The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Dublin, NH 03444

Congratulations to Dublin's College Graduates

Andrew Fletcher graduated from Bob Jones University in December 2023, having completed a Bachelor of Arts in



communications and a Bachelor of Science in ministry and leadership. He is currently living in Ogden, Utah, and working part-time as the promotions

manager for the Sego Lily Foundation, a Christian nonprofit dedicated to supporting local Utah churches. He is also working full-time for Net Lease Capital Advisors, a New Hampshire—based real estate company, doing real estate analysis in 1031 exchanges. In the next few years, he plans to transition full-time into the Sego Lily Foundation while still working and investing in the real estate industry.

Catrina Kipka is graduating from Emmanuel College in Boston in May. Catrina has completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in



business management with a concentration in legal studies. She was recently welcomed into the Sigma Beta Delta honor society for business majors.

Some of her achievements include being the elected class president "Class of 2024" and the co-founder/vice president of the Tennis Club at Emmanuel. Her time in Boston has been full of activities: shop-

Celebrate Your High School Graduate!

n the June Advocate, we will celebrate Dublin high school graduates. Send photos and a brief bio to dublinadvocate@gmail.com by May 15.

ping, Red Sox games, Kenmore Properties internship, and studying. Catrina plans to stay in Boston after graduation and enter the working world. She is very happy about her new apartment in Jamaica Plain.

Agnes Macy is graduating from Bowdoin College where she earned a degree in anthropology and environmental studies and was captain of the nordic ski team. Her



honors thesis was based on the anthropological fieldwork she completed in Greenland last summer (see *Dublin Advocate*, August 2023). After graduation, Aggie will participate in the Rocky Mountain Archeology Alpine Science Institute, excavating the Wiggins Fork Bison Jump Complex in Wyoming, and will work for Cannon Heritage Consultants on an archaeology crew this fall.



Timothy Murray graduates from Fairwood Bible Institute in May, finishing the three-year program. He plans to work for the Dublin Lake

Club and at the Golf

Course this summer. Timothy plans to attend Houghton University as a history major this fall and hopes to participate on the cross-country and volleyball teams.

Lucy Selby graduates from Guilford Col-

lege in North Carolina with a double major in sociology and anthropology, and community and justice studies. Lucy was the recipient of the Academic



Excellence Award from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. This fall, Lucy will pursue a master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Otto Vogel will graduate in June from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music with a Bachelor of Music in voice and opera performance. During his four



years at Northwestern, he was music director for many shows, culminating in the 81st annual Dolphin Show, *Kinky Boots*, and the fall mainstage, *The*

Prom. He also sang with and co-directed the Renaissance Singers, a student-run small vocal ensemble. After graduation, Otto will jump right into the professional world as music director of Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus at the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Illinois, and Falsettos at the Court Theatre in Chicago.

Caroline Yates graduates from the University of New Hampshire with a Bachelor of Science in community environmental planning and a dual major in sustainability. She is currently interning at the UNH Campus

Stewardship office as an assistant planner and will pursue a career in environmental planning. Caroline volunteered and worked at the UNH ceramics studio for the past two



years, and she interned for two summers at the Sharing Arts Center in Dublin. She will continue to incorporate ceramic art into her life after graduation.

Congratulations to all!

News from the Dublin Public Library

BY KAREN MADIGAN

A longtime friend shocked me recently by asking, "People don't really use libraries anymore, do they?" That was a dagger to the heart; how could she think that? Taking a deep breath, I replied, "Let me explain what libraries do."

Off I went, spewing forth on all the glowing attributes of libraries around the world, their history, the "palaces for the people" Andrew Carnegie built in Europe and the United States starting in 1881, the big ideas libraries represent. That was not what she wanted to hear, though, so I took a different tack.

"Do you realize how much money you save by going to the library? Many libraries print a receipt, just like the grocery store does, showing your savings by checking out versus buying."

"They do?"

"Yes, and that's not counting free Wi-Fi, answering questions, book recommendations, computer help, or the programs we offer. Everything is free – eclipse glasses; beverages and snacks; events; meeting rooms; job-hunting assistance; and information in person, by phone, or email. If you have a library card – also free at DPL – you have access to thousands of books, magazines, music, and movies online. In many states, including New Hampshire, you can borrow free materials from any library in the state too."

Silence. Then, "No, I didn't know that. I thought you just had books, and since everyone reads on their electronic devices now, they don't need libraries. I don't want to pay taxes for something I don't use."

"So use it! The tax money is tiny for all the benefits. A lot of people visit the library at least once a week; and some visit more

if they bring kiddos to story times or listen to guest speakers, or if they just want to read the paper, play Legos or board games, or grab a puzzle to take home. More and more, people come to libraries to find help for health issues, government programs like SNAP and Medicaid, or tax filing or just to find a quiet spot to unwind, study, or do (free) genealogy."

I continued with the tough stuff. Libraries are often under attack by groups wanting to prevent you from reading what you want and by so-called First Amendment activists who verbally attack, hoping to make librarians lose their temper so they can post videos of it and make money.

In my former library, I spent five years observing people scream obscenities at others – or no one – and punch people, especially our security guards. Yes, many libraries have full-time security, too. None of us signed up for confrontations like that and worse. We chose libraries because we love books, facts, offering help, and doing detective work. Yet here we are on the front lines, part of one of the greatest social experiments in history.

While many wonderful libraries in New Hampshire are free of problematic issues (for now), some of them deal with that stress every day while offering up reading suggestions, electronics help, and story times – all with a smile. So, if you ever hear someone suggest libraries are a thing of the past, send them for a chat with us. We have some stories to tell about fierce and resilient palaces for the people.

KAREN MADIGAN is the director of the Dublin Public Library.

Six-Month Progress Report at DPL

BY CHRIS SPRAGUE

Considering Dublin is a town of 1,500 people, library activity over the past six months says a lot about our 768 cardholders. These patrons are active consumers of information! Since October 2024, patrons checked out 4,966 books (832 books/month). This number is up 40%. We've had 2,329 visits (388 visits/month).

That's 180% growth since October.

Beyond books, the community comes to the library for experiences. On Easter weekend, some 90 pancake-filled grandparents, parents, and children were escorted by the Easter Bunny from the DubHub to the library for an egg hunt. They found over 100 eggs in our collection plus certificates for book prizes.

Experiences like these translate to patrons making the library a regular stop on their trips through town. Said simply, the library can be part of a weekly habit. If you haven't made it a habit yet, stop by

and meet our knowledgeable and friendly staff. Enjoy the benefit of the taxes you pay. See you soon.

CHRIS SPRAGUE is chair of the Dublin Public Library Trustees.



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Get Ready for Fall Elections

BY KYLF WILCOX

This is a busy election year for New Hampshire residents, with two more elections coming in the fall. The state primary will be on September 10, and the general election will take place on November 5.

Here are a couple of helpful reminders to prepare for these election opportunities:

Are you registered to vote in Dublin? You can easily check by looking at one of two public voter lists located at Town Hall and the post office. Look for the black binder hanging on the information bulletin boards. The list shows everyone who is registered to vote in Dublin and what their current party affiliation is: DEM (Democrat), REP (Republican), or UND (Undeclared or Independent).

If your name is not on the voter list, you can register at the town clerk's office or at the public session held by the supervisors of the checklist on Tuesday, June 4, at 7 pm in Town Hall. New voters should bring proof of U.S. citizenship (e.g., U.S. passport, birth certificate), Dublin residence (e.g., utility bill, NH driver's license), and photo ID (e.g., driver's license, U.S. passport).

MEMORIAL DAY exercises will be held on Monday, May 27, at 11:15 am. The parade will form at 11 at the Yankee parking lot. All veterans are encouraged to attend. Veterans who need to ride in the parade, please contact Brian Barden at 603-803-1365 or 603-563-8006. This year's speaker will be Traceymay Kalvaitis, pastor of the Dublin Community Church.

Do you want to change your political party? You can change your party affiliation any time up to June 4, either at the town clerk's office or by attending the public session held by the Supervisors of the Checklist on Tuesday, June 4, at 7 pm in Town Hall. The most frequent reason to change parties is to change back to Undeclared. At a primary election, undeclared voters will choose

which party ballot they want. After voting in the primary, those voters will be able to request to return to Undeclared.

If you have other questions regarding registering to vote or helping with elections, attend the public session on Tuesday, June 4, and speak with the Supervisors of the Checklist.

KYLE WILCOX is a member of the Supervisors of the Checklist.

What Is New Hampshire's Executive Council?

BY MARY LOFTIS

Tt's impossible to ignore the fact that **▲**2024 is an election year. In addition to national office, candidates are lining up for state races: governor, state senator, state representative – and executive councilor, a position that's uniquely important in New Hampshire government but not well understood. The Executive Council, sometimes called the Governor's Council, has five members, each representing approximately one-fifth of the population and a large geographical swath of the state. No other state has an Executive Council as powerful as New Hampshire's: With just three votes, the council can override the governor. The council, which meets in public, has been compared to a board of directors for the state. Its important functions include:

- Approving expenditures by all state departments and agencies of over \$10,000
- Approving a major portion of the billions of dollars appropriated annually by the legislature.
- Ensuring that state departments don't spend more than authorized.
- Approving the appointment of judges, commissioners, notaries public, justices

of the peace, and commissioners of deeds.

- Hearing pardon requests.
- Overseeing the state's infrastructure, especially roads and bridges.
- Overseeing appointees to the executive branch of state government: commissioners, department heads, and citizen members of regulatory boards, agencies, and commissions.
- Confirming district, superior, and state supreme court justices.

Councilors are elected every two years. Dublin is in District 2, and our councilor, Cinde Warmington, is not seeking reelection; instead she is running for governor. After a primary in September, a new councilor will be elected to this important position on November 5. Please learn about the candidates – and cast your vote!

MARY LOFTIS is on the staff of the Advocate.

Attention High School Seniors

Applications for a scholarship to help fund post high school education for Dublin residents are due to the Dublin Community Foundation by May 15. Applications are available from school counselors or at dcf-nh.org.



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DCA Students Serve First Responders

BY BETHANY PAQUIN

Service was the word of the day at Dublin Christian Academy on April 10. The school dedicated the entire day to recognizing and serving state and local first responders. Children in preschool through 12th grade created thank-you banners and put together 150 gift bags for first responders in Dublin and several other communities that DCA students call home, including Jaffrey, Rindge, Peterborough, New Ipswich, and Keene.

Beginning with an all-school assembly with Dublin Police Chief Timothy Suokko,



Dublin Fire Chief Tom Vanderbilt, and three other department volunteers, the day focused on serving others, one of DCA's core values. Students learned about how first responders sacrifice to meet the needs of their communities.

Students adorned nine thank-you banners with their names and artwork, and filled gift bags with some practical items, snacks, and treats, tied up with a note of thanks from the school. DCA juniors and seniors spent the afternoon traveling around to deliver the banners and gifts for first responders in the town of Dublin, the New Hampshire State Police Troop C in Keene, Jaffrey Police/Fire/EMT, Rindge Police, Peterborough Fire, New Ipswich Police, and Souhegan Valley Ambulance.

BETHANY PAQUIN is the director of institutional advancement at Dublin Christian Academy.

News from the ConVal School District

BY ALAN EDELKIND

This will be my last article about consolidation for the foreseeable future.

The consolidation project has had, and continues to have, a significant impact on our ConVal community as a whole and on Dublin in particular. It has inspired people to be more involved in ConVal matters than ever before. This is a good thing for the most part. Most folks were very civil, regardless of their side of the issue.

From the beginning, when I was named chairman of the committee in charge of the consolidation issue, the school board has been open, transparent, and community involved. Working in a public school environment presented its unique challenges. Am I disappointed in the results of the community voting on article 10? Yes, I am. I didn't expect it to go that way, with the percentages that resulted.

We accepted the Prismatic recommen-

dation, with the right to modify it based on a further year of analysis to determine the elementary schools that would be involved and in what sequence. Article 10 was designed to give the school board the authority to implement its future decisions. I feel the vote on Article 10 should have been delayed until we completed our analysis in order to answer all outstanding questions, determine affected towns and schools, and decide the implementation sequence.

Continued on page 15

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DCS Welcomes Spring

BY NICOLE PEASE

Mother Nature brought a huge surprise in early April – and we had two snow days! Despite late-season storms, there are many signs of spring. As part of the 3rd grade bird study, the students enjoyed the experience of hatching chicken eggs, learning about the life cycle of chickens, as well as how humans work to mimic nature. In addition, DCS students, staff, and families enjoyed Henry Walters' falconry presentation to our school.

The big event in April was the solar eclipse. Students learned about the science behind this event as well as the importance of eye safety. With careful guidance from staff, students observed the eclipse wearing safety glasses purchased by the district. Many parents joined us for the event.

May brings the start of spring assessments. DCS students worked diligently to improve their fall scores on the computerized MAP testing. This winter, 13% more students achieved above the designated benchmark than did in the fall; additionally, 16% more students achieved this level in reading. Staff and students will prepare to show their best growth this spring.



The Cornucopia Project returns to get the gardens ready for the growing season and planting. Ashuelot Concerts will be holding a musical performance for the school. DCS students will be showcasing a giant raven puppet (the school mascot) for the Children and the Arts Parade. At the end of May, the whole school will be heading to the Ecotarium in Worcester to enjoy a day of science exploration. We are very fortunate to have our students participate in these events!

Kindergartners are wanted! If you have or know of a child who will be five years old before September 30, please contact our school. Feel free to stop by and visit; we love to have the community see what is going on in our special school. Just give a call first at 603-563-8332.

NICOLE PEASE is the DCS principal teacher.

Transfer Station News

The Select Board is happy to welcome John McManus as he takes on the duties of superintendent at the transfer station. Having run his own business for nine years, John comes to the position with a solid background in operating heavy equipment and property maintenance. John leaves his current position at Waste Man-

agement in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to join our town's staff. Please welcome John on your next visit to the transfer station.

Transfer Station Stickers

The town will reimplement a sticker program. Free stickers will be available at the town clerk/tax collector's office later in the spring with verification of residency. Stay tuned for more updates.





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Mother's Day Tributes

A Glass Half-Full Outlook

BY SUSAN PETERS

y mother, Jean Hudson Peters, loved **▲**northern New England. From her childhood home in Waban, Massachusetts, she spent several summers at camp in Hillsborough, New Hampshire. As a teenager in the 1940s, she skied at Suicide Six (Woodstock, Vermont) and some of NH's



lost ski areas. Some years later, she lived in "Quonset hut" housing in Hanover, NH, with my father, a surgical resident at Mary Hitchcock Hospital, where my older

sister, Ann, was born in 1955. When my family moved to Dublin in 1994, Mom was thrilled, though she had heard cautionary tales about driving around Cemetery Cove.

Growing up in the 1960s, my sisters and I discovered a passion for skiing and northern New England. Mom would scout out economical lodging for school holidays, and we would head north from suburban Boston with a few other families. With two bunk rooms, two small first-floor bedrooms, and cozy kitchen and living room, the Appalachian Mountain Club's house at Cardigan Mountain was a favorite. Our father (raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi) quickly found a love for skiing, and he didn't mind that we children could out-ski him. Mom found ski areas where the lodge had big windows and a view of the action on the slopes. King Ridge (lodge at the top of the mountain, with views of skiers disembarking from the T-bars), Ragged Mountain, and Suicide Six were family favorites.

Mom made all this happen despite not being able to ski – or walk – herself, due to a car accident in 1950, a few weeks after her 21st birthday. She brought her passion for the outdoors and her organizational skills to bear to ensure that her husband and three daughters could enjoy activities she had loved. This was before the days of adaptive skiing, handicappedaccessible doorways and bathrooms, and designated disabled parking. While we skied, Mom would hold down the fort in the lodge, knitting and handing out tuna sandwiches from the cooler when we came in for warming breaks. A "glass half-full" person, Mom would greet us with a smile and questions about our day, which pretty much sums up how she approached life in her 64 years of living as a paraplegic. Mom passed away on May 16, 2014, at age 85.

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

Ansbach to Richmond -Mom's Journey

BY RUTH THOMPSON

Born Helene Böeßenecker in 1933 in Ansbach, Germany, Mom was one of nine children. When her father was killed in the war, her mother was left to raise

them. Mom and her siblings worked just to survive. They kept a garden, and raised chickens for eggs and meat. Her mother would barter vegetables for food. Mom can still remember hearing



air raid sirens when she was eleven, and running home from school to get to a shelter Her older brother and sister both died of TB in their early 20s, and Mom spent a year in the hospital but somehow survived it. Those are all hard memories that she cannot erase. But, through it all, she retained her hope for the future.

Mom learned the trade of candy making and went to work in a *konditorei* (confectionery shop) in 1956, where she met a handsome American Army soldier, George Blais. They spoke different languages but found a way to communicate. She was afraid to bring him home to meet her mother, but when she did, Oma couldn't help but love him, too. They married in 1957 in Germany, and Dad brought Mom home to meet his Canadian French family who all spoke French! He had been teaching her English – so there was a lot of smiling.

The couple first lived in Troy. While Dad worked as an airplane mechanic, Mom made beautiful sweaters on a knitting machine she had brought with her from Germany. Her label was "Helene of Troy." Three children later, they bought the Richmond 4 Corner Store. Some of Mom's fondest memories are of running the store. My younger sister was born, and Mom raised and nurtured the four of us with love and attention while helping dad with all it took to run a successful business. My parents sold the store in 1972. Now 90 years old, Mom tries to be active every day – and she is always our inspiration! RUTH THOMPSON is on the board of the DubHub.

Just the Gift I Needed

BY MARY LOFTIS

y mother, Anne Loftis, never lived in Dublin for more than a summer at a time, but it is because of her that this town

continued on next page



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has been my home for 43 years. Mom was a New Yorker who had spent childhood summers in Vermont. Her first job after college was as a reporter for the *Hanover* (NH) Gazette. But right after World War II, she married my father, whose job took them to California, where my sisters and



I grew up in the foothills west of Palo Alto.

Although she became an enthusiastic Californian and spent her writing career documenting the state's social history, Mom

was always nostalgic for New England. Through a friend, she learned of a house for sale on Pierce Road in Dublin: the rammed earth "Russian house," build by artist Gouri Ivanov-Rinov, where the Lasky family now lives. My parents purchased the house in the late 60s and spent some happy Dublin summers here. One

year, Mom learned that the Dublin Community Church was seeking housing for a Cambodian refugee family. She offered up the house – and wasn't even fazed when she learned that the family was raising chickens in one of the upstairs bedrooms!

In 1981, I was the refugee. At a crossroads in my young adult life, Mom suggested I alight in Dublin to figure things out. During my first winter on Pierce Road, it seemed to snow every other day, and my first Dublin friend, Sarah Burt (who was living in the cottage on the property), and I shoveled the driveway by hand, storm after storm. After that arduous season, I felt a connection to the place. I got a teaching job in Keene, joined the Dublin Community Church, met Paul Tuller, and – little by little – Dublin became my town.

Since my mother died at the age of 101 last November, I have thought of her many gifts. One of the most remarkable was her instinct to give people just what they needed at just the right moment. She was a Californian who gave me Dublin, New Hampshire.

MARY LOFTIS is on the staff of the Advocate.

Summer Is About Play

The Town of Dublin is pleased to offer L our Summer Playground Program for the 2024 season. Zola Luebkeman will again be the playground director. She comes to us with a wealth of experience. A schoolteacher for almost 20 years, she is currently employed at Fuller School in Keene. You will also recognize some of our counselors; three of them are returning for more summer fun!

The summer program will run July 8– August 9, Monday-Friday, rain or shine. It is open to all Dublin children ages 5–12. The program will run from 9 am-3 pm.

Summer Playground is held at Dublin Consolidated School. We offer a host of fun activities for kids, and we also give kids plenty of time to simply play with one another. Daily attendance is not required, so families have freedom and flexibility to take trips and spend time together.

The cost is \$250 for all five weeks of camp; \$150 per sibling (financial aid is available). Registration information will be on the town website beginning in May.

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Fuller, town administrator, at 603-563-8544.

Summer Beach News

BY NICOLE PEASE

A Te know that with our ever-changing New Hampshire weather patterns, some of us may doubt that summer will ever arrive in Dublin. Trust me, it will! The Dublin Women's Community Club is already working hard to make sure we can enjoy summer and that the beach is ready.

The call for lifeguards and sailing instructors has gone out. If you know of

anyone interested in a position, please contact Connie Cerroni at connieocerroni@gmail.com.

Cleanup for opening day is scheduled for 10 am. June 15 (rain date June 16). Everyone is invited to join in the fun of getting the beach house and grounds ready. Please consider



COMMUNITY CLUB

bringing your own rakes, shovels, and other tools. There is something for everyone to do: gardening, sweeping, organizing toys, putting out the docks, meeting neighbors, and making new friends.

The beach will officially open on June 24, with swim lessons tentatively set to begin on June 26. Membership letters will be sent out in mid-May. Please look for yours in an email or via snail-mail. You can also contact Nancy Campbell, treasurer, at 603-563-8480. Your membership will be the best value for your dollar ever. You will be joining a community of summer fun and creating many family memories. See you there!

NICOLE PEASE is a member of the Dublin Women's Community Club.



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May 2024 Events at the DubHub

Song Circle, Sunday, May 5

All are welcome, musicians and audience alike, at Song Circle, which meets the first Sunday of each month from 3–5 pm. Musicians can share favorite songs 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.

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee & Conversation meets on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10 am–noon. All are welcome.

Adult Yoga on Mondays

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

Early AM Yoga on Tuesdays

Early Morning Yoga with Meenakshi Moses is held from 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. Please bring your own yoga mat. For information, email Meenakshi at moses@namarupa.org.

DubHub Open Hours on Tuesdays

The DubHub is open every Tuesday 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 is held from 12–1 pm. \$12 for a single class, or \$10 per class when paying for the month up front.

Knit with Nancy on Fridays

Knit with Nancy via Zoom on Fridays at 10 am. Email npcayford@myfairpoint. net for information. Email npcayford@myfairpoint.net for information.

Book Reading & Discussion, Tuesday, May 7

Leaf Seligman will offer a brief reading from her new book, Being Restorative, followed by a talking circle designed to practice deep listening and curiosity around restorative ways of being that acknowledge our interconnectedness, with the understanding that well-being is interwoven. A restorative way of being strives to create communities knit together with empathy, compassion, accountability, and joy. Being restorative roots us in embodied practices that cultivate and support relationships and daily choices that nurture planetary well-being. All are welcome at this event which runs from 7-8:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30. For more information, contact Leaf at leaf1231@gmail.com.

Tea Party to Honor Mothers, Saturday, May 11

Let's celebrate all types of moms with a fancy Tea Party starting at 4 pm. Last year's tea party was a hit, so once again, you are invited to dress in your finest and enjoy a variety of teas brewed in lovely teapots, along with delectable tea party treats. This is a free event to honor the special women in our lives. To add to the fun, we invite you to bring along accessories such as scarves, hats, and costume jewelry you no longer wear. We will set them out on tables to swap. Leave some, take some! Any leftovers will be donated. We will also have a photo booth set up to help us savor the memories.

Calendars are always evolving. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page, 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 if you would like to be added to the Hubbub weekly mailing list.

Herbal Class with Katherine Gekas, Tuesday, May 14

Katherine Gekas has been teaching classes on how to stay healthy with herbs for over 10 years, and this month, she will focus on hormone health. Each participant will go home with resources for learning more. The 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.

Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle, Wednesday, May 15

n the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30–8:30 pm, the DubHub hosts the Monadnock Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle, an open mic to share stories, poetry, rap, comedy, or truly any kind of spoken word, going round the circle. The organizers are Sebastian Lockwood and Papa Joe Gaudet, both of whom have 20-plus years of experience as professional storytellers. All are welcome, participants and listeners! Coffee and tea will be available, and BYOB is welcome. For more information, contact Papa Joe at papajoestorytelling.com/ or Sebastian at bit.ly/ slockwood.



Art Show Public Reception, Friday, May 10

or the month of May, the DubHub will feature the works of four artists: Kate Odell, Joan Barrows, Kate Corr Frame, and Ann Sawyer, each of whom were selected for their compelling artistic portrayals of four-legged creatures of the animal kingdom. All are invited to come meet these outstanding artists at our public reception on Friday, May 10, from 5-7pm.

Kate Odell of Litchfield studied with watercolorist Beth Patterson for over four years. Past and current self-study has been in the form of books, videos, and trips to museums and galleries. Animals are a favorite subject, and capturing their likeness and personality is always the challenge. Kate paints in watercolor on



aquabord - a natural clay surface. Kate's work has been shown in galleries across New England.

Joan Barrows of Peterborough studied at the University of



Hartford Art School. Her interest has recently been in illustrating the native species of New Hampshire, including porcupines, coyotes, ravens, and turkeys, in acrylic paint on stretched drop cloth. All are black-and-white minimal compositions, often life-sized to illustrate the beings' beauty and character. Joan's work has been shown on the Monadnock Art Tour, at Oh! Gallery and at Bowerbird in Peterborough.

Kate Corr Frame attended the Rhode Island School of Design and Parsons School of Design and taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York. She pursued a career in advertising. producing award-winning work. Upon retiring to Hancock, Kate



returned to her passion for painting and finding the beauty in what's often overlooked or abandoned. Whether it's wilted flowers, an abandoned shack, or a four-legged friend, Kate paints her subjects with reverence and love. Her work has been shown in galleries across New England.

Ann Sawyer attended Simmons College, majoring in library science. In 1960, she came to her husband's dairy farm in Jaffrey, which provided joyful subject matter, but time to paint had to be squeezed in between chores. Good horses, loving cats, affectionate cows, charming chickens, comical pigs - all



awards, and she has exhibited in many juried shows, both locally and internationally. This show may be viewed throughout the month of May dur-

ing open hours or by appointment. For more information, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Coffee House & Open Mic, Saturday, May 18

n the third Saturday of each month, the DubHub hosts a combined Coffee House & Open Mic from 6:30–9:30 pm. A featured performance takes place for about 45-60 minutes, with open mic slots available.

This month, we are delighted to feature accomplished singersongwriter Charlie Koch.

Charlie's songs draw on his varied life experiences, from training young horses on a breeding farm in France to skipper-

ing a race boat for Buckminster Fuller. These days, he tours, playing bass for his wife, singer/ songwriter Cosy Sheridan. In his first CD, Help Me to Believe, Charlie sings of his father, also a sailor, and of his longing for a place to call home.

To reserve a spot on the open

mic sign-up, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org. A suggested donation of \$5 per person or more will help offset costs, and a hat will be passed for contributions to the featured performer(s).

Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, May 25

The Red Cross will conduct a blood ▲ drive from 9 am–3 pm. To make an appointment to give blood, go to redcrossblood.org.

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Listen for the Wood Frogs

BY KATIE FEATHERSTON

It's that magical time of year when the woods come alive with the sounds of

animals awakening from their long winter's sleep, and our local amphibians herald the arrival of spring! I hear so many people say, "The peepers are out," but typically, it is the terrestrial wood frogs that start calling first.

If you hear what you think are some noisy ducks, it is probably the adorable brown wood frogs gathering in large numbers in vernal pools. These small bodies of water that appear in depressions in the earth arrive with snow melt and spring rain and will dry up as spring moves into summer. That makes the timing of egg-laying critical. It must be warm enough for the adult frogs to come out of hibernation and get to a vernal pool and lay eggs, but not so warm that the water evaporates before the hatching tadpoles can grow legs and move into the forest. That egg-to-adult transition can take 10-30 days, depending on the tempera-

Calling All Peace Seekers!

hope to start a new column in the *Advocate* on inner peace. I'm seeking contributions from people who have learned or are learning how to cultivate peace within themselves and would like to share their thoughts and ideas. Email me at katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

KATHERINE GEKAS is Dublin's resident herbalist.

ture. Wood frogs are the only frog species found above the Arctic Circle, due to their incredible ability to partially freeze during the winter, thanks to an antifreeze-type substance that prevents the water in the

cells of their bodies from freezing and expanding.

The female wood frog is larger than the male, while males have larger "thumbs" for grasping onto other frogs. The male frog will latch onto

any frog, and if it's another male, that male will give out a squeak. The search will

continue until he finds a female, latches on, and releases sperm into the water while she lays eggs in a long string. When you hear the frogs calling, I recommend following the sound and watching this mating frenzy. Typically, each vernal pool will be full of frogs moving around, and you can see the long string of eggs being released by the female. At night, bring a flashlight and enjoy the glow of hundreds of frog eyes.

Vernal pools are important to many species. If you have a low, wet spot, don't drain it, but savor the chance to witness the return of spring celebrated by a host of amphibians.

KATIE FEATHERSTON is a member of the Conservation Commission.

Harris Center Wild Foraging Course



May 11–12, 9 am–4 pm Dublin Community Center and local field sites

The Harris Center presents this twoday course, an introduction to eating wild plants from our local watershed. The course will cover everything from field botany and plant identification to sustainable foraging, harvesting techniques, and food preparation.

Lucian Avery of Fox Paw School will guide participants in using their senses

to explore their surroundings, ground themselves in place, and discover May's wild flavors. Most of the days will be spent in the field, with some short classroom segments and time in the kitchen. This group will meet at the DubHub and local field sites. Cost is \$250 for Harris Center supporters and \$275 for all others.

Space is limited, and registration is required at harriscenter.org. For questions about registration, contact Miles Stahmann at stahmann@harriscenter.org. For all other information, including questions about accessibility, contact Susie Spikol at spikol@harriscenter.org.

Lucian Avery is a father, a blacksmith, and a backyard wanderer. He lives in Hardwick, Vermont, where he spends much of his time getting to know his wild neighbors. He walks the hills, watching birds, listening to frogs, feeling the wind, and tasting the weeds.





Get Help With Your Edible Landscape

BY JULIE RIZZO

A fter over 20 years working on organic farms in New England, Erin Hammond is ready to put her passion and experience into a new venture, Toad's Garden Design. Her dream is to work with clients to envision, design, install, and maintain "edible landscapes."

These might also include annual vegetable gardens, herb gardens, pollinator gardens, and rain gardens. Erin believes everyone can (and should!) grow their own food, reaping abundance from trees, shrubs, plants, and even weeds.

Erin earned her degree in education, with a concentration in conservation biology from Fitchburg State University, and also completed a permaculture design course in Alstead. She has been deeply influenced by the work of philosopher and scientist Rudolf Steiner, well-known for his distinctive Waldorf approach to education. Steiner pioneered the field of biodynamic agriculture, which promotes a holistic, ecological, and ethical approach to farming, gardening, food, and nutrition.

While an undergraduate, Erin spent a semester studying in the rainforest that



borders Belize and Guatemala. At the end of the semester, she recalls traveling by bus out of the lush rainforest and emerging suddenly onto a landscape scalded in blinding light. "The land had been clear-cut and planted with orange trees in straight rows for many miles – the soil was dead. Children as young as 3 years old and others as old as 70 or 80 were lugging giant bags of oranges." Suddenly a plane appeared overhead and started spraying the trees and the people working there. "The bus window was open, and the spray got in my face – it literally made me sick." She returned from the trip and immediately signed on to work at an organic farm in Massachusetts.

Erin applies systems that work with a landscape's existing features and honor nature's rhythms for planting, growing, and harvesting. She contrasts these methods with an approach to farming that aims to "dominate" the land through tilling, monoculture, and chemical fertilizers; even small, diverse farms are damaging the soil with tillage. Instead, she aims to design solutions that take advantage of the conditions already there. "The problem is the solution," she says. "If the problem is too much water, then the solution is plants that love water. If the problem is not enough sun, then plants like ginger and mushrooms can be a solution."

Working with a friend in Walpole who has an established greenhouse and approximately 200 acres of land with established permaculture gardens, Erin hopes that her friend and she will soon be equipped to supply the plant materials for her designs. She is also working with her daughter, who has a farm on Old County Road in Dublin, where they are beginning to propagate permaculture plants.

"If you want to change the world, there's no better way than by growing food," she says. "Everyone has to eat. If you can help people to understand where food really comes from, it will impact their lives and also the environment." If you're interested in contacting Erin about a project, email her at toadsgardendesign@gmail.com.

JULIE RIZZO is on the staff of the Advocate.

Spring Reading from Our Neighbors at Yankee Publishing

The 2024 Garden Guide blooms with color and inspiration, inviting gardeners of every skill level to embrace the journey along with the challenges and rewards. From the editors of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, the latest edition of the Garden Guide includes:

Making "Scents" of Fragrant Plants

When planning flower gardens, consider varieties that smell as beautiful as they look. Floral scents can reduce anxiety, improve mood, and even increase physical performance.

Exploring the Exotic, Edible, and "Evil" Sides of Growing

For centuries, plants have been cultivated for their medicinal properties, and there may be no better example than marijuana. Get into the weeds on how to grow *cannabis* at home. The guide also cautiously

befriends the thorny, spiny, and spiky plants of the gardening world. These notso-malevolent friends, like the prickly pear and Flying Dragon hardy orange, provide secure shelter for wildlife and make excellent property barriers and burglary deterrents.

Embracing Nontraditional Methods

Unravel the advantages of gravel and say goodbye (mostly) to watering and weeding. The *Guide* also decodes the pleasing patterns of matrix planting, a method of layering plants that delivers greater visual appeal than more traditional garden designs.

Getting Reacquainted with Portable Pots

Containers can enhance a space of any size with a splash of color, unique texture, and fun detail, and container gardening isn't dependent on inherently nutrient-rich soil or exact placement for soaking up the sun. The *Guide* shares secrets on how to keep hanging baskets abloom all season long and highlights some easy houseplants. The mutant digits of the Hobbit or Gollum jade plant add a wonderful "weirdness" to any room.

More from the 2024 Garden Guide

The *Garden Guide* covers myriad topics, including how to grow edible flowers to infuse cocktails, mocktails, and spritzers and find the heirloom tomato variety that suits your style. Plus, discover new ideas for cooking with carrots and the four ways gardening cultivates mindfulness – and more!

The *Garden Guide* is published annually and is available for \$7.99 online and at local booksellers.

MAXT Offers Woodturning Workshops

May is the month for woodturning at MAXT. On Saturday, May 4, Bryan Field will offer a one-day workshop from 10 am-4 pm entitled Green Woodturning. An introduction to woodturning using green wood, this is a perfect introductory



class. Bryan will take students through safety steps before demonstrating the wood lathe, including tool sharpening and blank preparation. Students will be guided through turning a bowl with a single gouge, using green wood to produce a bowl that will naturally change shape into a softened organic form as it dries.

On Wednesday, May 8, 6–9 pm, Doug

Finkel presents Introduction to Woodturning: Candlesticks, an introduction to spindle turning techniques on the lathe. Students will learn how to produce a unique candlestick from a single, solid blank. The class will cover basic lathe tools and safety and explore the process of turning straight, concave, and convex shapes. Students will learn about sequencing production steps and form and function.

Then, beginning on May 30, 6–9 pm, MAXT offers a multiweek course entitled Turning, Start to Finish, A Skill-Building Class to enhance design skills, from wood selection to the final finished piece. Students will have the opportunity to explore different types of gouges and will produce multiple pieces throughout the series. To register, visit maxtmakerspace.org.

Birding on the Farm Workshop Series

The Cheshire County Conservation
District is excited to announce the
continuation of the popular Birding on
the Farm workshop series. The multipart
birding workshop series will resume this
spring and run through 2024.

Participants will learn about farm habitat dynamics for birds, habitat management, wildlife conservation on the farm, and species identification from experienced bird guides. This workshop series is open to birders and enthusiasts of all skill levels. Participants may bring binoculars with them, and weather-appropriate dress and boots for walking are recommended.

This year's workshop series will kick off on Friday, May 10, at 7:30 am at Scott Farm Orchard, 707 Kipling Road, Dummerston, Vermont.

The event is free, and registration is required. For more information or assistance in online registration, please contact CCCD at 802-518-0993 or benee@ cheshireconservation.org.

Cheshire County Conservation District's mission is to promote the conservation and responsible use of our natural and agricultural resources for the people of Cheshire County by providing technical, financial, and educational resources.





Delfina Cheb and Anthony Coleman to Perform in Hancock

Sunday, May 5, 4 pm

Music on Norway Pond in Hancock is pleased to welcome back Argentinian chanteuse Delfina Cheb, this time accompanied by renowned jazz pianist Anthony Coleman. At 18 years old, she was awarded a scholarship for a double degree in jazz composition and voice performance at



Berklee College of Music, where she explored jazz and folkloric music from South America, North America, and the Balkans. She is currently continuing her research

on tango and South American music as a doctoral student at the New England Conservatory. As a performer, she has recorded two tango albums in Argentina, which she presented in Europe and Argentina over the last four years. As an educator, Delfina has led songwriting workshops for different communities in the Boston area.

From the Sarajevo Jazz Festival to the

Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, Poland, Anthony Coleman's musical odyssey has taken him through many cultures and led him to wear many hats as composer, improvising keyboardist, and teacher. Coleman joined the New England Conservatory faculty in 2006, returning to his alma mater. Coleman has presented his own work at jazz festivals in Bosnia, Holland, and Austria and at the Krakow and Vienna Jewish Culture Festivals. Coleman has recorded 13 CDs.

As a duo, Coleman and Cheb perform repertoire that includes Argentine tango,



Klezmer music, Sephardic music, and jazz. Using improvisation as a bridge and as a springboard, the two seek to find a way of expanding their own take on folkloric music through the exploration of elements of extended technique and free music.

Tickets for the performance may be purchased at musiconnorwaypond.org.

Always a veggie option!

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

May 28, 2024 5:30-6:30 pm

Chicken casserole or vegetable casserole, salad, bread, dessert. No reservation required. (donations optional but welcome)

General info: 603-313-3880



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End 68 Hours of Hunger

We're starting spring with a bang, with two big hunger-awareness events coming up. Both will benefit End 68 Hours of Hunger, and both are happening on May 4!

This year, the annual Monadnock Hunger Walk is hosted by Union Congregational Church, 33 Concord Street, Peterborough. You can help by forming a team and collecting checks made out to End 68 Hours of Hunger or a food pantry of your choice, to be turned in on the day of the walk. (Walking as a "team of one" is fine, too.) Interested? Details, including directions and sponsor sheets, are available on the Facebook page for the Monadnock Hunger Walk.

The other big event is a food drive by Peterborough Fire and Rescue. After the huge success of their last drive, we can't wait to see the results of this one! Once again, they'll be collecting food for End 68 Hours in front of Shaw's in Peterborough from 9 am—1 pm, and they'll have a wish list of needed foods that you can grab on your way in. If you can pick up a couple of extra items while you're doing your family shopping, you can help hungry kids.

The Dublin Fire Department will collect in front of the Dublin Fire Station on the same day at the same time.

If you are busy on May 4, you can still leave food donations at the west side entrance of the Dublin Community Church. Now that the danger of freezing is over for a while, our wish list this month includes canned chicken and tuna. Thank you so much for your continued support. Dubliners keep filling our shelves, and that support means a lot!

ADU Tours in Peterborough

In March, Dubliners passed a warrant article that allows one Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) "as a matter of right in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings." The Peterborough Affordable Housing Committee and the Office of Planning & Building are presenting two guided ADU tours on Wednesday, May 8, 4–6 pm and Saturday, May 11, 12–2 pm. These will be guided bus tours, showcasing local ADUs. Information packets and refreshments will be provided. Registration is required: tinyurl.com/ADUtour.

Dublin Dems to Meet

The Dublin Democratic Town Committee will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday, May 11, at 10 am in the Dublin Public Library. Tom Hsu, who is considering a run for state representative (Dublin, Jaffrey, and Rindge), will address the group.

The Gift of Thrift

(formerly known as the Rummage Sale)

Dublin Community Church

Friday, May 3, 9 am-5 pm, and

Saturday, May 4, 8-11 am.

The Gift of Thrift has clothing, jackets, shoes, linens, housewares, jewelry, handbags and accessories, sports equipment, toys, books and CDs, crafts, some antiques, and



more surprises waiting for you! This spring tradition takes place inside and outside (rain date is May 10–11, same times). Your voluntary donations go to support the church's outreach program. Please honor our start time!



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MONADNOCK

"Monadnock Comic Con" Debuts in Jaffrey

The Monadnock Region gets its own Comic Con on May 3-4.

Omic book conventions began in New York in 1964. They were small events and focused solely on comic books. Today, there are "comic cons" all over the world. The big daddy of comic conventions, San Diego Comic-Con, draws close



to 150,000 attendees every year. Now the Monadnock Region gets its own convention, the Monadnock Comic Con. The Park Theatre, Escape Hatch Books, and Team Jaffrey have joined together to produce the event on Friday, May 3, and Saturday,

May 4. It will include two days of comic books, characters in costume, movies, vendors, and much more. The event coincides with the National Free Comic Book Day on May 4. Escape Hatch Books, one of New England's leading

comic book stores, will be handing out free comic books on Saturday.

The Park Theatre will present the two newest (and critically acclaimed) animated Spider-Man movies, *Into the Spider-Verse* and *Across the Spider-Verse*, on both days. Additionally, the new hit documentary, *William Shatner: You Can Call Me Bill*, will be shown continuously, every two hours, starting at noon on Saturday, May 4.

Comic book and other characters will be in full costume for photographs and videos: Spider-Man, Beaver Boy, Mickey Mouse, T-Rex, Beauty & The Beast's Belle, and more. You will see them at the theatre or the bookstore (both located on same side of Main Street) and anywhere in between on both days.

The theatre will also house Comic Con

vendor tables from 11 am–7 pm on both Friday and Saturday. Vendors will include comic books, collectibles, crafts, and food. (Potential vendors can call 603-532-8888 to reserve a table, \$20/day).

For a full schedule of events and to purchase advance tickets to Monadnock Comic Con films, go to theparktheatre. org/comic-con, or call the box office at 603-532-8888.

The Park Theatre performing arts center is located at 19 Main Street in downtown Jaffrey. Escape Hatch Books is located at 27 Main Street.

News from ConVal School District continued from page 5

Activity on implementation will be "put on the back burner" as we deal with the analysis required to determine the future of two towns (Dublin and Francestown) within the ConVal School District, based on their individual town votes. This is a significant activity for your school board and administration, but we will do this analysis. Stay tuned.

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





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MAY 2024 Calendar

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Photo by Heidi Thomas		DCC Dubl DCS Dubl DPL Dubl HUB Dubl	in Christian Academy in Community Church in Consolidated School in Public Library in Community Center n Hall, Dublin	1 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm; Storytime 10:30am	2DPL After School Lego Club 3:30- 4:30pm; Game Night 4-6pm; Re-imagine English 6pm; TH Planning Bd 6pm	3DCC Gift of Thrift Sale 9am-5pm; HUB/Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; Park Theatre Comic Con 11am-7pm	4DCC Gift of Thrift Sale 8-11am; Peterborough Union CC Hunger Walk 8am-1pm; Shaw's End 68 Food Drive 9am-1pm; Park Theatre Comic Con 11am-7pm
	5 HUB Song Circle 3-5pm; Hancock CC MONP concert 4pm	6TH/CEM Cemetery Com. 9am; TH Select Bd 4:30pm; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm	7 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Book discussion 7-8:30pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30- 4:30pm; Dublin GOP mtg. 5:30pm	Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm; Storytime 10:30am; DPL Trustees 5pm	9DPL After School Lego Club 3:30- 4:30pm; Game Night 4-6pm	1 ODCC Gift of Thrift Rain Date 9am-5pm; HUB/ Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; Art Recep. 5-7pm	1 1 DCC Gift of Thrift Rain Date 8-11am; HUB Wild Foraging 9am-4pm; Mothers Tea and Accessory Swap 4pm; DPL Dublin Democrats 10am
	12 MOTHERS' DAY HUB Wild Foraging 9am-4pm	13 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL After School LegoClub 3:30-4:30pm; DHS mtg 4pm; TH WR&RC 5pm; Select Bd 4:30pm	14HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herb Class 7-9pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm; FDPL mtg 5pm; TH DEAC mtg 5:30pm	15 HUB Coffee 2 & Conv 10am; QiGong noon; Storytelling Circle 6:30pm; DPL Storytime 10:30am; Papa Joe 3:30pm; Lego Club 3:30pm; TH Cons. Com 5pm	16 DPL After School Lego Club 3:30- 4:30pm; Game Night 4-6pm; TH Planning Bd 6pm	17 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	18 HUB Coffee House & Open Mic 6:30-9:30pm
	19	20HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm; TH Select Bd 4:30pm	21 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm	22HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Storytime 10:30am; After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm	23 PPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm; Game Night 4-6pm	24 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	25HUB Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-3pm; DPL Self- defense 9:30am
	26	27MEMORIAL DPL closed; Yankee parking lot Parade forms 11am; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; TH Select Bd 4:30pm	28HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; DPL After School Lego Club 3:30- 4:30pm; TH DEAC mtg 5:30pm; DCC Community Supper 5:30pm	29HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Storytime 10:30am; After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm	30PPL After School Lego Club 3:30-4:30pm; Game Night 4-6pm	31 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	1 DPL Stories and Songs with Opa Volkert 10:30am

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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