

# The Dublin Advocate

*To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community*

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Dublin, NH 03444

## Dublin Votes – March 12 and 16

**M**arch is local election month! To vote at Town Hall on Tuesday, March 12, and at Town Meeting on Saturday, March 16, you must be a registered voter. Before the election, you can register at the town clerk's office (go to [townofdublin.org](http://townofdublin.org) for hours) or at the Supervisors of the Checklist meeting on Saturday, March 2, beginning at 11 am. Registration is also possible on election day. Please remember to bring photo identification.

On March 12, Dubliners will elect town officers and vote on the ConVal School District warrant. On March 16, we will vote on town warrant Articles 3–20.

The following Dublin residents are candidates for town offices and submitted these statements about their background, qualifications, and reasons for running (edited for length):

### Select Board (1 position):

**Susan Peters** – I have enjoyed serving on the Select Board over the past three years. It is an honor to work with a strong team of dedicated employees and volunteers who help ensure the safety and quality of life of our community. Stewardship of our community assets – town buildings, public spaces, natural



resources, and resident spirit – is a responsibility we all value and share.

My family moved to Dublin 30 years ago, and our daughters grew up here. With a business law background, I have enjoyed finding ways to get involved in our community: water testing on Dublin Lake; past service on the Planning Board, Transportation Committee, and Zoning Board of Adjustment; and now Select Board.

There are important matters before the town. Managing the town budget is always central. Housing, public safety, energy, ensuring the best education for our children, and protecting our road infrastructure and beautiful natural resources are a few others.

I hope you will support me for another three-year term on the Select Board.

### Moderator (1 position):

**Sterling Abram** – I am currently serving as moderator for the town of Dublin.

I was appointed to this position following the passing of our longtime moderator, Tim Clark, and was subsequently elected two years ago. I served on the Select Board for nine years, from 2006–2015. Currently, I am a member of the Capital Improvements Plan Committee and Dublin representative to the Monadnock Advisory Commission.



The moderator is responsible for the conduct of the annual Town Meeting as well as federal, state, and local elections in Dublin. I have been impressed by the voter turnout at recent elections as well as the gracious spirit and attitude of the ballot clerks, counters, and voters. The courtesy, patience, and neighborliness evident at our Town Meetings has made my job enjoyable and satisfying. The careful preparation of the town warrant by the Select Boards that

### Polls will be open

for voting by ballot on Articles 1 and 2 on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**, from 8 am–7 pm at the Dublin Town Hall, top floor.

### Town Meeting

will take place on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 9 am at the Dublin Consolidated School.

have served during my tenure has been a great asset to the moderator and the whole town. It is truly an honor to serve the people of this remarkable town in this capacity.

**Robert Sardinkas** – No statement submitted.

### Library Trustee (2 positions):

**Lawrence Graves** – I was invited to fill a vacancy on the Library Trustees in the middle of last year, when there was a need. The experience has been so positive that it leads me to seek a full term to complete the projects at hand.

**Chris Sprague** – Over the last year, I have engaged with other trustees in reorganizing the library. Our focus is on partnering with the DubHub, schools, and other nonprofits. Collectively, our goal is to provide programs that best meet the interests of our patrons, from young children to elders.



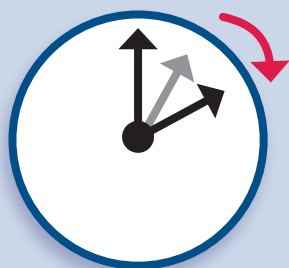
In June of 2023, I was elected chair by my fellow trustees. Last fall, we had an opportunity to hire new staff. Director Karen Madigan now leads the library, along with three exceptional assistants.

I look forward to continuing in the role of trustee and helping to connect patrons to the information they need – when, where, and how they need it.

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### Daylight Saving Time Starts March 10

Turn the clock forward one hour.



## Town Warrant Articles in Brief

**Editor's Note:** The following warrant articles have been edited for brevity. To read the full text of each article, see the Town of Dublin Annual Report 2024.

**Article 1:** to bring the ballots for town officers.

**Article 2:** to adopt zoning ordinance and land use regulations pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), allowing one ADU per single-family dwelling of a size not to exceed the gross living area of the principal unit or 1,200 square feet. The principal dwelling or ADU must be owner occupied, with adequate provisions for water supply, sewage, and electrical panel access. This language replaces Article IV, Section N of Dublin's "Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Regulations" and is in compliance with the 2017 New Hampshire Accessory Dwelling Units statute.

### Key Definitions

**ADU** is defined to be a residential living unit that provides independent living facilities for one or more persons, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel of land as the principal dwelling unit it accompanies.

**Owner Occupancy** is defined to mean occupancy by the physical person who owns the property or a person with a material interest in another legal entity (e.g., partnership or corporation) that owns the property.

**(Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 3:** to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended sum of \$2,632,730 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 4:** to raise and appropriate \$490,000, to come from taxation, for previously established Town Capital Reserve Funds: Heavy Highway Equipment (\$65,000); Police Cruiser (\$15,000); Fire Equipment (\$140,000); Road Construction (\$225,000); Town-Owned Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair (\$10,000); Town Buildings Maintenance (\$30,000); and Recreation Trust (\$5,000).

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 5:** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$212,000 to chip seal town roads, with \$112,000 to come from the Road Construction Capital Reserve and \$100,000 to come from taxation.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 6:** to raise and appropriate \$70,000 to repair extensive water damage to the Dublin Post Office (town-owned building) basement, including replacement of insulation, mold remediation, door repair, and installation of sump pumps, to come from the Town Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 7:** to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to repair the exterior of the Town Hall, including pillar repair and painting, to come from the Town Buildings Maintenance Capital Reserve.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 8:** to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to conduct a feasibility study to examine the facilities and office at the Transfer Station, to come from the Recycling Special Revenue Account.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 9:** to raise and appropriate \$7,815 to repair the Civil War Monument base in front of the Historical Society, to come from taxation.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 10:** to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to cut down hazardous trees at the town cemetery, to come from taxation.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 11:** to raise and appropriate \$4,500 to fund the operation and publication of *The Dublin Advocate* newsletter for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, to come from taxation.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 12:** to raise and appropriate \$7,980 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:

Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center (\$350); CASA (\$350); Southwestern Community Services (\$1,224); Monadnock Family Services (\$1,915); Home Healthcare, Hospice, and Community Service (\$1,690); The River Center (\$500); Community Volunteer Transportation Company (\$450); MCVP Crisis Prevention Center (\$321); Hundred Nights, Inc. (\$250); End 68 Hours of Hunger (\$750); and Cornucopia Project (\$180).

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 13:** to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,400 to be contributed to previously established Expendable Trust Funds: Revaluation (\$6,400) and Master Plan (\$1,000).

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 14:** to assign agents to expend the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds: Police Cruiser (Select Board); Town Buildings Maintenance (Select Board); Library Major Repair and Maintenance (Select Board); and Bridge Repair and Replacement (Select Board).

**Article 15:** to establish a revolving fund for the purpose of establishing a Police Special Details account and to raise and appropriate \$1 to be deposited into the fund. All revenues received from the Police Special Details will be deposited into the fund, and the town treasurer will pay out from the fund upon order of the Select Board, who will serve as agents to expend for the purpose only of wages and benefits related to special details, and/or police vehicles, and police vehicle maintenance/replacement.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 16:** to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for phase two of security upgrades focusing on the Town Hall, Fire Station, and Library, \$20,000 to come from taxation.

**(Recommended by the Select Board and Budget Committee)**

**Article 17:** to establish an Energy Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of efficiency projects and upgrades on town-owned property, naming the Select Board as agents to

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## Dublin Votes - Candidates

continued from page 1

### Budget Committee (2 positions):

**Andrew Hungerford** – I have been a Dublin resident since 2008, but my connection to Dublin dates to 1993 when I became the facilities director at the Dublin School. I have also been part of the Dublin Fire Department since the early 2000s. The last few years, I have been helping with town elections as a clerk. I learned that there were several vacancies on town boards and decided to run for the Budget Committee. I feel my background in facilities will give me insight into working with the many departments in town.

**Blake Minckler** – I am running for the Budget Committee. I moved to Dublin with my wife Carrie and our five kids in 2020 after serving 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. I am currently on the Dublin Energy Committee. We were able to enroll Dublin in the Cheshire County Community Power Program, and we are continuing to look for ways to incorporate solar energy projects to strengthen our community's power future and create tax savings for Dublin residents. I am also a member of the newly appointed Dublin Education Advisory Committee. Its goal is to determine the fiscal sustainability of Dublin's current education situation within the ConVal district while keeping the best interests of both the taxpayers and the students of Dublin at the forefront.

I am running for the Budget Committee to continue my service to the town. Our town needs to be fiscally responsible while balancing growth and continuing to provide much-needed services. I look forward to serving on the Budget Committee and would appreciate your vote to allow me to do so.

### Cemetery Trustee (1 position):

**Brian Barden** – I am running for another term as Cemetery Trustee, a position I currently hold. Since



1967, I have served in various positions in Dublin. I would like to continue to be involved in town affairs.

### Planning Board (2 positions):

**Karl Eckilson** – I'm presently acting as an alternate on the Planning Board. I do hay production and timber harvesting. I have lived in Dublin for ten years. I work outside on the beautiful land of the Monadnock Region and appreciate open space, peace, and quiet. I enjoy seeing our wildlife friends in the woods. We must also protect them. As part of cutting wood, I understand and respect the wetland rules. I have taken a short course on those regulations. I led the effort to retain our four-acre lot size last year. If elected, I'll take a slow approach to development. I'll also work to expand the village district toward the intersection of routes 101 and 137.

**Archie McIntyre** – I live on a farm on Page Road with my wife Nina. We purchased the farm in 2013 and became permanent residents in 2020. I currently serve as an alternate member of the Dublin Planning Board.

As a candidate for Dublin Planning Board, I am committed to preserving the town's rural character while finding ways to encourage sensible development of affordable housing as well as policies that would encourage small businesses to locate in our town. I feel that the Village District is the most appropriate area for affordable housing and commercial development opportunities. I have worked on, and support, the Planning Board's recent effort to amend the town zoning ordinance to permit Accessory Dwelling Units throughout town. This is a good first step as the town weighs further options to encourage affordable housing. Next steps could include reexamining the dimensional regulations in the Village District to provide property owners more options to increase development in the town center.

With a career in real estate in the Greater Boston area, I have experience in real estate development, finance, construction, management, and sales of both commercial and residential proper-



ties. With this background, I can weigh the variety of issues that come before the Planning Board. I am recently retired as executive director of the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy in Winchester, Massachusetts, where I helped lead efforts to save that community's last remaining farm and build a multifaceted organization serving thousands of customers, learners, and visitors annually.

I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming town election on March 12.

**Francis McKenna** – As a lifelong resident of Dublin, I feel lucky to have been able to raise my family and operate a business in this small New England community. Over the years, I have witnessed much growth and many changes in our small town.

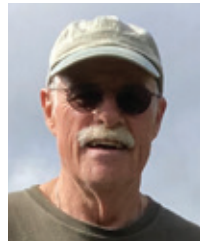
Dublin will continue to grow. We all must work together to handle our challenges in a manner that is in the town's best interests.

Last year, I was appointed to fill an open position on the Planning Board. What an educational experience! I learned that the Planning Board works closely with many of the other town committees and boards to ensure that all state and local laws are met when reviewing the various applications. I enjoy doing the necessary research on properties to help the board come to proper legal decisions.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the members of the Planning Board and meeting many residents and other committee volunteers. I would be honored if Dublin residents voted to give me the opportunity to continue to serve our community as a member of the Planning Board.

### Trustee of the Trust Funds (1 position):

**Dale Gabel** – My wife and I bought our house on Old Marlborough Road in Dublin in early 2007. After a 38-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard, I retired as a Rear Admiral in 2009. Since then, I have served Dublin in various municipal government capacities,



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## Dublin Votes - Town Warrant continued from page 2

expend and to fund this capital reserve, with \$15,000 to be raised by taxation.

**(Recommended by the Select Board; not recommended by the Budget Committee)**

**Article 18:** to direct the school board of the Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal) to initiate a feasibility study of Dublin's withdrawal from the Contoocook Valley School District.

**(Submitted by petition)**

**Article 19:** to implement a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) program to reduce steadily rising amounts of solid waste disposal, causing a documented increase in tipping and hauling fees, and encourage recycling, which has declined in Dublin.

**(Submitted by petition)**

**Article 20:** to hear the reports of Agents, Auditors, and Committees and to pass any related vote.

## Dublin Votes - Candidates continued from page 3

including Budget Committee, Planning Board, Capital Improvement Program Committee, ballot clerk, and Select Board from 2017–2020.

I am seeking a position as Trustee of the Trust Funds. Dublin needs trustees who have a track record of faithfully serving the people and who are willing to do the work of effectively managing the money entrusted to the town's care. I have that track record and am willing to do that work.

### Supervisors of the Checklist (1 position):

**Megan Suokko** (write-in candidate) – I am looking to continue my current position as supervisor of the checklist. I have been a supervisor since 2018 and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people, registering new voters, and assisting in elections. 2024 is expected to be a busy election year, and experience will be necessary to run successful elections. Thank you for your consideration – and please write me in.

## Change Proposed to ConVal Articles of Agreement

The ConVal School District has mailed detailed information about school district warrant articles to all residents in Dublin. Of particular interest to Dublin residents this year is warrant Article 10, which proposes to amend Article 5 of the ConVal School District Articles of Agreement as follows:

**Article 5 currently states:** The Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal) shall be responsible for grades one through twelve (1–12) and kindergartens. Kindergartens were previously authorized by a vote at an annual Cooperative School District meeting. Grades nine through twelve (9–12) shall be educated at the centrally located senior high school in Peterborough. Grades five through eight (5–8) may be educated at the middle schools in Antrim

and Peterborough. **Elementary Schools shall be maintained in Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, and Temple.** As school populations change, students from the middle schools may be reassigned to elementary school locations. Such reassignment needs would be determined by ConVal administration, but each location change would have to be approved by the school board.

**The proposed change** is to the bolded text above and reads:

**Elementary Schools shall be maintained in Antrim, Greenfield, Hancock, and Peterborough.**

A 2/3 vote in the affirmative is required to pass. The ConVal School Board recommends adoption of this article.

## Petitioned Article Explained

BY BLAKE MINCKLER

I want to introduce the petitioned warrant Article 18 that will be up for vote at this year's Town Meeting. After participating at great length in the ConVal School District consolidation/reconfiguration study, I believe the issues identified in this process will not be rectified with just the closure of elementary schools in Dublin, Francestown, Temple, and Bennington. Dublin pays over \$5 million annually to the district, nearly \$40,000 per student per year. Not only are these costs unsustainable, but we need to ask whether we are getting the best-quality education for the money being spent, all while having our own elementary school closed.

With assistance from a great number of like-minded Dublin residents, we started a petition to direct the ConVal School Board to conduct a feasibility study for Dublin's potential withdrawal from the ConVal School District. The petition has met the required threshold, has been submitted and verified by Dublin's supervisor

of the checklist, and will now be a warrant article at our upcoming Town Meeting. With a majority vote in favor, this will mandate that the school board conduct a thorough study to see whether it is feasible and sustainable for Dublin to withdraw from the district and move forward in the education of our children as we best see fit as a town.

Some points to consider are:

- Voting yes does not automatically mean we are withdrawing. The process to withdraw is complex and requires a great deal of research and effort.
- This study does not require any money spent from taxation.
- This process is nonbinding. Even if the study concludes that it is in Dublin's interest to withdraw, it still must be passed by a town vote.

I hope you consider supporting this effort by voting in favor of a feasibility study to look at the potential withdrawal of Dublin from the ConVal School District.

BLAKE MINCKLER is a Dublin resident.

## Dublin to Vote on Reducing Solid Waste

BY AL LYONS

The Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee (WR&RC) has successfully submitted a petition to include Article 19 on the warrant at Town Meeting for the implementation of Pay As You Throw (PAYT) at the Transfer Station. Other towns that have implemented PAYT programs have seen a 25%–40% reduction in solid waste going to the landfill. In fact, according to UNH, “Towns that have implemented pay-as-you-throw and other user fee-based pricing policies to reduce municipal solid waste have seen a substantial reduction in trash disposal rates, some by more than 50%, according to new research from the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of New Hampshire.” Visit [www.unh.edu/unhtoday/2018/11/pay-you-throw-trash-policy-cuts-solid-waste-disposal](http://www.unh.edu/unhtoday/2018/11/pay-you-throw-trash-policy-cuts-solid-waste-disposal) for more details.

We would like to respond to questions and comments raised by residents:

### Save Money by Recycling

What is the easiest way to save money in Dublin? Recycling! The staff at the Dublin Transfer Station will be spot-checking bags, as recycling is mandatory. Residents with recyclables in their trash will be given the option of paying the \$5 per bag fee or taking the trash home and sorting the recyclables out. If you have any questions, please ask for a pamphlet explaining all the recycling rules. We appreciate everyone's help in trying to reduce the cost of trash disposal!

***“It would be more effective to require stickers on all vehicles entering the Transfer Station.”***

Stickers can be easily shared with friends and others who should not be using the transfer facility. In addition, vehicle stickers do not motivate users to reduce solid waste. There is no additional charge for those who have large amounts of solid waste because they have chosen not to recycle or compost. Requiring PAYT bags for all solid waste addresses this unfairness.

***“It will be difficult to get people to use the PAYT bags.”***

Other towns have successfully implemented PAYT with universal compliance (Peterborough has had PAYT since 1999). We believe most Dublin residents understand that the increasing volume of solid waste and the increasing cost of placing it in a landfill is not sustainable.

***“Will additional staff be required to police the transfer station, making sure trash is being disposed of only in PAYT bags?”***

The current plan is that staff will be able to adequately assure that only PAYT bags are placed into the compactor. We believe most Dublin residents will comply. If non-compliance is a problem, CCTV cameras could be installed.

***“Is PAYT a regressive tax?”***

It is not a regressive tax. People who can afford to buy lots of stuff should be able to afford to pay for disposal. If necessary, we could establish a program to subsidize



the cost of bags for those who demonstrate need.

***“What about the quality of the PAYT bags?”***

We plan to use the same vendor as Peterborough. Our understanding is that Peterborough residents have not experienced problems.

***“How much will PAYT bags cost?”***

Current plan is to price bags based upon a cost of 10 cents a gallon. A roll of ten 15-gallon bags will cost \$15; ten 33-gallon bags will cost \$33. Bags will be available at local stores.

The Dublin WR&RC will hold a public meeting in the Program Room at the Dublin Public Library at 4:45 pm on March 14 to address any questions that the public may have about the program.

AL LYONS is a member of the WR&RC.

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Dublin Community Church is located on Route 101 in Dublin (1125 Main Street).





## Update from the ConVal School Board

BY ALAN EDELKIND

Prior to the March 12 vote on amending the Articles of Agreement, this article will focus on school issues affected by consolidation.

### Tax savings

The savings resulting from consolidation have been conservatively estimated to be between \$2.4 and \$7 million annually. These are real dollar savings, whether they result in a refund or are used to fund projects that have been downgraded or put on hold due to budgetary constraints. Either way, consolidation will result in savings to our community.

### Educational advantages

There are many educational opportunities being missed in elementary, middle, and high school due to budgetary constraints, lack of available resources, and our “micro” elementary school environments. We cannot continue to fund these underutilized schools and shortchange our students. Remember, a large part of education is preparing our children to thrive in the outside world. Continuing to spend our limited tax dollars on

schools that are underutilized (and projected to remain so) when there are alternatives available, is not wise.

### Safety

This is not an issue many of us would have thought we would need to consider, but indiscriminate violence may affect us all. One of our prime responsibilities is ensuring the safety of our children. Each one of our schools must have a minimum number of adults present, but that minimum may not be sufficient to ensure a fully safe environment.

### Student social needs

Our young children need social diversity that cannot be provided in underutilized schools. They will experience social interaction opportunities in middle and high school, but they also require it in the elementary grades. Having fewer than 10 children in a grade may not allow for this needed interaction.

### Impact on the community

Will there be an impact on the community if the school is closed? Yes, there

will be. But the impact is manageable if the community looks forward. There are other uses for a building, which will be explored. Our children come first, and their education is of great importance. Their safety is paramount. We will collectively find a use for the building to mitigate any impact.

### What does the vote on March 12 mean?

A two-thirds district-wide “yes” vote on warrant Article 10 puts the authority for determining which schools remain open into the hands of the school board. We are allocating over a year of intensive, community-involved analysis to determine which of the four small schools will remain open and which will close. This is a school board responsibility that we take seriously. Almost all school boards in this country already have this authority.

Finally, if we were organizing the ConVal School District in 2024, would we have eight elementary schools without the population to support them?

The answer is simple – no.

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

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## Winter Fun and Learning at DCS

BY NICOLE PEASE

As always, we have so much going on in our amazing small school! In February, we took a field trip to the Dublin School Nordic Center, and students had an opportunity to ski on the trails. Many thanks to Lindsey Masterson, Nordic ski coach, as well as other Dublin School staff who helped make this opportunity happen – our students loved it!

We have completed many of our midyear assessments and have been so impressed with how hard our students are working. The growth they are showing is impressive. We will use this data to continue to examine areas of strength and areas of needed focus for our students.

March is a month with more instructional time and fewer interruptions; thus, it is a wonderful time of year for students to accelerate their learning. We are excitedly preparing for the third annual One School

One Book adventure. Students and their families, as well as staff, read the same book. We incorporate a number of different activities into the day. This shared reading is a lovely way to build a stronger sense of community while learning. In the midst of this project, we are taking a field trip to the Colonial Theater, and that same evening, we will host an Owl Prowl for families, with the support of the Harris Center. The annual Movie Night hosted by the PTO is scheduled to take place on March 22. It is a treat to have families come together to enjoy pizza, popcorn, and a movie. Thanks to the DCS PTO for making this happen as well as for all you do for our students.

**Kindergarteners are wanted!** If you



know of a child who will be five years old before September 30, please have the family contact our school. Please don't forget to vote on March 12, and come to Town Meeting on March 16. We welcome visitors to our wonderful school. Please just give a call first at 603-563-8332.

NICOLE PEASE is principal teacher at Dublin Consolidated School.

## Reconfiguration Is Not the Only Issue

BY JAY SCHECHTER

The effort by the ConVal School Board to reconfigure the school district has raised many issues. In response to this, the Dublin Select Board has appointed the Dublin Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) to investigate educational opportunities for the children of Dublin. Members include Andy Hungerford, Andy Freeman, Bill Gurney, Blake Anderson, Blake Minckler, Carole Monroe (Select Board representative), Jay Schechter (chair), Jesse Marcum, Jon Sistare, and Peter Imhoff.

The committee's first meeting was held

on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. The conclusion was reached that reconfiguration, while important, is not the only area for its investigation. The committee will focus on quality of education for the children of Dublin and financial sustainability for the town. Meetings will be held every Tuesday at 5:30 pm in Town Hall.

According to the New Hampshire Department of Education 2023 report, students in the ConVal School District score 51% vs. 64% for the state as a whole in reading, and 40% vs. 51% in math. Dublin pays in excess of \$37,000 per year for each

student enrolled in the ConVal system. This amount is greater than any other participating town and more than double that paid by the town with the lowest assessed rate.

All members of the DEAC have pledged that they enter this process with no preconceived ideas as to what the results should be. We strongly encourage the townspeople of Dublin to educate themselves on the issues, whether or not they have children in the ConVal system. Meetings are open to the public, and resident participation will assist the DEAC as it considers the best possible outcome for the town.

JAY SCHECHTER is chair of the Dublin Education Advisory Committee.

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## News from the Dublin Public Library

BY KAREN MADIGAN

March finds DPL in the midst of events, clubs, classroom visits, and ... weeding. No, not reading. Weeding.

First up: We have wonderful news from the Friends of the Library. DPL has received a \$2,750 grant from the Thomas P. Wright Fund for general library support. This grant was created in honor of Tom and Story Wright, formerly of Dublin, and DPL received it at the recommendation of the Wright family. We are so grateful for their recognition and generosity. This money will be used for filling gaps in our collection and acquiring nonfiction and children's books. If you have suggestions for titles, we'd love to hear them.

Let's have a contest to name our digital monthly newsletter. Open to children and adults, we need a snazzy name related to books or reading. Email, call, or come in with your suggestions. Include your name and telephone number so we can let you know if we choose your idea. The winner gets... a book!

DPL enjoyed a classroom visit from DCS third graders, and we welcome all students in the district for a story time, tour, and Q & A sessions. This can be a one-time event or every month if you prefer. Please contact us for a time slot – and students can get library cards with parental permission.



A treasure found on the DPL shelves: Abbott Thayer's book of illustrations of animal camouflage in nature.

Thanks to Brandon Larouche, the LEGO Guy, we now have a huge selection of LEGOs, and LEGO Club happens Monday–Thursday after school. Parents of toddlers, please be aware there are small LEGOs within reach of tiny hands.

We are still asking for donations to our Library of Things (LOT) to check out. Thanks to Jim Beeler for tools! Our LOT also includes entrances passes, courtesy of Friends of the Library, for the Currier Museum of Art, The Friendly Farm, the Mariposa Museum & World Culture Center, and NH State Parks. Just ask at the desk to use them.

If you've been in lately, you've noticed reference, biography, and mysteries are not where they were, and the nonfiction room is in disarray. It's weeding time! Weeding a library, just like a garden, is essential for the health of the collection. Word has it that the last thorough weeding at DPL was 30 years ago! Unfortunately, the nonfiction, reference, and children's areas show a lot of wear and tear. If you are worried DPL will lose one-of-a-kind gems, please rest assured we will improve the collection while keeping local history, gifts, and classics on the shelf – unless a book is beyond repair.



One book I weeded was *Understanding Your New Computer* – with an Apple IIGS on the cover. Another was *Amelia Earhart: The Final Story* – from 1985. A book from 1956 extolled the virtues of cooking and serving a five-course meal while dressed in heels and pearls. The health of our collection, just like the vitality of your garden, needs constant attention. DPL will use the Wright grant to order new books to replenish areas of the collection that need updates. Please pardon our dust; it's only temporary.

Weeded books go to the Friends' book sale, to Better World Books (a company that buys books from libraries and schools), to craft projects, and to recycling. Books we recycle are those in horrible shape ("grubby," in library terminology); filled with inaccurate or even dangerous information, such as legal or medical advice from 1962; or are so dated they should not be sold. Please call or come see me if you have concerns about what I'm weeding.

According to a famous Arab proverb, *a book is a garden carried in a pocket*. We hope you will come in to explore our garden, and we're sure you'll find a blossom or two to brighten your day. Heels and pearls are optional.

Please join us on Saturday, March 23, at 10 am for a crossover event with the DubHub! The DubHub is hosting a Community Pancake Breakfast at 9 am, and DPL invites you to continue the festivities in the library with an Easter egg hunt. Sign up for a library card at the same time, browse new books, and have a cup of coffee or hot chocolate while the kiddos search for eggs.

KAREN MADIGAN is the director of the Dublin Public Library.

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## Dublin Artist Aimee Lamb (1893-1989)

*March is Women's History Month*

**Editors' note:** The *Advocate* recognizes this prominent Dublin resident, whose work is an important part of the town's artistic legacy during the twentieth century.

BY LISA FOOTE

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, more than a score of single women built or bought second homes in Dublin. Many were writers or artists, such as Amy Lowell, the poet; Eugenia Brooks Frothingham, the writer; Amelia Peabody, the sculptress; and Martha Silsbee and Aimee Lamb, the visual artists.

Aimee Lamb had family ties to Dublin. The 1920 town history mentions that her aunt, Rose Lamb, a portrait painter who had studied with William Morris Hunt in the 1870s, "remained for brief intervals" in Dublin. Further, Aimee's uncle, the architect Arthur Rotch, designed the Dublin Town Hall, which was completed in 1882.

Born in 1893, Aimee grew up in Milton, Massachusetts. Between 1913 and 1917, she studied painting with Philip Hale and William James at the School of Fine Arts in Boston.

In the early 1920s, she came to Dublin to study for two summers with Richard Meryman and William James' brother, Alexander (Alec), both of whom had spent time in Abbott Thayer's studio.

Aimee Lamb returned to Dublin in 1926 when she purchased the Piper-Derby house on the village hill, a modest one-story building built in the 1830s with an attached barn. She and her younger sister, Rosamond, would spend the shoulder seasons of May and June and mid-September and October until the 1980s in the house they promptly named "Well House."

The old well for the property is prominently located close to Main Street, topped with a lattice structure with a green, ogee-

shaped, domed roof. Correspondence from 1935 held at the Dublin Historical Society hints that Lamb had seen the elaborate structure over a well at a house she drove by in Groton, Massachusetts, and it is likely that Lamb bought the well house and its soapstone curbing and installed them in Dublin.

Fortunately, a copy of the guest book and journal for Well House is in the



Dublin Historical Society's collection, spanning the years 1927 through 1983. Freddie James, wife of Alec, signed the first entry for September 23–27, 1927. The book records house guests, the comings and goings of Aimee and Rosamond, renovations, weather observations, foliage reports, swims in the lake, and social engagements. Even a notation of lost car keys merits mention.

Starting in 1937, relatives Henry and Theresa Eliot of Cambridge, Massachusetts, began to use Well House for a month to six weeks each summer, while the Lamb sisters stayed in Northeast Harbor and SUTTON Island, Maine. In July of 1946, Henry's brother, the writer T. S. Eliot, stayed at

Well House for several days and signed his name in the guest book on July 19. He clearly remained close to Aimee and Rosamond, as a collection of his letters, written to them between 1933 and 1988, has been published. Aimee's undated, graphite portrait of Eliot illustrates her technical mastery of drawing: His expressive gaze challenges the viewer from the page.

The guest book/journal also records seven local exhibits of Aimee's artwork between 1948 and 1977. Freddie James arranged the first exhibit in the James

Studio on Old County Road; Aimee noted that five works sold. Fourteen years later, her paintings were again shown in the James Studio, and in 1970, a show there drew 60 people and sales of 16 paintings and drawings. A final exhibit in the studio in 1977 was hung with the help of Alec and Freddie's son, Mickey. Another exhibit of her paintings was mounted in Hancock, and in May of 1967, at the age of 74, she exhibited 21 of her paintings and 28 of her drawings at the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery in Keene.

Aimee continued to market her work in her later years. In October of 1974, she hung 45 paintings at the Yankee Gift Shop, now Peter Pap Oriental Rugs. At her exhibit at the Boston Athenaeum in May of 1979, Aimee records that she sold 16 paintings, all painted in the previous three years, between the ages of 83 and 86.

Aimee was a prolific artist working in multiple mediums — oils, watercolor, and graphite, with varied subject matter, including portraiture, landscape, and still life. The Archives of American Art holds 12 of her sketchbooks and 100 sketches in their collection. Her work is in the collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fogg Museum of Art at Harvard University, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

She died at the age of 95 in 1989.

LISA FOOTE is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

# March 2024 Events at the DubHub

## Ongoing Activities

### Coffee & Conversation on Mondays & Wednesdays

Meets from 10 am–noon. All are welcome.

### Adult Yoga on Mondays

Adult Yoga is taught by Gwir Huddleston Llewellyn from 3–4:15 pm. The cost is \$54 for the six weeks or \$11 per class for drop-ins. For more information, email [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org).

### Iyengar Yoga on Mondays and Thursdays

Certified Iyengar Yoga Teacher, Kerry Doyle, offers classes on Mondays from 5–6:15 pm and Thursdays from 9–10:15 am. Introductory offer of three classes for \$36. Kerry encourages students to try out the class to see if it's a good fit for them. Advance registration is required. Questions? Email [kerry@ahayoga.com](mailto:kerry@ahayoga.com).

### Early AM Yoga with Meenakshi on Tuesdays

Early Morning Yoga with Meenakshi Moses is held 6:30–7:30 am. Start your day with breath-centered hatha yoga to stretch and energize. All levels welcome. \$40 for four classes prepaid, or \$12 to drop in. For information, email Meenakshi at [moses@namarupa.org](mailto:moses@namarupa.org).

### DubHub Open Hours on Tuesdays

The DubHub is open from 9 am–3 pm for residents to study, use the Internet connection, check out the art, play a game, or meet friends.

### Qigong on Wednesdays

Qigong class taught by Ginnette Groome from 12–1 pm. \$12 for a single class, and \$10 per class when paying for the month up front.

### Knit with Nancy on Fridays

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

## Song Circle, Sunday, March 3

All are welcome, musicians and audience alike, at Song Circle, which meets the first Sunday of each month in the North Room from 3–5 pm. Musicians can share favorite songs with the group and are asked to bring sheet music of songs with chords (10 copies) to help others play along, and your instrument if you have one, including your voice! If you don't have a printer, please send a printable version by the previous Friday to David Mueller at [dmueller55146@gmail.com](mailto:dmueller55146@gmail.com).

## Herbal Class with Katherine Gekas, Tuesday, March 12

Katherine Gekas has been teaching classes on how to stay healthy with herbs for over ten years. This month, class will be focused on brain health! Each participant will go home with resources

Calendars are always evolving. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page, [facebook.com/dublinhub](https://facebook.com/dublinhub), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter, *Hubbub from the DubHub* (which can also be found on our Facebook page) for updated information about events. Email [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org) if you would like to be added to the *Hubbub* weekly mailing list.

and samples of the herbal products created in class. Class starts at 7 pm. The fee is sliding scale, pay as you'd like: \$10–\$40. To sign up, or for more information, email [katherinegekas2@gmail.com](mailto:katherinegekas2@gmail.com).

## Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, March 16

The Red Cross will conduct a blood drive at the DubHub from 9 am–3 pm. To make an appointment to give blood, go to [www.redcrossblood.org/](http://www.redcrossblood.org/).

## Coffee House & Open Mic, Saturday, March 16

On the third Saturday of each month, the DubHub hosts a combined Coffee House & Open Mic from 7–10 pm. Snacks are available, and a monthly coffee sponsor provides the java. Attendees are welcome to BYOB. A featured performance takes place for about 45–60 minutes, with open mic slots available after.

This month, on the night before St. Patrick's Day, we are delighted to feature The FitzMurphys, southern New Hampshire's happiest "Irish classic folk rock pop acoustic duo." This acoustic tag team has played traditional Irish favorites as well as folk and roots music from popular Irish musicians in pubs, clubs, and gazeboes in New England over the past 20 years.

Email [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto: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.





## March Art Show & Opening Reception, Friday, March 8, Features Caleb Massin

For the month of March, the Dublin Community Center will feature classical paintings by Caleb Massin of Fitzwilliam. Having studied art at a number of prestigious art schools, Massin worked several years in the film industry as a scenic artist, working on the films *Twelve Years a Slave* and *Beautiful Creatures*, and on numerous television shows. He moved back to



New Hampshire and began to explore an interest in classical painting at the Pulido Studio in Hancock. These days, Caleb runs a commercial plastering and painting business and takes private portrait commissions. In Massin's words, "The work in the show reflects my life-long desire to create beauty. Drawing has always come naturally to me, even as a child, and this ability has created the foundation for all my

different styles, from abstract expressionism through my work in the film industry as a scenic artist and muralist and presently to Classical Realism."



Caleb Massin, left, with his mentors Shirley and Numael Pulido.

Massin's works will be on display and available for purchase throughout the month of March during open hours or by appointment. All are welcome to come meet Caleb Massin at our reception on Friday, March 8, from 5–7pm. Email [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org) for more information or to schedule an appointment.



## Potluck & Projects, March 19

On the third Tuesday evening of the month during the cold winter season, come to the DubHub at 5:30 pm with a potluck item to share, and your creative arts or crafts project to work on in the company of other creative souls! All welcome; bring your creative friends and enjoy spreading out in our space!



## Monadnock Storytelling, Wednesday, March 20

On the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30–8:30 pm, the DubHub hosts the Monadnock Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle, an open mic for participants to share stories, poetry, rap, comedy, or truly any kind of spoken word. The organizers are professional storytellers Sebastian Lockwood and Papa Joe Gaudet. Participants and listeners are welcome. For more information, contact Papa Joe at [papajoestorytelling.com](http://papajoestorytelling.com) or Sebastian at [bit.ly/slockwood](http://bit.ly/slockwood).

## DubHub Community Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, March 23

All are invited to the DubHub's delicious, free Community Pancake Breakfast from 9–10:30 am. Toppings will include authentic New Hampshire maple syrup, berries, and whipped cream! Rumor has it, there will be a visit from the Easter Bunny and a craft table for those who would like to make bunny ears to wear as you hop on over to the Dublin Public Library for an Egg Hunt at 10 am. For more information, contact [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org).

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## At Home in the Country

BY MARY LOFTIS

Five years ago, Lou Pacelli started thinking about building a house on the Dublin land he had owned for over 20 years. Retired from a military career and living in West Haven, Connecticut, he was drawn back to the New Hampshire woods that he had come to know while stationed at Ft. Devens in Massachusetts. He inquired at Dublin Town Hall about local builders and ultimately settled on Schaal-Given Contracting in Peterborough. The result of his partnership with the builders is a compact blue clapboard house with an open-concept first floor and a finished lower level – with lots of bookshelves throughout.

Lou met his future wife Chris (on LinkedIn!), during the home's construction. She had also served in the military and was living in Orlando, Florida. When he first brought her to Dublin, her reaction was, "This is it?" But she loved the house, which was completed at the end of May 2023. The couple was married on the front porch in November, with their little white Maltese "Spuds" serving as best man.

Both Lou and Chris say living on Mando Lane in Dublin makes for a quieter existence than they are used to, but they are happy. They commented that they had never seen so many Dubliners in one place as when they recently went to vote at Town Hall. Occasionally, they miss having easy access to restaurants and stores, but the tranquility of their new



home and the surrounding woods makes up for it.

For a while, Lou was commuting to a part-time teaching job at Paier College of Art in Bridgeport, Connecticut, but when the driving proved too much, he switched to teaching online courses at Post University in Waterbury. He is currently teaching world history, which, he says, keeps him "busy enough." He has visited the Dublin Public Library, where he's found helpful assistance in

finding the history books he needs for his research.

Chris keeps in touch with her children and grandchildren via Facebook and is content with quiet days spent reading next to her little dog. A sign on her bookshelf says, "So many books, so little time," but Chris seems intent on making time! She said she often reads till 2 am and views her extensive library as a collection. Her focus is on romance novels, and she was delighted to discover that she lives within 5 miles of two of her favorite authors, Penelope Douglas in Dublin and Abbi Glines in Peterborough. Chris is also a crafter and is working to organize a room for scrapbooking and knitting projects.

Come spring, the Pacellis look forward to landscaping work, which they started prior to their wedding last fall. Their house was a long time in the making, but its two new Dublin residents find that it feels like home.

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



## Italian Night!

Home-cooked suppers are offered on 4th Tuesdays by Outreach members of the Dublin Community Church.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**March 26, 2024**  
**5:30 pm**

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## The Walden School Announces Lance Reddick Scholarship

The Walden School, located seasonally on the campus of Dublin School, received a \$450,000 anonymous donation in memory of esteemed alumnus and actor, Lance Reddick, who passed away suddenly in the spring of 2023. The donation will fund ten full scholarships per year for its 2024–2026 Young Musicians Program, enabling deserving students the opportunity to experience Walden's summer five-week program free of charge. Five of the ten scholarships will be awarded specifically to students from the Baltimore area in honor of Mr. Reddick's hometown and the birthplace of The Walden School.

Mr. Reddick attended The Walden School from 1976–1980, returning in 1983 as a Walden faculty member. He was a lifelong creator and student of music but was most well-known for his television and film work, particularly for his role as Cedric Daniels in "The Wire."

Walden's Young Musicians Program is a five-week summer camp for students



ages 9–18 that offers musical training in a supportive musical community. Students attend classes in composition, musicianship, music history, choral singing, computer musicianship, jazz, and more. Dances, swim trips, mountain hikes, and open mic nights balance out the rigorous musical training. The Summer Concert Series showcases free public performances by renowned artists and ensembles that



Actor and musician Lance Reddick was an alumnus of the Walden School.

work closely with students and perform their original music.

Applications for the 2024 session are **due Friday, March 1**. To apply, visit [waldenschool.org/apply/](http://waldenschool.org/apply/). To learn more about the Lance Reddick Scholarship, visit [waldenschool.org/lance-reddick-scholarship/](http://waldenschool.org/lance-reddick-scholarship/).

## Spring at The River Center

The RiverCenter's winter programs have wound down, but with spring on the way, new parent/child programs are starting. The third session of the music program begins on Tuesday, March 5: Tiny Tots is a fun music-based exploration of instruments and movement for 1- to 3-year-olds with a parent/caregiver at 10 am and again at 11 am. For 4- and 5-year-olds, there is a drop-off program, Small Fries, in which children explore music together while their parents stay on-site and gather in the par-

ent room. Each session is eight weeks long and costs \$25/family.

Another popular program has been Messy Mondays, which meets once a month on the third Monday from 10–11:30 am. The cost for three sessions, from March through to May, is \$15/family.

The Mini Explorers and their families go adventuring in different locations in the region, such as the Hiroshi Loop Trail. If you're going to be out and about, join in! The new session starts on Wednesday, March 6, from 10–11 am. The group goes on hikes with nature-related activities. Children and adults alike meet old and new

friends while enjoying the great outdoors and exploring different trails, paths, and parks together. This is a free program.

It's tax season, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides free tax return preparation and e-filing. Call 603-924-6800 to see if you qualify and to schedule an appointment. Eligible households have incomes around \$64,000.

Visit the website at [www.rivercenternh.org](http://www.rivercenternh.org) to learn more about The River Center and the programs offered. You might learn about a new resource, explore volunteering, or register for a program.

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## A Familiar Face at OFA

BY KIM ALLIS

Carol Connaire has been in publishing her whole professional life, even at *Yankee Magazine* back in the late 1990s and early 2000s when Tim Clark was the managing editor. Love drew her away from her family's stomping grounds (she has relatives here and there throughout New Hampshire) and she moved to Amherst, Massachusetts to start a family.

While in Amherst, Carol was the editor of the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Alumni Magazine. Later she worked in the library which also published a newsletter, and taught writing for ten years. She continued to write and submit articles to *Yankee* about food and gardening, so she was a known entity when the *Old Farmer's Almanac* was looking for its 14th editor since 1792.

Carol had already decided to make a major change once her daughter was old enough to go to college. When she noticed the "help wanted" ad in the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, it seemed like perfect serendip-



ity. Carol was not so much hired as "welcomed back."

She has been working at *OFA* since June 2023, and since June she has been looking to buy a (small) house with a big garden. Gardening is one of her most essential things, and she is trying not to get discouraged at the elusiveness of her future home ... in the meantime, her bush bean plant is doing very well in its (she hopes) temporary home under a grow light near her office.

KIM ALLIS is on the staff of the Advocate.

## March Offerings from the Harris Center

### Wildlife Crossings: Book Talk and Workshop

#### *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet*

Roads are so ubiquitous that they're practically invisible to us, but wild animals experience them as entirely alien forces of disruption. Award-winning environmental journalist and author Ben Goldfarb will discuss his newest book, *Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet*, on Thursday, March 7, from 5:30–6:30 pm via Zoom.

### *Salamander Crossing Brigade Workshop*

Every year, the Harris Center trains community scientists to serve on Salamander Crossing Brigades at amphibian road crossings throughout the Monadnock Region. Attend this fun, information-packed volunteer training to join their ranks – or simply to learn more about the remarkable spring amphibian migration – on Thursday, March 14, from 7–8:30 pm via Zoom.

Go to [harriscenter.org/programs-and-education](http://harriscenter.org/programs-and-education) to register.

### Summer Camp Registration Opens March 1

Summer adventure awaits at the Harris Center! Campers will roam wild wetlands, climb cairn-covered peaks, scan the skies for raptors, paddle nearby ponds, and more. **Registration opens March 1** at 9 am *online only* via the website ([harriscenter.org](http://harriscenter.org)). To prepare, you can set up your account beforehand by visiting the registration portal, clicking "Sign in/Sign up" in the upper right-hand corner, and creating a new account. Call the Harris Center office (603-525-3394) with questions.

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## Blight-Resistant Trees Offer Hope for Forests

BY KATIE FEATHERSTON

The list of North American trees negatively affected by invasive insects and disease is long and includes some of the most beautiful trees in the forest. Here in New England, we are all familiar with the loss of chestnut trees due to chestnut blight, starting in the early 20th century, and elm trees due to Dutch elm disease, which first appeared in 1928. Now we face the loss of ash trees from the emerald ash borer and hemlock trees from the woolly adelgid and hemlock looper. Beech trees are threatened by leaf disease and bark disease.

The mighty chestnut began to fall victim to chestnut blight, a fungus introduced from Asia, in the early 1900s. It took a mere 40 years to kill some 3.5 billion trees of this notable forest giant.

Anyone who has seen old pictures of Keene will be familiar with the devastation caused by Dutch elm disease. Practically every beautiful elm tree in the Elm City has been wiped out after being infected with DED, another fungal disease imported from Asia, which spread from tree to tree by bark beetles.

The eastern hemlock is susceptible to a number of pests, the most recent being the hemlock woolly adelgid, first sighted in Michigan in 1951 – and, once again, imported from Asia. HWA is a tiny aphid-like bug that sucks the tree's sap, but hemlocks also endure attack from hemlock loopers and scale insects.

Beech bark disease, first noticed in 1929 in Massachusetts, is caused by infestation of scale insects followed by fungal infections. The more recent beech leaf disease is caused by a nematode.

This brings us to the beautiful ash tree, or as it has come to be referred to, the poor, doomed ash. The emerald ash borer may be a lovely little green beetle, but it is a highly destructive pest. Hundreds of millions of ash trees have been killed since it was first discovered in Michigan in 2002. Another import from Asia, it has no natural predators here.

Is there any hope for these species? Science has been addressing that question since the 1930s. The mission of The American Chestnut Foundation is “to restore the



American Chestnut tree to the forests of Eastern North America by breeding genetically diverse blight-resistant trees, evaluating various approaches to the management of Chestnut pests and pathogens, and reintroducing the trees into the forest in an ecologically acceptable manner.” The Elm Institute in Keene is one of several organizations that has helped to release 10 resistant elm cultivars in North America, although none are immune to Dutch elm disease, and none have yet reached maturity of 60 years.

Using genetics to breed resistant trees is nothing new, but today we have more tools with which to do it. The Great Lakes Basin Forest Health Collaborative at Holden Forest and Gardens in Ohio supports a network of partners in tree resistance breeding activities around ash, hemlock, and beech trees. They are looking in the forest for ash trees they call “lingering,” which means a healthy, mature tree living in a natural area that has been infested enough that many of the other trees of the same species have already died. Cuttings from the lingering trees are grafted to root stock. Research

shows resistance to the emerald ash borer is passed to the first generation and then increased by crossing with the resistant Asian ash tree.

As you can imagine, this is a long process, but it offers a glimmer of hope for the ash.

For more information about breeding trees for sustainable forests, visit the website [bit.ly/4foresthealth](http://bit.ly/4foresthealth).

KATIE FEATHERSTON is a member of the Conservation Commission.



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## Dublin Property Reevaluations Coming in 2024

For tax year 2024, all property values will be updated to market value as of April 1, 2024. With the real estate market fluctuations over the past few years, many property owners will see values increase substantially, however not all by the same percentage as others. Valuations are heavily dependent on local sale properties, location, quality, size, condition, and previous assessment, among other factors. Just because some values increase or decrease, it *does not necessarily mean* that your taxes will increase or decrease.

Taxes are based on the combined budgets for the town, school, and county. The tax rate is determined by taking the total of those budgets divided by the overall value of the town to arrive at a tax rate to “pay the bills.” Unfortunately, there is no way to determine the impact of the update until after the values are finalized and until after the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) calculates the total amount of money needed. That process takes place in the fall, usually in October, with the town’s tax rate as the end result.

As part of this process, Avitar assessors have attempted to visit every property to verify that the physical data is accurate. This is especially important for the sale properties, as they become the basis for the new values. Once we analyze the sales and develop preliminary values, there will be a field review of the entire town, which is just a drive-by, parcel by parcel, of every property to verify location, site characteristics, and quality.

Once the preliminary process is complete, notices with the new preliminary values will be mailed to every property owner. That notice will include information needed to schedule a phone appointment with an Avitar representative to discuss your assessment, should you have questions. Also included in the notice are instructions to access the online database and review the information about your property and every other property in town, including the sale properties that were used to help establish the new values.

As part of this process, the DRA has some oversight responsibilities, which include visiting a sampling of properties

to verify data accuracy and monitoring the hearing process. Once the update has been completed, Avitar will deliver a manual that describes the process in detail. The DRA will also review that manual for compliance with applicable state law. If, at the end of the process, you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the town. They will take your contact details, and Avitar will reach out.

## Hearth Cooking: Maple Sugaring Time

March is maple sugaring time! Join the Prescott family on Saturday, March 9, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Phoenix Mill House, located directly behind the Monadnock Center’s main building at 19 Grove Street, Peterborough. This open house program will be devoted to treats both sweet and savory featuring maple syrup and maple sugar. Our costumed interpreters will be cooking over the open fire using 1830s period recipes and authentic cooking equipment, and sharing the history of maple sugaring in New England.

Admission is free and donations are encouraged.



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## Junior Creatives Prepare for MAXT Market Day

In collaboration with The River Center, MAXT presents its second Junior Creative Session, Maker's Market, on Wednesdays from 3–5 pm from March 20–April 17 and May 1–15. The spring session brings new and exciting ways for middle schoolers to express their creativity, build maker skills, and work as a team to produce a final piece.

This session, the Junior Creatives mean

business! On May 15, MAXT will be turned into a beautiful miniature market full of fantastic creations, open to friends and family. Only one problem: There are currently no booths, no goods, and not even any artisans!

Time to get to work! The Junior Creatives will get right into making and creating pieces with six different types of media, involving different skills. Each week,

they'll be given the freedom to pursue their own theme and designs. Then it's on to designing their booths to showcase their creations. Finally, friends, family, and the community are invited to a big party – like the annual summer tradition of the Night Market.

Register at [maxt-makerspace.org](http://maxt-makerspace.org).



## End 68 Hours of Hunger

Dubliners continue to be generous supporters of End 68 Hours of Hunger, including donating to the successful January food drive that Peterborough Fire & Rescue conducted in front of Shaw's. (Heads up: They're planning another one in April.) If you missed that drive or simply would like to contribute, would you consider our wish list of non-freezable items?

The collection area at the west-side entrance of the Dublin Community Church turns into a freezer as the temperature dips, so this month we especially welcome donations of mac & cheese, Ramen noodles, nutrition bars, pancake mix, corn muffin mix, and oatmeal – all of which are just fine in these colder temps. Thank you very much!

### March 14 is Pi Day

What is Pi Day? Pi Day occurs on March 14, because the date is written as 3/14 in the United States. If you're a serious math geek, celebrate the day exactly at 1:59 a.m. or p.m. so you can reach the first six numbers of pi, 3.14159. March 14 is also Albert Einstein's birthday.

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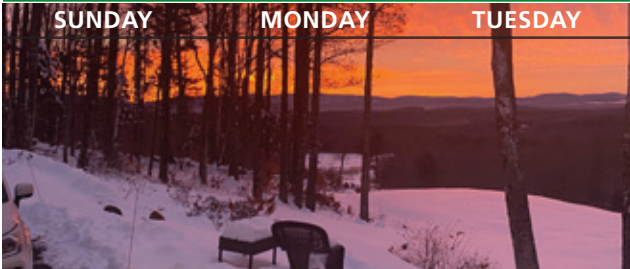
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603-903-1348 Fax

877-463-7710 Toll Free

## MARCH 2024 Calendar

Photo by Frank Rizzo

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>DCC</b> Dublin Community Church <b>DCS</b> Dublin Consolidated School <b>DPL</b> Dublin Public Library <b>HUB</b> Dublin Community Center <b>TH</b> Town Hall, Dublin <b>WR&amp;RC</b> Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee		<b>1 Harris Ctr.</b> Camp registration opens; <b>Walden School</b> applications due; <b>HUB/Zoom</b> Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	<b>2 DPL</b> Stories & Songs 10:30am; Name the Newsletter contest begins; <b>TH</b> Supervisors of Checklist 11am
	<b>3 HUB</b> Song Circle 3-5pm  <b>4 HUB</b> Iyengar Yoga 9-10:15am; Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; <b>TH</b> Cemetery Com. 9am	<b>5 HUB</b> Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; <b>TH</b> DEAC 5:30pm	<b>6 HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; Storytime with crafts 10:30am	<b>7 DPL</b> After School Lego Club; Game Night 4-6pm; Harris Ctr./Zoom Author talk 5:30pm; <b>TH</b> Planning Bd 6pm	<b>8 HUB/Zoom</b> Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; Art Reception 5-7pm	<b>9 DPL</b> Dublin Democrats 10am
	<b>10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> begins; <b>First Day of RAMADAN</b> begins at sundown	<b>11 HUB</b> Iyengar Yoga 9-10:15am; Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; <b>TH</b> WR&RC 5pm	<b>12 TH</b> Town Elections 8am-7pm; <b>HUB</b> Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herb Class 7-9pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; <b>TH</b> DEAC 5:30pm	<b>13 HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; <b>DPL</b> Storytime and Crafts 10:30am; After School Lego Club; Library Board Mtg 5pm	<b>14 DPL</b> After School Lego Club; Game Night 4-6pm; WR&RC 4:45pm; <b>Harris Center/Zoom</b> Salamander Crossing Workshop 7pm	<b>16 DCS</b> Town Meeting 9am; <b>HUB</b> Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-3pm; Open Mic 7-10pm
	<b>17 ST PATRICK'S DAY</b>	<b>18 HUB</b> Iyengar Yoga 9-10:15am; Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club	<b>19 SPRING</b> begins <b>HUB</b> Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Potluck and Projects 5:30-7:30pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; <b>TH</b> DEAC 5:30pm	<b>20 HUB</b> Coffee & Conv. 10am-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; Storytelling Circle 6:30pm; <b>DPL</b> Storytime w/Crafts 10:30am; After School Lego Club; Papa Joe 3:30pm; <b>TH</b> Cons. Com. 5pm	<b>21 DPL</b> After School Lego Club; Game night 4-6pm; <b>TH</b> Planning Bd 6pm	<b>22 HUB/Zoom</b> Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; <b>DCS</b> Pizza/Movie Night
	<b>24 PALM SUNDAY</b>  <b>31 EASTER SUNDAY</b>	<b>25 HUB</b> Iyengar Yoga 9-10:15am; Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club	<b>26 HUB</b> Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; <b>TH</b> DEAC 5:30pm; <b>DCC</b> Community Supper 5:30pm	<b>27 HUB</b> Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong 12-1pm; <b>DPL</b> After School Lego Club; Storytime w/ Crafts 10:30am; Mrs. Garland's 3rd Grade 10:30am	<b>28 DPL</b> After School Lego Club; Game Night 4-6pm	<b>29 GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>HUB</b> Knit/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am  <b>30</b>

THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE may be found online and in color at [WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM](http://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](mailto:DublinAdvocate@gmail.com).

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