

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Connecting Older Adults with Families and Friends during the Pandemic

BY DENISE FRANKOFF

During the pandemic many of us have experienced feelings of social isolation and loneliness. Older adults are particularly vulnerable during this time, especially those recovering from medical issues and who live alone. Prior to the pandemic, if their physician recommended rehabilitation services, they could attend an out-patient program. Right now, this is not a viable option for some older adults. Fortunately, there is a local program that enables them to receive these services in their homes.

Vitality To You, a subsidiary of Genesis Rehabilitation Services, provides occupational, physical and speech-language therapies to adults in their homes. Heidi Niemela Thomas, a long-time resident of Dublin, is a licensed occupational therapy assistant (OTA/L) who works for *Vitality To You* (for information, call Selena Shaw, OT/L, Director of Rehabilitation, at 499-6451).

Since 2009 Heidi has worked as an OTA/L with adults in skilled care facilities. OTA/Ls use their clinical skills to help people who have difficulties performing daily living and work activities due to illnesses, injuries and/or disabilities, and to recover the skills they need to be independent and safe in their home environments.

This is a second career for Heidi. Prior to 2009 she owned her own graphic design business – Little House Graphics. She embarked on a second career after realizing that while she loved owning her own business, she missed working alongside others. She enjoys helping people and solving problems. She wanted to do something that



Thank you, Heidi, for your service to our community.

helped others in a holistic way. She explored options and enrolled in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program at River Valley Community College.

Fast forward to 2019. In October Heidi began working for *Vitality To You*. She is a member of a rehabilitation team that includes occupational, physical, and speech-language therapists who see patients in their homes and the community. People are visited two to five times a week. Her team

covers the Monadnock area.

The pandemic has created challenges for Heidi and the people she works with. At every visit she wears personal protective equipment – face mask, eye protection,

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MY COVID COLLEGE ESSAY

Because 2020 was unprecedented, all high school seniors countrywide had the option of writing a 250-word COVID essay to submit with their college applications. Most college applications are in, or will be in by February 1. I'm inviting all my fellow Dublin Seniors to think about submitting their 250-word COVID essays here, to DublinAdvocate@gmail.com, for possible publication.

For me 2020 was the year of appreciation, looking inward, embracing change and profound gratitude. Here is my college COVID essay. – FC



Seventy Eight Days

BY FLORENCE COLANTINO

We returned from our college road trip on March 26. The next morning my phone vibrated; I rolled over and with one eye open, I read a text from my mom . . . "I have it, do not come into my bedroom." I knew right away what "It" was: COVID-19. In an instant, my memories of the fun loving, podcast laden, epic college road trip will be tainted forever. I ignored her request and jumped out of bed and ran into her room.

In a New York minute, I went from baby of the family to nurse, home owner, and dog walker. When my friends were complaining about losing "everything," I was figuring out how to grocery shop, cook, load the wood stove, and check my mom's O2 levels.

During my fast track into adulting, I was also figuring out online schooling, grieving my boyfriend breaking up with me, and my friend dying in a car accident. For fear of stressing out my mom, I kept it all to myself, sitting night after night alone, talking myself through the pain and stress.

Seventy eight days, I nursed my mother through COVID, pneumonia, and mono. Seventy eight days of thinking about what I lost but also what I gained. Through all of this my confidence grew. I decided to run for All School officer, wrote a speech, presented over Zoom, and won!

My mom survived COVID, and I gained far more than I lost.

FLORENCE COLANTINO '21 is a Senior at The Forman School in Litchfield, CT. While sad to be graduating and leaving the school she loves, she is excited to be heading off to college in the fall. Florence – along with her family – have been lifelong residents of Dublin.

Dublin Public Library

BY RACHAEL LOVETT

Curbside pickup continues! Please check in at the Library for any updates about returning to in-person browsing and re-opening the building as conditions continue to change. Our hours will remain the same: Monday 10 am–5 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 3 pm–7 pm, Wednesday 9 am–5 pm, and Saturday 9 am–1 pm. Please visit www.dublinhpubliclibrary.org, or give us a call at 563-8658 to reserve material for pickup and/or sign-up for a library card. As always, Take & Make Crafts are available on a first-come, first-serve basis during all open hours.

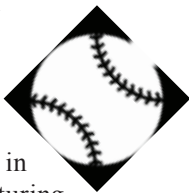
Our afterschool program, Book Buddies, will continue virtually until it's determined we can safely resume in-person programming. Every Tuesday at 4 pm, Mrs. K will read a couple of picture books via Facebook Live and present a related craft for all participants. Crafts can be picked up during the week at Curbside Pickup, located in the foyer of the Main Entrance.

On February 11, Martin Gitlin, author, veteran sportswriter and pop culture historian, will join us via Zoom for *The Ultimate Red Sox Presentation*. His presentation is all about the most interesting and greatest teams, players and events in Red Sox history from their founding to today, featuring exciting game action and photos. There will also be trivia and a Q&A period. Let's get ready for Spring Training!

Lastly, New Hampshire Downloadable Books (NHDB), courtesy of OverDrive, has hundreds of new magazine titles available for checkout electronically. Simply use your DPL library card to log-in to the Libby app or NHDB website and view the newly updated magazine collection. And magazine checkouts do not count against your three eBook/audiobook checkout limit! Check out as many as you would like! A few popular titles include *Bon Appetit*, *Family Handyman*, *House Beautiful*, *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, *This Old House*, and *Us Weekly*.

Library Closures: Monday, February 15. **Next Book Group meeting:** Thursday, February 25, 5 pm (via Zoom).

RACHAEL LOVETT is Director of the Library. She can be reached at www.dublinhpubliclibrary.org, or call 563-8658.



Arnold Pinney: 1937-2021

Vote and Wait to Meet

BY TIM CLARK

After a meeting of town officials and authorities (police, fire, medical, selectpersons, town manager, etc.), we decided to go forward with the election part of town meeting at Town Hall under the same procedures that worked so well in November. We expect that election to occur on Tuesday, March 9, with the polls open our usual hours of 8 am to 7 pm.

We haven't yet decided where or when our town's business meeting will take place. I need to find out some things: for example, does the business meeting have to take place within a certain number of days after the election? If possible, we'd like to postpone the business meeting until the weather is warmer.

We should have the details worked out in time for the March *Advocate*.

TIM CLARK is Town Moderator.

Consolidated Communications and A Broadband Update

Sign up soon to get your name on the list.

BY CAROLE MONROE

Construction crews are continuing with splicing the fiber at each intersection. Three areas have moved to the Testing Phase of the project. Consolidated lost some time over the holidays due to employee vacation time off and sick time but are ramping up again to move this along quickly. They anticipate resuming calls to schedule the connection from the pole to the outside of your house in the next two weeks for those that have pre-ordered at www.consolidated.com/Dublin. 363 residential and small business customers have signed up already. Sign up soon to get your name on the list.

The company is working on special service bundles to include telephone and streaming television services. These bundle options will be released in February.

In answer to a few common questions asked:

Does someone need to be home when they bring the fiber from the pole to the outside of the house? Not necessarily, the fiber will take the same path as your copper telephone line. Only if there are unique concerns with this or your current telephone

continued on next page

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Storage Building Proposed for Recycling Center

BY JANE HOLMES

The Recycling Committee has worked closely with Tom Kennedy to develop a plan for replacing the existing trailers that are no longer fit for storage with a pre-engineered steel building. This challenge has presented us with an opportunity to improve how we store recyclables prior to shipping. Having enough storage space

to segregate the seven categories of baled recyclables will avoid handling costs and maximize profits. This is something the Recycling Center has never been able to achieve due to the lack of available storage.

A proposed new building, capable of exceeding the storage capacity of trailers by 43%, would rectify this problem. Had this system been in place in 2020, profit shortfalls experienced could have been prevented.

The fact that recycling is essential for our environment has always been the driving force behind the Town's efforts to promote it. We also want to keep hauling and disposal fees to a minimum.

Since the approval for this project is several months away, firm estimates were difficult to come by and may well be subject to increases. If approved, this building

will be the first major improvement to the Recycling Center in 32 years.

Benefits arising from this project will be, first and foremost, a long-term investment in our environment. The building itself will provide longevity, require less maintenance, eliminate safety hazards, add character to the facility, and will pay for itself over time.

Current estimates amount to \$110,000. This figure includes 10% for unexpected expenses, but we anticipate the final cost will be less.

This project will be paid for with money already in the Recycling Fund Account and will not burden the town with a tax increase.

JANE HOLMES is on the Recycling Committee. Other members include Joe Carignan, Rick Macmillan, Meredith Martin, Sheila Morse, Leslie Whone, and Tom Kennedy.

Broadband Update

continued from previous page

box is inside a garage or basement (which is unusual) would you need to be at home.

Will the service person doing the home installation need to be in our home for this (masked, of course)? The installation in your home will be scheduled AFTER the connection from the pole is complete. The representative providing you with fiber service will need to be in your home to complete the install. Normally the inside-the-home portion of the install takes about 1½ to 2 hours to complete. They will be wearing a mask.

When do we need to choose a service level? *When the representative calls to schedule your installation, you can discuss your options and choose a service level or bundle of services.*

Thank you all for your patience. I've been assured that, as scheduled, all those who have signed up will be connected before the end of May. I am looking forward to a service level where I can do my work without internet interruptions. Please email me at cdmonroe@myfairpoint.net with any questions.

CAROLE MONROE is the Select Person instrumental in bringing Broadband coverage to all of Dublin.

Recycling on Hold until Further Notice

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

In case you're wondering why Dublin has temporarily shut down recycling at our Transfer Station, the Select Board is concerned about health safety for the town employees working at the station as well as the residents of Dublin who use the facility.

This decision will be revisited when the active COVID case numbers start going down.

Ordinarily, recycled items must be handled by the employees as they sort items to ensure that only the proper items are placed in their respective bins. Although the employees wear masks and gloves, there is always a risk of exposure with a virulent virus such as COVID-19, which has been proven to survive on material surfaces.

Omitting recycling also substantially reduces exposure to our residents since they only need to make one trip to the dumpster rather than visiting four or more recycling stations.

With COVID numbers increasing, it is important that we all remember to wear masks and to socially distance from one another in public areas. At the Transfer Station, this means that only two cars should be pulled up to the dumpster at a given time. Others need to wait in their cars for their turn so that only one person at a time is throwing their items into the dumpster.

We can still greet each other and smile (with our eyes!), stay six feet apart, even while wearing masks, to help keep all Dubliners as healthy as possible.



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DCS Resumes In-Person Learning

BY NICOLE PEASE

I have always known the importance of partnering with families, but this year brought this idea to a new level. Teachers carefully planned for the remote portion of this school year, and this hard work ensured a smooth transition. As the remote learning began, parents took on many new tasks: balancing work and remote learning, following their children's classroom schedules, getting their children onto designed Zoom meetings, and supporting their children with classwork, to name a few.

Parents have done an amazing job in

this partnership and we are all so appreciative. We have all learned how to do school in different ways and it would have been impossible without the collective effort of staff, students, and families!

Students returned to in-person learning on January 19 after a lot of planning for the transition. Everyone has had to readjust to the health protocols while teaching and learning face-to-face.



It has been a welcome time to reconnect with friends and to enjoy each other's company, while continuing to grow and learn. We are so fortunate to have such a connected and supportive community at DCS. It is what makes our school so special.

Kindergarteners are

wanted! If you know of a child who will be 5 years old before August 25, please have their parents or guardians contact our school.

NICOLE PEASE is Teaching Principal at Dublin Consolidated School. She can be reached at 563-8332.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for NH

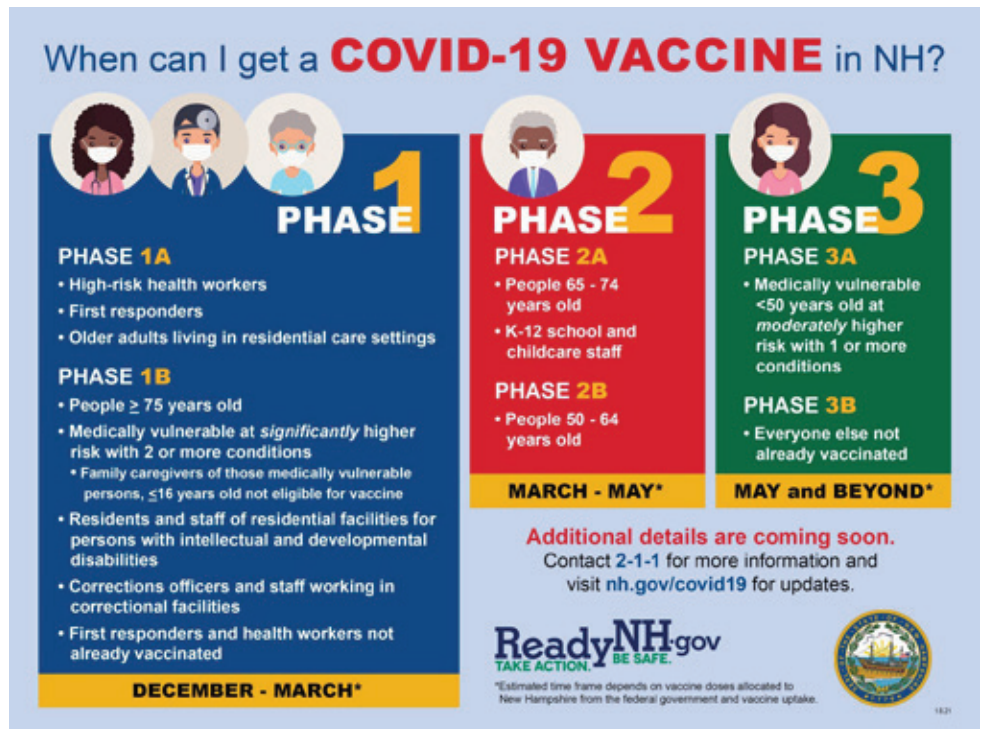
NH residents may call the state hotline 211 any time, visit www.nh.gov/covid19, or dial 1-866-444-4211.

The State of New Hampshire announced (1-15-21) that COVID-19 vaccinations for NH residents in Phase 1B (see chart) began Tuesday, January 26. NH residents who are in the categories at right were able to register and schedule appointments with State public vaccination clinics beginning Friday, January 22. Vaccinations began on Tuesday, January 26. This includes:

- People who are 65 and older
- Medically vulnerable individuals at significantly higher risk, including family caregivers for those under 16
- Staff and residents at residential facilities for persons with disabilities
- Corrections officers and staff working in correctional facilities

Another link: www.nhpr.org/post/nh-residents-65-and-older-can-register-covid-19-vaccine-next-week#stream/0

Thanks to K Vanderbilt for posting this chart online.



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From a New Family in Town

"We have felt very welcomed into the Dublin community."

BY KARA AFSHAR

We moved to Dublin this past summer from Watertown, MA. Salim is a pediatric Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital (focusing on vascular anomalies and head and neck tumors), Kara previously worked as an elementary school teacher before choosing to stay home full time with their three children. Enoch (age 8), and Vargha (age 6), started school at DCS in the fall and Zarrin (age 2) is already asking when she can go to school with her brothers!

Our family enjoys spending time in the great outdoors (hiking, fishing, canoeing, bike riding, and walking with our black lab puppy, Sekou), taking time to be creative (the kids love to paint with Salim), cooking (especially Persian food), and working on our tree fort (a new favorite hobby since moving here).

As members of the Baha'i faith, we aim to center our life around service, build unity, and take time for spiritual growth and development (see sidebar about the Baha'i faith). We place value and importance on building community and creating bonds of friendship with all who cross our path. We love hosting gatherings and visiting with friends, family, and neighbors (we are missing this with the current pandemic).

Our first introduction to Dublin was



This photo was taken of the Afshars during a family hike on the Mt. Caesar Trail in Swanzy. L-R: Vargha, Zarrin, Salim, Kara, and Enoch.

through a visit to the Dublin Inn many years ago ('Abdu'l-Bahá, a central figure in their Faith, stayed at the Dublin Inn in 1912). We immediately felt connected to the area, in part because of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit, and also because of our love for the outdoors and the beauty and majesty of Mount Monadnock. It was during a weekend visit to the Monadnock Region and the Dublin Inn in the fall of 2019 with our extended family that we came up with the idea of looking for a home in this area.

Despite moving during a pandemic, we have felt very welcomed into the Dublin

community. Kara has joined the Friends of the Dublin Public Library and is excited to be connected to the community through

this role. We enjoyed swimming at the Women's Club Beach last summer; it was a wonderful way to meet people while keeping socially distanced. Kara and Zarrin have loved walking Lake Road this fall with their puppy and meeting friendly Dublin residents along the way. Enoch and Vargha have been very happy at Dublin Consolidated School; they have made new friends and have connected with their teachers.

We look forward to learning more about – and exploring more – of the Monadnock Region, as well as continuing to meet new friends in this delightful community.

The Baha'i Faith is an independent world religion based on unity. Baha'is believe our purpose in life is to draw closer to God. We do so by offering selfless service to others. Baha'u'llah, the founder of the faith, envisioned a future where all of humanity operates as a unified family. His teachings, first shared in Persia in the 1800s, inspire us to unite the peoples of the world. 'Abdu'l-Baha, the son of Baha'u'llah, states; "To be a Baha'i simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood."

Ed. Note: The Dublin Historical Society covered 'Abdu'l-Baha and His time spent in Dublin, in two of their newsletters (April 2001 and Fall 2012, the latter commemorating the centennial of His visit.

– KA

DHS Wants Your Favorite 2020 Memorabilia

BY JUDITH A. KNAPP

2020 was an historic year. It began with the Presidential Primary, then the pandemic, the tragic death of George Floyd, the Black Lives Matter protests, the General Election and prolonged counting before Joseph Biden was declared the President-elect.

The Dublin Historical Society (DHS) is asking you to save any artifacts from this past year: a favorite mask, a protest sign,

a political sign for a winner or loser, etc. While we are unable to collect these items during the pandemic, we ask that you don't throw them away.

Once we are able to carefully secure these items, we will collect them for display in the Schoolhouse Museum on Main Street so that future generations of Dublin citizens can realize how this year impacted all of our lives. Thank you.

JUDITH A. KNAPP is on the Board of the DHS.

School Board Update

BY ALAN EDELKIND

I hope this New Year finds all well and looking forward to a positive future.

Your school board voted unanimously on January 12 to approve the recommendation of the COVID Monitoring Team to move from instructional Level Orange to instructional Level Green. This move was effective January 19.

Some important points to note: The COVID Monitoring Team consists of two pediatricians, an administrator from Monadnock Community Hospital (MCH), a ConVal school nurse, two public health officers, the MCH Infection Prevention Specialist, the Cheshire County Administrator, the ConVal Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, Facilities Director, and Athletic Director. The team meets daily, Monday through Friday at 8 am, and reviews state, county, town, and school data to issue recommendations related to school phases.

It is important to note what the meaning of the levels are. There are four phases that align with the CDC's four levels of community transmission and mitigation, from the least restrictive to the most restrictive level, by the colors.

- 1) Blue:** No detectable or minimal community transmission. Return to full in-school instruction,
- 2) Green:** Minimal to moderate community transmission. In-school and remote available based on published school calendar.
- 3) Orange:** Substantial, controlled transmission. Remote for most students, in-person for small groups of priority students,
- 4) Red:** Substantial, uncontrolled transmission. Remote for all students and staff.

As can be seen, Level Green does not mean there is no community transmission. We fully recognize that there is the potential for increased or decreased levels of COVID in the community and will act accordingly in the best interest and health of our students, parents, teachers, administration and the community. This is not an exact science. There are lots of moving parts, concerns and unique situations to take into account in any decision we make.

Lastly, we understand the pressure parents are under as they have to adjust to changing environments and situations. It is not easy, but we will all move through this pandemic.

Now, onto the budget. As noted in previous monthly updates, COVID has had a significant impact on our budget. It has been a difficult time to manage a budget with the level of unforeseen expenses. We cannot, by law, have a deficit budget. Expenses have to be paid by reallocating funding and in some cases eliminating items that have been previously budgeted for. One might assume that we would be actually able to eliminate expenses due to remote schooling. Yes, we have. But this has been offset by the magnitude of unanticipated expenses due to COVID, estimated at \$3.15 million.

Our proposed operating budget for the year 2021-2022 is \$50,298,177, which is a 4.04% increase from the current year's operating budget. This budget also projects a decrease in revenue of \$1,058,418 or 6.66%. The increase in the District assessment (paid by the towns within the district) is \$2,404,492 or 6.81%.

For those who would like more detail, please go to the ConVal website at www.convalsd.net.

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

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The Hometown We Never Knew We Needed

BY WILLIAM AND CLAIRE KATT

Like pretty much everyone else on this planet, when 2020 began we could never have foreseen what the unprecedented year had in store. Lucky for us (extremely lucky, as it turned out), we had a mid-February winter wedding celebration (and Hawaii honeymoon) to plan and anticipate, and we expected that novelty to help get us through the usual cold and dark post-holiday winter months. But we surely assumed the momentous life events for 2020 would begin and end there, and that the rest of 2020 would mostly blend in with other recent years – a mix of office commutes and conference room meetings, occasional restaurant get-togethers with friends, and maybe the occasional weekend out-of-town trip.

Instead, as 2020 ended and 2021 begins, we find ourselves together, feeling incredibly blessed and overwhelmed with gratitude, in an entirely new place – Dublin. When the year began, neither of us had ever even had the chance to visit this “Village on a Hill,” as Tom Hyman describes it

in the title for his 2002 town history (that we have been devouring, by the way). Now, with 2020 over, we cannot imagine being anywhere else.

After too many years of urban living, Claire, a lifetime Appalachian Mountain Club member, has loved getting back to her hiking roots and familiarizing herself with the myriad of trails in and around town. She also enjoyed perpetuating a longstanding personal tradition carried over from a family camp in Maine when she swam across Howe Reservoir one day this summer – startling and worrying a few kind and curious neighbors along the way. Her favorite Dublin things aren’t limited to the outdoors – you may have noticed her stopping in the Village during one of her already-frequent visits to the town library.

For his part, William has discovered a minor passion for tree maintenance (his home office proudly displays the Basic Felling course completion certificate received this fall from the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association), loves learning about Dublin’s history, and enjoys



William’s sons from a prior marriage, Graham (age 9) and Simon (7) of Boston, join the Katts for several days a month in Dublin, and already love this special place as much as we do.

driving and exploring the Monadnock Region’s back roads. As the season has opened, both of us are already taking full advantage of the town’s proximity to so many ski slopes.

The pandemic has caused its hardships too – there’s nothing like a lockdown to test a new marriage, and we are sad to be missing William’s large family Christmas get-together in Wisconsin. We are also eager to get to know non-pandemic Dublin and meet more of our fellow Dubliners. But in a year when so many have suffered such great loss, we could never complain and have so much to be grateful for.

Thank you, Dublin, for providing this special place that we never knew we needed, and that we now could not live without.

William and Claire Katt moved to the west side of Dublin (along Howe Reservoir) from Somerville, MA, in July 2020. The couple wed in February 2020 in Washington, DC, where they first met when both lived there in 2016.

Claire, a native of Maine who received her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College and a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, works for a Massachusetts-based nonprofit global humanitarian aid organization, having previously served at the United States Agency for International Development in Washington.

William, a Milwaukee, WI, native, is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School and an attorney who specializes in capital markets regulation. He currently works at a Boston financial institution following a career in private practice and several years of service at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington.



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A Review of the Dublin Historical Society's First Century

Part I: The Past as Prologue

BY PAUL HARDY

Today, the Dublin Historical Society (DHS) is beginning its second century with passion, vigor and gratitude. First we look back on the years between 1920 and 1985 to provide perspective, then we focus on the years since 1986.

The need for a Historical Society was recognized as early as 1916, when the Dublin Consolidated School was built on land deeded to Schoolhouse No. 1, leaving the 1841 one-room schoolhouse available for another use.

The March 1920 Town Meeting resolved to accept Schoolhouse No. 1 for historical purposes, appoint a small committee to organize a Historical Society, and appropriate \$100 for the purpose. Shortly thereafter Dublin Historical Society was incorporated as a NH nonprofit organization, with articles of incorporation on a single page. Article III began: "The objects for which this corporation is established are the collection, preparation, and preservation of all historical facts, relics, and memorials of all kinds pertaining to the Town of Dublin, including such portions or other towns as may originally have been a part of the Town of Dublin, and to hold and manage any real and personal property which may come into the ownership or possession of the society."

Over the next 20 years, DHS sponsored intermittent educational programs for children and adults, and slowly collected articles of historic value which, along with Town documents, were stored in the old schoolhouse, then entirely unsuited for archival purposes.



Photo by Lucy Shonk

During World War II, board meetings ceased and membership waned. However, entropy never stops. In 1993 John Harris wrote, "In the years that followed, the schoolhouse quietly rotted on its foundation, the powder post beetle took hold of many of the wooden artifacts, and the rest of the collections were left to moth and mildew . . ."

In September 1960, a meeting was organized with a small group that agreed to revitalize the Historical Society, but since there were no records immediately available of the previous members or trustees, its legality was unclear and the effort lapsed.

1986 TO 2020

The DHS was formally revived in 1986, when Bill Bauhan, working with John Harris, re-established the organization under its original articles of incorporation. Appalled at the collection's disarray and decay, John Harris later wrote: "In 1985 I unwarily undertook what turned out to be a decade-long project to gather, sort, and index the Town's records back to 1760."

Joining in this effort was Nancy Campbell; she and John worked in a temporary archival office above our Post Office to preserve these records.

John also led the drive to convince the Town to construct a fireproof and climate-controlled Archives building to house the records of both the Town and the DHS.

At its opening in September 1996, the Town Charter from 1771 was returned to Dublin, having been stored for many years at the State Archive in Concord. The DHS archives collection has tripled in size since, with a current estimate of more than 120,000 pages.

Over the past three decades, the DHS has maintained our historic schoolhouse; worked closely with the late John Harris and current Archivists Lisa Foote and Nancy Campbell; launched an informative website; and offered interesting and entertaining programs, with more to come.

PAUL HARDY is a retired neuropsychiatrist living in Dublin with his wife, Ellie, for the past 11 years. With his clinical work and teaching set aside, he now indulges his passion for history and is learning to smell the roses.

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Building a New Lifestyle in the Region

BY RAMONA BRANCH

Jay Schechter and his wife, Hanne Hansen, are like many newcomers to Dublin, big city folk looking for the natural beauty of a wooded landscape, a slower pace of life and a clear sense of community.

Jay and Hanne are from New Jersey; Hanne is originally from Denmark. She has just passed her United States Citizenship test and is awaiting her swearing-in ceremony. Before the two were married they had each enjoyed vacations in New England. In 2013 the couple decided they wanted to look for a home in southern New Hampshire as a weekend and vacation getaway, with the intention of ultimately making it their permanent residence.

For a year and a half, the couple looked at homes and finally came across a Dublin timber frame house. "When we saw the contemporary exterior, with beautiful exposed interior wood timbers and an adjacent pond," Hanne said, "we knew we had found our dream home."

Back in New Jersey, Hanne was in the process of changing her career from technology to the food industry. In May 2018, after two years of study, she received her degree in food and beverage management. With Hanne's training behind her and Jay newly retired, the couple moved to Dublin fulltime in 2018.

To gain experience in food service, Hanne took a position as a cook in the cafeteria of the Keene Middle School. When the school term ended, she worked at Del Rossi's Trattoria, as a hostess, to experience what running a restaurant would be like. "It was then," Hanne said, "that we made up our mind that we wanted to own a restaurant."

After an online search, they found that the Hillsborough Diner was for sale. "The diner was built by Kullman Diner Corporation in 1953," Jay explained. "It was initially installed in Paterson, NJ, and was moved to Hillsborough in 1965. The diner was in a good location and had been in business for 55 years with a good customer base," he added.

To evaluate the business thoroughly and determine whether they should buy the diner, Hanne worked at the diner for several months, getting to know the menu, equipment, procedures, and customers.

They opened their



Hanne Hansen and her husband, Jay Schechter, stand beside the newly installed sign at their new restaurant, Hanna's Diner located in Hillsborough.

new diner, now called Hanna's Diner, in August 2020. Hanne has been busy reworking the menu, enhancing the interior, upgrading equipment, and creating new outdoor signage.

Hanne says her goal is to create the same warmth and convivial atmosphere as the famous *Cheers* bar in Boston, where "everyone knows your name" and all are welcome.

What little free time the couple has is spent hiking and exploring new spaces with their dog, Hunter. Jay is the chair of the Dublin Conservation Commission, which works to preserve our natural resources.

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

Larry Foley: 1927-2020

An excerpt from the full obituary at Cournoyer (link below).

"...In 1992, Larry and Jeanne settled in Dublin, NH, with their retirement years further enriched by grandchildren and great grandchildren. Even though his 9 to 5 days were over, Larry continued to pursue knowledge with the dedication of a high honor student studying for the SATs. Current publications of science, mathematics, and politics cluttered his living room and always gave good reason to spark a discussion with a visitor. The possibilities seemed endless as his voice rang with the energy of new discovery and his eyes sparkled with wonder. Larry will affectionately be remembered by people who developed relationships with him, talking, sharing stories, enjoying his welcoming smile and kind, gentlemanly ways...."

For Larry's full obituary, please go to Cournoyer Funeral Home's entry: www.cournoyerfh.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obid=19564528



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New Staffer Joins the *Advocate*

Susan Peters has joined the staff of the *Advocate*. Susan and her husband, Dr. Steven Levene, have lived on Old Common Road since 1994, where they raised two daughters, Abigail and Molly, now 29 and 27.

An attorney by training, with a background in business law, Susan serves on Dublin's Zoning Board of Adjustment and previously served on the Planning Board and Transportation Committee.

In 2000, area residents including Susan and her late friend, Elisabeth Langby,

formed the Monadnock Traffic Calming Foundation, which was key in obtaining Federal and State funding to design and implement a safer traffic flow through the Village.

Susan is interested in conservation including water quality, native plant species, and healthy habitat. As Conservation Chairman for the Garden Club of Dublin, she helped to establish the weed-watch program that focuses on identifying and



eradicating invasive species in Dublin Lake.

Because of the pandemic, her legal representation work in mental health guardianship in Massachusetts is on hold; so, Susan says she has time to help out as a writer for the *Advocate*. She says she is ready to do whatever is needed, and hopes to focus on issues related to

conservation and town governance.

The staff of the *Advocate* welcomes Susan Peters to our team.

Connecting during the Pandemic

continued from page 1

and gloves. Heidi says, "people don't know what my face looks like." With a mask, it can be difficult for some of her patients to understand what she says. When this happens, Heidi uses a white board.

Another significant challenge is helping her patients stay connected to friends and family to decrease isolation. To accomplish this, Heidi teaches them to send and receive emails, photographs, and participate in conversations via Zoom or FaceTime. When necessary, she provides

memory strategies, such as notebooks, cue cards, and a lot of rehearsing. Right now, Heidi is working with three people, age 90+ years, whose families recently purchased iPads for them. One individual recently participated in a family gathering at Christmas using FaceTime.

Training caregivers in the home is vital for patient wellness. Often one simple technique/strategy can make a world of difference in ease, comfort and safety for the patient.

Heidi's patients tell her how much they appreciate her visits and how they look forward to learning new ways to remain

physically, mentally, and socially active and safe in their homes. She finds this very gratifying. "An occupational therapy practitioner is the perfect fit for me. I enjoy helping others to see their own potential in all aspects of their life."

Thank you, Heidi, for your service to our community.

Heidi Niemela Thomas, a native of Dublin, has lived here for 36 years. She is married to Sturdy Thomas, local business owner and former selectman. They have two adult daughters.

DENISE FRANKOFF is on the staff of the *Advocate*, and is a practicing speech therapist herself.

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Project Home – A Community Effort

BY DAVID BLAIR

Project Home was created in response to the situation on the Mexican border, to provide a community-based alternative to immigration detention. In November 2019, Marjorie Margolis took a group from the Monadnock Region to El Paso, TX, to learn about the situation on the Mexican border. One of our founders went on that trip, as did Rosemary Weidner of Dublin, who has been active with Project Home.



"The family poses for a family portrait to send to their family and friends."

Project Home now houses and supports four families or individuals in the Monadnock Region, two of whom we met in El Paso: Rosa and her 2-year-old from El Salvador; Daniel, Norma and their three children (15, 9 and 7) from Mexico; Lina and her three young children from Honduras; and Antoine from Rwanda. A fifth individual will soon arrive. (We are using pseudonyms.)

We provide housing through the generosity of host families, but this is not all. People from the entire region have volunteered their time and skills to bridge between the families and the schools and local health providers; to translate, tutor, drive, shop, teach driving and assist pro bono immigration lawyers in the preparation of complex asylum cases; and to raise the money needed to support our guests as they adapt to life here in NH and await the outcome of their cases.

Traceymay Kalvaitis and the Dublin Community Church have warmly supported us. We have done all this in the midst of a pandemic!

Host families open their homes to our guests, who at first depend totally on the support of the community. Daniel and Norma are about to move into an intermediate stage. At the end of February, they will be able to apply for permission to work and for a driver's license, and after they are working they will move into their own quarters. Rosa has already done this. Over time, each family will wean itself from Project Home's support until they are fully independent, and we will then be able to "adopt" another family.

Many of us are active in advocacy efforts such as KIRP (Keene Immigrant & Refugee Partnership) or Never Again Action NH that seek to change an unjust immigration system. Project Home's mission is different: it is to provide loving accompaniment to the families whom we invite into our homes and community. We are also part of a network of organizations throughout New England and are supporting other communities interested in creating their own version of Project Home. Our website is projecthomenh.org.

DAVID BLAIR lives just north of the Dublin line in Chesham and serves on the Core Team of Project Home.



"The children love playing outside and have learned to dress for the cold weather."

Photo credit: Bill Whyte



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Sharing Art Ceramics Center Coming Soon

Many of the pieces have already come together.

BY KATHERINE GEKAS

Here is an update on the progress for the Sharing Art Ceramics Center, which is planned to move into the Dublin Village Park in 2021. Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who have already donated — we are nearing our fundraising goal!

With some funding from the CDFR (Community Development Finance Authority: nhcdfa.org), more remains to be raised through local businesses. Businesses can receive 75% of their donation back in the form of a tax credit.

We have received generous donations of large equipment, including an electric kiln, a pug mill, shelving, a kickwheel, and other offers are still coming in.

Last fall, thanks to the fun outreach in which many artisans painted hearts on wood and sold them with their pottery at holiday fairs and the farmer's market, a generous matching donation from an anonymous donor matched all of December's fundraising!

As soon as the funding is complete, we can begin equipping the studio and

making plans for a COVID-safe approach to opening. We are moving ahead with an online hand-building class.

As we move through this phase, we are building community and collecting names of people who are interested in taking classes. If you'd like to jump onto our marketing list so that you're in line for a ceramics class, just let us know.



The MAXT Maker-space (maxtmakerspace.org) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit, making donations fully tax-deductible (indicate ceramics studio if you are donating as an individual). If you are

a business interested in donating, please request a link to make a pledge.

KATHERINE GEKAS is involved in forming the ceramics studio soon to be located in Dublin's Village Park. She can be reached at katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

HCS Offers Walk-in Hours in Keene

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) welcomes residents of Dublin to Walk-in Wednesdays. Drop in for completely free, off-the-record, individual advice from our staff members who specialize in home care, hospice, and advance care planning.

The next two Walk-in Wednesdays are scheduled for February 3 and March 3; doors are open from 2 to 4 pm at the HCS office in

Keene, at 312 Marlboro Street. 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 to residents living in southwestern New Hampshire communities.



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February Events at the DubHub



The DubHub addition is complete! Greg Pease and his crew at Beech Ridge Builders recently finished the exterior siding, creating a seamless transition to the new construction, which is a large, multi-purpose room with a vaulted ceiling. Interior finishes include an art-hanging system, white board, and large bulletin board. In addition to providing a permanent home for the Dublin Community Church Sunday School, the space will allow several activities to be held simultaneously. The expanded space is now large enough to offer to the Red Cross for a blood drive.

The Community Center wishes to thank Greg for a meticulous construction job, accomplished in just a few months! We also thank all those who donated to the Capital Campaign that made the project possible.

When it is safe to gather, we look forward to hosting a celebration to dedicate this beautiful new space to long-time Sunday School teacher Rosamond (Yummy) Cady.

Complex Conversations: Growing Up Black in NH

On Thursday, February 18, from 7 to 8:15 pm, a discussion of the January *Yankee Magazine* article, "Growing Up Black in New England," will be the first in our new Complex Conversations series. The interview is with Rebecca Carroll, a writer and radio producer, who shares her experience of growing up in Warner, NH, as an adopted black child.

Yankee Magazine editor, Ian Aldrich, will provide background on the article as

well as share his perspective as the father of a biracial child. Three of Dublin's Black residents, Mo Hulslander, Grace Aldrich, and Jim Guy will attend and provide commentary.

The Zoom link will be in the Hubbub newsletter, or email info@dublincommunitycenter.org. Members of the community may read the article from the January issue of *Yankee Magazine* online at <https://tinyurl.com/y475tsah>.

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee & Conversation sessions via Zoom will continue on Monday and Wednesday mornings in January, from 10 to 11 am. For login information, email Volkert at info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Song Circle & Open Stage Merge

Song Circle & Open Stage will meet together via Zoom at 7 pm on Friday, February 26. Musicians, poets, storytellers, actors and audience members are invited. A link will be in the Hubbub newsletter, or can be obtained by emailing info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Community Lunch

Community Lunch To-Go will be on Tuesday, February 16, from noon to 1 pm. Soup and sandwich lunch will include a Valentine cupcake! Pick up your meal by the main entrance of the DubHub. For those unable to get out due to weather or COVID concerns, please call Mary Loftis at 831-6641.

Follow the DubHub with the Hubbub and FB

Links to virtual events are provided in the weekly Hubbub newsletter, and can be found on DubHub Facebook pages or email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

DubHub Wi-Fi Access

The DubHub Wi-Fi is accessible from the parking lot. Look for NET-GEAR28-5G_EXT. The password is ancientpond703 (all lower case).

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Auditorium Will Not Be Built

Thornton Wilder Center for the Arts project ceases operations.

BY ROB EICHLER

It is with regret that the Board of Directors of Thornton Wilder Center for the Arts has terminated the arts center project and dissolved the organization. The objective to build a venue to meet the long-unmet performing arts needs of ConVal High School students, and for community use, had not garnered adequate financial support to remain viable.

Since 2012, significant milestones included an assessment of facility needs of the high school and local performing arts organizations; commission of a beautiful and flexible design from Scully/Architects and nextstage design; and gaining the endorsement of Thornton Wilder's family to name the facility in Wilder's honor, strengthening the connection between Peterborough and the playwright of "Our Town."

Despite these accomplishments, overall circumstances – compounded with COVID-19 – preclude continuation.

Hope remains, however, to continue with the Black Fly Story Hour (a popular fundraising vehicle for Thornton Wilder Center for the Arts that ran biannually for several years) once audiences may safely gather again.

The Board of Thornton Wilder Center for the Arts is grateful to all the students, families, and arts enthusiasts who contributed with voluntarism, passion, and financial donations.

ROB EICHLER, Board President, Thornton Wilder Center for the Arts, can be reached at REichler@ThorntonWilderCenterfortheArts.org.

FDPL Welcomes Stargazers

The Friends of the Dublin Public Library (FDPL) want you to know that if you're new in town, or if you haven't visited the library recently, and wish to learn more about the services now being offered by our wonderful town library, you may email the Friends at Dublin.library.nh@gmail.com or call the library directly. We'd love to hear from you.



The members of the FDPL are working with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society (NHAS) to purchase from them an Orion Starblast telescope that is modified for library lending.

The NHAS will assemble and deliver the telescope and, when conditions permit, they will train library staff on using the telescope. After COVID is under control, NHAS does skywatches for libraries to encourage patron participation.

Nutrition Bars Would Help So Much

Dublin's food donations to End 68 Hours of Hunger keep increasing, and they're so appreciated! The numbers of students being fed have been rising as the pandemic continues, so those donations are more important than ever.

Because we try to send the same foods home to every child, it helps even more if you can focus on specific nonperishable items, and this month what we need most is full boxes of nutrition bars (so we can check the dates). Soft or chewy, large boxes or small – every box helps! Boxes can be left on the designated shelves at the side entrance of the Dublin Community Church.

Thank you very much!

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The Grosbeaks of Winter

BY TOM WARREN

One of the most beautiful winter sights is that of a flock of Evening Grosbeaks at a bird feeder. The golden yellow, black and white plumage, bright snow and clear blue sky set the scene. Its name is derived from the Greek, referring to the Hesperides, “Daughters of Night.”

Similar to the “Old World” Hawfinch, it has a large conical bill evolved for eating seeds, especially sunflower and Box Elder (Manitoba Maple) or Ash seeds. This winter a large number of these birds have been reported.



Evening Grosbeak

Observing these birds at a window feeder, one can see their bills, like shears clipping the edges of sunflower seeds to reach the meat. The seed is carefully manipulated by the tongue. They eat amazing quantities of sunflower seeds!

In Saskatchewan, where farmers grow sunflowers for the market, one farmer set aside one ton for his own wintering grosbeaks, a flock of more than 100.

Historically, more of a western bird that moves east in autumn and winter, they occasionally remain beyond winter to nest here in Dublin, in past years at the golf course.

Bird banders beware! The powerful beak can exert more than a ton of pressure on a bare finger necessitating a trip to Urgent Care for stitches.

PINE GROSBEAKS

Another Grosbeak being seen this winter in our area is the Pine Grosbeak. It often appears without warning, especially during snowstorms. It lives in northern forests around the world.

It keeps some distance from the more aggressive Evening Grosbeak and they are rarely seen together. The male has a rosy plumage, a product of their diet. The birds synthesize red pigment from food.

When they arrive from the boreal north



Pine Grosbeak

in Canada, they eat beech nuts and conifer seeds, but they prefer crab apples, bit-tersweet, mountain ash, and even deadly nightshade berries, which do not affect them at all. They move south when this food supply is lacking in the north.

During the Great Blizzard in February 1978, when I lived in Massachusetts, a flock of 50 Pine Grosbeaks appeared in the snowy gales and stripped a crabapple of its fruit in 30 minutes before moving on to the next tree.

The Pine Grosbeak has a pleasant, shy disposition and a musical whistle for a voice. They are extremely tame and can be captured by hand from a crabapple tree.

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist.

NH Mask Mandate Extended

Concord, NH – Gov. Chris Sununu is extending New Hampshire's mask mandate, citing the state's high coronavirus case rates, hospitalizations and fatalities... The mask order is now in effect until March 26, 2021. [1/16/21] wmur.com/article/new-hampshire-covid-mask-mandate-extended/35229800#

Vaccination Update

“Starting Friday 1/22/21 at 8 a.m., New Hampshire residents 65 and up – among other groups – can sign up for a vaccination appointment on vaccines.nh.gov.

The state health department said that people without Internet or who have trouble with computers can call its 2-1-1 hotline for help, though an “extremely high” call volume is anticipated.” (www.sentinel-source.com)

Christmas Bird Census Results for 2020

Christmas Bird Counts were held in both the Keene and Hancock areas. The Keene count is one of the original counts first completed in 1900. 2,500 counts were conducted in the North and South America in December.

With the exception of one major snowstorm in December, the winter has been mild as predicted by a much warmer than normal November. As of January 11, Dublin Lake is open water, one of the latest dates for such a condition. December was 1% above normal and January 15 was 4% above normal each day. However, a polar vortex may be on the way for late January.

The Hancock/Peterborough total species and numbers of birds set records. Significant sightings included Red-Headed Woodpecker, Long-tailed Duck, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Rusty Blackbird, Swamp Sparrow, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill.

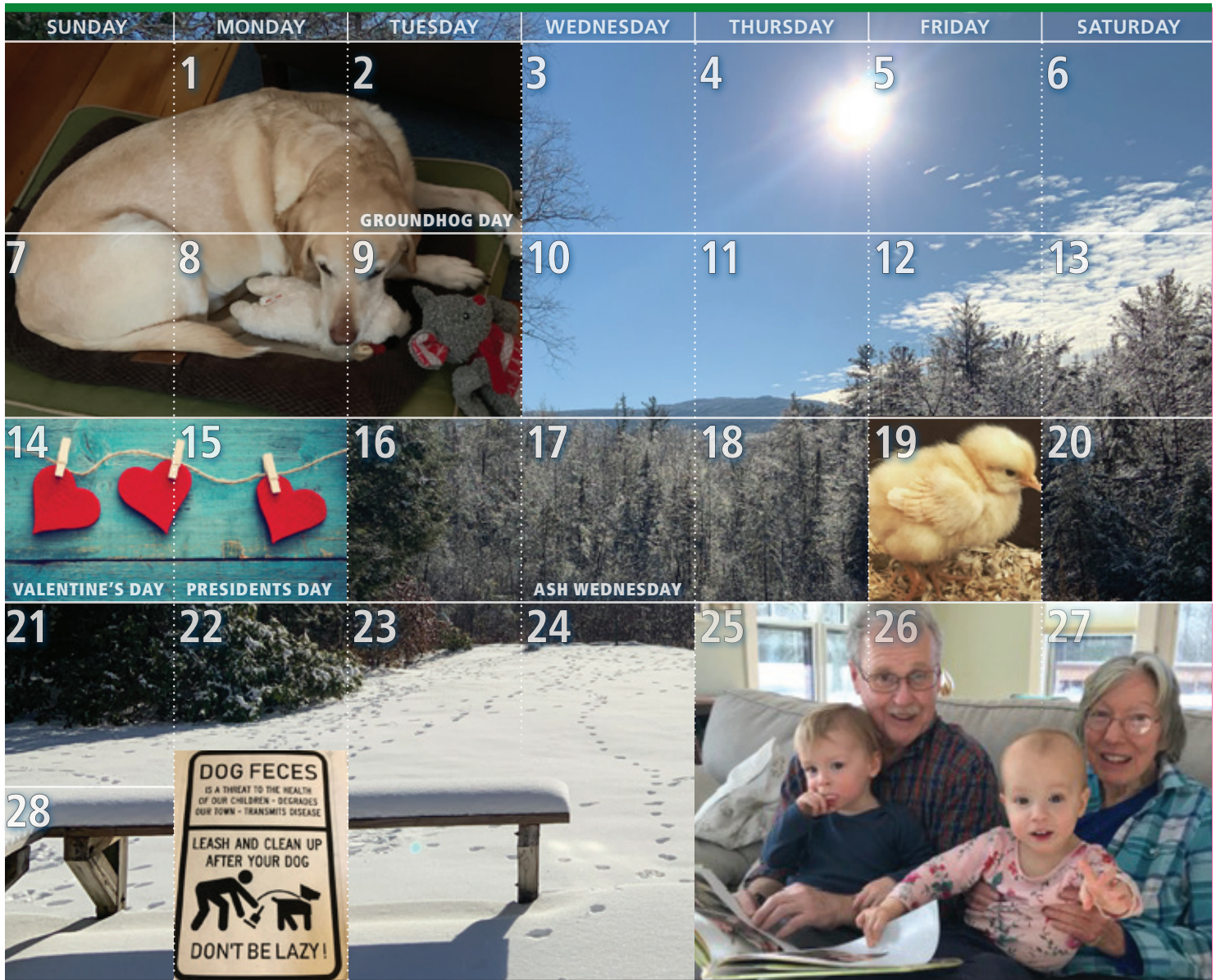
This is a super-flight year for finches. Large numbers of Redpolls appeared after the count on January 7, 2021.

The most common birds were the following: seven species of Woodpecker, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Tufted Titmouse.

Notable high numbers for Barred Owls, which probably accounts for fewer mice in our area this winter and next summer.

– TW

FEBRUARY 2021 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.

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