has come forth. In return, the government of Ukraine was promised protection from Russia and the Western countries of the United States and Great Britain. This protection, as evidenced by the current situation in Ukraine via coverage by our Western news organizations, is slow in coming. Daily, we witness cities in Ukraine being blown up by countless waves of Russian missiles, and are ground to dust, thus being utterly flattened, and destroyed. Sadly, countless hundreds, perhaps thousands of people, are being killed, and maimed. Millions more are displaced by running for safety into neighboring NATO countries. Lessons we should learn from this scenario: Never give up your weapons!

Charlton Heston, former

actor and President of the National Rifle Association (NRA) said in his remarks to the National Press Club on September 11, 1997: I believe strongly in the right of Americans to keep and bear arms. It is vital. It is not archaic. It is not an outdated, dusty idea dreamed by some old white guys in fear of the Redcoats. The Second Amendment is more essential than the First Amendment. The Second Amendment is really the one right that protects all the others. In conclusion, Heston summarized his remarks with the slogan of the NRA: "I'll give you my gun when you can pry it from my cold, dead hands!"

As many of our liberal, "progressive" legislators in Washington, DC, and, similarly, those entrenched in our cities and states throughout our country, pontificate about the dangers of gun ownership and the curtailment of our Constitutional Rights, let us never fall into their trap to give up our weapons. All Americans should insist on their Second Amendment Rights which protects gun ownership. Further, these same Americans should become proficient in proper handling of their guns through lessons taught by licensed gun owners and certified personnel, and then promote their proficiency through practice, practice, practice!

When insisting on protecting our Second Amendment Rights, let's always remember the wisdom of our Founding Fathers who gave us these inalienable Constitutional rights, and the ongoing situation in Ukraine as witnessed by the actions of their courageous President and the resolve of the brave patriots of Ukraine to keep their country from falling into Russian hands!

Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

April 5, 2022

Volume 13 Number 13

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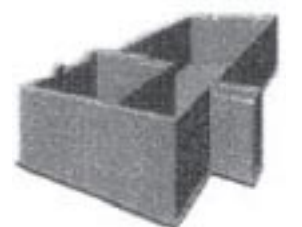
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HSA: A Healthy Way to Save for Retirement

Many expenses in life are unpredictable. But there are two things you know you'll have to pay for: medical bills and retirement. You'll probably need to take a variety of steps to meet these costs, but one financial instrument that can help is a health savings account (HSA). If you're not familiar with an HSA, here are the basics:

• Eligibility – If you are enrolled in a qualified high-deductible health plan (HDHP), you can generally contribute to an HSA. While HSAs are typically offered through employers, you can still open one if your employer doesn't provide it, or if you're self-employed, although you must have HDHP coverage. You also can't be enrolled in another health insurance plan, other than those permitted, such as dental, vision, long-term care and disability insurance, and you can't be enrolled in Medicare. Also, you can't be claimed as a dependent on

another person's tax return.

• Contribution limits – In 2022, you can put in up to \$3,650 to an HSA if you have single coverage, or \$7,300 for family coverage. And if you're 55 or older, you can put in an extra \$1,000 per year.

• Tax benefits – An HSA has triple tax advantages: Your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they can reduce your taxable income for the year; your earnings grow tax-free; and your withdrawals are tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified medical expenses. (Withdrawals taken before age 65 that aren't used for qualified medical expenses are taxable and subject to a 20% penalty; once you reach 65, the penalty no longer applies, although withdrawals are still taxable.)

In addition to its providing tax benefits, an HSA can help you in other ways. Perhaps most significantly, your HSA can be an additional financial resource for your retirement. That's because the money in your HSA can be carried over from year to year – you aren't obligated to "use it or lose it." So, the money not spent on annual medical expenses can continue to grow tax-deferred. Plus, an HSA is "portable" – it moves with you when

you leave a job.

Furthermore, unlike a 401(k) or a traditional IRA, an HSA does not require you to begin taking withdrawals once you reach 72 – you can leave your account untouched for essentially as long as you'd like. And while you may need to use your HSA funds to meet your medical expenses in retirement – which can be considerable, even with Medicare – you can use what you don't spend on medical costs for your other needs without penalty, once you reach age 65. (As mentioned above, any HSA withdrawals not used for qualified medical costs are taxable.)

Here's one other point to keep in mind: Your HSA likely contains investment options, along with a cash account. If you put all your funds in the cash account, as many people do, you might be depriving yourself of the growth opportunities provided by the investment options. On the other hand, of course, these investments generally carry more risk. One possible way to benefit from both parts of your HSA is to keep enough cash to cover your health insurance's out-of-pocket maximum and invest the rest.

As you can see, an HSA can help you in numerous ways. If you have access to one, consider taking advantage of it.

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TRENDY TIMES

A FREE PUBLICATION

Letter to the Editor:

To the editor,

FYI. and all others who drive Route 3.

Most of RT 3 Speed Zone is 20 - 50 miles per hour. Most of Rt 3 is in small communities with children. Spring has arrived and Many drivers are out for

a daily ride after a long winter cooped up inside.

If you find the need to go faster than the speed limit and 50 MPH it would be nicer if you traveled I-93.

We all thank you 😊

Nancy Leclerc

No. Woodstock, NH

Nancy,

It seems no matter what time of year it may be there are always some who just need to get wherever they are going faster than they should. It could be a trip to the store, or going on vacation, or just out for a cruise. I'm not sure there is any time of year that speeding is allowed, unless in the rare circumstances of an emergency.

So please obey the speed limits. Obey the no parking regulations, they were set that way for a reason. And most importantly be courteous to your fellow drivers. Saving five minuets on a trip is not worth the possible fine, accident, or worse, that could happen.

Gary Scruton, Editor



State Sanctioned Cruelty to Wildlife

The Governor and Senior Management at The VT Fish & Wildlife Department Are Complicit in Extreme Institutional Bias.

With each passing year, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department (FWD) becomes more entrenched in its support of archaic laws regarding wildlife. The problems start at the top.

When FWD Commissioner Porter resigned last year, I hoped for a new Commissioner with modern values who takes animal ethics into consideration. Instead, Governor Scott appointed yet another Commissioner who lacks any credentials in environmental sciences or wildlife management. Ethics don't seem to be too high on his list either. In the Commissioner's lackluster debut in front of the legislature earlier this year, he testified stating that wildlife could be killed solely to be used as 'fertilizer' to meet the criteria under the new wanton waste ban efforts under bill H.411. Fortunately, the Commissioner's idea was rejected.

FWD's opposition to three Senate wildlife bills that seek to modernize Vermont's wildlife governance with an eye towards better wildlife protections, demon-

strates their allegiance to an entrenched, biased agenda. Given that FWD's prior Commissioner wouldn't even support a bill to ban coyote killing contests a few years ago, we shouldn't be surprised when the new Commissioner didn't support efforts to ban coyote hounding (bill S.281), which is legalized dog fighting. When the FWD's "biologist" engages in theatrics while testifying in opposition to bill S.201, a ban on leghold traps, by quickly placing her thickly gloved hand in a leghold trap to try and convince legislators that traps aren't inhumane, you know they've reached an all-time low. On the House side of the Statehouse, the Commissioner insisted on excluding coyotes from bill, H.411, that seeks to address the wasteful killing of wildlife—this comment was in addition to his fertilizer comment.

Speaking of the legislature, an ongoing concern is that FWD doesn't disclose their biases. For example, FWD staff testified in opposition to the ban on leghold traps using their "biologist" credentials without disclosing their inherent biases towards trapping as a recreational opportunity. FWD is given too much deference

by legislators and other decision-makers who view them as unbiased experts and not as lobbyists for their customers: hunters and trappers.

The Governor, his Commissioner, and FWD senior management, seem determined to keep Vermont's wildlife policies stuck in the 1950's despite opposition from the public as evidenced in the 2017 Center for Rural Studies' Vermonter Poll here: https://www.protechtourwildlifevt.org/_files/ugd/5073cd_c349fbfa0bfb4458b46919436a9afa8e.pdf As evidenced in this poll, very few Vermonters support the use of leghold traps, for example, but FWD ignores public sentiment and animal welfare concerns and plows ahead with their agenda.

"If state Fish and Wildlife Agencies fail to adapt, their ability to manage fish and wildlife will be hindered and their public and political support compromised." – Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/8215/1382/2408/Blue_Ribbon_Panel_Report2.pdf) I agree.

Sincerely,
Jane Fitzwilliam
Putney, VT

DNCR opens FY2022 'Moose Plate' Cultural Conservation Grant Round

The N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources has opened its Fiscal Year 2022 Conservation License Plate fiscal year 2022 grant round and is now accepting letters of intent for projects seeking funding to support the restoration, preservation and / or conservation of publicly owned items significant to New Hampshire's cultural heritage.

Three of the DNCR's divisions – the State Council on the Arts, the State Library and the Division of Historical Resources – support cultural conservation grant programs through "Moose Plate" grant funding. Each division's grant program has specific requirements.

Organizations seeking Moose Plate grant funding must submit a letter of intent by May 6 that provides a brief description of the project and confirms that the resource is publicly owned. Applicants will be notified if their project fits a DNCR division's program criteria within five days of their Letter of Intent being received. They may then

choose to submit a full application by June 24.

Applicants may only apply to one DNCR Moose Plate grant program in a given year.

More information about each division's specific grant program requirements is available at dnrc.nh.gov/about-us/moose-plate-program.

Each year, the DNCR receives a percentage of funds raised from the sales of Moose Plates. To help preserve the state's cultural heritage, the department designates a portion of those funds for the conservation of cultural resources in New Hampshire.

Funds received by the DNCR also support its Division of Forests and Lands'

Natural Heritage Bureau and its Division of Parks and Recreation's Historic Sites Bureau.

For more information about the Moose Plate Program, including how to purchase a Moose Plate, visit mooseplate.com.

The N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' five divisions are dedicated to protecting, promoting and managing a wide variety of New Hampshire's natural, recreational and cultural resources. Together, these resources help define our state and are major drivers of our economy and high quality of life. For more information, visit dnrc.nh.gov.

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Letter to the Editor:

An unprecedented mud season...

To the Editor,

Over the past few weeks, we have been watching the news broadcasts, reading posts on social media, and struggling to navigate Haverhill's excessively muddy roads. It has been a truly unprecedented mud season and Road Agents from both sides of the Connecticut River have grappled with keeping their roads open and passable. Many towns throughout Vermont and New Hampshire were forced to close sections or entire roads this year, something that many have never had to do before. Here in Haverhill, the Highway Department invested an average of 112 hours each over the past two weeks and laid over 2000 yards of stone. They used standard techniques to try and improve conditions but found most to be nearly useless against the quickly

deteriorating conditions. Colton Grant, Haverhill's Road Agent, stated that "no matter how hard you try, you cannot beat Mother Nature" and that statement proved true. We understand that the past few weeks have been difficult for residents and we are thankful that conditions are improving. We also very much appreciate the outpouring of gratitude expressed by residents for the hard work of our Highway Department; thank you! Once Haverhill's gravel roads are back to normal, we will review how that past few weeks played out. We will discuss what went well and what we can do better should we experience a similar event in the future. We thank you for your patience and your understanding.

Warmest Regards,
Brigitte M. Codling
Haverhill Town Manager

Brigitte,

Being a very long time Haverhill resident I have seen roads in all kinds of conditions. For several years I lived on a dirt road and knew fully well that in the spring there would be mud. I also knew that in winter there would be ice, and in summer sometimes dust. Luckily the "bad spots" on our road were not located between our home and blacktop. That is not to say that I have never gotten stuck in the mud and needed the help of others to be able to continue on my way. From most of the accounts I have heard you are right that this year's mud season was wide spread and hit many, many towns, not just Haverhill.

When I bought my slice of heaven, and then built a house on it, I knew what a dirt road could mean. I still chose to live there. For those not willing to put up with the occasional "mud hole" or other difficulty that comes with a dirt road, there are plenty of paved roads not only in Haverhill, but all around both Vermont and New Hampshire. So I suggest all choose wisely, or be prepared to try choosing again.

Gary Scruton, Editor

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What About Ma?

by Kellie Quackenbush

All About The Final Goodbye

We have all been touched with sadness at the news of a death. The loss of a friend, teacher, mother, father, cousin or Grandparent is never easy. Many people have a warning of the impending loss due to illness or frailty of the individual. That does not lessen the emotions that spring forth as the reality of the death sinks in. A thousand final words or wishes for more time spring forth.

With an extended illness, families have the time to work together to make funeral arrangements that are in line with the beloved wishes. Budgets are set, burial sites are purchased, flowers are selected, post funeral receptions are planned -- all before the actual death. This affords the family and friends, left behind, a relief of not having to make those decisions in a state of bereavement. However, there are many people who do not make those arrangements.

"Bereavement is the experience of losing someone important to us. It is characterized by grief, which is the

process and the range of emotions we go through as we gradually adjust to the loss.

Losing someone important to us can be emotionally devastating - whether that be a partner, family member, friend or pet. It is natural to go through a range of physical and emotional processes as we gradually come to terms with the loss. See our page on experiences of grief for information about the types of feelings that are common during the grieving process." per www.mind.org.uk/information-support in the article titled "Bereavement".

There are funeral homes and morticians that have very good reputations. Funeral Homes are run by people that know how to help in every step of preparing for the last goodbye, the funeral. Understanding the community, the resources in your area and what legal documents are required. "Funeral homes sell packages of goods and services, but sometimes there's more wrapped into them than you want. Sometimes they don't

have all the goods and services you want. For example, a gravestone and cemetery plot may not be included in a package. Ask for an itemized list upfront, with prices for each service or item." per "8 Tips for Funeral Planning" by Leanne Potts, AARP, Updated December 1, 2021.

Your church or the church in town can be a source of comfort. Once you know that a loss or the end of an illness is pending, the minister can provide comfort in the final hours or days. Some religions have clergy that provide even more support to it's members in this time of transition. The local governing body (like Selectmen or the Mayor) when asked can ease some of the stress over the local issues.

After the death of someone dear, we all suffer a sense of loss and even loneliness. This is the time to reach out, even if you can only say, "I am sad." This is the reason for a funeral or celebration of life ceremony, to connect to others who share your sense of loss. The connection to others and the brief renewal of memories past help to ease the loss by renewing the memories of the good.

There are friends to help, sometimes we need to take a step back and accept what is offered. Please, reach out during your sad moments, help is available.

To Celebrate Spring This Exhibit Will Blossom in our Back Room Gallery Through April 23

We are pleased to continue the exhibition of the work of Chuck Trotsky for one extra week (from it's beginning on March 4th) until Saturday April 23rd.

Many of Trotsky's works are on wood, crafted as if they were on canvas, sometimes using the surface grain enhance the mystery of the subjects. The larger acrylic paintings still refer back to the digital world of Trotsky's birth... iconic images pilfered from popular culture paired with contradictory or anachronistic props and settings. Familiar images are viewed in new ways, questioning our understanding of them and challenging our familiarity with them. Themes of race, gender, class, and politics are beneath the often bright colors.

Trotsky's smaller mixed media paintings on paper or wood began as experiments. Using hand cut stencils he was able to increase his output to making it available and affordable to a much wider audience. House paint and spray paint are used to create quirky, sometimes humorous images where subjects appear and reappear in differing combinations. This format allows the artist to take more risks, opening the door to happy accidents and interesting surprises.

Born of late night conversations and collaborative art

concepts in the winter of 2013, Chuck Trotsky began only as a digital persona. Soon enough, however, there were real paintings attributed to this imaginary man, and they have been confusing viewers at galleries around Vermont ever since. Trotsky currently resides in the basement of local realist painter, Ben Barnes of St. Johnsbury.

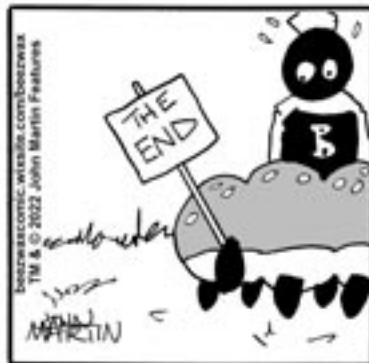
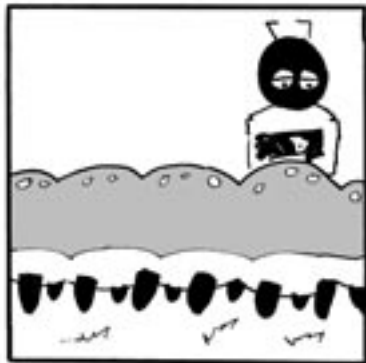
The NEK Artisans Guild is located at 430 Railroad St.. Our hours are 10:30 until 5:30 Tuesday through Saturday. We are an artisan cooperative now celebrating our 25th year. Keep up with the Guild on the web at www.nekartisanguild.com, on Instagram and Facebook, or call during open hours at 802-748-0158.

Press release written by the artist, edited and arranged by James M. Frase-White, Curator, Back Room Gallery



Entitled: Away from Harm

BEEZWAX By John Martin



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Letter to the Editor: What is the Democrats' Agenda?

To the Editor,
 Recently house Democrats blocked the Energy Independence Bill. This bill would approve the Keystone Pipeline and open up oil and gas leases across America. Before this, the Progressive Dems in the House of Representatives were drafting a plan for Biden to declare a "climate change emergency" and place a ban on drilling on all federal lands and public lands. How disgusting is this? Why do the Democrats do these things? Apparently they do not care at all about Americans or our economy. Gas prices are soaring and here we have a chance to lower them and create jobs simultaneously, and the Democrats want nothing to do with it. Gas prices were low under Trump and we were also almost energy independent. As soon as Biden got into office he stopped the Keystone Pipeline. It cost many jobs and prices began to rise steadily. Biden then said that he would ask Iran for oil. So the Democrats are willing to buy from Iran who chants "Death to America", sponsors terrorism and are responsible

for many American soldier deaths? Psaki, the Whitehouse Press Secretary, aluded that the Biden administration may take the Iran Revolutionary Guard off the terror list to make a deal. Our government is going to give terrorists a pass and pay money to an evil foreign government instead of helping their own citizens? This is treasonous! There are people who barely make enough to feed their families, pay medical bills, etc. and now are being crippled to put gas in their cars. The Democrats, meanwhile, turn a blind eye to them while they travel in their jets and limousines. They constantly demonize the rich and spout off about helping the middle and lower classes yet their actions prove otherwise. Do any of their supporters ever notice that everything Biden does literally harms our country? We have a wide open southern border where illegals pour in and end up costing us money and, in many cases, lives. Criminals are coddled and glorified, Antifa and BLM are praised while our police are demonized. Parents who stood up against the filthy,

divisive CRT in school board meetings are called "DOMESTIC TERRORISTS" and put on watch by our government! (But Biden will take the Iran Revolutionary Guard terrorists off the terrorist list!). Billions of dollars in equipment were left in Afghanistan along with the lives of American soldiers. Our military and schools are poisoned with CRT, "wokeness" and diversity training which is so insulting because it basically insinuates that every white conservative person in America is an evil ignorant racist. Lastly, the vaccine mandates have hurt many workplaces and they still continue to try to shove more and more of it into us. If it is so wonderful, why do they need so many boosters? Why have people died from it and/or suffered long term side effects? Meanwhile, our own Democrats here in NH are just rubber stamps for these "anti-American" policies. Why do Biden and his party do these things to us? What is their REAL agenda?

Alex Foryan
 Landaff, NH 03585

Alex,
 If you have read my previous responses to Letters you will note that I do my best to not take any sides, especially when it comes to politics. I have stated before that I have registered as an Independent voter for most of my adult life. But I also make sure to vote in primaries, sometimes voting Democratic and sometimes Republican. It is one of my rights here in New Hampshire.

Is response to your opening questions I will note that I believe both political parties have agendas that are not always clear, concise and

well acknowledged or known. Unfortunately that also seems to be true of many politicians.

It is, therefore, even more important for us, the voters, to read, watch and listen to those running for office in order to be better educated and informed before going to the polls to vote. Primary season is already underway in New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as across the country. It is never too early to start doing your homework before casting your very important ballot.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Hooray For Hollywood

by Maggie Anderson

Human beings are an interesting lot, often conniving and delusional, but interesting. What we do, good or bad, we make excuses for, offer up reasons for. We expect others to acknowledge, even agree with those reasons.

However when it comes to the actions of others, no matter their reasons, if we don't agree with their point of view we label their actions evil, selfish, and motivated by greed, or hate.

Ask yourself what you think the public response would have been if the holder of the most powerful position in the world had announced he was seeking a white woman to sit on the bench of the highest court in the United States of America, and that anyone else, regardless of creds or experience need not apply?

The Richter Scale would have done a dance the world has never seen before, earth-shaking in scope.

And rightly so. Our laws are designed to protect everyone from being included, or excluded, because of their religion, political leanings, sexual interests or preferences, nation of origin, or skin color.

The President's new nominee, though he said he was determined to appoint a black woman to the Supreme Court, cannot even definitively be said to be a woman. In her own words, as far as she's concerned there is no way to tell if she, or any other person apparently, is indeed a woman, then she informed us she's not a biologist. Lucky for her, with answers like that I doubt she would have aced the biology exams.

Even the color of her skin is suspect since one of the whitest women I know just

got the news via DNA testing, that she is in fact Nigerian. So, if my ivory-skinned beauty is some sort of Nigerian Queen, how do we know what being black really means?

And more importantly, how can we use what we see on the surface as a true measure of who a person actually is. And how can we rely on them to be fair and impartial in any arena based solely on what we perceive as their skin tone. What if we are truly color blind, what then? The shade of a person's skin color is not an accurate measure of whether or not there are any brain cells still functioning anyway.

Then, in light of the ripples caused by the slap heard 'round the world, I ask you what you think would have happened on the Oscar's stage had the assaulted been slapped in the face by a white-skinned assaultee?

It is interesting that crimes against black victims perpetrated by black aggressors are covered through a filtered lens by the media, and spoken of in hushed tones by the black community at large when the perpetrator is also black.

I shudder to think what chaos would have erupted had Chris Rock been smacked in the face on the what the world considers its most glamorous stage by somebody as pale-skinned as my friend, the newly discovered Nigerian Queen, or been assaulted in front of the dwindling millions of viewers, by an angry white man who stormed the stage.

One thing is certain the ratings for the Oscars are sure to benefit from this idiocy. You know what they say in Hollywood, even bad publicity is still publicity, who knows, we may find out it was just another fool the eye campaign designed to bolster the dismal ratings of a time slot filled with folks so out of touch they'd rather be granted a lofty title in a place they couldn't find on a map instead of a group of people who truly put their money where their mouths are and take a look around them at a world full of hurt.

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by Cindy Pinheiro
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Meatloaf with Hard Boiled Eggs

Hello hello my fellow chefs. How are you all doing today? I'm fine. Happy Spring! I'm having my bedroom painted so my home is in turmoil. Everything from the bedroom is in other areas of the house. I can't believe all the stuff I have. I've started a few boxes to go to a nice second hand store. I have sooo much it's literally blowing my mind. After the bedroom my painter Steve will paint my living room so I'll be in another mess. I'd like to give a shout out to Steve's White Dog Contracting business in St. Johnsbury for a very professional job. He's the best!

Let's get started with today's recipe that is very different and "Delicioso ". As you can see in the picture it's a very different take on your favorite meatloaf. A surprise within the loaf and your family will love it. Here's what you need to buy and how to make it.

Ingredients
1 1/2 lbs of hamburger

1 large egg
1 onion minced
1/3 cup milk
2/3 cups panko seasoned bread crumbs
1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 tsp seasoned salt
1 tsp black pepper
1 tsp ground thyme
1 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp smoked paprika
2 hard boiled eggs
Ketchup to brush on top

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In large bowl combine hamburger, egg, minced onion, milk, bread crumbs, grated Parmesan cheese, seasoned salt, pepper, thyme, garlic powder, onion powder and the smoked paprika. Mix all ingredients well.

Have your hard boiled eggs ready. Do this by placing eggs in a pan of cold water and bring to a boil and boil for 8-10 minutes then put in cold water with ice.

Using a baking dish lined

with parchment paper or spray with Pam. Take half of the hamburger mixture and put in a mound, then put the hard boiled eggs on, then put the rest of the hamburger on top and make a nice mound pressing together and brush entire top and sides with ketchup. Bake for 1 hour. Voila you are done! Easy peasy. Let it sit for 10 minutes then slice and serve.

I made fresh green beans and mashed potatoes with it. The next day we had grilled cheese with meatloaf. Try making your grilled cheese with a little bit of mayonnaise spread on the bread instead of butter. It browns very nice. My friend Jane had a meatloaf sandwich with ketchup not grilled. We all enjoyed this meal. Please try this recipe because you will be a star!!

Well folks that's it for today's recipe, easy peasy and "Delicioso ". If you have any questions please contact Gary and I will help you out. I am signing off for now.

Sincerely,
Cin Pin

We Would Like Your Old Bikes!



This Spring we are launching an exciting project to add even more beauty to our Main Street! We will take those old bicycles off your hands ... you know ... the ones in your garage and sheds. We will paint them, add a basket full of flowers and strategically place them throughout downtown Woodsville. Donations can

be dropped off at Everything But The Cook & An Affair To Remember or Gather Together Cafe through the month of April. If you have questions or want more information contact the Woodsville Business & Beautification committee on Facebook. "Building a Better Community"

Blueberry Pancakes From the Non-Trendy Kitchen

by Janice Scruton

I wish I had taken pictures. We opted to have blueberry pancakes for dinner tonight. And thus, the saga began.

I had cleaned out our pantry cupboards this week and decided to use some of the pancake mix I had come across. The first box only had half of what I needed so I used a second box for the other half. And that's when I made the big mistake. Each box said for 11 - 14 pancakes to add 1 cup water. For some unknown reason I decided that if 1 cup was good, 2 cups of water would be even better. (You understand, 1 cup from each set of

instruction) Welcome to batter that resembled thin gruel. So, I used up the rest of the mix to thicken it up. A great plan, but not quite enough mix left to do the trick. Okay, we'll deal with that. I then dug through the freezer looking for the bag of blueberries that I knew was in there somewhere. Found them, but they were small wild berries and had frozen into a solid block. Microwave to the rescue. Thawed them just enough to make them good and juicy, so when I added them to the batter, it turned the batter purple, and the extra juice made the batter even thinner.

Gary is the official pancake cooker in this house

and after he poured 4 pancakes onto the square pan, they decided to run into each other, creating a giant square purple pancake. As this giant cooked, the color changed from a pretty purple to a sickly looking brownish green which didn't look real appetizing.

But guess what? Once Gary cut them into 4ths and we added butter and maple syrup to them, they tasted delicious.

It was fun to laugh that much over a simple meal.



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