

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Emerson Sistare Takes the Helm at Toadstool Bookshops

BY MARY LOFTIS

Emerson Sistare has always loved books, reading, and bookstores. As a child growing up in Dublin, he enjoyed going to the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough and also visiting the Innisfree Bookstore in Meredith near his grandparents' house. He dreamed of owning a bookstore one day. Now, with the support of his family, he does – in fact, two of them! Last month, the Sistare family purchased the Toadstool Bookshops in Peterborough and Keene. The original 800-square-foot store on Main Street in Peterborough was founded in 1972 by Willard and Holly Williams and, in the 51 years since, has become part of the fabric of the town. It's hard to imagine Peterborough without it.

The management transition has been gradual. Emerson describes receiving an ongoing “master class” in bookselling from the Williamses, who are still working 12–16 hours a week. In March, they will introduce him to sales representatives from different publishers as he learns the ropes: which books to order for each of the locations, with inventory that overlaps but has differences.

Emerson, age 28, is the middle of three sons of Jon and Kathleen Sistare of Dublin. A favorite childhood memory is of his mother taking him to Peterborough for the midnight release at the Toadstool of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. After ice cream at Twelve Pine, he stayed up for most of the night reading his new book. Bookstores were scenes of excitement even then!

Emerson attended ConVal and then Dublin School before leaving for Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. After



graduate school in Colorado and a stint working in San Diego, he decided to become a teacher. Over the past three years, he taught at two independent schools in the Northeast. Although teaching was fulfilling, aspects of the job felt overwhelming – so when his dad mentioned that the Toadstool Bookshops were for sale, his dream of being a bookseller returned.

Long conversations with Willard and Holly followed as they mutually determined that the sale would be feasible. The

Williamses were looking for someone to continue the bookstores with sensitivity to what they mean to the communities of Peterborough and Keene.

Emerson understands what has allowed the Toadstool to thrive in the era of Amazon and Barnes & Noble: knowledgeable and kind employees who respect their customers and who take time to help them find what they're looking for. He says, “It's not just the books; it's the experience.” And, of course, it's the connection with the community, which includes regular readings by local writers. He said a customer recently walked into the store, looked around, and said, “Ah, nothing has changed.” Then he walked out. Emerson interpreted that as a signal of approval. When asked if he plans

continued on page 4

Charlie Lasky Is a Friend Forever (International)

Charlotte (Charlie) Lasky, a junior at the Putney School in Vermont, has recently completed Friends Forever International (FFI) Nationwide Immersion Program, a three-phase empathetic leadership development program created to empower youth to contribute within their communities. This is done by strengthening their FFI RECIPE components of Resilience, Empathy, Communication, Impact, Playfulness, and Effort. Charlie sharpened these skills through service-learning volunteer experiences, conquering physically demanding high-ropes courses, and publicly delivering a personal speech on unjust experiences her peers of different identities have had to endure.

Charlie Lasky (third from right) with some of her “friends forever” in the summer of 2022

FFI Immersion programs conclude with an independent social action project to address a unique need within the participant's community. Charlie's project is to connect her school with external community resources to improve education on identity awareness and create safer spaces for all people in her school to feel acknowledged and respected. To support Charlie and her project, donations can be collected through bit.ly/CLFriends4ever.



Candidate Profiles for Town Offices

In the February *Dublin Advocate*, candidates for town offices were invited to submit a statement about their background and qualifications and what issues they would prioritize if elected. As a service to Dublin residents, we are publishing all the statements we received by our deadline. Publishing these statements is not an endorsement of any candidate by the *Dublin Advocate*.

Kathleen (Kathy) Nichols, running for library trustee



I've lived in Dublin with my husband, Mark, since 2006. I was a healthcare executive director at rehab, skilled nursing, and assisted living centers, most recently at

Langdon Place of Keene before retiring in 2021. I went to high school and undergrad in Vermont and have an MBA from Boston University.

I was an elected auditor for our town in Vermont prior to moving to Dublin, and I served on the board of directors for the Dublin Community Preschool for few years.

I've always loved to read and have enjoyed the beautiful Dublin Public Library immensely. I was honored to be asked to consider becoming a trustee. I hope my work experiences in people management, in facilities management, and in financial management can be used to guide Dublin's treasure of our library in the coming years.

I would appreciate the opportunity to serve as a trustee.

Linda Abrams, running for library trustee



Instilling a love of books in our children was a priority for us. So when we moved to Dublin in 1980 when our oldest was 6, we started frequenting the Dublin Public Library. We

would haul blankets, bundle up, and read to our kids almost every night.

During the years before our youngest started school, I had a small day care in our home, and we usually had a good supply of reading books from the library to keep us entertained.

Once our kids were all in school, I ran the preschool at Dublin Christian

Academy, and we took advantage of their Wednesday morning story time. Sometimes Martie, the library assistant at the time, would come to us instead with a few books in hand and regale us with stories. It was something we all looked forward to.

Now I take advantage of New Hampshire Downloadable Books and have an audio book going in my car most of the time or settle in with an e-book before bed.

What would I do without the library? It has been so good to me. Now I'd like to give a little something back by being a trustee.

Rick MacMillan, running for Planning Board

Having served on the Planning Board the past three years, I continue to believe Dublin's better days lie ahead; but we need policies that promote our town as a good place to live. To that end, we should view Dublin as part of the Monadnock Region, not as an isolated village. We offer advantages that Peterborough, Jaffrey, Marlborough, or Keene do not: vistas, rural character, and outdoor experience among them. There are also disadvantages that work against a steady, sustainable economic climate, chief among those is a shift in demographics. That the Dublin Consolidated School census is half of what it was 20 years ago is a poignant indicator of this shift.

The Planning Board can play a central role in preserving what is best and adapting town policies to the changes confronting us.

Donald Primrose, running for Planning Board

I am asking for your vote for the Planning Board at town election. As an alternate, I have enjoyed working with members of the Dublin Planning Board this past year. I have a clear understanding of Dublin's



All Candidates for Town Office

The following candidates are running for open Town Offices:

Selectman – Three Years (*Vote for One*) Carole Monroe

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Three Years (*Vote for One*) No candidates declared

Library Trustee – Three Years (*Vote for Two*) Linda Abram, Kathleen Nichols

Budget Committee – Three Years (*Vote for Two*) Nancy Campbell

Cemetery Trustee – Three Years (*Vote for One*) Loring Catlin, Jr.

Planning Board – Three Years (*Vote for Two*) Rick MacMillan, Archie McIntyre, Caleb Niemela, Don Primrose

Trustee of Trust Funds – Three Years (*Vote for One*) Charlie Champagne

Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Regulations. Equally important, I have a working knowledge of Dublin's Planning Board rules and procedures.

My knowledge of land use and critical housing needs extends beyond my career as a builder, developer, teacher,



and founder of Hundred Nights. Over the past 35 years, I have worked with planning and zoning boards as a member as well as representing projects before them. I have also worked to protect tracts of land with the Monadnock Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy.

As a member of the Dublin Planning Board, I will continue to focus on three key issues:

- Work on reviewing Dublin's Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Regulations as it pertains to HOP grant funding.
- Board Development – continue to participate in Planning Board training provided by the State of New Hampshire.
- Review every application/issue before the Planning Board and apply all regulations in an equitable manner.

Thank you for considering my candidacy for your Planning Board.

Pre-Town Meeting on March 7 and Town Meeting on March 18

The Dublin Women's Community Club invites all interested citizens to attend the annual pre-town meeting forum on Tuesday, March 7 (snow date March 8) at 7:30 pm in the downstairs meeting room of the Town Hall. Refreshments will be served before the forum at 7 pm.

Selectmen, Budget Committee representatives, and department heads will be available to answer questions on the 2023 warrant articles and budget. Each year, this event provides a valuable opportunity for townspeople to become acquainted with the issues before the town meeting.

Town meeting will be held at Dublin Consolidated School on March 18 at 9 am. Parking will be available at the Yankee lot, and there are plans for a shuttle down to DCS.

Town Election on March 14

The town election will be held on Tuesday, March 14, from 8 am–7pm, on the top floor of the Town Hall. While masks and social distancing will not be required at voting and town meeting, you are urged to wear a mask while voting for the health of the people working at the election.

Please check the town website at www.townofdublin.org for the most up-to-date information starting in March.

Questions? Maureen J. Hulslander, interim town clerk and tax collector, can be reached at 603-563-8859; fax 603-563-9221; townclerk@townofdublin.org.

A Preview of Dublin's 2022 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

To the inhabitants and voters of the Town of Dublin qualified to vote in Town Affairs: You are hereby notified that the polls will be open for voting by ballot on Articles 1 and 2 on Tuesday, **March 14, 2023, from 8 am until 7 pm at the Dublin Town Hall, top floor.**

Pursuant to the authority of RSA 39:2a and the vote of the Town on March 13, 1979, all business, other than ballot questions provided below, will be recessed until **Saturday, March 18, 2023, at 9 am at the Dublin Consolidated School.**

1. To bring the ballots for the following officers: Select Board, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Library Trustee (2), Budget Committee (2), Cemetery Trustee, Planning Board (2), Trustee of Trust Funds.

2. Are you in favor of adoption of the amendment to the Town Zoning Ordinance to read "The minimum lot size in the District shall be two (2) acres?" This proposed Amendment would reduce the minimum lot size in Dublin's Rural District to 2 acres from the current minimum of 4 acres. (Submitted by Petition.)

On March 18: The Town will vote on the following articles:

3. To see whether there is community support to consider opting into the Cheshire County Community Power Plan for electricity supply for residential, business, and municipal use.

4. Shall the Town readopt the All Veterans Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be equal to the same amount as the standard or optional veterans tax credit of \$750 voted by the Town? (Majority vote required.)

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's

recommended sum of **\$2,469,696** for general municipal operations.

6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$335,000** to be contributed to the Town Capital Reserve Funds, previously established and to come from taxation: Heavy Highway Equipment (\$50,000), Police Cruiser (\$18,000), Fire Equipment (\$50,000), Road Construction (\$150,000), Library Major Repair and Maintenance (\$15,000), Town Buildings Maintenance (\$50,000), Recreation Trust (\$2,000).

7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000** to chip seal Town roads, to come from the Road Construction Capital Reserve. This article is non-lapsing until completion of the work.

8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$35,500** to repair wood rot damage below the Library front entrance/ vestibule and chimney, and to withdraw **\$20,000** from the Library Major Repair and Building Maintenance Capital Reserve and **\$15,500** to come from taxation for this purpose. This article is non-lapsing until completion of the work.

9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$13,500** to purchase and install a Minotair Air Treatment Unit including electrical work to control humidity in the Library basement, to come from taxation. This article is non-lapsing until completion of the work.

continued on next page

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Warrant Articles continued

10. To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise from the volatility in the oil market and further to raise and appropriate **\$15,000** to go into the fund. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance and no amount to be raised by taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund.

11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$20,000** to add insulation around the second-floor meeting room, the loft area, and the equipment bays at the fire station. This would include removal of the old insulation and replacing it with modern insulation to save electric and heating costs, to come from taxation. This article is

non-lapsing until completion of the work.

12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$16,000** to replace two overhead doors to the highway garage with remotes to save on heating costs, to come from taxation. This article is non-lapsing until completion of the work.

13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,600** to fund the operation and publication of the *Dublin Advocate* newsletter for the period April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, with \$900 payments to be made to the Advocate Treasurer quarterly.

14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$7,986** to be contributed to the following agencies which provide advisory health and welfare services and whose programs have a public purpose to come from taxation: Big Brothers Big Sisters (\$500), CASA (\$450), Southwestern Community Services (\$1,033), Monadnock Family Services (\$1,915), Home Healthcare (\$1,690), The River Center (\$500), Community Volunteer Transportation Company (\$450), MCVP Crisis Prevention Center (\$198), Hundred Nights, Inc. (\$250), End 68 Hours of Hunger (\$500), Cornucopia Project (\$250), Keene Community Kitchen (\$250).

15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,400** to be contributed to various Expendable Trust Funds, previously established, as follows: Revaluation (\$6,400), Master Plan (\$1,000).

16. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of Town Owned Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair including but not limited to parking lots, sidewalks, railings, and drainage on Town property, naming the Select Board as the agents to expend and furthermore to fund this Capital Reserve

with **\$10,000** to be raised by taxation.

17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$40,000** to obtain a deeded permanent right-of-way over the General Store property for driveway access to the Town-owned building occupied by the Post Office to be raised by taxation. This article is non-lapsing until completion of the work.

18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$15,500** to purchase and install three security camera systems at the Archive Building, the Transfer Station, and the Highway Barn to be raised by taxation. This article is non-lapsing until completion of the work.

19. To hear the reports of Agents, Auditors, Committees, heretofore chosen, and to pass any vote relating thereto.

Editor's note: For the unedited version of the warrants and article recommendations by the Select Board and Budget Committee, see the full Warrant online at www.townofdublin.org/budget-committee.

Donations for Earthquake Victims Needed

NuDay Syria is seeking donations of items for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. Especially needed are: warm clothes, all sizes; sleeping bags; tents; personal hygiene items (soap, toothbrushes, paste, sanitary pads and/or tampons).

Please pack clean, dry items in white garbage bags labeled "SYRIA" or in black bags with a label made of tape. Deposit in shed #4 along the east side of Dublin Community Church, through the month of March.

NuDay is a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian relief to people affected by the crisis in Syria, headquartered in New Hampshire. For more information or to donate to help cover shipping expenses, go to <https://www.nudaysyria.org/>

Emerson Sistare continued from page 1
any changes, he replied, "Maybe we'll buy some more chairs."

When he returned to the area after studying and working out of state, Emerson realized that there are two touchstones that make this area feel like home: Mount Monadnock and the Toadstool Bookshops. Now, he's able to gaze at the mountain when he visits his parents in Dublin and spend his days immersed in his bookstore. He is a happy young man, and the Toadstool Bookshops are in good hands.

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

Ken Levin, 1949-2023

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News from the Library

BY RACHAEL LOVETT

The week of 2/27–3/3 is ConVal District winter recess. We have a few special events for this week. Check out the website for more details: www.dublinNHpubliclibrary.org. Movie Nights are being held during regularly scheduled afterschool activities. We'll be showing *Lyle*, *Lyle Crocodile*, *The Bad Guys*, and *DC League of Super Pets*.

Saturday, March 4, is our annual Meet the Candidates event, held at the library in the Program Room. Sponsored by the library trustees and the Friends of the Dublin Public Library, we invite the public to come to the library between 10 am–noon for a meet and greet with local candidates running for town offices. Candidates will be downstairs in the Program Room, but upstairs we'll have games and activities for kids – and, of course, books to read! Light refreshments will be provided.

We are celebrating Women's History all month long! Come down to the library to check out some of our books on display.

New Local Books Available for Purchase

2023 Garden Guide from the editors of
The Old Farmer's Almanac

Gardening has never gone out of style, but a surge of new gardeners has sparked an evolution not only in what is being planted but also in how and why gardeners are doing so. As it has done annually for more than a decade, the **Garden Guide** provides inspiration and advice shaped by the trends cultivated by today's gardeners, including urban and small-space gardening, houseplants, herb gardening, sustainable solutions, and garden tech.

The **2023 Garden Guide** is published annually and is available for \$7.99 USD/CAD online and at local booksellers. A digital version is available at Almanac.com/GardenGuide.

Monadnock Originals: Colorful Characters from New Hampshire's Quiet Corner, by Alan Rumrill

The Monadnock Region has been referred to as New Hampshire's "forgotten corner." It is a quiet region known for its historic New England villages and beautiful natural landscape. Overlooked tales from the past prove that this has not always been a quiet place. Mark Twain, Amelia Earhart, robber baron Jubilee Jim Fisk, infamous actress May Yohe, and miser Hetty Green, the richest woman in the United States, all spent time in the quiet corner. Noteworthy inventors, outspoken women, military heroes, nationally prominent businessmen, and dastardly criminals all called the region home. Local historian and author Alan F. Rumrill has compiled stories that reveal a region defined by its Yankee character and filled with Yankee characters.

Monadnock Originals is the sequel to Rumrill's bestselling book *Monadnock Moments*. It can be ordered online at bit.ly/monadorig. The prepublication price is \$18.99 (+ shipping) and is good through 4/1/23.

National Craft Month also falls in March – and we always have crafts at the library. We'll have new crafts out in the children's area craft corner each week. Special for March, we'll have some take-and-make craft bags for teens and adults as well. On March 21, our monthly Craft Circle group meets in the Program Room. Anyone can join us, and we have plenty of supplies to go around.

Toward the end of the month, we will have an additional crafting night with Julie Cyr. Julie brings needle felting to the library, and this month, she will be teaching us how to create garden gnomes and fairies.

This program is for youth and adults, ages 10 and up. Please register on the website: www.dublinNHpubliclibrary.org. All supplies are provided, and we'll have light refreshments as well.

On March 25, we'll host our monthly Family Story and Craft Time. From 10–11 am, we'll read stories and make crafts in the Program Room. As always, we'll have coffee and light snacks for this program. Please register on the website. Thank you!

During regularly scheduled afterschool programming, we'll explore themes around St. Patrick's Day with leprechaun traps, Women's History, Pi Day, and Daylight Saving Time, and we'll try our hands at a March **BOOK** Madness. Registration for the new session will begin March 20 via our website.

Save the date! The Friends of the Dublin Public Library will host an April Night Skies program on Friday, April 28, starting at 7 pm. We plan to meet at the library and walk out to an open clearing by flashlight. We will also bring our telescope for participants to learn how to use it and try it themselves. A representative from the New Hampshire Astronomical Society will join us for a short presentation and to show us tips and tricks to use the Orion Star Blast Telescope. The telescope is always available for check-out at the library.

RACHAEL LOVETT is the director of the Dublin Public Library.

NEW BOOKS

AOC: The fearless rise and powerful resonance of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, by Lynda Lopez

Give Birth Like a Feminist: Your Body. Your Baby. Your Choices, by Milli Hill

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A life, by Jane Sherron De Hart

Wild, by Cheryl Strayed

Who Is Malala Yousafzai?, by Dinah Brown



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Skating Safety

BY TOM WARREN

Editors' note: *While the recent cold snap brought ice in February, ice on Dublin's lakes and ponds at the time of publication is scarce indeed. But remain vigilant! March can always surprise us...*

While ice skating is a favorite winter activity around the world, a few safety rules will make ice skating even more pleasant. Young kids in Finland, Sweden, Russia, and Canada learn certain rules of ice by the time they are in the third grade, reading signals in the ice that can escape older people.

The thunder they hear as ice expands and contracts indicates a certain level of safety. Four inches of ice is perfectly safe for skating. The first freeze is called "black ice," and four inches is as hard as carbon steel. In my youth, two inches of "rubber ice" (because it moved with the water under the ice) would support little kids.

A few general safety rules:

- Never skate alone.
- Never skate at night.
- For adults, never drink alcohol and skate.
- Never skate (or cross-country ski) on a frozen river. The water underneath is moving. The ice is truly never safe.

If you fall through the ice, do not use crampons (hand-held ice picks) to get yourself out. You will simply break the ice in front of you and prolong your stay in 35-degree water.

Rather, pretend you are a seal, and breaststroke your way onto the ice, thereby

spreading your body weight evenly over the ice. Get home immediately and soak in a lukewarm (not hot) tub.

When skating, you will see cracks made by expanding and contracting ice, especially on very cold days. Skate across the cracks, not parallel to the cracks or you will risk catching your skate in the crack and breaking an ankle, much more serious than falling through the ice.

If a parent calls the police to report the first sign of kids skating on Dublin Lake, a police officer will drive up and possibly instruct you to get off the ice. Obey the police officer and leave the ice.

There are usually boys and girls, and men and women, playing hockey on the ice. If a skater falls through, one of them

should extend a hockey stick to the skater. This is the best way to escape a perilous situation.

On any large lake like Dublin Lake, fed by springs, there are often *polynyas*, or areas of open water that can appear to be black ice. Be very careful on cloudy days or you may skate into open water.

Last year on Dublin Lake, a few skaters were treated to a view of five baby otters and their mother swimming in an open polynya, a special occasion for both otters and skaters.

Following the above simple rules will ensure a happy, healthy skate for everyone, and later a hot cocoa at home by the fire.

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist and a lifelong skater.

Contra Dance on Dublin Lake



L to R back row: Ken Pratt, Sarah Pratt, Beth Elder, Bill Gnade, Barry Nielsen, Danny Knight, Kent Nielsen. Front row: Sarah Elder, Hal Lingeran - DCC Minister, Jack Perron.

BY LUCY SHONK

As I went by the lake recently and saw the beautiful ice, it reminded me of a very special skating party. Along with my friend Jack Perron, we ran a youth group for teens from the Dublin Community Church in the mid 1970s. They were a talented and enthusiastic group, most of whom were musicians. We met weekly and had lively discussions on all range of topics. We also ran contra dances at the Dublin Town Hall, at that time the most popular dance hall in the region. Jack was a caller and fiddle player, and we would have many local musicians come to play including Bob McQuil-lan and Harvey Tolman.

The members of the youth group would take tickets and help with set up and clean

up, as well as join the dancing. We kept a portion of the door which gave us opportunities for other adventures.

One winter night, we went to Spencer Cove with our skates and a portable tape player, and under the light of a bright moon, had our own contra dance with Jack calling. We knew so many of the dances by heart and laughed and skated and would swing our partner and let them fly across the ice. A memorable sound, besides the laughing and hollering, was the sound of the ice cracking under the surface, sounding to us like whales singing to our tunes.

I don't know if anyone else has ever contra danced on ice but I highly recommend it!

LUCY SHONK is a long-time Dublin resident.

Photo courtesy Lucy Shonk

Maximum Weight in Effect on Town Roads March 8–May 15

In accordance with **RSA 231:191**, the Select Board, on advice from the road agent, establishes the maximum seasonal weight limit of 6 tons, effective March 8, 2023, for all town of Dublin roads to prevent unreasonable damage. *Exceptions to the 6-ton weight restriction may be granted by the road agent by calling 603-398-8546 between 7 am–3 pm Monday–Friday.

Community Power Update

BY SUSAN PETERS

When you look at the 2023 Town Meeting Warrant, you may wonder about Article 3: “To see whether there is community support to consider opting into the Cheshire County Community Power Plan for electricity supply for residential, business, and municipal use, in accordance with the provisions of RSA 53-E:6.”

Community power is a means by which municipalities, businesses, and residents may take greater control over the cost and sourcing of their electricity supply. It has no effect on electricity distribution, including how electricity is delivered and billed by the electric utility company (e.g., Eversource).

The Energy Committee proposed the warrant article after hosting a series of educational meetings where speakers discussed various community power approaches and opportunities. In November, the committee held a public meeting where Commissioner Terry Clark outlined the Cheshire County Community Power Plan:

- Cheshire County Community Power will provide electric energy supply to the county’s facilities as well as other participating electric customers. It will launch as an “opt-in” program

– available to any residential, business, and municipal customer within Cheshire County.

- Cheshire County Community Power may also offer “default electricity supply” to municipalities that request to participate by vote of their governing body (Select Board). For towns that choose to join, Cheshire County Community Power will become the default provider for residents, businesses, and other electric accounts that currently receive “utility default electricity supply” (e.g., from Eversource). This program will be voluntary, and any customer may choose to “opt-out” back to the utility or a competitive energy supplier at any time with no penalty.

The Cheshire County Community Power Plan is undergoing review and planning with the goal of launching later in 2023.

The Energy Committee is in the process of tallying resident survey results to gauge community interest in community power and alternative electricity supply. At town meeting, we will report briefly on the survey and have a handout from Cheshire County. Details of the county plan are still being finalized, with more information to follow over the coming months. Input from our community is very important to the process.

SUSAN PETERS is a member of the Select Board and Energy Committee and is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

News from the ConVal School Board

Upcoming Community Forum – The Budget

BY ALAN EDELKIND

As part of our continuing commitment to provide an open, transparent, and informative dialogue with the ConVal community, your school board and administration announce our fifth ConVal Community Forum. This forum will take place both at the Lucy Hurlin Theater at ConVal High School and via livestream on Monday, March 6, 2023, from 6–8 pm.

Inhouse and livestream participants will be able to submit questions to the forum presenters, school board, and administration during the forum. Livestream can also be viewed on YouTube after the forum.

As we did in the last forum, the school board has decided to host a meet and greet for in-house attendees of the forum. The meet and greet will start at 8 pm. It will be an informal get-together with you, school board representatives, and administration. It is important for all of us to get to know each other as we all have the same goal: that of providing the best and most cost-effective education for our children in the safest environment possible.

The budget is very important to both parents/guardians of ConVal students and

the entire ConVal community. Our planned presentation and discussion topics are all focused on the budget. We have organized our presentations as follows to better serve all interest levels of our audiences:

- *A layman’s view of the budget.* This presentation will provide a high-level view of watching the budget develop, the choices we were given, and the reasons we make some choices (rather than just focusing on numbers and percentages).
- *Administration budget process.* This presentation will describe the many-faceted processes of how the budget is developed.
- *Proposed budget and warrant articles.* This presentation will describe the significant budget drivers and highlight the goals and initiatives of the proposed budget.
- *Budget process and 2022 final tax bills.* This presentation will show how your property taxes are impacted by the school budget – using the final FY22 tax bills as an example.

For additional information, please go to

<https://convalnews.com> and click on the link for the March 6 Community Forum.

CONSOLIDATION/ RECONFIGURATION

We are in the process of forming an all-inclusive working committee comprised of school board representatives, administration, community members and select board members, with the objective of producing a comprehensive report that will detail the approach(es) the ConVal School District will take to move to the most strategically advantageous organizational model.

This model will provide for the most educationally rich, safe, financially responsible, socially responsive, community sensitive, and organizationally sound physical environment to support the ConVal community and students. We will engage an external consulting firm who has demonstrated expertise in these areas to assist us in our analysis.

This is a very important and strategic activity, and we will be engaging with the communities for their input and direction. We will provide more information as we formalize our activities and will communicate through community forums and written media. Stay tuned.

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

March 2023 Events at the DubHub

Song Circle, Sunday, March 5

Song Circle meets the first Sunday of each month in the North Room of the DubHub from 3–5 pm and is open to the public. Participants enjoy sharing their favorite songs.

Backgammon, March 9

Hosted by Chris Sprague and open to the public on the second Thursday of every month from 4–6 pm, participants learn important skills and strategies in the game of backgammon.

Scarf/Tie/Bandanna Exchange, March 10

On Friday, March 10, from 6–8 pm, the public is welcome to come on over to the DubHub and “tie one on”! If your closet is bursting with scarves, ties, or bandannas you no longer have much use for, bring them to this festive boutique-style gathering where they will be displayed and available for the taking. Feel free to leave them, or exchange them for something someone else has left behind. Refreshments will be

Art Show and Opening Reception, Friday, March 3, 5–7 pm

The public is welcome to join us at the DubHub on Friday, March 3, from 5–7 pm at the opening reception for this month’s featured artist, Phil Bean.

Originally from New England, Phil grew up in California, where he first started to paint with oils. He continued to study oil and watercolor painting after a move to Alaska but eventually moved back to the New England of his youth. Primarily self-taught, he works both in the studio and outdoors *en plein air* where he draws his inspiration from the effects of light and shadow on the natural landscape. In his paintings of New England, he seeks to capture the unique qualities of the landscape and its classic architecture. Travels have also presented an opportunity to paint in different locations. He is currently a member of the New Hampshire Art Association, Oil Painters of America, and the Alaska and New England Watercolor Societies. His oils and watercolors have been included in national and regional juried exhibitions.



“Monadnock in Autumn” by Phil Bean

served. This is sure to be an evening filled with fun, food, and fashion! (Snow date, Saturday, March 11.)

Ongoing Activities

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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

YOGA WITH GWIR

Yoga for adults with Gwir begins on Mondays at the DubHub, 3–4:15 pm. Cost is \$54 for the 6-class series, or \$11 per class. For info, email info@dublin-communitycenter.org.

KIDS YOGA WITH GWIR

Kids Yoga continues on Tuesdays at the DubHub, 3:30–4:30 pm. For the registration link, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

QIGONG ON WEDNESDAY

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 for information.

How to Be an Animal Adventurer, March 11

Join Susie Spikol, a naturalist at the Harris Center for Conservation Education and author of *The Animal Adventure's Guide: How to Prowl for an Owl, Make Snail Slime, and Catch a Frog Bare-Handed*, for this special Saturday morning event. Sharpen up your wildlife-watching

Continued on next page

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skills, and tune in to the secret world of our local New Hampshire animals. Get your wild on, and come to this program. Perfect for elementary-aged children and their families. Open to the public. 9–10 am.

Art Demonstration with the DubHub's Featured Artist, March 11

Phil Bean, our featured artist, will demonstrate his painting skills and techniques with a live demonstration on Saturday, March 11, from 11 am–1 pm in the South Room of the DubHub. Open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Herb Class, Tuesday, March 14

On Tuesday, March 14, Katherine Gekas will offer another herb class. Each participant will go home with a handout that includes herb information and resources for learning more. The class starts at 7 pm in the South Room of the DubHub. The fee will be sliding scale, pay as you'd like: \$5–\$40. Katherine Gekas has been teaching community-level classes on how to stay healthy with herbs for over 10 years. To sign up or for more information, email her at katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

Community Lunch, March 16

Word has it that warm Reuben sandwiches are on the menu this month!

Please be sure to check out our Facebook page, and subscribe to our weekly newsletter, **Hubbub from the DubHub** (which can also be found on our Facebook page), for updated information about events.



With St. Paddy's Day just around the corner, corned beef was in order. Stop by the DubHub from noon–1 pm to partake in the deliciousness (takeout available).

Red Cross Blood Drive, March 18

The Red Cross will be conducting a blood drive from 9 am–3 pm at the DubHub.

Coffee House & Open Mic, March 18

Calling all musicians and music lovers alike! On the third Saturday of each month, the DubHub hosts a combined Coffee House & Open Mic, from 7–10 pm. A monthly coffee sponsor provides the java, and desserts are available as well. Attendees are also welcome to BYOB. An intimate environment is provided, with tables and dimmed lights, so you can focus on the amazing talent right here in the Monadnock Region.

A featured performance will take place for about 45 minutes, with open mic slots available prior. This month, we are excited to welcome Robert Emmett Kelly as our feature. His witty humor is sure to delight, and he will perform some fun and funny Irish tunes in honor of St. Paddy's Day, perhaps even dressed as a leprechaun. It's always a wild ride with Robert!

Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening to try your luck at finding an available spot on the list. There will be a \$5 suggested donation at the door, and a hat will be passed for the featured performer/s. Check in with the weekly *Hubbub from the DubHub* newsletter, available on both our website and

Facebook page, for updated information about this event as it becomes available.

Chess Night, March 23

Chess Night, hosted by Christopher Sprague, is held 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). Each session will introduce strategies, opening moves and systems, tricky tactics, and more. At 6 pm will be Chess Night, with players from across town and the surrounding area. Families may stay on and play.

Mmm...comfort food!

Monthly community take-out suppers are for everyone!

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

March 28

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DCA Winter Bible Conference Features Three-Day Competition, Games, Preaching

Dublin Christian Academy's Winter Bible Conference has been a favorite tradition for decades. Each year, classes stop for a few days, and students compete against each other in a three-day themed camp featuring outdoor games, indoor competitions, strategy, and preaching. This year, upper school students at DCA spent the first few days of February competing in the Wacky Wild Winter Weather War in three student-led teams. The lower school joined in on the fun on the first day as part of DCA's big-little program. The Blazing Blizzards won out over the Ice Breakers and Freez-



Samantha Fletcher of Dublin, left, and Iris Worner of Troy, enjoy a Big-Little activity during DCA's Winter Bible Conference.

ing Rain in fierce competition. Preacher Colton Hawkes of Rochester, New York, challenged the students through a series of messages on spiritual life and growth.

Recreation Committee's "Sugar on Snow"

BY RAMONA BRANCH

It's that time of year again, for New Hampshire's time-honored tradition of producing our much-loved commodity – maple



syrup. March holds a special place in our hearts, because that's the time our famous sugar maples release their sap.

The Dublin Recreation Committee is hosting the second annual "Sugar on Snow" maple syrup event on March 19, from 1–3 pm. Partnering with us this year is Nubi River Farm, producing maple syrup at the Dublin School Sugar House on Dublin Road.

Pack the kids into the car, and come on over to see how maple syrup is made and have a fun, tasty time in the sugar shack. We'll have hot chocolate, maple syrup on snow, pickles (peculiar isn't it, but old-timers say it is a tradition), and donuts.

RAMONA BRANCH is the chair of the Recreation Committee and is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

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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Owls, Spring, and Harris Center Summer Camp

Owl Prowl at Beech Hill on March 16, 7-8 pm

Join Harris Center naturalists and owl lovers Phil Brown and Susie Spikol as we hoot it up in search of owls in the wild woods of Dublin! March is peak time for barred owl courtship, so if we're lucky,



we might hear their classic "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" call, along with some entertaining monkeylike calls. *Space is limited, and registration is required* at harriscenter.org/events. Exact meeting location will be provided upon registration. Bring a headlamp or flashlight, dress for the weather, and wear snowshoes or ice traction if snow and ice are still on the ground.

Hill Spring Warm-Up Hike on March 18, 10-11 am

As the snow melts and the ground thaws, the forest begins to wake from its winter slumber. Come along with Harris Center naturalists as we listen to streams swelling, find buds sprouting, and use our senses to search for the first signs of spring. *Space is limited, and registration is required* at harriscenter.org/events. Exact meeting location will be provided upon registration. Dress for the weather, and come prepared with snowshoes or ice traction if snow and ice are still on the ground.

For more information (including questions about accessibility), or to borrow snowshoes or spikes, contact Susie at spikol@harriscenter.org. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and the Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association.

Harris Center Summer Camp Registration Opens March 1

For more than 40 years, fields, forests, ponds, and mountains have served as the backdrop for the Harris Center's summer programs, which offer outdoor explorations for kids in preschool through middle school. Harris Center summer campers hike, play, climb, canoe, camp, paint, build, sing, and learn alongside skilled naturalists. Dates and details for 2023 camps are listed on the Harris Center website at harriscenter.org/programs-and-education/camp. Scholarships are available. Registration for 2023 summer camps will open online only via the website at 9 am on March 1. Call the Harris Center office at (603) 525-3394 with any questions.

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Photos by Philip Brown (barred owl) and Ben Conant (children) courtesy Harris Center



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Women's History Month: Remembering Granny D

In 1999, Dublin's Doris "Granny D" Haddock walked 3,200 miles from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., to champion the need for campaign finance reform. This amazing feat was accomplished in her 90th year – and in the remaining decade of her life, she continued her crusade to restore the integrity of our democracy and mounted an effective campaign for the United States Senate. Doris, who died at age 100 in 2010, is truly one of the most esteemed citizens in the history of our little town.



Trustees of the Trust Funds Offer Scholarships

The Trustees of the Trust Funds offer scholarships from two trusts for Dublin residents who are continuing their education beyond secondary school. These scholarships are the result of the Sprague and Appleton Funds.

Places like Dublin can thrive when people care about and engage with their community every day. Therefore, civic engagement, academic merit, and financial need are the criteria the Scholarship Committee will use to determine the

2023 scholarship recipients.

Applications will be available after April 1 at local schools (Dublin School, Dublin Christian Academy, ConVal High School) and at the Town Hall. Applicants should submit a current transcript, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) from the most recent FAFSA form, two current recommendations, and a statement (500 words or fewer) addressing past, present, or future engagement in civic life. All materials must be typed and received by

May 1, 2023. Please mail all materials to The Trustees of the Trust Funds, c/o Judy Knapp, PO Box 331, Dublin, NH 03444, or send them by email to judyknapp@myfairpoint.net. Winners will be announced after May 22, 2023.

Email questions to Judy Knapp at judyknapp@myfairpoint.net. Lucy Shonk and Brie Morrissey are also members of the Scholarship Committee.

End 68 Hours of Hunger

ConVal End 68 Hours of Hunger is currently sending home nearly 200 bags of food with food-insecure students every weekend – plus providing snacks at the high school and at the Antrim and Peterborough libraries to help kids who are more concerned about stigma than about hunger. We so appreciate the generosity of Dubliners who continue to support the program financially and with food donations left at the west entrance of the Dublin Community Church.

Want to help? This month, we're especially in need of crackers (Saltines, Ritz, and Club, because we give a sleeve of crackers to each student) and packages of Ramen. Thank you so much!

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DublinArts Spring Outlook

BY MOLLY MCDOWELL

After a winter hiatus, we're back! The fabulous FolkSoul Band will be here on March 11 from 2–5 pm for a Mardi Gras Party, including a concert, dancing, a festive gumbo buffet (with pecan praline cake) – plus the jazzy paintings of Michael Reilly. \$25 for music and buffet.

On March 5 at 2 pm, we'll have "Life, Death, and Cake," hosted by end-of-life doula Kasey March and Susan MacNeil, author of *18 Minutes: A Daughter's Primer on Life & Death*, for a thoughtful discussion of compassionate transitions. Dessert will be served.

Other events include a staged reading of Marylou DiPietro's enlightening new play "In Love with Cancer" on March 12 at 3 pm (admission \$10 at the door) and a performance by nationally renowned pianist Adam Swanson (in from Colorado) with jazz and ragtime piano on March 31 at



7 pm and April 1 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

April brings a wonderful one-woman show about Shakespeare's wife, starring the inimitable Wendy Almeida; a Shakespeare birthday party that includes performances from "The Shakespeare Project"; and an afternoon reading of all 154 of the Bard's sonnets by our friends, served up

with Renaissance cookies and tea. Plus, we plan many more concerts (including flamenco guitar, dance, and tapas), readings, and another group show of regional artists.

Here's something to look forward to in May: The gallery will host a one-person show by Dutch-born Sylvia Nicolas, age almost 95, from Mont Vernon. She has been painting, drawing, sculpting, and creating stained glass windows since the 1940s. The show is a curated selection from the more than 2,000 works in her studio. On May 24, she will give a gallery talk and celebrate her birthday with cake for all.

154 Volunteer Readers Needed!

On Sunday, April 23, DublinArts & Muse Gallery will celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday with an afternoon reading of all 154 of his sonnets! Patterned after similar events around the world, the stage will be set up to have each person read one sonnet, and we'll enjoy Renaissance cookies and tea along the way.

It's a drop-in event but only about two and a half hours if you want to stay the whole time. This is a great opportunity to join a celebration that we hope will include 10-year-olds on up! No memorization is necessary. The day before, Molly McDowell will host a rehearsal for anyone who wants a chance to do a run-through. Look up "Shakespeare's sonnets" online and email your top three choices to mvmcd@aol.com.

Songs of Love, Silliness, and Hope at DublinArts

On Sunday, March 26, at 3 pm, Eve Pierce and Gordon Peery team up for a show that swings joyfully between the sublime and the ridiculous. Eve is a passionate and charismatic singer-songwriter with a penchant for singing songs about humans, gods, and snakes. Her stage energy and repertoire knows no bounds. She might also have a ukelele and a kazoo.

You can find her feverishly writing music and lyrics in a room with all the lights out, singing in the middle of the woods, and staring blankly where the ocean meets the



sky. Her debut album *Save the Bell Tower* was released June 9, 2021, and is available for purchase and download. Eve also sings lead vocals with the Celtic Rock band Waking Finnegan and is in the process of creating her next solo album.

Gordon, whose musical interests span New England fiddle tunes, American songbook, folk-rock, and summer dance party, provides innovative accompaniment on keyboard, guitar, harmonica, and (warning!) a kazoo duet!

DublinArts and Muse Gallery is located at 1459 Main Street (Route 101), Dublin.

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Enthusiastic Recommendations

A Jam Pilgrimage

BY JUDY MORTNER

This month, I sought out the makers of Sidehill Farm jams to learn what makes it tastes *so* good. The secret: It's made without the addition of pectin, a thickening agent that, along with water, makes the jam stretch further but also dilutes it. Sidehill uses extra fruit (since it hasn't been watered down), pure cane sugar, and lemon juice, and this is why the jam is intensely fruity, sweet yet tart, and simply delicious.

Sidehill Farm was born in the kitchen of an old Vermont farmhouse owned by Dorothy and Ben Naylor and located in Calais, a quintessential country town about 10 miles from Montpelier. One summer, Dorothy Naylor, with a surplus of local peaches, made some jam and took the jars to a local farm stand to sell. They sold out that day, so the next day she returned with more, and again every jar was sold. She and husband, Ben, saw the potential for a small business and began to make and distribute homemade jam all over Vermont. It went to local farm stands and general stores, where locals and tourists bought it up. Several years later, business had grown enough to install a commercial kitchen at the farmhouse.

After 30 years in business, the Naylor's knew most of the general store owners in Vermont and had grown a successful small business – but they were also ready to retire. Coincidentally, their son Kelt and wife Kristina had recently left professional careers in Boston, and Kelt had a desire to return to his roots. He sent his parents a note, "Don't



Kelt and Kristina Naylor



send out the 'we're closing' letters!" In 2000, they moved to Vermont and took over the business. They agreed to give it five years, and today they produce dozens of flavors of jams, marmalades, fruit butters, and gift baskets delivered to stores via the "jam van" and shipped throughout New England.

As new owners, they made some changes: a move to an incubator site in Brattleboro with more space and better equipment, including an automatic fruit-washer and a presser that efficiently separates out pulp and seeds. And they won prize money from the state for their expansion plan, which included using more local fruit and partnering with Vermont orchards and farms, mutually beneficial since fruit with minor cosmetic blemishes was going to waste. It was hard to sell but fine for making jam.

An abundant supply of local apples also meant that the couple could keep the production line running in the winter months (slow season in the jam business), branching out to make apple butter and a new product called Maple-Apple-Drizzle, which they sell in bulk to restaurants as a dessert topping.

Besides the more typical flavors, the couple added some tasty flavor combinations like Gingered Rhubarb, Cinnamon Pear, and Damson plum, made with local plums. But the most interesting additions came from their discovery of quince, a pear-shaped yellow fruit growing on trees at Scott Farms, one of their local partners.

The story goes that Kelt brought home a big pile of quince, which Kristina began to cook down with a little sugar. When raw, the fruit is so tart it's inedible, but when heated, it turns a golden-orange and emits a delicate flowery fragrance. Not long after the experiment, they began production of two new products: Quince Butter and Quince Paste. In Spain, quince paste, called membrillo, is typically paired with a sharp sheep's milk cheese like Manchego for a delicious flavor combination. The paste is thick and can be turned out of the jar and sliced. This would make a great addition to a local cheese board, if you ask me!

The business is still more focused on customer service, and producing their Vermont-made jam without the use of pectin, than it is on sales and marketing, but you can find Sidehill Farm products locally. The jam is available at the food coops in Keene, Lebanon, and Brattleboro, Vermont; other independent stores throughout New England; and even at a few Whole Foods supermarkets.

Look for the colorful gingham fabric on the tops of the jars, a tradition started by Kelt's mom, Dorothy, in the 1970s. She used to hire locals to cut the gingham circles by hand, but these days, the fabric is sent out and machine cut. Fortunately, this does not affect the taste of the extra-fruity jam I slather on toast most mornings.

JUDY MORTNER is on the staff of the *Advocate*.



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Tom Villeneuve RIA

Remembering Marge Switzer

Margaret Clara (Haizmann) Switzer of Dublin died peacefully at home on January 3, 2023.

Marge received her nursing degree from Wesley Memorial in 1965. She met and married Paul Switzer, a medical student at Northwestern University. Early in her career, Marge was an accomplished surgical nurse at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Later, she ran her husband's medical practice in Peterborough and served as Medicare coordinator at Monadnock Community Hospital. She was active in the Dublin Community Foundation and the Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention and served as board chair of The Place To Go afterschool program.

A committed environmentalist, she cofounded Eco-Options, a retail business offering environmentally friendly products, and worked closely with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to administer the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation's Environmental Fellowship program.



She was unfussy and frugal, and her favorite trips often included animals but lacked electricity or running water. Her adventurous spirit led her to the isolated San Blas Islands; a solo trip to Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi where she visited Jane Goodall's Gombe and the Virunga mountain gorillas; pack trips in the Wyoming backcountry; and backpacking all over Greece.

Marge loved and was loved by her children and their spouses, Peter and Pam Switzer of Marlborough, New Hampshire; Shawna and John Saaty of Arlington, Virginia; and Thuy and Phuong Nguyen of Houston, Texas. She took extreme pride in her grandchildren, Wyatt, Josie, and Abbie Switzer, and Emma and Nina Saaty.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Dublin Community Foundation (dublincommunityfoundation@gmail.com). Her family is planning a celebration of her life this coming summer.

Arts Alive Field Trips

Arts Alive continues a monthly field trip series for artists to meet, connect, and explore nearby resources.

On Friday, March 31, from 10:15 am–1 pm, participants will learn how to use the Jaffrey Civic Center to put up a gallery show or teach a class. The group will then experience a guided tour and short film screening at the Park Theatre.

On Saturday, April 29, the last field trip will explore a collection of visual and performing arts spaces in Brattleboro, Vermont.

For more information, please call 603-283-0944 or email nina@monadnockart-saliva.org. To register, visit monadnockart-saliva.org/artist-field-trips.

A New CPA in Town

On January 18, Ying Simpson of Main Street was notified by the NH Board of Accountancy that she had fulfilled all the board's requirements and, accordingly, had been designated a Certified Public Accountant in the State of New Hampshire.



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Dublin Awarded InvestNH Housing Grant

BY SUSAN PETERS AND DONNA GARNER

In January, Dublin was awarded a NH Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) grant under New Hampshire's InvestNH Initiative. HOP grants will enable municipalities 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 diverse housing, identify potential changes to local land use regulations, and/or establish or update those regulations in response to those findings. Community engagement is a key part of municipal work under these grants.

The Dublin Planning Board is forming a Housing Committee to work on developing community engagement programs and oversee the process under the HOP grant. The kick-off meeting will be at 7 pm on Thursday, March 23, at the Town Hall, and all are welcome to attend. The committee

will include interested residents as well as members of the Planning Board and other town boards.

Next steps for Dublin include participation in the Housing Academy program as well as hiring one or more consultants. The goal of the Housing Academy is to build local capacity for engagement on housing matters. Participants explore a wide range of housing and community engagement topics, including:

- Understanding the housing crisis
- Using data
- How to talk about housing
- Envisioning communities with more housing options
- Community engagement beyond public meetings
- How to make change – working with opposing views and mapping out regulatory change
- Bringing new people and voices into the housing discussion

Housing is a complex issue. The HOP grant provides funding and the opportunity to bring everyone in Dublin into the process: to learn about housing issues and opportunities, and to have a voice in how our land use provisions respond to housing needs. The HOP grant also includes funding for projects for which we may be eligible if we do the careful review called for by the HOP grant process.

If you are interested in learning more about the HOP grant and in being a part of the process, please consider attending the meeting on March 23. You may also email your interest to Katy Wardlaw (katywardlaw@gmail.com), and there will be a sign-up sheet at town meeting on Saturday, March 18.

DONNA GARNER is a member of the Planning Board.

SUSAN PETERS is the Select Board representative to the Planning Board.

Men Who Cook 20th Anniversary

Interested in a fun evening out with delicious food – a “soup to nuts” dinner for \$25? There’s no need to look further. Monadnock Family Services (MFS) is excited to

host its 20th Anniversary *Men Who Cook* fundraiser at 6 pm on Saturday, March 11, in the Zorn Dining Commons at Keene State College. The proceeds from this year’s dinner will support Monadnock RSVP’s *America Reads* program. The *America Reads* program assists children in the Monadnock Region in pre-K through third grade who are struggling with reading and writing skills.

Over the years, 80 to 120 men have volunteered to prepare and serve favorite dishes ranging from appetizers to desserts. This year, the format remains unchanged: Each dish will have 20 servings and will be presented in buffet style, so guests will have plenty of gustatory delights to sample and to savor.

The ticket price of \$25 has not increased. Instead, MFS is asking guests to bring nonperishable food items(s), which



will be distributed to families in need.

Tickets may be purchased online at givebutter.com/men-whocook. They may also be reserved by mailing a check for

\$25 per person to MFS at 64 Main Street, Keene NH 03431. Tickets are available at Prime Roast and at the MFS street-level office at 64 Main Street. While supplies last, tickets may be purchased at the door the night of the event.

Men Who Cook offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy delicious food for a reasonable price while visiting with neighbors and friends throughout the evening, all the while knowing that you are supporting Monadnock RSVP’s *America Reads* program. RSVP, an Americorps Seniors program, is sponsored by Monadnock Family Services.

Monadnock Family Services is a non-profit, comprehensive community mental health center serving 38 towns and 110,000 residents in southwestern New Hampshire, with facilities in Peterborough, Jaffrey, and Keene.

Get a Ride, or Give a Ride: Everyone Benefits

Right down the road, right now, someone needs a ride to somewhere essential. And volunteer drivers for Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) drive people where they need to go.

When riders can keep their essential appointments, they stay independent and can live at home in peace. Riders can request to be taken to their non-emergency doctor’s or social service appointments, pharmacy or grocery shopping. A five business-day advance notice is all CVTC needs to enter a rider’s trip request in our TripList system. For the rider, it is more than just the free ride. Our drivers are courteous and trustworthy, willing to converse and engage. Sometimes new friendships are made.

Once our vetted volunteer drivers choose which trips best fit their schedule, they call the rider to verify pick-up times and, when they return home themselves, they track their total mileage for reimbursement from CVTC. Drivers select when, to where, and for how long they are available. By making this difference in a rider’s life, drivers contribute to the health of the Monadnock Region, one person at a time.

Please call CVTC for more information at (877) 428-2882, ext. 5.

Owls, the Early Nesters

BY TOM WARREN

Owls are always the first to begin housekeeping in our region. Here is a brief summary of three owls and their breeding habitats:

Saw-whet Owl. This small woodland owl, about the size of a robin (adult approximately 7–8 inches), is more common in the Monadnock Region than realized. This owl is quite tame and often can be picked up from a bush on the trail.



Early loggers in the timber industry in Maine, New Hampshire, and New Brunswick encountered this owl often as they walked through the forest. The French called the little bird a “chouette,” but after the English won the French and Indian War (1756–1763), they changed the name to the saw-whet owl because the call of the owl sounds so similar to a cross-cut saw being sharpened.

The saw-whet owl nests in hollow trees, taking over holes drilled by flickers and pileated woodpeckers or in a nest box filled with sawdust. Three to seven white eggs are laid, and both the female and young owlets are fed nightly by the male, who catches and drops eight to nine mice for the family. The female tears off bits of mouse, which she feeds to her owlets. When they are larger, the older owlets do the same to feed the younger siblings.

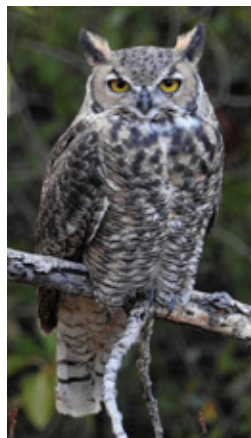
The young owlets poke their heads out

of the nest hole and can be observed waving their heads up and down and left and right, adjusting to the noises of mice in the snow below. Owls have highly specialized neurons in their auditory system. They rely on their sense of hearing to locate prey. These neurons respond to sounds in high-frequency ranges, and they can detect micro-second scale time differences.

In the winter of 2022, we had a pair of saw-whet owls nesting in a box not more than 50 feet from our house. We heard their calls on the evening of February 28. We were able to observe the mating and eventually the feeding of the family by the male all winter and spring. They produced five owlets. These owlets finally fledged from the nest on June 3, 2022.

Great Horned Owl. The great horned owl is the most savage and saturnine of all New England birds. Terms such as “malignant resentment” and “blood thirsty lust” have been used to describe this owl.

In February, courtship begins with a rotary movement of the head and various contortions, including bowing, wing flapping, and using hoots to attract a mate. At this time, you may hear more loud owl hoots during the night and in the evenings. For such a fierce bird, the male is remarkably solicitous of his mate.



The best nesting site is usually in heavy timber, often in a large white pine tree. It rarely builds its own nest but uses an old nest of a red-shouldered or red-tailed hawk. The nest is lined with feathers from the mother's breast.

Two to three white eggs are the normal clutch, which are laid in February, and they hatch in 30 days, usually around mid or late March. The female will sit closely on her eggs through below-zero temperatures and swirling snowstorms. The male and female hoot duets to each other while the female incubates the eggs.

Barred Owl. The barred owl is our most common large owl, with a large round head and no ear tufts. It weighs between 16–17 ounces and is grayish brown, spotted, with buff or whitish coloration below. (See photo on page 11.)

Their habitat is in the deep forest, often near swamps or small ponds. The nest is often in a hollow tree or deserted nest of a hawk, crow, or gray squirrel. A pair of them even nested at the end of a driveway with a basketball hoop attached to the tree. Budding high school basketball stars shot baskets just below the nest hole in March and April until the young fledged. Two to four white eggs are the normal clutch, and incubation is about 28 days. The young fledge around May 20 in this area.

In some seasons of heavy snowfall, this owl might migrate south in great numbers.

Keep a lookout and be aware of the sounds and calls of the owls starting at the end of February.

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist.

March Doubleheader at Music on Norway Pond

Music on Norway Pond is proud to present two March concerts featuring musicians from the New England Conservatory of Music. The first is a concert by Trio Gaia, graduate piano trio in residence at the Conservatory, on





March 5. Formed in 2018, the highly regarded Trio Gaia recently won first prize at the 2022 WDAV Young Chamber Musicians Competition.

On March 26, they will present an ensemble from the Klezmer Conservatory Band, a leading voice in the world of klezmer music and Yiddish song for over 40 years. With a repertoire ranging from Yiddish standards to rousing dance medleys and little-known gems, the KCB's musicians have served as important ambassadors in promoting the universal appeal of Jewish music.



The concerts are both on Sundays at 4 pm in the Hancock Meetinghouse. Tickets are \$25 and students are always free. Tickets and more information are available at www.musiconnorwaypond.org or 603-525-9303.

MARCH 2023 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	DCC Dublin Community Church DCS Dublin Consolidated School DPL Dublin Public Library DS Dublin School HUB Dublin Community Center TH Town Hall, Dublin		1TH Recreation Committee 9am; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; DPL Puzzles 9am; Bookworms Movie 3pm	2^{DPL} Creator Club 3:30pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm; Movie 3pm; TH Planning Board 7pm	3^{HUB} /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; Art Reception 5-7pm	4^{DPL} Coffee Hour 9am; Meet the Candidates 10-noon; Teen Zone Program Noon
5^{HUB} Song Circle 3-5pm	6TH Cemetery Trustees (if < 35°) 9am; Select Board 4:30pm; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; ConVal Community Forum 6-8pm	7^{HUB} Kids Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; DPL Book Buddies 3:30pm; TH DWCC Pre-Town Meeting 7pm	8^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; DPL Puzzles 9am; Bookworms 3:30pm; Trustees 5pm	9^{HUB} Backgammon 4-6pm; DPL Creator Club 3:30 pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm; TH Planning Board 7pm	10^{HUB} /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; Scarf/Tie/ Bandana Exchange 6-8pm	11^{HUB} Animal Adventurer talk 9-10am; Art Demo 11am; DPL Coffee Hour 9am; Teen Zone noon
12^{DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS}	13^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm; Recycling Committee 7pm	14TH Town Election 8am-7pm; HUB Kids Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; Herb Class 7pm; DPL Book Buddies 3:30pm	15^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; DPL Puzzles 9am; Bookworms 3:30pm; TH Conservation Committee 5pm	16^{HUB} Community Lunch noon; DPL Creator Club 3:30pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm; TH Planning Board 7pm; Beech Hill Owl Prowl 7-8pm	17^{ST. PATRICK'S DAY} HUB /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	18^{DCS} Town Meeting 9am; HUB Blood Drive 9am-3pm; Coffee House & Open Mic 7-10pm; DPL Coffee Hour 9-noon; Teen Zone 12pm; Beech Hill Spring Hike 10-11am
19^{DS} "Sugar on Snow" 1-3pm	20^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm	21^{HUB} Kids Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; DPL Craft Circle 5:30pm	22^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; DPL Puzzles 9am	23^{HUB} Chess Night 5-8pm; DPL Teen Zone 6-7pm; TH Planning Board Housing Committee kickoff 7pm	24^{HUB} /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	25^{DPL} Coffee Hour 9am; Family Story & Craft Time 10-11am; Teen Zone noon
26	27^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm	28^{HUB} Kids Yoga 3:30-4:30pm; DPL Book Buddies 3:30pm	29^{HUB} Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; DPL Puzzles 9am; Bookworms 3:30pm	30^{DPL} Creator Club 3:30pm; Teen Zone 6-7pm	31^{HUB} /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	

Photos saw-whet owl and barred owl courtesy AllAboutBirds.org, Cornell Ornithology Lab

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 editors reserve the right to refuse any article or advertisement.

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The Dublin Advocate

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