

# The Dublin Advocate

*To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community*

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## New Year's Reflections and Resolutions

BY JULIE RIZZO

Here we are in January, a new year unfolding. January is the month of Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, who presided over doors and gates, journeys and passages, movement and change. Janus ruled over the beginning and ending of conflict, war, and peace.

Around the world and across millennia, we humans seem to love new year traditions that reflect the themes of Janus: looking backward and forward, and a hope for peace. The Orthodox Church celebrates Old New Year on January 14, the first day of the old calendar that originated with Julius Caesar (replaced in 1582 by the Gregorian calendar we use today).

Native Americans observe midwinter with ceremonies that include the naming of new babies, the choosing of new leaders, and the "stirring of ashes" – a symbolic turning over of Mother Earth to start fresh for the new year. Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar (this year falling on January 22) and honors deities and ancestors. Since 1967, the Roman Catholic Church begins the new year with World Day of Peace on January 1.

Meanwhile, here in America, we toast the turning of the year on January 1 with fireworks and noisemakers, watch the descent of a giant ball in Times Square, plunge into icy waters, or wearily toast the new year in Barcelona, or anyplace else that squares with our usual bedtime.

I almost always ready myself for the new year with that oft-maligned tradition, the New Year's resolution. Every year, my husband and adult children scrape their chairs back from the holiday table when they hear me begin, "So what are YOUR resol . . . ?" Suddenly the music gets loud, everyone volunteers to clear the table or scrub the pots, and I'm left trying to make my annual commitments at an empty table.



I believe in the New Year's resolution. I *accomplish* my New Year's resolutions. I would even say the New Year's resolution is responsible for some of the hardest-won forward progress in my life.

For me, the trick is picking the *right* New Year's resolutions – tangible, doable, and with a payoff that outweighs the investment. I pick one that gets some

nagging, soul-sucking obligation off my mental list and one that has the potential to transform my life.

For example, in 2005, I set up our bills for online payment and planned a family trip to Rome. In 2013, I weeded through a closetful of old photos (including the family trip to Rome) and read all of George Eliot's novels. In 2022, I cleaned out our storage unit (full of unused furniture and old photos, including the family trip to Rome) and learned some basic Spanish with Duolingo.

And in 2023? (I hear chairs scraping....) I'm thinking of going through the 30-gallon tub under my desk, full of my mother's old photos, and planning a family trip....

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

## Rotary Foundation Establishes Sculpture NH

BY RICK MACMILLAN

Over the past year, the idea of creating a sculpture trail in the Monadnock Region has been nurtured along by various interested parties. Discussions have been held with the Grand Monadnock Rotary Club, Dublin Planning Board and Select Board, Mayor George Hansel of Keene, the Peterborough Select Board, and Brad Bates, head of Dublin School.

To that end, Michael Manjarris, a well-known creator of sculpture installations, visited our area in July. Since then, we have been on a quest for a site to install an initial sculpture to demonstrate the power of monumental outdoor art. Initially, the Dublin Rotary Park on Howe Reservoir seemed to be a potential site. While it remains a prime locus, we need to select a more immediate site to keep the prospect of a sculpture trail alive.

Manjarris has procured on loan a particularly intriguing bronze sculpture, *Ba'al & Yizhaq*, from the estate of nationally known sculptor Boaz Vaadia. Under the auspices of the Grand Monadnock Rotary Foundation, a new outreach program, Sculpture New Hampshire, has been formed. Its initial project will be the installation of the Vaadia sculpture in either Putnam Park or Boccelli Gardens, both on Grove Street in the middle of Peterborough. The foundation has established a designated fund to enable the installation, with matching grant funding of \$3,200.

In addition, Dublin School has received a generous \$5,000 gift from a New England family foundation to encourage the creation and installation of outdoor sculpture on the campus. Brad Bates hopes to enhance the school's cross-country ski trails with outdoor art that will capture the imagination of students as well as visiting ski teams and hikers.

RICK MACMILLAN is president of the Grand Monadnock Rotary Club.



*Ba'al & Yizhaq*, bronze sculpture by Boaz Vaadia

## News from the Library

BY RACHAEL LOVETT

January brings the coldest days, but we are warm and cozy in the library. Come visit and read by the fireplaces, check out some winter warm-up books, make a craft, and have a cup of hot cocoa, coffee, or tea. Please check out our website for programs and times if you are interested in joining our Craft Circle, our puzzles group, one of our many author talks, and our ongoing teen and children's programs.

If you like the comfort and warmth of your own home, we've got you covered there too! You can check out books and magazines digitally, at any hour of the day, or stream a video or TV

### DPL Hours

Monday 10 am–5 pm

Tuesday 3–7 pm

Wednesday 9 am–5 pm

Thursday 3–7 pm

Saturday 9 am–1 pm.

show from Kanopy with your library card. And you can now join our online book discussion group. We have a new Book Blog, [www.booktalk-dpl.freeforums.net](http://www.booktalk-dpl.freeforums.net). Head on over to the library web page and access the discussion board from there. Give us a suggestion

for our next TBR (To Be Read), or share your thoughts on a book you think we *shouldn't* read. We'd love to hear from you. Anyone can join, and you can access/post from anywhere, anytime.

In January, we will also keep an eye on the weather – for the purpose of snowmen, of course! After a significant snowstorm, we will invite families to come to the library on a Saturday morning to build snowmen on the library lawn. We'll have hot cocoa, coffee, tea, and probably cookies.

Once we know when a storm is coming through, we'll make it official and announce it online. Be on the lookout at [www.dublinnhpubliclibrary.org](http://www.dublinnhpubliclibrary.org) and on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Coming up in February, we have a special event, brought to you by the Friends of the Dublin Public Library. On Friday, February 10, at 6:30 pm, we will host an Open Mic and Chocolate Lounge. We are “calling all lovers” – lovers of poetry, music, short stories, writing, plays, performances, and chocolate! We invite you to join



Congratulations to the Wilcox family, bumper sticker contest winner. Stickers will be available in January.

us not only to sample some chocolates but also to share a little piece of your favorite writing or a sample of your own work. All forms of performance are welcome. All forms of chocolate are also welcome. We will have a registration page up and available on the website. Registration is not mandatory; we will use the form as a way to notify you of any changes to the program.

RACHAEL LOVETT is the director of the Dublin Public Library.

## NH Humanities Offerings

The *Perspectives* book discussion program is spreading quickly across the state, and New Hampshire Humanities invites you to attend or host a book group at your own library, book club, or community organization. Here are a few of the upcoming book discussions and a link to learn how to host your own book group.

RSVP to the host to reserve your spot and your free book, courtesy of New Hampshire Humanities' *Perspectives* book groups.

January 6, 11 am, hosted by the Frost Free Library, Marlborough: *Beneficence*, by Meredith Hall

January 10, 6:30 pm (virtual), hosted by Jaffrey Public Library: *How to be Good*, by Nick Hornby

For more information about the books and scholar facilitators, visit [www.nhhumanities.org/Perspectives](http://www.nhhumanities.org/Perspectives) or email at [bookgroups@nhhumanities.org](mailto:bookgroups@nhhumanities.org).

## Harris Center Film Screening

Join us for a screening of the documentary short, *Women of the Wild*, which follows a day in the life of Maricarmen Garcia Rivas as she works to protect the Puerto Morelos National Reef Park in Mexico. Award-winning author Sy Montgomery of Hancock will introduce the film and speak with filmmaker Molly Ferrill, who grew up in Temple and is now a National Geographic Explorer, during a facilitated discussion and Q&A. The evening will also include several fantastic short films from the Emmy-award-winning local production company, SALT Project. Friday, January 6, from 7–8:30 pm at the Peterborough Community Theater. Free of charge, but *space is limited, and registration is required*.

## Summer Playground Seeks Director

The town is looking for a summer playground director for 2023! This is a fun way to spend your summer at camp. If you are interested in hearing more about the position, please call Kate Fuller at 603-563-8544.

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## Community Power Survey for Dublin Residents and Businesses

BY JACK MUNN AND SUSAN PETERS

The Dublin Energy Committee has created a survey to assess the interest of Dublin residents and businesses in participating in the Cheshire County Community Power Plan (also known as community choice electric aggregation). This plan is currently pending approval by the County Delegation and, if approved, would provide opportunities for Dublin residents and businesses to reduce their electric bills and participate in selecting more renewable energy options for their electricity supply needs.

### TOWN HALL HOURS FOR JANUARY

The town administrator's office will be closed on January 4 and open for limited hours from January 5–11. All hours will be posted on the website: [www.townofdublin.org](http://www.townofdublin.org).

### TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The Select Board has hired Maureen Hulslander to fill in the remainder of the town clerk/tax collector's term. We hope to be back to regular hours as soon as possible, but please check the website before you come in for the most up-to-date hours. As always, you can pay online or at the drop box in the rear of the building.



### PUBLIC NOTICE: Filing Period for Town Offices

Residents interested in declaring their candidacy for the following town offices may do so at the town clerk's office beginning on Wednesday, January 25, and ending on Friday, February 3, 2023. For those residents wishing to file for office on Friday, February 3, the clerk's office will be open from 3–5 pm that day.

Selectman	1 position	3 years
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	1 position	3 years
Library Trustee	2 positions	3 years
Budget Committee	2 positions	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	1 position	3 years
Planning Board	2 positions	3 years
Trustees of Trust Funds	1 position	3 years

Choosing to participate in a community power plan does not change the means by which electricity is distributed: A public utility such as Eversource will continue to deliver electricity to customers and to own and operate the local distribution system (poles, wires, transformers, substations, etc.). The utility will also continue to provide customer service and billing.

Based upon the outcome of this survey and county approval of their proposed plan, the Dublin Select Board will consider whether to submit a warrant article for vote at the March 2023 town meeting, formally requesting town support in participating in the Cheshire County Community Power Plan.



Please visit [bit.ly/commppowerdublin](http://bit.ly/commppowerdublin) or scan the QR code to access the survey. Paper copies of the brief, anonymous survey, together with collection boxes, will be available at Town Hall and the Dublin Community Center. Only one person per household needs to fill out this survey. If you have both a residence and a business in Dublin that have separate electric bills, please fill out the survey twice: once for your home and once for your business.

Thank you for filling out this survey. We appreciate your help to determine the best way to bring electric aggregation to Dublin.

JACK MUNN and SUSAN PETERS are members of the Dublin Energy Committee. Susan Peters is also a Select Board member and is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

## Voice Your Thoughts About Planning for Dublin's Future

As part of the state's InvestNH initiative, \$5 million has been allocated to provide grants to cities and towns to analyze and update their land use regulations to help increase housing development opportunities. Cities and towns will use these grants to study zoning or other regulatory causes of a lack of affordable housing, identify potential changes to local land use regulations, and/or establish or update those regulations in response to those findings. Community engagement will be an important part of municipal work under these grants.

Dublin's application for the InvestNH grant is being considered at this time. Upon approval, meetings and activities for town residents to learn about the grant process and review program will be announced.

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## News from the ConVal School Board – The Budget

BY ALAN EDELKIND

The school budget – a mystery to most, a negative to many, something not to think about until it happens – is one of the major responsibilities and time-consuming activities of your school board. The purpose of this article is to give a brief overview of the budget, its components, and how these components affect your taxes and the education of our students. (Actual budget figures are in process and will be finalized prior to the February issue of the *Dublin Advocate*.)

### What is the school budget?

The budget is simply the mechanism used to detail all of our expenses driven by the needs of education, including mandates. Using projected expenses, we look at all sources of income to determine how we are to pay for these expenses.

### What are the components of the budget?

There are really only three components to a budget:

- **Income (revenue)** – how much money is predicted to be brought in
- **Expenses** – how much money is predicted to be paid out
- **Reserves** – accounts that are set up to allocate money for specific long-term and/or unanticipated expenses, just like your home savings bank account

The ConVal School District budget components are no different from the ones used in a household budget. It just has a lot more details, is heavily regulated, and is much larger.

The only component that is a little confusing is the reserves. Reserves are like savings accounts, with different accounts for different long-term expenditures. An example might be a home account set up for tax payments. Money is placed into the account in anticipation of having to use that money at a future date to pay your tax bill. Reserves (like your personal bank accounts) are also used to pay for unanticipated events.

### How much of the budget is used for educating our students?

One hundred percent of the budget is used to provide the environment and services to educate our students. How can that be? Simple. The only purpose for ConVal to exist is for our students. Some expenses are direct, like teachers' salaries and benefits, supplies, transportation, etc. Some expenses are what are called indirect, like the cost of buildings, maintenance, heat, administrative staff, furniture, etc. The budget details these and many other expense items. Again, all are in support of our students.

### Where does this money come from?

Revenue is derived from local sources, federal funds, state sources, the State Wide Education Property Tax (SWEPT), and direct assessment through your tax dollars.

Revenue derived from local sources includes:

- Tuition for students from other school districts
- Tuition for students from other school districts for vocational education

- Child nutrition
- Trust/reserve funds

**Federal funds** consist of money received from the federal government for special education services. Note: Although most programs are required by the federal government, they are, at times, not fully funded by the federal government. The nonfunded amount must then be obtained by the school district. Examples of these programs are:

- Special education
- Title 1 and Title 2 – Title 1 provides supplemental funds to school districts to assist schools with the highest student concentrations of poverty to meet school educational goals; Title 2 supports states and districts in recruiting, preparing, training, and developing teachers and school leaders.

**State sources** include money received from the state for use by the school district in the form of Adequate Education Aid, Catastrophic Aid, Building Aid, Vocational Aid, Medicaid, and Child Nutrition.

SWEPT is part of a home or business property tax bill, labeled "State Education," and is remitted to the home or business owner's town or city. The town or city does not give SWEPT money to the state, despite being called a "state tax." In practice and for accounting purposes, SWEPT money is counted as state funds. In reality, these funds are all locally raised dollars. New Hampshire state law has required property owners to raise \$363 million per year in SWEPT funds since 2005.

**District assessment** from your tax dollars is the line item on your tax bill labeled "School." It is a rate per \$1,000 of assessed

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## News from Dublin Consolidated School

BY SHAWNE HILLIARD

On a regular basis, students have been earning *Ravens Care* slips for showing qualities such as respect or grit. When

they receive one, they bring it down to the office to share and then place it in a basket. Once a week, we pull one from the basket from each grade level to give the winners



## ConVal School Budget

continued from previous page

property value. Property owners in each town are required to pay this assessment, which is different in each town. District assessment covers approximately 2/3 of the ConVal operating budget.

The method used to determine the district assessment tax is commonly known as the “Funding Formula,” and is based on:

- **Average Daily Membership** – the number of students attending *all* ConVal district schools; ConVal has a total student enrollment of 1,954 for the 2022–2023 budget year.

- **Equalized Value** – the total property value of a town that will be used in this formula’s calculation
- **Percentage of Revenue** – ConVal uses 50/50 as the ratio to be applied to the revenue needed from the Average Daily Membership and Equalized Value components (other districts use different ratios).

Although each town uses the same funding formula, their individual district assessment will be different due to their different number of students (ADM) and Equalized Values.

ALAN EDELKIND is Dublin’s representative to the ConVal School Board.

a small item as another way to recognize their good work. So many students are making great choices, and we are proud of them!

We had a great deal of fun at our “Penguin Shuffle” on Friday, December 9. The classes talked about setting reasonable goals and the importance of goals. Many were excited to share that they were able to meet their goal! Walking through the classrooms, you might catch students practicing fluency with Reader’s Theater, measuring items to work on math skills, meeting together to talk about traditions in other countries.... The learning and fun are never-ending!

SHAWNE HILLIARD is the principal of Dublin Consolidated School and Hancock Elementary School.

## Appreciation from End 68 Hours of Hunger

Thanks so much to all who responded to the year-end appeal from End 68 Hours of Hunger; responses so far have brought in \$16,362! With grocery prices up and the number of students on our rolls now up to nearly 200 each week, those financial donations are deeply appreciated. If you’re moved to contribute and prefer to give food, donations of peanut butter and canned tuna are especially welcome this month; food donations can always be left at the Dublin Community Church (west entrance).

As always, *thank you* for your continued support! It means so much to our kids!

### Important budget activities and dates to remember:

- **January 10, 6–6:30 pm** – budget public hearing, School Board meeting
- **February 7, 6–9 pm** – deliberative session, ConVal High School
- **Week of February 27, 6–8:30 pm** – Community Forum in-house and online
- **March 15** – district voting

## January 2023 Events at the DubHub

### *A TREE-mendous Treat, January 7*

Are you ready to toss or recycle your Christmas tree? Instead, please save it and take it to the DubHub on Saturday, January 7, from 10 am–noon and donate it to a very good cause. The animals at Amazing Grace Animal Sanctuary are eager to help get rid of your green yuletide leftovers. Donna and Daryl Waterson, who run the farm, say that Christmas trees are like candy (and are actually a healthy snack) to the animals on the farm. The trees are loved by the goats, pigs, and alpacas!

Bring the kids, as everyone will get to meet and greet Finn, the farm's traveling goat mascot. There's even a storybook

about Finn and his mother, Olga.

Please make sure that your trees are completely free of tinsel, hooks, and any kind of ornaments. There will be hot coffee, cocoa, and donuts for you while you unload your tree and visit with some of the "amazing" animals from the farm!

### *Herb Class, January 10*

On Tuesday, January 10, Katherine Gekas will offer another herb class. Each participant will go home with a handout that includes herb information and resources for learning more, and small samples of tea to try out at home. The class starts at 7 pm in the South Room. The fee will be sliding scale, pay as you'd like: \$5–\$40. To sign up, or for more information, email [katherinegekas2@gmail.com](mailto:katherinegekas2@gmail.com).

### *Smartphone Photo Contest Display and Opening Reception, January 6*

All entries from the DubHub Smartphone Photo Contest will be on display throughout the month of January. The Opening Reception, with announcement of the winners, will be on Friday, January 6, from 5–7 pm. This year's contest has 33 entries from 13 Dublin-based photographers.



Photo by Cathy Carabello from the last SmartPhone Contest

## Ongoing Activities

### **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

Coffee & Conversation is on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10 am–noon.

### **KIDS YOGA WITH GWIR**

Kids Yoga with Gwir starts up again on Tuesdays at the DubHub on January 3, 3:30–4:30 pm. For the registration link, email [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org).

### **QIGONG**

Qigong meets on Wednesdays from noon–1 pm. For information, contact Ginette Groome at 603-313-9828.

### **KNIT WITH NANCY**

Knit with Nancy via Zoom is on Fridays at 10 am. Email [npcayford@myfairpoint.net](mailto:npcayford@myfairpoint.net) for information.

### *Backgammon, January 12*

Backgammon, hosted by Christopher Sprague, continues on the second Thursday of the month, from 4–6 pm. New players are welcome to come learn how to play.

### *Red Cross Blood Drive, January 14*

Red Cross will be having a blood drive at the DubHub on Saturday, January 14. Check [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for times.

### *Community Lunch, January 19*

The DubHub will serve its monthly Community Lunch on Thursday, January 19, from noon–1 pm. Guests may either enjoy their meal at the Hub or get their free

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meal “to go.” The menu will include hearty sausage tortellini soup, bread, and dessert. Meals are served first come, first served. No reservations are required.

### ***The DubHub Coffeehouse & Open Mic, January 21***

Calling all musicians and music lovers alike! On the third Saturday of each month, the DubHub will host a combined coffeehouse and open mic, starting January 21, from 7–10 pm. Coffee, snacks, and desserts will be available. Attendees are welcome to BYOB and snacks. We hope to create an intimate environment, with tables and dimmed lights, so we can focus on the amazing talent in the Monadnock Region. A featured performance will take place for about 45 minutes, with open mic slots before and after. Call 603-831-0092 to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening to try your luck at finding a spot on the list. There will be a \$5 suggested donation at the door, and a hat will be passed for contributions for the featured performer/s, who will be named in January. Check in with the weekly *Hubbub* from the DubHub newsletter, available on both our website and Facebook page for updated information about this event.

### ***Chess Night Resumes, January 26***

Chess Night, hosted by Christopher Sprague, resumes on the fourth Thursday of the month (except major holidays). At 5 pm, there will be an introductory session for families (one adult and child/children who have rudimentary game knowledge). The session will introduce strategies, opening moves and systems, tricky tactics, and more. At 6 pm will

be Chess Night with players from across town. Families may stay on and play.

### ***Basketmaking Class, January 28***

Come 10 am–noon to make a “melon” basket using round reed and other

natural materials. All materials will be provided by the instructors, Katherine Gekas and Mary Loftis. The free class, for adults and kids age 10 and up, will continue on Saturday, February 4, 10 am–noon. You will create a decorative basket for harvesting vegetables or holding treasures.

## **Introducing Monica Laskey**

BY MARY LOFTIS

Monica Laskey of Hancock has been named the new director at the Dublin Community Center (the DubHub). She succeeds Volkert Volkersz, who retired at the end of the year. Monica’s background in education and community building, as well as her experience as a professional musician and performer, make her a perfect choice to carry the DubHub forward in new directions, while continuing the activities and programs that have truly made it a *hub* in our town.

In fact, Monica envisions the center expanding its offerings to the broader Monadnock Region. She suggests that the DubHub can “tap into all creators.” For instance, she would like to invite the participation of local businesses, which might come to promote their products through demonstrations or workshops. Likewise, physical activities such as yoga, Zumba, qigong, and African drumming could be offered to young and old – and those in between. And author readings and a monthly book club are possible new additions to the schedule.



Over the past five years, Volkert and Bruce Simpson have nurtured a vibrant musical scene through monthly Open Mic and Song Circle sessions – as well as at several large-scale musical events held in the Garden Sanctuary. Monica envisions the music continuing in a regular coffeehouse format, in which the audience can enjoy refreshments while listening

to the performers. She is also interested in a summer concert series, perhaps in conjunction with a farmer’s market.

Monica also has a strong background in the visual arts and plans to continue the monthly art openings that draw people from far and wide. She sees the center as a *hub* for the region, in which the key elements of its mission statement – culture, wellness, learning, and community building – draw participants from surrounding towns as well as our neighbors in Dublin.

The Dublin Community Center will hold a reception in January to allow townspeople to meet Monica. Keep an eye out for the date, and, in the meantime, stop in to say hello.

MARY LOFTIS is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

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## “Inspired by Jaffrey”

BY REBECCA FREDRICKSON

The Jaffrey Civic Center is seeking artworks for an upcoming exhibition. The show, “Inspired by Jaffrey: A Town of History, Natural Beauty, and Culture,” is planned in collaboration with the Jaffrey 250th Committee in honor of the town’s 250th celebration. All works included in the show should be inspired by or include Jaffrey in some way. The exhibit is open to all interested artists, and both two- and three-dimensional works will be accepted.

REBECCA FREDRICKSON, executive director of the Jaffrey Civic Center, is organizing the exhibit.

## Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. at Park Theatre

“Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. 2023” will focus on the timely topic of environmental justice. The keynote speaker will be Aaron Mair, current board member and recent past president of the 2-million-member national Sierra Club. He was the club’s first president of African American heritage.

A longtime dedicated activist, Mr. Mair was a member of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and a recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Quality award for his leadership in the campaign to require General Electric to clean up the Hudson River. Mr. Mair has led the Sierra Club to embrace environmental justice as a relevant and important component of its work. He had a long career as an epidemiological-spatial analyst for the state of New York and in retirement has assumed directorship of “Forever Adirondacks,” a major public advocacy initiative for the protection of Adirondacks Park.



Keynote speaker Aaron Mair

For “Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.,” Mr. Mair will address “The Shades of Justice: Building a Diverse and Inclusive Environmental Movement.”

“Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.” will be held at The Park Theatre on Monday, January 16, 2023, from 5–6 pm, with a livestream option for remote attendance. Bell ringing for the MLK National Bell-Ringing Ceremony will begin

at 4:45 pm. The celebration will include musical performances by local school choirs. Details of the 2023 Millipore-Sigma-MLK Student Service Scholarship will be announced.

Sierra Leone-born, New Hampshire-raised musician Senie Hunt, now living in Nashville, will lead the audience by video recording in a closing rendition of his original composition “Stand Together.”

More information and other updates may be found at MLK Celebration Jaffrey-Rindge on Facebook or by contacting [jaffreyrindgemlk@gmail.com](mailto:jaffreyrindgemlk@gmail.com).

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## MAXT Ceramics Center Winter Schedule

January is a good time to learn something new! Two new pottery classes are starting up right here at the Ceramics Center in Dublin, 1283 Main Street:

### ALL-LEVELS WHEEL THROWING with Sam Deering

**8 Sessions (24 hours), Tuesdays, starting January 10, 6–9 pm**

Using the potter's wheel, students will learn how to throw clay into a variety of shapes and sizes. Every class will start with a brief demonstration of clay preparation, basic throwing skills, and some examples of how to push things a little further for those who are ready and those who want to try. We will then move to trimming and finishing our pieces and, finally, glazing. Wheel throwing is a challenging yet meditative way to work with clay, and whether you're new to the wheel or an experienced thrower, we'll improve your skills and ability to really finish a piece for firing.

*Experience Level:* Beginning through Advanced

### SLAB-BUILT VESSELS with Sam Deering

**8 Sessions (24 hours), Mondays, starting January 9, 6–9 pm**

In this class, we'll learn to use clay slabs to create a variety of forms, including cups, vases, and more! Students will learn how to prepare their clay, how to roll slabs by hand or by slab roller, how to approach texturing and decorating their piece, how to attach pieces together to build a desired shape using slip/score and darting techniques, and, finally, final touches and glazing work to be fired. Slab building is a fun and simple way for anybody to work with clay and create something sculptural, useful, and beautiful.

*Experience Level:* Beginning through Advanced

**About the Instructor:** Potter Sam Deering's work is both functional and sculptural. Originally from Kentucky, Sam trained and worked in ceramics in Virginia and recently relocated to the hills of southwestern New Hampshire. He makes ceramic forms for a variety of



Potter Sam Deering at the wheel.

uses – everything from cups and bowls and decorative masks to massive bottles and vessels for ikebana flower arranging. Sam began teaching ceramics a few years ago and loves helping others work through their obstacles with clay. He loves sharing what he's learned and cultivates a relaxed classroom environment where everyone can feel comfortable growing their skills and working with clay.

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## Enthusiastic Recommendations: Saturday Pastry Run

BY JUDY MORTNER

On a bright wintery Saturday morning, or especially a cold gray one, head up to the well-stocked store at Orchard Hill Breadworks in Alstead. If you've lived in the area any time at all, you're likely familiar with their hearty, organic loaves, but you might not know they also make pastry. Each Saturday morning, in addition to bread, you'll find an array of delectable, just baked pastries, plus fresh coffee from East Alstead Roasting Company, local roasters who happen to live down the road.

Starting at 9 am, the wooden shelves are lined with five different kinds of laminated pastries (fresh butter between layers of dough), including chocolate, almond, and plain croissants; a weekly fruit danish filled with pastry cream (currently ginger and pear); and buttery cinnamon-swirls, similar to a morning bun. In addition, there'll be seasonal scones, like blueberry-spelt or chocolate-cherry rye, and a quick bread with brown butter and bananas, available by the slice. For something savory, try a warm ham-and-swiss cheese puff. Go ahead and eat your first pastry in

the store, and then fill a bag to take home. Everything is self-serve, and you can pay with cash, check, or Venmo, all on the honor system. Arrive before noon for the



Blueberry danish from Orchard Hill, one variety of many pastries available Saturday mornings.

best selection and, more important, before they sell out.

Besides pastry and coffee on Saturday mornings, the store is open every day of the week from 8 am until the lights go out at 7 pm, and you'll find it well stocked with Orchard Hill Breads, from chewy whole rounds to softer sliced breads for sandwiches. Many local products from small farms and makers also line the shelves – Cheshire Garden jams, honey from Bee's Knees Apiaries in Unity, maple syrup from down the road, fresh eggs, and their own apple cider vinegar. For best selection, head over on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, when bread is fresh out of the oven.

If you or someone you know is looking for new ways to enjoy the winter, make a Saturday morning pastry run a part of your weekend. At the same time, you can pick up some local groceries, and if you feel like a walk before heading home, beautiful trails abound in the area. There's an especially nice one at Kroka Expeditions, a wilderness school about a mile away. Look for the trailhead sign, just off Route 123 in nearby Marlow.

JUDY MORTNER is a Dublin resident who contributes recommendations of local food and businesses.

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Photo by June Brenning



Mary Alice Fox and Phil Cayford played a friendly but competitive game of Scrabble at the Dublin Community Center recently. Mary Alice, at age 96, is still an expert player and used to play weekly with late friends Barbara LaRoche and Moira Burnham.

*Have you tried this yet?*

### Monthly community take-out suppers are for everyone!

Home-cooked suppers are offered on **4th Tuesdays** by Outreach members of Dublin Community Church  
(Donations are optional but are welcome.)

#### January 24

**ROAST TURKEY, DRESSING,  
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#### UPCOMING MENUS

**February** / soup & salad  
**March** / American chop suey  
**April** / pulled pork on a roll  
**May** / ham & scalloped potatoes

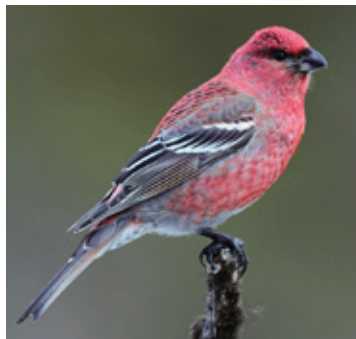
## Pine Grosbeak: Harbinger of a Mild Winter?

BY TOM WARREN

The beautiful, hardy pine grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*) lives in cold forested regions in Canada, Scandinavia, and Siberia. In severe winters, irruptions occur, sending the birds into the Monadnock Region. This may be occurring now, as I recently observed 30–40 pine grosbeaks feeding on bittersweet berries here in Dublin. Invasives, like bittersweet, allow many birds like bluebirds, hermit thrushes, and wild turkeys to survive Arctic blasts and heavy snows.

With their stubby, thick bills, pine grosbeaks crush seeds of pine and ash trees as well as burdock and ragweed and the buds of poplar, willow, and other shrubs found near brooks and ponds. The fruits they prefer are mountain ash, crabapple, privet, bittersweet, sumac, and hawthorn.

Visits to southern Canada and New England are irregular. Major flights have occurred in 1890, 1910, and at 20-year intervals ever since. It is an eastward migration, caused by the planting of box elder and ash by settlers of the western plains as well as in the east. Pine grosbeaks



are often very tame and can be picked up by hand while feasting on crabapples. Water flocks will strip a crabapple tree of all fruit.

Males are a deep brick red to carmine, with gray below and white wing bar. Females are brownish-gray to yellowish-olive.

When summers to the north are dry and forest fires common, the result is a scarcity of seeds and wild fruit. Spruce-destroying insects can result in a similar lack of food, causing the easterly and southerly flights of the grosbeaks.

During winter, these birds bathe in the fluffy dry snow by throwing the crystals over their feathers like a bird bathing in a birdbath. They also crush salt and grit on roadsides following snowstorms.

Their song has a ventriloquial quality with soft warbles and many tender notes, which Henry Thoreau described as “dazzling.”

For unknown reasons, major flights often precede mild winters for our region, such as the *Old Farmer's Almanac* is predicting. We shall see!

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist.

Photo courtesy Cornell/AllAboutBirds.org / © Christoph Monning

## Now is the Time – Drivers Needed

CVTC riders are booking more rides, and they need you! As the demand for rides is surpassing pre-pandemic levels, CVTC has a pressing need for more volunteer drivers. When our supply of volunteer drivers increases, we can better meet the needs of people requesting rides to essential appointments. Please call 603-821-0569 to speak with a transportation coordinator.



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## Report from the Recycling Committee

BY ZACHARY DAVIS

This past summer, the Recycling Committee was reassembled and approved by the Select Board for the town of Dublin. As a first step, the committee agreed that our primary goals were: (1) to promote practices that reduce the amount of waste collected and disposed of at the Transfer Station, and (2) to seek means by which to save the town money. Our next step was to examine trends over the past ten years of the total amount of municipal solid waste (trash placed into compacter) and total amount of recyclable material. The disturbing result of this research was that over the last ten years, more waste is being collected each year and far less material is being collected for recycling. For example, in 2012, 46.3% of all material brought to the Transfer Station was recycled, while in 2021 only 28.5% was recycled.

### The Cost of NOT Recycling

This trend has a significant economic impact on the town of Dublin. It costs the town about \$.056 per pound to haul and dispose of all municipal waste. In 2021, the town spent \$49,629.51 in hauling and tipping fees. Had the town recycled at the rate it had in 2012, it would have saved \$10,752 in hauling and tipping fees alone. This savings does not reflect the additional revenue generated by collecting, baling, and selling recycling material.

For example, in 2012, the recycling program at the Transfer Station saved the town \$40,656.24, compared with 2021 when the savings was only \$25,383.16. Some of the variation in savings from recyclables is due to variations in the market price. Nonetheless, the decrease in the rate of recycling is costing the town more money every

year. If this trend continues, the Transfer Station will need to haul and replace the compacter receptacle every week, rather than every two weeks, costing the town an additional \$7,500 per year.

### Strategies to Reduce Costs

In response to these findings, the Recycling Committee has developed specific strategies to address this growing cost and concern. The Transfer Station has instituted the collection of plastic bags and is considering an on-site composting program. While these practices will certainly reduce some costs, we do not believe they will have a large enough impact. At present, the town has a mandatory recycling program. Yet, as the data suggests, this program is not working. We propose that a new program be considered, a program called Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT).

PAYT can be implemented in a variety of ways. The most straightforward practice is a program where bags are purchased in advance and only these bags can be disposed of at the Transfer Station. Currently, 26% of all New Hampshire towns (a total of 37 towns) have some form of a PAYT program. A PAYT program dramatically reduces costs and saves money. Towns in New Hampshire have seen a 42–54% drop in the rate of waste disposal and a doubling in the amount of material collected for recycling. Hence, hauling and tipping fees have dropped, and revenue from recycling has doubled.

Paying for a bag creates a financial incentive to waste less and recycle more. We would propose tying the cost of a bag to the cost of the disposal of waste, requiring each household to pay the exact cost

for the disposal of their waste. The money collected from the selling of bags would offset the cost of hauling and tipping fees, saving the town \$32,800 (the current budget for 2022 hauling and tipping fees).

There is the mistaken view that PAYT is a regressive tax, an additional cost that disproportionately impacts the poor. PAYT is not a tax, but it treats waste disposal as a service fee in the same manner that energy and utility companies charge a fee in accord to a household's usage of electricity, gas, oil, etc. The current practice of waste disposal disproportionately impacts those households that are more vigilant in recycling practices. As a result, all residents share the cost of waste disposal regardless of how much or how little they discard.

We propose that the town create a subsidy program to reduce the cost of bags for lower-income households. As the towns of New Hampshire have found, PAYT saves money, reduces the environmental impact of waste disposal, and secures greater equity and fairness for citizens.

### Tell Us What You Think

In order to institute a change in the current practices at the Transfer Station, a Warrant Article and town vote is required. We are very interested in the thoughts and concerns of our fellow town residents and welcome any feedback. In the near future, we are hoping to have a question-and-answer forum to discuss these matters collectively and openly. We also encourage you to speak to our Select Board members about your concerns. There are positions available on the Recycling Committee, and if you would like to join, please contact Zachary Davis, [davisz@stjohns.edu](mailto:davisz@stjohns.edu).

ZACHARY DAVIS is a member of the Recycling Committee.



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## Conservation Commissions Protect Our Watershed Resources

BY KATIE FEATHERSTON

In New Hampshire, municipal conservation commissions as established by RSA 36-A have as their objective the proper utilization and protection of the watershed resources. They are the only municipal body specifically charged with protecting natural resources, although they are, for the most part, purely advisory to other municipal bodies like the Select Board, Planning Board, or Zoning Board. Because conservation commissions are made up of local volunteers, they are able to tailor their activities and projects to local needs and desires.

The statute directs conservation commissions to conduct research into their local land and water resources and to keep an index of all open space and natural aesthetic or ecological areas, all marshlands, swamps, and other wetlands (i.e., a natural resources inventory). Frequently, commissions will seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, such as in monitoring and protecting the health and water quality of Dublin Lake. Conservation commissions can receive gifts of money or property in the name of the town, with approval of the Select Board, and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets.

As mentioned in last month's article on Mud Pond, the Dublin Conservation Commission may protect resources by acquiring land or water resources on behalf of the town, with approval of the Select Board, either through fee (full title) or easement.

The volunteers are then responsible for management of those lands or resources.

The Dublin Conservation Commission (ConCom) meets monthly and keeps accurate records of meetings and actions through minutes and right-to-know laws. Regular *Advocate* articles help to keep

residents and landowners up to date on ConCom activities, and you can expect to hear more from us in the coming year.

Ultimately, RSA 36-A puts the responsibility for local natural resources into the hands of the people who are the most familiar with those resources, place the highest value on those resources, and are the most highly motivated to protect them. KATIE FEATHERSTON is the treasurer of the Conservation Commission.

## Fidium Presentation at DubHub

BY RAMONA BRANCH

Fidium representatives met with Dublin residents in December to explain the benefits of converting from Consolidated Communication's existing fiber connection to their new internet brand, Fidium. The new Fidium product will provide Dublin residents with better pricing and better technology. The Select Board voted to enter into a partnership with Consolidated Communications, Fidium's parent company, to offer the town expanded internet services, and town offices have been using Fidium for a while.

Fidium Fiber Internet offers customers three new plans of service and special promotional pricing for one year. To start receiving Fidium Fiber Internet upgraded

services, simply visit [www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-internet-Dublin-nh](http://www.fidiumfiber.com/fiber-internet-Dublin-nh) or call 866-575-1181. In the new year, Fidium will also launch a product to serve small businesses called Fidium at Work. This product will be able to meet the needs of small business owners throughout Dublin. To sign up for more information about this service, visit [www.fidiumfiber.com/work](http://www.fidiumfiber.com/work).

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



Photo by Ramona Branch

George Crawford and Balmeet Lasky meet with Fidium representatives at the DubHub.

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## JANUARY 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>2</b> <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; <b>TH</b> Select Board 4:30pm; <b>DPL</b> Closed	<b>3</b> <b>HUB</b> Kid's Yoga 3:30-4:30pm	<b>4</b> <b>DPL</b> Puzzles 9-10am; <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong noon-1pm	<b>5</b> <b>DPL</b> Teen Zone 6-7pm; <b>TH</b> Planning Board 7pm	<b>6</b> <b>HUB/Zoom</b> Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; Frost Free Library NH Humanities Book Grp 11am; <b>HUB</b> Photo Contest Reception 5-7pm; Peterboro Comm Theater <i>Women of the Wild</i> 7-8:30pm	<b>7</b> <b>DPL</b> Coffee 9-10am; Teen Zone noon-1pm; <b>HUB</b> Xmas tree drop-off 10-noon
<b>8</b> <b>HUB</b> Song Circle 3-5pm	<b>9</b> <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; <b>TH</b> Select Board 4:30pm	<b>10</b> <b>DPL</b> Book Buddies 3:30pm; <b>HUB</b> Kid's Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; Herb Class 7pm; <b>ConVal</b> School Board public budget hearing 6-6:30pm	<b>11</b> <b>DPL</b> Puzzles 9-10am; BookWorms 3:30-4:30pm; Library Trustees 5pm; <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; <b>TH</b> ConCom 5pm	<b>12</b> <b>DPL</b> Creator Club 3:30-4:30pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm; <b>HUB</b> Backgammon Night 4-6pm	<b>13</b> <b>HUB/Zoom</b> Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	<b>14</b> <b>DPL</b> Coffee 9-10am; Teen Zone noon-1pm; <b>HUB</b> Red Cross Blood Drive
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</b> <b>DPL</b> closed; <b>TH</b> Select Board 4:30pm; <b>Park Theater</b> (Jaffrey) Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. 5-6pm	<b>17</b> <b>HUB</b> Kid's Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; <b>DPL</b> Book Buddies 3:30-4:30pm; Craft Circle 5:30-6:30pm	<b>18</b> <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; <b>DPL</b> Puzzles 9-10am; BookWorms 3:30-4:30pm; <b>TH</b> ConCom 5pm	<b>19</b> <b>HUB</b> Community Lunch 12-1pm; <b>DPL</b> Creator Club 3:30-4:30pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm; <b>TH</b> Planning Board 7pm	<b>20</b> <b>HUB/Zoom</b> Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	<b>21</b> <b>HUB</b> Coffee House & Open Mic 7pm; <b>DPL</b> Coffee Hour 9-10am; Teen Zone noon-1pm
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; <b>TH</b> Select Board 4:30pm	<b>24</b> <b>HUB</b> Kid's Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; <b>DPL</b> Book Buddies 3:30-4:30pm; <b>DCC</b> Community Takeout Supper 5:30pm	<b>25</b> <b>TH</b> Filing period for Town Offices begins; <b>DPL</b> Puzzles 9-10am; BookWorms 3:30-4:30pm; <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong noon-1pm	<b>26</b> <b>DPL</b> Creator Club 3:30-4:30pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm; <b>HUB</b> Chess Night 5pm	<b>27</b> <b>HUB</b> Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	<b>28</b> <b>HUB</b> Basket Making Class 10-noon
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; <b>TH</b> Select Board 4:30pm	<b>31</b> <b>HUB</b> Kid's Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; <b>DPL</b> Book Buddies 3:30-4:30pm	<b>DCC</b> Dublin Community Church <b>DPL</b> Dublin Public Library <b>HUB</b> Dublin Community Center <b>TH</b> Town Hall, Dublin Finn, the traveling goat from Amazing Grace Animal Sanctuary, will be at the DubHub on January 7 at 10 am. Residents are invited to bring discarded Christmas trees for Finn to share at the Sanctuary.			

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

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