

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

Volume 21, Issue 12

PUBLISHED MONTHLY SINCE AUGUST 1999

Dublin, NH 03444

Treasured Crèche on Display for Season

Walk your children to the front window at DCC to share the joy.

BY ROSAMOND CADY

A beautifully simple crèche has been the focal backdrop of the last 67 Christmas Eve Services at the Dublin Community Church (DCC), where three generations of townsfolk have come together in fellowship to celebrate Christmas with their neighbors. This year will be different.

While there will not be an indoor worship gathering in the DCC Sanctuary on December 24, 2020, the crèche has been made available for all to see!

From the last week of November through the first week of January, the beloved crèche will be looking out over the Town of Dublin from the large front window of the Church. All are invited to come at any time to gaze upon the manger scene; there will be a bench for small children to hop up onto to come face to face with the brindle cow, the sheep, the donkey, the stately camel, and all the people of the nativity.

Please follow all safety guidelines to protect both you and your neighbors. The star will be lit from about 4:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

The DCC crèche was the creation of



Elizabeth Pool. When she and her family moved to Dublin in 1951, it was a tradition at the DCC to have the town's children receive Christmas gifts from Santa at

annual church parties. Mrs. Pool thought it would be more in the spirit of the season if the children gave rather than received; they would bring gifts for the less fortunate and place them in front of the crèche.

The minister of the Church, Rev. Lyman Rutledge, enthusiastically supported the idea, and Mrs. Pool went to work.

Two dear friends, Ann Ackerman and Blanche Burnett, were both church members and experienced doll makers – a perfect combination to help Mrs. Pool's vision become reality. With great skill and imagination, the two friends created life-like doll figures of the nativity, and Mrs. Pool provided the beautiful animal figures. William Pickford of Dublin built the first stable to house the scene; by 1991 that stable was very worn and shaky and was replaced by the current barn built by Jeff Cady of Harrisville.

The nativity figures won't be in the barn this year, but all are welcome to follow the star to the front window of the Dublin Community Church and gaze upon the treasured figures that have been part of Dublin's collective Christmas memory for so many years.

ROSAMOND "YUMMY" CADY grew up in town and in the Dublin Community Church. She has been teaching the DCC Sunday School children for 28 years.

DRIVE-BY COOKIES!

On the longest night of the year a dozen cookies is *just* the thing! Swing by the Dublin Community Church between 3 and 4 pm on Monday, December 21, and we will deliver them to your car window.

MVBC OFFERS CAROLS & VOCALS

Mountain View Bible Church at 81 Page Road will present two identical Christmas programs on Sunday, December 13, at 10 am and 6 pm. The program is titled "Dawn of Redeeming Grace" and will feature instrumental carols along with some vocal pieces (solo and duet).

Our facilities will be cleaned thoroughly

before and after each program, and we will practice social distancing guidelines. Masks are required. We realize we may need to adjust plans last minute, so please check www.mtnviewbible.org/Christmas or follow us at www.facebook.com/mybcdublin for the latest updates regarding these programs. For inquiries, please contact Pastor Kyle Wilcox at 563-8069.

DCA VESPERS ONLINE

Dublin Christian Academy will produce its annual Christmas vespers in digital format. The school plans to release the program on YouTube. The theme for this year's program is "All Nature Sings 'It's Christ-

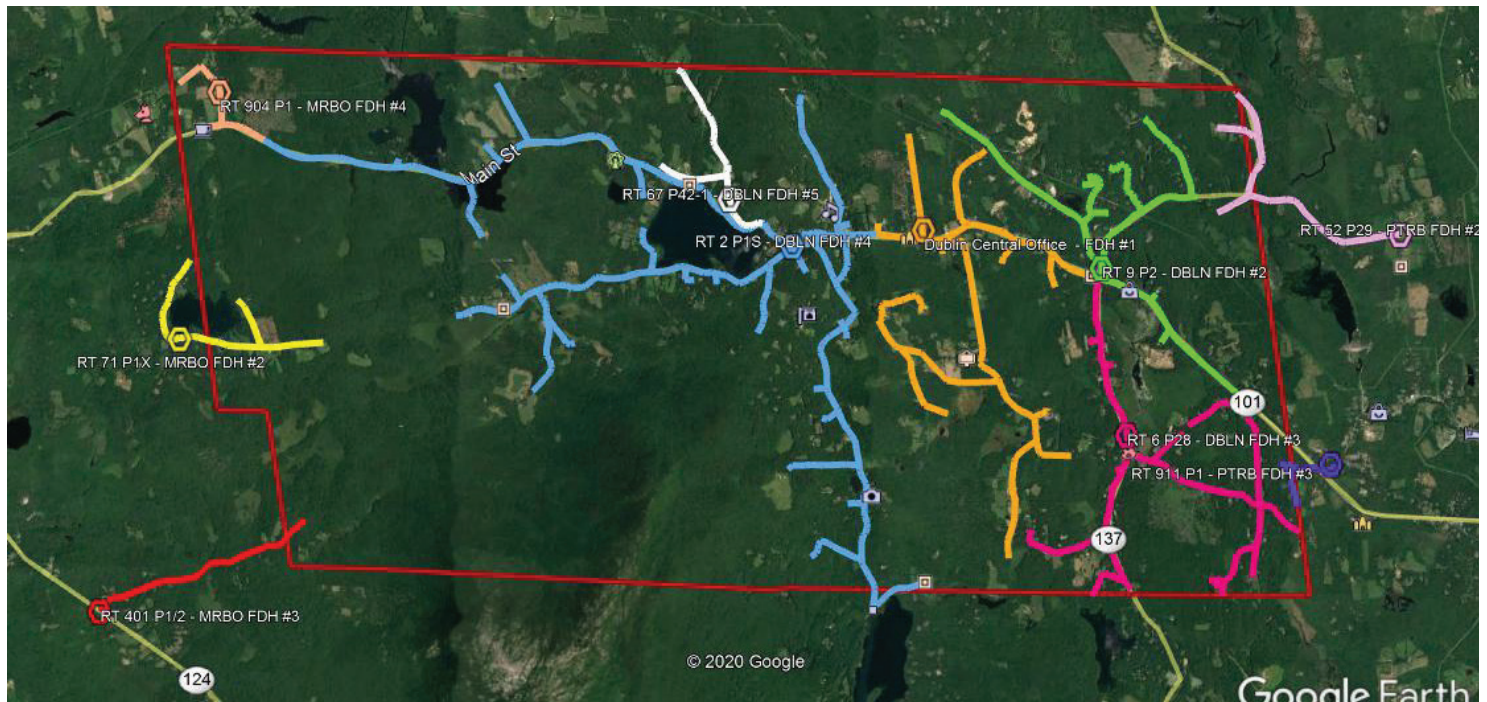
mas.'" Please check www.dublinchristian.org, and/or two social media pages for updates: www.facebook.com/dublinchristian and www.youtube.com/channel/UCZYA5UgbySn_6_hA3qgl-tQ

LIGHT IN THE HEART OF OUR VILLAGE

On Christmas Eve this year, beginning at sundown our town center will be lined with luminaries. Come take a drive and perhaps make a new memory. The crèche will be set up in the Community Church window with gift bags for the children, too. Rain date, New Year's Eve.



Consolidated Communications' Dublin Broadband Project



Sign up for updates at www.consolidated.com/dublin.

BY CAROLE MONROE

Although you may already have seen fiber hanging from poles or in the ground, there is still much work to do. Consolidated is moving into the next phase of the project. They will begin to connect the new fiber to the fiber backbone, which will give customers access to the network. It takes sophisticated technology and precision to connect all the fiber strands together. This splicing phase will also include installing electronics needed to run the overall network.

The precise nature of this work can be time-consuming. The overall project is proceeding as scheduled and customers will be able to be connected to this powerful network early in the new year. I'm excited and can hardly wait! Don't forget to sign up for updates at www.consolidated.com/dublin.

Please email me with any questions you might have at cdmonroe@myfairpoint.net.

Have a safe and peaceful holiday season.

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

MAP COLOR KEY

Burgundy: Dublin Town Boundary
FIBER PATHS

Orange: Dublin Exchange FDH #1

Green: Dublin Exchange FDH #2

Dark Pink: Dublin Exchange FDH #3

Light Blue: Dublin Exchange FDH #4

White: Dublin Exchange FDH #5

Yellow: Marlborough Exchange FDH #2

Red: Marlborough Exchange FDH #3

Peach: Marlborough Exchange FDH #4

Light Pink: Peterborough Exchange FDH #2

Purple: Peterborough Exchange FDH #3

Town Hall Restrictions Due to COVID-19

Let's get through the holidays safely.

BY CAROLE MONROE

Due to the soaring numbers of COVID-19 cases in NH, the Dublin Town Hall will be closed – except by appointment with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector or Town Administrator. All Select Board and Committee meetings will be held online. Zoom information will be posted with the meeting notice and agenda.

You can now register your car and pay your taxes online. The links to do this are on the Town of Dublin homepage at www.townofdublin.org.

townofdublin.org. You can also mail your tax payments to: Dublin Tax Collector, PO Box 62, Dublin, NH 03444.

Appointments will be scheduled for new car registrations only. The Town Clerk and Town Administrator are happy to assist you by phone or email with other concerns. If you schedule an appointment with the Town Clerk/ Tax Collector or Town Administrator, please wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

The Transfer Station will be open but will not be accepting recyclables. These items can be placed in your regular trash

for the time being. When visiting the Transfer Station, please wear a mask and maintain at least 6 feet between you and any other person.

These changes are effective immediately; we will reassess the situation in January. Please reference the Town website for updates: www.townofdublin.org.

We can all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 by washing our hands, using hand sanitizer, wearing a mask, and keeping our distance from others as much as possible. Let's get through the holidays safely.

CAROLE MONROE is one of three members on the Dublin Select Board.

Dublin Implements EB2Gov for Online Municipal Payments

Tax payments and car registrations can now be made on the Town website: TownofDublin.org

BY JEANNINE DUNNE

The Selectmen encourage people to pay their tax bills online or through the mail instead of coming in to the Town Hall.

The Town of Dublin has implemented Interware Development's (Amherst, NH) electronic billing and payment software platform, EB2Gov, which allows citizens to make instant and secure payments online at any time.

Beginning November 12, 2020, residents can renew their motor vehicle and dog licenses online, calculate motor vehicle estimates, as well as request vital records and access property tax payments through the town website.

In New Hampshire, more than 150 towns and cities are using EB2Gov. These partnerships allow residents to manage their municipal bills anytime, anywhere. The following online services are at no cost to the Town, and a small fee is added to payments for those who find value in requesting these services online:

- **Motor Vehicle Renewals:** Payment is accepted via e-check or credit card. Residents can enter their vehicle information to view their eligible vehicles available for renewal as well as schedule future payments. The registrations and stickers will be issued by the town clerk and sent to the resident via US mail.
- **Motor Vehicle Estimates:** Users can lookup motor vehicle estimates for a renewal or for a newly purchased vehicle. EB2Gov will provide the most accurate estimate possible.
- **Dog Licensing:** Residents can enter their dog tag to review, renew, and submit payment. Outdated rabies certificates are identified, and users can upload documents from their veterinarian.
- **Vital Record Requests:** Residents can request certified copies for birth, death, divorce, and marriage licenses.
- **Property Taxes:** Residents can look up

their property and project future costs, schedule payments, and pay property taxes online.

Citizens have the option to create a myEB2Gov account allowing the added benefits of managing their assets with the town, scheduling payments, securely storing payment information for a faster checkout, and opt in to receive electronic notifications. Creating an account is recommended; however, EB2Gov allows for guest checkout as well.

Residents can access the online payment portal through Dublin's town website or <https://pay.eb2gov.com/DublinNH>. Once the transaction is successfully completed, an email confirmation will be sent, and the transaction can be viewed in the citizen's myEB2Gov account at any time.

JEANNINE DUNNE is Dublin's Certified Tax Collector and Certified Town Clerk. She can be reached at 563-8859 or townclerk@townofdublin.org. Or mail to Town Clerk, PO Box 62, Dublin, NH 03444. Fax: (603) 563-9221.

Property Tax News

BY KATE FULLER

By this time you should all have received your property tax bill. The Select Board has succeeded in keeping the tax rate the same this year!

Taxes are due on December 21, and we would prefer that you mail them in as the Town offices continue to be open by appointment only because of the pandemic.

As long as payments are postmarked by the 21st they will be considered on time.

The Town Hall will be open on a very limited basis during the holiday season to allow employees to take some much needed time off. Please plan your tax payments and car registrations accordingly.

Register Vehicles Early

The Town Hall offices will be closed from December 23 to January 4 so that the staff can enjoy time off with their families.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be open by appointment for very

limited hours during that time; for details, check TownofDublin.org. Please plan to register your vehicles early!

KATE FULLER is Town Administrator, and be reached at townadministrator@townofdublin.org or call 563-8544.



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News from DCS

BY NICOLE PEASE

We hope your families had a wonderful Thanksgiving, though I imagine it was a different holiday than in the past. That seems to be the theme right now, focusing upon normal, yet different. In-person learning has been successfully underway for three months, and that was in great part due to the District's thorough and thoughtful planning.

DCS staff have carried out the new protocols and have worked diligently to ensure the safety of our students, their families and ourselves. I am so appreciative of all the hard work involved to allow for our families to be able to attend school in person or remotely, as determined by a number of factors. It has not been an easy undertaking, but it has been successful and this is due to a strong community commitment!

While we have missed some of the things that make DCS so special, we have been able to continue with events that brought our school community closer together. We were not able to parade up the hill in Halloween Costumes, and instead took a hike through the woods to Yankee field. Mother Nature has a true sense of humor and gave us a few inches of snow to tromp through. It was a perfect opportunity to have our first Snow Dance in remembrance of Miss Emily!

In an ironic twist, November's weather, with temperatures soaring into the 70s, was a stark contrast to October and gave us the perfect opportunity to hold a Whole



School Meeting outside. It was a lovely way to deepen our sense of school community as well as to end our week.

As temperatures seem to have settled into a more seasonal range, we handed out the rest of the fingerless gloves to our students. Many thanks to Sarah Precourt, May Clark, Lynn Elder, Nancy Cayford, and Laurie Jameson for making fingerless gloves! My apologies for not including Lynn Elder last month.

Thanks to the support of the Dublin Community Foundation, we were also able to provide each of our students with an embroidered DCS hat! We are so lucky for the wonderful support of our community. The DCS Staff wish you a happy and healthy end of 2020 and welcoming in of the New Year!

NICOLE PEASE is the Teaching Principal at DCS.

Report from Our School Board Rep

BY ALAN EDELKIND

I hope all Dubliners have a happy, safe and memorable holiday season – but yes, it will be different! This will be a year to remember for many good – and some not so good – things, but there are so many “goods” that it would take up the entire *Dublin Advocate* newsletter to list them all!

COVID-19 has affected so many lives, but we, as a community and school district, have stood up to the challenge presented and will get through it. As a school district, we have planned and executed well.

There are many school districts in the state emergency-transitioning to all-remote learning at this time. The operative word being “emergency.” Transitioning in such a short time inevitably takes resources and energy while continuing the primary goals of safety and education.

I am struck by the plan we, at SAU 1 ConVal, have in place. Months ago, we developed a plan to go fully remote (counting holidays) by 11/25/20 and stay remote until 1/19/21. Although this in most ways aligns with what is happening in other districts, the most important difference is that this was a planned transition and not an emergency action, which will result in a predictable and positive outcome. Although we could not predict the state of the pandemic, we took a logical, knowledgeable, proactive approach. It is an amazing tribute to the foresight, planning and execution of all at ConVal.

Of course, all of this activity comes with a cost. While there were some savings associated with our COVID-19 response, there were also significant expenses as I noted in

continued on next page

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School Board continued from previous page my previous monthly updates. The School Board, and specifically the Budget and Property Committee (of which I am a member), is producing a series of articles on the budget process, updates to budget figures, impacts of COVID-19 on the budget, etc. You can view these articles on the ConVal website at <https://convalsd.net/> where you will find the links. If you have any problems with getting to the articles, please send me an email at Aedelkind@conval.edu.

The Strategic Planning Committee of the School Board (yup, on that one also) is starting to plan for the future: what will ConVal look like when we transition from the COVID-19-forced environment?

We will get through this and come out stronger for it. Stay well and have a great holiday season!

ALAN EDELKIND is Dublin's School Board Representative to SAU 1.

From the Rec Committee

The Rec Committee wants to wish a happy and safe holiday season for all the residents. With heavy hearts, we have made the decision to cancel our community tree lighting. The tree will be lit by our town and we encourage all of our residents to enjoy the season.

The Peterborough Rec Committee is putting together a map for a tour of lights in our region! For details, or to participate, please contact the Peterborough Recreation office at 924-8080 or register for free online at peterboroughrec.com. Home entries will have the chance to win a gift certificate to a local business. The deadline is December 6!

MEGAN SUOKKO, Karen Niemela, and Caleb Niemela for the Rec Committee.

DCA Forges Ahead Amid Pandemic

BY BETHANY PAQUIN

Grandparents' Day is a treasured tradition at Dublin Christian Academy. In an ordinary November, the school invites grandparents to a program in which elementary students dressed as 17th century Native Americans and pilgrims recount the first Thanksgiving with recitations and music. While November 2020 was anything but ordinary, the loss of Grandparents' Day could not dampen the spirit of gratitude. This year, the students, families, faculty, and staff, were united in thankfulness for their vibrant school community, their health, the ability to meet in-person, the ability to adapt, and for new opportunities.

An unexpected gift of the pandemic has been the creation of new traditions, some of which DCA expects will last long after the pandemic is behind us. The kindergarten has enjoyed learning outside in the woods on "Forest Fridays." The junior high students performed an outdoor radio drama in lieu of their annual play in December. The entire student body has embraced outdoor lunches, complete with games, competitions, and an occasional campfire. The school is preparing to release some virtual events this winter including a Christmas program and Open House.

Dublin Christian Academy has forged ahead with in-person learning. As of mid-November, the school has not had any positive COVID-19 cases among its students. Flexibility and adaptability have allowed



the school to implement health and safety practices without sacrificing the in-person interactions and connections it sees as central to its mission.

The administration is carefully tracking pandemic data and responding as necessary. The uncertainty about the course of the pandemic has fostered a greater appreciation for each successful week of school and has served as a reminder of the value of education and community.

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

Elisabeth Langby
1957-2020

"New Hampshire working to set up vaccine registry" 11/11/20

(www.laconiadailysun.com/news/state/new-hampshire-working-to-set-up-vaccine-registry/article_01e39809-a555-5174-8185-c044ceb03ea8.html)

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Veterans Honored in Towns East & West of Dublin

American Legion Post 24 honors veterans.

BY RAMONA BRANCH

Members of the American Legion Croteau-Coutts Post 24, Marlborough, NH, held ceremonies to honor veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice and those currently serving in our military. The event was held at the Frost Free Library in Marlborough on a warm and beautiful November 11.

In his speech, Commander Trent Boehmler urged the audience and community to support active and retiring veterans in all ways, especially in employment. Ceremony participants were (L-R, back row) Dana Whitehouse, Trent Boehmler, Brian Durocher, and Mike Ball. (L-R, front row) John Fletcher, Jerry Branch. (Dublin), and Charlie Seaver.

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



The 2020 Tax Rate

BY BILL GURNEY

You may have been wondering why your final real estate tax bill was late this year. The local and state rates for education taxes were delayed due to accounting for expenses associated with COVID-19 by the ConVal School District. The Town recently received this information from the Department of Revenue Administration and tax bills have been mailed to homeowners.

In 2018, the Town underwent a revaluation of property that resulted in a 17.5% increase in the valuation of Town properties thereby lowering our tax rate for 2019 to \$24.63 per thousand although our overall tax commitment increased by \$119,270.

Tax Portion	2020	2019	2018
County	\$3.50	\$3.72	\$4.04
Local Education	\$13.40	\$12.99	\$14.50
State Education	\$1.92	\$1.84	\$1.96
Municipal (Town)	\$6.38	\$6.08	\$7.93

The preliminary tax rate for 2020 was set at \$25.20, which would be an increase of \$0.57 per thousand. Given the very challenging social and economic times we have all experienced as a

result of COVID-19, our Select Board felt that an increase in the tax rate should be avoided this year. The Board has recommended that funds be taken from the Town's Unassigned Fund Balance to lower the tax rate to the 2019 level of \$24.63. The Dublin Budget Committee supports their recommendation.

As determined by our Auditor, the Town currently has an Unassigned Fund Balance of \$740,719, which meets the guidelines recommended by the Department of Revenue Administration for a town of our size.

Preliminary 2020 Tax Rate	\$25.20
Current Unassigned Fund Balance	\$740,719
Amount Needed to Reduce Tax Rate to 2019 Level	\$156,001.30
Fund Balance After Pay Down	\$584,717.70
2020 Tax Rate	\$24.63

In preparation for the 2021 budget year, the Budget Committee in conjunction with Select Board and Department Heads have been working hard to limit budget increases as much as possible. More information will be forthcoming next month on the proposed 2021 budget and warrant articles.

BILL GURNEY is Chair of the Dublin Budget Committee.




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Thank You, Poll Workers

BY JUDITH KNAPP

The Dublin Moderator, the Town Clerk, the Supervisors of the Checklist, the Board of Selectmen and the Town Administrator all worked to make the general election as safe as possible. In the end, however, it was successful as a result of the Dubliners who volunteered to work on November 3. We sent out an appeal for volunteers in the *Advocate* and on Nextdoor and the people of Dublin stepped forward to work at the polls – even during the Fall surge of the coronavirus pandemic.

As I am sure you know, this was a record-setting election for us. More than 400 people voted by absentee ballot, more than 700 people turned out to vote in person, and more than 80 people were registered on election day. All of these are records for our town.

Sarah Sangermano, Megan Suokko, and I would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who worked as a ballot clerk, greeter/disinfecter, or ballot counter and extend our special thanks to Hank Campbell who set up the booths, tables, and the voting boxes that made our election possible.

Because of the generosity of the volunteers, we were able to disinfect the booths between voters, ensure that voters entering the polling place had used hand sanitizer, and limit the ballot-clerk shifts to three

All on the Town Website

2020 Election Results: townofdublin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/5-Town-Offic20110400080.pdf

For a listing of town meetings (like Select Board, Planning Board, Budget Committee, Rec Committee, Cemetery Committee, Recycling Committee) visit TownofDublin.org.

hours instead of the usual six hours.

We all owe these individuals our thanks for making this a safe election for the people of Dublin: Shauna Arpin, Megan Bird, June Brening, Nancy Campbell, Peter Cerroni, April Claggett, May Clark, Christine Clinton, Pam Cox, Laura Elcoate, Bruce Fox, Chris Gallagher, Judy Gannon, Sara Germain, Bill Gurney, Andy Hungerford, Liza Huschle, Nancy Jackson, Debbie Jameson, Traceymay Kalvaitis, Karen Keenan, Peter Kenyon, Grisel Levene, Jesse Marcum, Carole Monroe, Sharon Murray, Karen Niemela, Janice Roberts, Erika Rogers, Elaine Sanford, Christine Sangermano, Max Scheinblum, Lucy Shonk, Celeste Snitko, Tim Suokko, K Vanderbilt, David VanEtten, Catherine Visen, Susie Vogel, and Kyle Wilcox.

When you see any of these people around town, please be sure to thank them for all that they did on November 3.

JUDITH KNAPP is Chair of the Supervisors of the Checklist.

More Thanks

"We just want to say how very impressed we were with Dublin's voting process this year. It was amazing! Every step, from Tim Clark's articles about absentee ballots, to voting in person, was implemented perfectly to keep voters and poll workers safe. Thank you to all our town officials and the generous volunteers who made voting this fall, in very difficult circumstances, such a seamless, secure, and safe experience." – Edie and Peter Tuttle



Veterans were both honored and did the honoring in Peterborough on November 11 with a reading of the names of those who have died this last year. From Dublin, Lewis Hansen, Brian Barden, and Wayne Thomas took part in the ceremony honoring our Veterans held on the Grove Street Bridge.

Gift DHS Coasters

The Dublin Historical Society continues to celebrate its 100th anniversary with the sale of commemorative coasters. The coasters are crafted out of recycled materials in Dublin, NH, by "The Village Craftsman," Dan Hill. They are a perfect holiday gift for that person who "has everything."

We have a limited number of coasters available for \$20 each, the proceeds benefiting our 100th+1 celebration planned for the summer of 2021.

For more information, please contact Lucy Shonk at Ishonk66@gmail.com.



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Dublin Public Library

We are now subscribed to Newsbank.

BY RACHAEL LOVETT

The Dublin Public Library anticipates opening on Saturdays, beginning December 5, 2020. Our current hours are Monday 10 to 5, Tuesday 3 to 7, Wednesday 9 to 5, Thursday 3 to 7, Saturday 9 to 1. Please make an appointment in advance by either calling, emailing, or booking online at www.dublinnhpubliclibrary.org. Reservations are available as 30-minute "browsing" appointments, 1-hour computer usage, or quick curbside pickup. Curbside does not require you to enter the building, but we do ask for appointments, so our staff is able to properly prepare your material for pickup.

We now offer Inter-Library Loan (ILL) through collaboration with the NH State Library. ILL allows our patrons to request books and material we do not own, all of which will be delivered via van service right to our door! Please keep in mind, it typically takes a week to receive items as we continue to quarantine ALL incoming material for a minimum of three days. Not only are you able to search our own collec-



tion within the online catalog for material, but you are also able to see many of our neighboring Biblionix libraries' collections, as well as request specific items we do not own. You will need a library card to request books, so please come visit us and we will get you all set up! We also have many help docs and FAQs on our website for additional assistance in requesting and signing up for a library card.

We are excited to announce DPL is now subscribed to Newsbank, which provides online access of current and archived information from thousands of newspaper titles, as well as blogs, videos, broadcast transcripts, business journals, periodicals, and many other publications. Dublin patrons now have free online access to more than 3,500 news sources! Some popular magazines include *The Atlantic*, *Boston Herald*, and *The Union Leader*. You can access this resource at the library or from home through your online account.

A 'Craft Corner' has been set up in the Children's Area, with new weekly crafts for either take home or Make & Take in the library. We continue to offer STEAM kits for checkout – including coding kits/games, weaving kits, origami, and musical instruments. All can be reserved for pickup or just ask at the circulation counter.

Holiday Closures: The library will be closed for the holidays December 24 to 26. We will reopen on Monday, December 28. In addition, we will be closed for New Year's December 31 to January 2.

RACHAEL LOVETT is Director of the DPL, 1114 Main Street, PO Box 442, Dublin, NH 03444, or call 563-8658.

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Katherine Gekas Shares Joy through Connections

BY JULIE RIZZO

Katherine and Ted Gekas were on a search for a home where they could live with more access to nature, when Ted's twin brother alerted them to the unique property up the street on Windmill Hill Road in Dublin. Katherine was an active organizer and host of solar home tours where they lived in Newton, Mass. She knew the "Envelope House" in Dublin was speaking to her when she saw a sandwich board for a solar home tour in the garage. "It was a coincidence I guess, but then again, there really are no coincidences," she said.

The Gekases bought the unique passive solar home, and moved to Dublin in April 2018. Their two adult sons Alex and Gabe are pursuing graduate and undergraduate degrees, both in STEM fields, and enjoy visiting when they can.

Trained as a clinical herbalist and mind-body wellness instructor, Katherine is settling into a community she loves already. She is grateful for the Qigong and knitting groups she's joined at the DubHub. And she's building connections through sharing her love of herbs and natural medicines, facilitating wellness classes, and volunteering for the new Sharing Arts Center that is part of the MaxT Makerspace in Peterborough.

In September, *The Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* featured an article about Katherine's summer herb garden tours, where visitors learn about healing and medicinal properties of common garden herbs. More recently, she offered a webinar on the use of herbs for treating anxiety, depression, and sleep issues.

Katherine is also a facilitator for the



TIMBo Collective, a group of mind-body teachers and mental health professionals who work to empower women and heal individual and collective trauma. She co-facilitates a 16-week mind-body program that integrates discussion, yoga, and guided meditation. The previously in-person classes have been offered via Zoom since the pandemic, and another 16-week series will begin after the first of the year.

Perhaps her most ambitious commitment since coming to Dublin is to the Fundraising Committee of the Sharing Arts Network. Sharing Arts is a community-driven effort to re-build the creative community once housed at the Sharon Arts Center. The Sharing Arts Network plans to open a

ceramics center in the Dublin Village business center on Route 101. They received a grant from the state's Community Development Finance Authority that consists of tax credits that can be sold to local businesses. The group still needs to raise about \$28,000 to be able to open the facility.

A potter herself, Katherine understands the value of a physical studio that offers work, storage, and exhibit space, as well as shared equipment including wheels and a kiln. Besides the sale of tax credits, the Fundraising Committee is also selling small ceramics and painted wooden blocks and pallets at the Peterborough winter farmer's market and UU holiday fair, and other seasonal outlets.

When asked about the through-line connecting her efforts, Katherine said, "I've set an intention to cultivate joy – through connections and partnerships. It's not something that necessarily comes easily, and it's why I'm so motivated to raise funds for Sharing Arts, for the connections they make possible. It's how I think about responding to all that's going on in the world right now – what does joy look like for people who are different from us, and how can we help each other arrive at that?"

Anyone interested in joining Katherine's future webinars, garden walks, or wellness classes, or supporting the Sharing Arts Ceramics Center, is encouraged to email her at katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

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

New Rep's Diversity Statement

"New Repertory Theatre (Watertown, MA) will create internal organizational systems, processes, structures and cultures that encourage any person to engage with us. In creating an equitable culture, we actively seek diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility because we want the stories of all people to be reflected in the stories we tell in our productions." (www.newrep.org/idea-resources/)

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December Events at the DubHub



Addition Update

The addition to the DubHub, a large multi-purpose room at the rear of the building, will likely be completed about the time we usher in 2021.

Greg Pease and his crew from Beech Ridge Builders have gotten the windows and roof in place, added foam insulation, and sheetrock and interior finishes are next. Exterior siding has been ordered to match the rest of the building. Watch for a colorful handrail that will lead the way to the entrance of this new space.

While the grand opening of this addition will have to wait until it is safe to gather, the Dublin Community Center Board extends sincere thanks to all who contributed to the Capital Campaign that made the addition possible.

Coffee & Conversation Continues

Coffee & Conversation via Zoom will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11 am. Mondays are hosted by June Brening, and Wednesdays are hosted by Mary Loftis. Check the weekly HubHub from the DubHub newsletter for login information or email Volkert at info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Knit with Nancy via Zoom

Knit with Nancy via Zoom continues on Friday mornings at 10. Contact Nancy Cayford at npcayford@myfairpoint.net if you'd like to be invited.

Holiday-themed Song Circle/ Open Stage via Zoom

This year the annual DubHub Holiday Singalong will be on Zoom, featuring musicians from our Song Circle and Open Stage on December 11 at 7 pm. Selections will include songs celebrating Winter,

Small Treasures Art Show & Sale: View By Appointment, Purchase Online

The 4th annual Small Treasures Art Show & Sale, a fundraiser for the Dublin Community Center, will take place online this year from noon December 4 through noon December 13. In addition to online purchasing, patrons and visitors will have the opportunity to view the exhibit prior to the sale at the DubHub, by appointment, Monday, November 30 through Thursday, December 3.

Small Treasures showcases local artists who exhibit 2D & 3D pieces no larger than 5 x 7 in. for purchase. Each



May Clark, Susan Stover, and Mary Loftis display some of the artwork received for the Small Treasures Art Show and Sale during their intake session on Nov. 9.

artist contributes the proceeds of the sale of one piece and the Community Center takes a 20 percent commission on the sale

of all other pieces. An average of 40 area artists participate each year.

To schedule an appointment to view the show from 9 am to 12 pm on November 30 and December 1, or from 1 to 3 pm on December 2 and 3, or to get more information, call Susan at 908-672-6481 or Mary at 831-6641. The online sale opens on December 4 at 12 pm at www.32auctions.com/smalltreasures2020. Customers will have to create an account before making a purchase.

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Christmas (traditional and secular), Hanukkah, and other festivals of the season. All are invited to watch, listen, and sing along from home: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83301196924?pwd=V01VNjM4dkdXV1h2TWVKZVJrbIJGdz09>

Meeting ID: 833 0119 6924 Passcode: 733395

DubHub Plans Anthology Reflecting the Year 2020

Attention writers: an anthology tentatively titled "Hindsight is 2020: The People of Dublin Look Back on a Challenging Year" is being planned by the DubHub board.

Submissions of short essays (nonfiction), poetry (including song lyrics), short stories (fiction), and short plays will be welcome from individuals who live, work, or own property in Dublin. Details in January.

Community Conversations on Racism and Related Subjects

The DubHub will be hosting a series of Zoom discussions in the coming months. The anti-racism statement, recently adopted by the board, includes: "Recognizing that the strength and character of a community is not reflected in its

harmony, but in how it addresses the complexity of its conflict, we pledge to serve as a safe space where healthy conversations can happen to address these conflicts ..."

The board invites you to share your reaction to our statement. A related program will feature several films / interviews on the subject of racism in America. The conversation about racism must go on – and we hope you will join us (if only online) for a respectful exchange.

Dates and times will be forthcoming.

Face Masks Available the DubHub

The Free Mask Rack is located at the DubHub's main entrance. Each month, donations will be collected and given to a local charity. Check the weekly Hubhub newsletter for updates. If you want to help (sewing masks, donating fabric, etc.), please contact Ruth Thompson at catinthehat3@myfairpoint.net.

Follow the DubHub with the Hubhub and FB!

Links to virtual events are provided in the weekly Hubhub newsletter, and can usually be found on DubHub Facebook pages. For more information email [info@](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org)

dublincommunitycenter.org. Please don't call, as there is no one in the office until things return to normal. To sign up for the Hubhub newsletter go to <http://eepurl.com/bLCNTz>. Once the DubHub resumes public events the online calendar will be updated at dublincommunitycenter.org.

DubHub Wifi Access

The DubHub Wifi is accessible from the parking lot. Look for the network NETGEAR28-5G_EXT. The password is ancientpond703 (all lower case).

Pop-up Contest for Snow Creations

The Dublin Community Center invites residents and local organizations in town to participate in a pop-up contest for winter snow creations. On the first big snow day, the Hub will contact all pre-registered contestants and they will have 24 hours to build their creation. Judges will visit each snow creation and take a photo. On the closest Saturday to the snow day, the Hub will host an outside celebration with hot chocolate to announce the winners. To register, please submit your name and contact information to info@dublincommunitycenter.org or call 563-8080.

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Bulletin: Civil Rights, HIPAA, and the Coronavirus

In light of the Public Health Emergency concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is providing this bulletin to ensure that entities covered by civil rights authorities keep

in mind their obligations under laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, and exercise of conscience and religion in HHS-funded programs.” (www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr-bulletin-3-28-20.pdf)

From the Governor

Excerpts from the Governor’s COVID-19 Equity Response Team Initial Report and Recommendations (July 12, 2020):

“Pursuant to the Charge issued on May 28, 2020, please accept the enclosed report of the Governor’s COVID-19 Equity Response Team. The purpose of this report is to develop a recommended strategy and plan to address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to oversee the implementation of the recommended plan.”

“...Practitioners in Public Health and community members have long understood the truth – that a public health crisis will not create disparity, it will act upon the disparities and inequities already existing, and seize upon the moment to further

widen the gap and amplify the divide. As cases of COVID-19 increased in New Hampshire, quantitative public health data, along with anecdotal evidence, began to tell the story we expected to hear: People of Color were more likely to contract COVID-19; more likely to work in essential industries and positions that placed them in hazardous situations; more likely to not be able to easily access testing; less likely to be able to socially/physically distance and less likely to be able to recover from the economic and social impact of the pandemic. This pandemic, like all others before, was quickly amplifying and widening the divide.”

www.governor.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt336/files/documents/equity-response-team.pdf

From NPR Daily

The U.S. has recorded 1 million new coronavirus cases in less than one week. More than 166,000 new cases alone were reported on Sunday, according to Johns Hopkins University. The rate of new cases is speeding up, and the infections are hitting Black and brown communities in the U.S. much more severely than others.” (www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/11/15/935229627/u-s-hits-11-million-coronavirus-cases-adding-1-million-in-a-week)

To Help One Another

Those who knew [Rogers] Johnson and worked alongside him to further promote diversity and inclusion said he was relentless in his pursuit of fairness for people of every color and creed.” <https://amp.seacoastonline.com/amp/6276873002>

The literature of our Judeo-Christian tradition is full of neon signs that direct us to use whatever advantages we have to help one another...”

– TMK 11/13/20

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Give What You Can

BY SHARON SMITH

The weekend bags of food from End 68 Hours of Hunger have a new home. Thanks to a community effort to install and paint new shelves, the bags are now stored out of the weather in the unlocked side-entry corridor to the Dublin Community Church. Families of food-insecure children are welcome to pick up the bags at their convenience – just sign up ahead, so organizers know how many bags to pack.

Families of remote learners can sign up through their school; homeschoolers can text 603-660-2914. Note that food is available to preschoolers as well; we don't want to miss anyone!

Not surprisingly during the pandemic, the need for food is growing. This fall End 68 Hours has been sending home weekend bags of food to an average of 200 children a week – up from 154 in mid-March.

So what foods are most in demand?



The Church's entry where new shelving for food drop-offs and pick-ups is housed.



Donations of 12-ounce boxes of cereal and boxes of 8–10 packets of oatmeal are very much needed. Other items especially requested include Ritz and Saltine crackers, boxes of nutrition bars, and fruit cups. All of these are greatly appreciated.

Although the group varies the contents of the food bags from week to week, they do try to send home the same food to every child in any given week. They also try to be mindful of the size and weight of the bags – they don't want the bags to be

heavier than the children who have to carry them home! For that reason, End 68 Hours can't accept oversized food packages. They're also not able to use glass containers – think of that bottle of pasta sauce inside a child's backpack – or foods that have expired.

All that said, your continued support is so appreciated. You truly are making a difference for these children! Thank you.

SHARON SMITH is the Co-Program Coordinator, ConVal End 68 Hours of Hunger.

Lights of Love

"Love. Honor. Remember."

Please join MATS for its virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony Friday, December 18, on Facebook, YouTube, and MATSNH.org.

Please donate \$5 for each light that will be illuminated at MCH. Donations will shine a Light of Love in memory or honor of a loved one of your choice.

Send your contribution (\$5 per light) payable to Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter, PO Box 3053, Peterborough, NH 03458, or visit MATS online at MATSNH.org, or call 924-5033.



Dubliners have been very generous with their donations, and End 68 Hours is incredibly grateful to all who continue to support this effort!

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HCS Offers Walk-in Hours at Keene Office

Feel your worries lighten as you learn about ways we can help.

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) welcomes residents of Dublin to Walk-in Wednesdays. Drop in at Keene's HCS office for free, off-the-record, individual advice from our staff members who specialize in home care, hospice, and advance care planning. Feel your worries lighten as you learn about ways we can help!

The next Walk-in Wednesday is scheduled for December 2 from 2 pm to 4 pm at the HCS office in Keene, at 312 Marlboro Street.

Other Walk-in Wednesdays will be held on the first Wednesday of each month. Those who are not able to stop by may call 352-2253 for information any time.

Masks are required at Walk-in Wednesdays, and staff will adhere to CDC guidelines for social distancing during your visit. HCS is a Monadnock United Way agency providing comfort, care, and support in southwest NH communities.

Hundred Nights' Wish List

Thank you so much in advance for your donations.

The homeless shelter in Keene has put forth its wish list, or what is most needed at this time. Fill a bag or two and keep people warm, fed, and cared for during the cold months ahead. Deliver your contributions to the west-side entrance of the Dublin Community Church.

Long underwear, winter hats and gloves; women's underwear – panties, bras, camisoles and men's boxers – all sizes; for warm drinks: coffee, creamer, sugar and hot chocolate; drink mixes (lemonade, ice

tea, Tang); snacks (peanut butter crackers, fresh fruit, cheese-sticks, single serving packets of nuts and dried

fruit); lunch foods – sliced deli meats and cheeses, canned soups and stews – vegetarian also; hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, spray bottles, paper towels or handi-wipes; deodorant, razors (twin blade), shaving cream; shampoo & conditioner (full size); Chap Stick, medicated foot powder, laundry soap (HE), spray air freshener, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Please call Mindy at 352-5197 if you have any questions.

Emergency Mask Order Issued

Governor Sununu issued an order requiring persons to wear masks or cloth face coverings when in public spaces without physical distancing. The order began on November 20, 2020 and goes through January 15th, 2021. "All persons over the age of 5 within the State of New Hampshire shall wear a mask or cloth face covering over their noses and mouths any time they are in public spaces, indoors or outdoors, where they are unable to or do not consistently maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from persons outside their own households." The order describes "public spaces" as any part of private or public property that is generally open or accessible to members of the general public including, lobbies, waiting areas, outside plazas or patios, restaurants, retail businesses, streets, sidewalks, parks, beaches, elevators, restrooms, stairways, parking garages, etc. For more details, the executive order is available here:

<https://dublinadvocate.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/emergency-order-74.pdf>



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Tribute to Tim Clark from *The Old Farmer's Almanac* Staff

Thanks for the memories, Tim!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT
THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC.

Over the years, I learned a lot from listening to Tim promote the *Almanac* to the media—he, a stage actor and director, and a voice in Ken Burns' films. Although from his nearby office he overheard me talk to media, he kindly never commented... until one day. In a live interview, I could not recall the name of a film in which the *Almanac* is cited. From across the hall came his crisp whisper – “The Desk Set” – my precise, discreet, and spot-on-time cue so the show could go on.

—Janice Stillman, *editor*

Tim Clark's most endearing quality is the breadth of his interests and curiosity. Nothing is immune from his inspection and subsequent reporting. Then it sticks in his mind forever.

—Jack Burnett, *managing editor*

Tim was like a walking encyclopedia, dictionary, thesaurus, and atlas all wrapped up into one very funny and kind human being.

—Colleen Quinnell, *art director*

Tim loves folklore and trivia, and has a great sense of humor. For more than 40 years, he has written the clever weather doggerel (rhyme) on the *Almanac's* Right-



Hand Calendar Pages – with accuracy to match our meteorologist!

—Heidi Stonehill, *senior editor*

Tim gave us the gift of daily laughter. And along with his humor, he shared with us his amazing brain for story ideas. He could write on any topic and his use of humor, mystique, and stranger-than-fiction facts made every article memorable.

—Sarah Perreault, *senior editor*

Tim Clark was my high school English teacher at ConVal, and during that period, he directed the school musical “Cabaret.” He put all his energy into it, even losing 10 pounds in the weeks leading up to the opening, so focused was he on making sure everyone knew their lines, that the songs were crisp, and that everyone was prepared.

—Benjamin Kilbride, *assistant editor*

Tim embodied the *Almanac*, perhaps no more than when he became the “old farmer” to compose the monthly Farmer's Calendar essays (from 2015 through '18). He also recorded these as podcasts for *Almanac.com* in his inimitable calm voice – the voice that I first heard as him use in his role as Dublin Town Moderator.

—Catherine Boeckmann,
senior digital editor

Tim is the very essence of *The Almanac's* mission statement “to always be useful with a pleasant degree of humor.” He shared his time, knowledge, and advice, and he was patient and kind – an all-round beloved colleague and friend. He has left an indelible mark on all of us, we miss him dearly and wish him well as he embarks on many adventures I hope we will hear about. They certainly don't make them like Tim anymore.

—Sherin Pierce, *Publisher*

Blue Jays

BY TOM WARREN

I have had many calls about the large number of Blue Jays in our area this fall.

Blue Jays are in the family Corvidae: crows, jays and magpies. More than 200 species are recognized around the world except in New Zealand and some Polynesian Islands.

Our Blue Jay is in the sub-family of magpies and jays. The Blue Jay is unmistakable, with blue, black and white on both wings and tail.

They are noisy birds, very fond of



hearing their own voices and of attacking owls, especially screech owls, but they keep their distance as many Blue Jay feathers are found in the linings of owl nests.

The Blue Jay is a permanent resident here in Dublin, but does migrate, sometimes in the hundreds.

Blue Jays eat a variety of animal (24%) and vegetable matter (76%). Sunflower seeds, peanuts and peanut butter and, on especially cold days, suet are the main diet. They also eat the eggs

and young of song birds, but in very small numbers.

The nest is built of sticks, twigs, and lined with fine rootlets. The clutch is made

up of 5-6 eggs that hatch in 16 days and the young fledge in about 20 days. The Blue Jay has powers of mimicry, especially imitating small birds like Chickadee, Peewee, and the Winter Wren. But his best effort involves copying the calls of the Red Shouldered Hawk.

Many observers consider the Blue Jay as intelligent as his cousin the Crow. They bury many nuts and seeds in the ground and are responsible for the growth of many trees in the forest, especially oak trees.

You are seeing many Blue Jays this fall due to the extensive numbers of acorns and beech nuts, which also indicate a rising population of mice and thus owls next spring and summer.

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist. [True or False? Blue Jays aren't really blue.]

Photo credit: Jarrod McCabe

Photo: Audubon Field Guide

DECEMBER 2020 Dublin Town Events



THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE may be found online and in color at WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM

The Dublin Advocate is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Everyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. Email submissions by the 15th of each month to DublinAdvocate@gmail.com.

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

The Dublin Advocate, sponsored by the Town of Dublin, NH, is published monthly and is a registered nonprofit, and may be found online at dublinadvocate.com or townofdublin.org.

Editor: Margaret Gurney

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