

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Long Train Runnin'

BY ROSEMARY MORAN WEIDNER

The train tracks at the Dublin Gas Engine Meet have gotten 150 feet longer than they were last year. Will Weidner and the crew of the Gas Engine Meet have been working all year on improving and extending the train that has given hundreds of rides to kids of all ages in the last two years. The number of riders includes those who got right back on the train when the ride was finished. One mother with an infant would ride and repeat because it soothed the baby!

The train, which consists of a locomotive and passenger car, was designed and built by my husband, Will, with a tremendous amount of help from our son, Jake.



Ever since Will can remember, he loved engines, especially steam trains. His parents supported his interest all the way up to college, when their dining room was the site for building his first steamboat.

His progress was slowed by a severe bout of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) at the age of 19. GBS is a rare autoimmune disease that causes the immune system to attack the nerves, leading to muscle weakness or paralysis. He had another bout that slowed but did not stop his work,



FAR LEFT: Jake Weidner lays track bed. LEFT: Will Weidner mans the engine. BELOW: Pasengers on board.



and he became the youngest person to design and build his own steamboat from scratch. The 20-foot wood-fired boat is a replica of an Edwardian-era passenger steam launch. It is named Eureka and was created while Will was recovering and obtaining his degree in mechanical engineering.

More exhibits at the Engine Meet make this event a one-of-a-kind fun day. The event begins on Friday, September 6, and runs through Sunday, September 8. Much goes into planning and staging the Engine Meet, and Will has the group's support for help with the railroad, which has the promise of getting better every year. Dave Whitney, Caleb Niemela, Chris Raymond, Paul Carabello, and Jim Weidner have supported the railroad in countless ways.

ROSEMARY MORAN WEIDNER is Will's wife – and a railroad enthusiast.



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The Town Administrator's office will be open limited hours from September 11-19.

News from the Library

BY KAREN MADIGAN

The dedicated Friends of Dublin Public Library sponsored our Chalk & Chill ice cream social in August, where Volkert Volkersz provided music, and young artists enjoyed popsicle-shaped sidewalk chalk. Also in August, Secretary of State David Scanlan visited DPL, thanks to Maureen Hulslander's invitation, for a Q & A session. We were his first stop in the state, and we learned a lot about voting. Celeste Snitko presented a vibrant, informative archive talk as well.

Our Summer Reading program, *Adventure Begins at Your Library!*, was a success and so much fun. If you haven't picked up your weekly reading prizes, please come see us. Kids in Pam Bator's Adventures in Design group planted a hydroponic tower lent to us by the Cornucopia Project folks, and it's growing rapidly. We also saw the beginning of our new homeschool group, which meets every Wednesday at 10:30 am.

The first time I entered Dublin Public Library, I felt warmth, history, and a sense of peace that reminded me of European abbeys. Evidently, it affects others that way as well; we always enjoy comments about the building's character and architecture.

One patron told us DPL was the first place she came after the death of a parent because of that sense of peace. She needed to grieve in a place she held dear. That touched us deeply and ties in



Photo by Linda Abram

with a social movement called "third place." If you're not familiar with it, sociologist Ray Oldenburg coined the term in the '90s. Home and work are our society's first and second places; a third place is any other space that calls to us as a society, whether it's a coffee shop, a community center like the DubHub, or a library.

Third places offer accessibility, inclusivity, flexible spaces, comfortable seating, refreshments, technology, community rooms, outdoor spaces, art, culture, programs, and activities, and they thrive on community input. Sound familiar?

A 2023 report from the Canadian Urban Institute "Overdue" (canurb.org/publications/overdue/) points out that libraries, by their nature and because they are located at the center of communities, serve a variety of needs in a way that no other public institution truly can. A public library is:

- a place to access culture and information
- a refuge from domestic violence
- an election information or polling center
- a job search facility
- a health clinic
- a place to warm up or cool down
- a language-learning center for newcomers
- a place to attend free university classes or programs
- a space for babies, children, caregivers, and youth to make friends and form a community

Libraries face many challenges these days, including rising costs of materials, budget cuts, and increased challenges to books over the past few years. Libraries are daily respite for unhoused, transient, and/or mentally ill patrons, requiring staff to balance sometimes unmet needs of all patrons, stepping in as emergency social workers and health professionals. The spectrum of services offered in all libraries is much broader than it used to be, yet pay for staff has not increased in many places. At all times, libraries strive to be safe, accessible, inclusive, and joyful to ensure that all people – ranging from homeschool groups and the neurodiverse to a patron looking for a just-right book and cup of coffee – find what they need and feel they belong.

How fortunate Dublin is to have two wonderful third places. Next time you stop by, please tell us how we can make your day better. Help yourself to a beverage, sit down in a comfortable chair, and soak in the peace and history of our small but mighty third place.

KAREN MADIGAN is director of the Dublin Public Library.


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Dublin Education Advisory Committee Report and Forums

BY CAROLE MONROE

The Dublin Education Advisory Committee has presented the results of their research and a recommendation to the Dublin Select Board. After thoroughly researching both the quality of education received at ConVal and other adjacent school districts and the costs associated with that education, the report identifies the best possible public education for Dublin students.

The Select Board has reviewed the report and supporting documents, and agrees with withdrawing from the ConVal School District and remaining in SAU1 for business services.

New Faces at Dublin School

Dublin School is thrilled to welcome these new educators to our school and the entire Dublin community (left to right): Devin Clyburn (mathematics), Kim Fletcher (business office), Mary Stewart (English), Nica Morris (residential life), Emily Giangliulo (English), Mary Lynn Wells (admissions), Liam Sullivan (communications), Alexandrin Zuser (mathematics).



This option would allow Dublin to create its own Dublin School Board, giving the town full control over Dublin Consolidated School (DCS). It would allow Dublin to expand the grade levels taught at DCS to include grades K–6, and possibly Pre-K, while partnering with ConVal for grades 7–12. In our support of DCS, we hope to further an environment where Dublin children can succeed with a solid educational foundation that will see them through the upper grades. The local Dublin School Board, with the Dublin community, will determine the educational opportunities for Dublin students, securing their future.

The ConVal Feasibility Study Committee has yet to determine the feasibility of withdrawal; however, based on the financial information received, it appears that the education plan identified is altogether possible. If the ConVal committee agrees that the plan is feasible, it will submit a withdrawal plan to the State Board of Education. If the state board agrees, it will be put to the voters in all the towns of the ConVal School District in March 2025. Neither the Select Board nor the DEAC makes this decision; you do.

The DEAC report and its supporting exhibits are posted on the Dublin website at townofdublin.org/dublin-education-advisory-committee. I encourage you to read the report referring to the exhibits as needed. Please feel free to contact me or any Select Board member if you have questions. A town forum will be held September 11 at 6:30 pm and September 14 at 10 am at the Town Hall. Please come.

CAROLE MONROE is a member of the Select Board, the Dublin Education Advisory Committee, and the ConVal Feasibility Study Committee.

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Update from ConVal School Board

BY ALAN EDELKIND

There are lots of happenings at ConVal that will affect our future. The first is that Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Superintendent of Schools, has left the SAU and will become the new superintendent at a school district in Pennsylvania. Saunders has been our superintendent for 16 years, having held various positions of increasing responsibility at ConVal prior to that.

The ConVal superintendent is responsible for the daily operation of a multischool and multigrade public education system with ever-changing and often-conflicting rules from the state and federal government. The superintendent is also responsible (24/7) to community needs and wants that often are in conflict with state and federal mandates. It takes a special and fully dedicated person to succeed. Saunders was named Superintendent of the Year in New Hampshire and was runner-up for Superintendent of the Year nationwide.

Saunders is being replaced by Ann Forrest, our current assistant superintendent who is a capable and proven leader, as interim superintendent. ConVal has also hired a new assistant superintendent to replace Forrest in her current position.

The ConVal business manager has also resigned his position at ConVal, effective August 2024, and he has been replaced by a new business manager. This transition is also a difficult one, as the business manager is responsible for all the ConVal finances. These departures are a normal part of business and do not reflect dissatisfaction but rather opportunities for the parties involved.

Also affecting our town and ConVal as a whole are the ongoing activities regarding Dublin and Francestown leaving the ConVal

School District but remaining in the ConVal SAU. The Prismatic recommendation to eliminate four elementary schools due to expenses and declining enrollment was accepted by the school board with the commitment that the board and town citizens would take a full year to research and answer outstanding questions, and collectively determine the future status of the schools.

By statute, ConVal has formed a Feasibility Study Committee that consists of a school board member and Select Board member from each of the nine towns that meets every other week to determine and report on the ongoing analysis. The results of this complex analysis will be published as a report and sent to the State Department of Education for its review, along with a minority report, if required. There is a whole sequence of voting that will take place by the town citizens. The results of the town vote will determine what will take place regarding the recommended actions in the above-noted report.

As of now, it looks like Dublin is leaning toward leaving the current ConVal School District, but not the SAU, and tuitioning middle and high school students to ConVal, while forming their own district to control the elementary school. There are a lot of details left to be worked out.

ALAN EDELKIND is Dublin's representative and vice chair of the ConVal School Board.

Dublin Remembers
Mike Stanley, 1932–2024

News from DCS

BY NICOLE PEASE

This summer, the DCS school sign was repainted, a portion of the driveway was repaved, some trees near the road were taken down, and the main office rug was replaced. We are thankful for the hard-working facilities crew!

While summer is a time to rejuvenate, educators are also busy with preparations for the year ahead. The staff at DCS welcomed students back to school on August 28. It is a joy to observe students' excitement on the first day as they meet friends and staff they have not seen in a while. Our motto "DCS Cares" is evident as students greet new students and welcome them to our school.

I am amazed that I am beginning my 10th year as principal at DCS. My position will continue to be principal teacher, and I will focus on mathematics with the first graders and support other students as needed. The DCS staff is a strong and supportive team, and I am thankful to work with such a dedicated group of professionals.

The new school year brings new families into the DCS community, and we enjoy welcoming them and their student(s). The start of the year focuses on identifying "hopes and dreams," which will be used to develop shared classroom expectations. Through our use of the Responsive Classroom approach to learning, we will review and reinforce building-wide rules and routines. All this work strengthens our bond as a community. We will also administer fall assessments to explore students' areas of strength, and the school's needs for instructional focus. This information

will be used throughout the year to examine student progress.

This year, we are inviting our community to join us for lunch on the last Friday of each month from 12–12:30 pm. We welcome any member of our community to join us and engage in conversation about all that is going on in our wonderful school.

NICOLE PEASE is principal teacher at Dublin Consolidated School.



DCS students enjoy lunch in the shade of the pavilion.

Francestown Recommends Single District SAU

BY JAY SCHECHTER

The Francestown Education Committee concluded that ConVal will continue attempts to close the small schools through financial, staff, and program cutbacks. The Committee felt that the 13-member ConVal School Board is unwieldy and lacks focus on the needs of the small towns. It fears that the current excellent quality of education in Francestown (the best in the ConVal District) will start to deteriorate. The Committee questioned the quality of education in the Middle and High Schools, and expressed concern about finances at ConVal in the face of continued drops in enrollment and budget increases.

The demographics of Dublin and Francestown are similar. The population of Dublin is 1,597 vs. 1,610 in Francestown; the median household income is \$96,463 vs. \$105,347; the cost per student to attend ConVal is \$37,000 vs. \$35,000. However, the Francestown elementary school significantly outperforms all the other elementary schools in ConVal. The town has rallied

around their school and concluded that the only way to protect it, and the superior education it provides, is through local control.

The citizens of Francestown who turned out for this presentation were highly supportive of the efforts of their committee. The committee was applauded loudly by the audience at the end of its presentation.

The next steps in Francestown will be to prepare a minority/withdrawal report for the State Board of Education (if necessary) by the November 1 deadline. The ultimate goal is to establish a single district SAU, with grades Pre-K through 5 in Francestown, and tuition older children to another SAU (ConVal would be one option).

The Dublin Education Advisory Committee has independently come to many of the same conclusions as Francestown. These findings have been submitted to the Dublin Select Board. The question now for Dublin is where we go from here.

JAY SCHECHTER is the chair of the Dublin Education Advisory Committee.

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Remembering Edie Clark

BY MEL ALLEN

On the last Sunday in July, friends, family, and admirers of Edie Clark gathered in the sweet garden behind the Dublin Community Church. There were at least 100 of us, all still stunned and in mourning by the sudden and unexpected passing of a writer whose work had touched tens of thousands. Edie Clark passed away on July 17 at Cheshire Medical Center, only 24 hours after COVID dealt her the respiratory distress that had taken so many others. For those of us who knew and loved Edie, and had seen her overcome so many setbacks in the past eight years, it was hard to process that this time there would be no comeback.

We had seen her survive the series of small strokes that forced her to leave her beloved Mary's Farm with the surpassing view of Monadnock; having to say goodbye to Harriet, her last "best dog ever"; her fading eyesight that made reading and writing – her creative lifeblood – impossible. And the heartbreaking final years when we visited her in the tiny crowded room at the rehab nursing home, where she no more belonged than a wild bird does in a cage.

But here is the thing about all this – and why Edie will never be forgotten by anyone who knew her: Edie kept the loving and contagious spirit that spilled out on the page for the past four decades – only now it was in her laugh and continued optimism that somehow she would find a way back to the life she had loved.

And here is another thing. She wrote as she lived: the boundless joy in nature, sunrises and snowstorms, and the warmth of a wood cookstove with something warming inside. And those words will endure as long as people look for writing clean and crisp and soaked with sincerity.

I have been Edie's friend and colleague almost from the days we first met at Yankee in the late 70s. I have edited hundreds of

writers. There has never been a more beloved writer for the venerable magazine than Edie Clark. Her essays, first from "The Garden at Chesham Depot" and then "Mary's Farm," brought her everyday world into the homes of strangers with heart-touching intimacy. Her seemingly casual yet exquisitely crafted essays, often only a page or two, made readers see what she saw, feel what she felt.

She showed how deeply and expansively one can live alone. From her homestead, she told about people she knew, the changing weather, the wild animals who visited, and the misadventures of her dogs Dune, Mayday, and finally Harriet. She once wrote, "I find that writing the next essay is my best day." Each time she sat down to write, it affirmed that her farm was her "sanctuary from a world that sometimes changes too fast for me."

Readers shared in the beauty that she found in every season. Who could ever see frost on a window the same way again after reading this passage: "I would lie there, still snug in bed, and watch the light of the sun bring the night's frost painting alive. I thought of this window as my winter garden, where blooms came faster and more dramatically than any flower ever could."

Her work led to residencies at the famed writers retreats MacDowell and Hedgebrook, as well as numerous honors and awards. She taught writing at several colleges and gave talks and workshops around New England. She loved singing and performed in the Dublin Community Church choir as well as in a local concert of Handel's *Messiah*. She also hosted numerous holiday gatherings for more than 20 people at a time.

Even when Edie was unable to write, she was leaving another legacy with the friends and family who came to visit. She never lost her laughter or her delight in some delicious morsel or the sight of hummingbirds in the nursing home's garden. Friends



brought her to Sunday church and on outings – she called these "jailbreaks."

And Edie's readers never forgot what she meant to them. Whenever *Yankee* reprinted one of her essays and urged readers to write to her, they responded. Hundreds of cards and letters poured in, which friends would read to her. These notes could make her smile and tear up at the same time. The love that strangers felt for her words reminded her of what had been lost and, no matter how much she wanted it, was likely not to be found again. These readers, nearly all people she had never met, would tell Edie about their own lives. They would write, "Although we have never met, I feel like I know you in so many ways."

To say that she will be missed is an understatement. To say her work will endure long into the future is not.

A memorial service and reading of Edie's works is planned for September 28, 11 am, at the Dublin Community Church, followed by a potluck reception in honor of Edie's tradition of gathering favorite people and favorite food in the same place. Edie loved good causes, and she would be pleased by any donation in her memory to Chesham Church and Historic Harrisville (historicharrisville.org/donate) or to the Authors Guild Foundation (authorsguild.org/foundation/donate).

MEL ALLEN is the editor of *Yankee* magazine.



September 2024 Events at the DubHub

Song Circle, Sunday, September 1

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 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! Email David Mueller at dmueller55146@gmail.com for information.

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Coffee & Conversation

Coffee & Conversation served on Monday and Wednesday mornings 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 information, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Early AM Yoga on Tuesdays

Early Morning Yoga with Meenakshi Moses, 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. If you have any questions, please email Meenakshi at moses@namarupa.org.

DubHub Open Hours on Tuesdays

The DubHub is open from 9 am–3 pm for residents to study, use the wi-fi connection, have peace and quiet, check out the art, play a game, or meet with friends.

Qigong on Wednesdays

Qigong class with Ginnette Groome is held from noon–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 on Fridays at 10 am. Email npcayford@myfairpoint.net for information.

Drawing with Jean Mann, Saturday, September 7

We are delighted to offer this drawing class by artist Jean Mann from 10 am–noon. People often say they can't draw, but after learning the elements of drawing with Jean, they find out that indeed they can and go home feeling proud! Materials will be provided; any level of experience welcome; ages 12 to adult. This may turn into a series in the fall. For more information, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Herb Class, Tuesday, September 10

Herb classes with Katherine Gekas will start up again on every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. It's a great opportunity to learn about how herbs can help you get and stay healthy. For September, we'll make a plant medicine syrup (probably elderberry) and some mocktails to conclude our summer season and prepare for the transition to fall. Everyone will go home with a handout of resources and a mocktail. In this first class of the teaching year, we'll vote on what everyone would like to learn, so please come! Herb class is open to everyone at any time of the year, and there is a sliding scale fee (\$10–\$40).

10th Anniversary Retrospective Art Show & Reception, Friday, September 13

With its monthly art shows, the DubHub has showcased the work of local artists since opening 10 years ago. To celebrate this significant milestone, September's show will feature works from many of these artists in a 10-year anniversary retrospective art show. We invite the entire community to join us at a public reception on Friday, September 13, from 5–7 pm as we celebrate both the artists and the DubHub, which has promoted and celebrated their work for the past decade.

This show may be viewed throughout September, during open hours or by appointment. For more information, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

For more information, email katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

Financial Fraud Workshop, Thursday, September 12

Justin Drew, a personal banker at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust in Peterborough, will conduct a workshop on financial fraud at 6 pm. Having seen firsthand the devastating impact of fraud on community members, Drew is excited to share his knowledge and expertise. He'll be discussing common fraud schemes, how to protect your personal information, and practical tips for recognizing and preventing fraud. This free workshop is open to all.

Storytelling & Spoken Word, Wednesday, September 18

The third Wednesday of every month from 6:30–8:30 pm brings 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/ and Sebastian at bit.ly/slockwood.



Autumn Monadnock, by Phil Bean

**Mindfulness & Meditation,
Starting Thursday, September 19**

In this four-week series on Thursdays from 5:30–7 pm, instructor Jess Nelson will teach the tools and practices of mindfulness and meditation, exploring what it is, how meditation is related to and intertwined with mindfulness, and how to cultivate it and fit it into our lives. Even a practice of one minute a day can have a profound effect, opening us up to more joy, ease, and connection in our lives. This class is offered on a sliding scale fee of \$25–\$100. Preregistration is required at theriverstonestudio@gmail.com.

**Red Cross Blood Drive,
Saturday, September 21**

The Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 9am–2pm. There is a critical shortage of blood supply. To sign up to give blood, please go to www.redcross-blood.org/give.html/find-drive.

**Coffee House & Open Mic,
Saturday, September 21**

On the third Saturday of each month is a combined Coffee House & Open



Mic from 6:00–9:30 pm, an earlier start time than in the past. A monthly coffee sponsor provides the java, and sweet and savory snacks are available. Attendees are also welcome to BYOB. A featured performance takes place for about 45–60 minutes, with open mic slots available both prior and after.

This month, we are delighted to feature Susan Levine and Doug Kwartler of The Lied To's. Two Massachusetts-based singer-songwriters, Levine and Kwartler joined musical forces in 2014. Their 2015 self-titled debut CD rose to the top of the roots rock charts and landed in the top 100 of the prestigious *No Depression* readers' poll. Their second album, *The Lesser of Two Evils*, received universal praise for its gritty instrumentation, impeccable harmonies, and honest songwriting. The Lied To's play venues throughout New England and beyond, including sold-out concerts at Club Passim in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening to try your luck at finding an available spot on the list. A suggested donation starting at \$5 (or more) can be given at the door to help offset costs, and a hat will be passed during the performance for contributions to the featured performer(s).

**Singing Workshop, Saturday,
September 28**

Come join music educator and singing voice teacher, Brittney Redler, as she holds a free community singing workshop on Saturday, September 28, from 3–4 pm. Everyone, no matter their musicianship or singing level, is welcome and encouraged to join (even if – or especially if – you have



ever been told you “can’t sing”). No preparation is needed. Brittney will lead the group through a few vocal warmup exercises, drawing participants’ attention to some aspects of vocal technique and focus. Then, the group will learn and sing some songs together for their own enjoyment. Brittney Redler has been teaching voice and facilitating group singing for 20 years. She particularly loves the joy, humor, and connection that singing together creates.

**Autumn Fest, Saturday,
October 19**

In celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the DubHub, and in lieu of a BBQ this year, we will hold a fun-filled Autumn Fest on Saturday, October 19! All are welcome, and we have some wonderful food and activities in store for the community. Stay tuned for more details in the next issue of the *Advocate*.

We Want to Hear from You!

Please let us know if you have any new ideas for the DubHub. What kinds of classes, workshops, events, or services would you like to see? Are there things happening that you love, and is there anything we could improve on? Let us know. Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.



Consider DubHub rental space for your next event!

Did you know that in addition to all the music, art, events & classes held at the DubHub, the building or individual rooms (including a fully equipped kitchen) are available to rent for gatherings of your own? We offer reasonable rates, including discounted rates for class rentals or non-profits. Consider holding your birthday parties, family gatherings, workshops/classes, meetings, etc. in this beautiful, conveniently located space!

Contact Monica at info@dublincommunitycenter.org or 603-563-8080.

Remembering Norman Davis

BY KELLY BLANCHETTE

Norman Davis, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and longtime Dublin resident, died July 29, 2023, at the age of 92. Even though he and his wife, Pat, downsized to a condo in Peterborough, he always considered Dublin his home.

Norman was born in Peterborough in 1931 and moved to Dublin in 1950, living in the Sirois house on Goldmine Road for a few years. He also lived on Upper Jaffrey Road, near the Boy Scout camp. He and his first wife, Margaret, built a house on Valley Road in 1954 and raised five children there, three of them still living. He was also a father to three stepchildren.

Norman, a well driller by trade, worked with John McKenna and then went out on his own. Most people probably don't know that he was Dublin's first developer, buying land that became Boulder Drive. He also developed Greenwood and Greenwood Ridge roads.

When Norman managed his development projects, he used local contractors; one of them was the late Art Susmann, a plumber. In a 1998 interview with Tom Hyman for



the town history *Village on a Hill*, Norman tells the story of his stepson driving a backhoe over and over the cover of the septic tank at the Town Hall and breaking it. He called Art, who owed him a favor. Art went down into the tank and retrieved the cover. When he emerged from the tank, he told Norman, "We're even." Norman was

also a volunteer for the town, serving on the Planning Board for six years.

A quick-witted man of many talents, he was one of a kind and always had a joke to tell. But he was also someone who always told it like it was. He is missed.

KELLY BLANCHETTE is Norman's daughter.

Community Italian Potluck

Home-cooked suppers at the Dublin Community Church are usually offered on 4th Tuesdays, but we are starting off with something different in September.

**Saturday
September 28, 2024
5-7 pm**

Bring a pasta dish as first choice. But we'll also need salad, bread, and dessert.
(donations optional but welcome)

Good food, games, and fun for the whole family!
From the Outreach Committee of the Dublin Community Church

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Goodbye Summer at the Women's Club Beach

BY PAMELA CELKO

Another wonderful summer is coming to an end, and the Dublin Community Women's Club celebrated by hosting their end-of-year Beach Day. It began with the traditional swim across the lake. Participants met at the boat landing and began swimming at 10:30. Hamburgers and hotdogs were grilling while the adults swam and the children played. Beach Club members all brought a side dish or a dessert, so there was plenty for all.

Let the games begin, and that they did! There was a sandcastle-building competition, diving for money (all securely attached to diving rings), and a biggest-bubble-gum bubble competition. Toys and prizes were given for all. Certificates of accomplishment were presented to children who took swimming lessons. Ice cream and roasted marshmallows brought a close to the day's activities but only after everyone had a wonderful, fun-filled Beach Day!

The Women's Club cannot end our season without saying a huge "thank you" to the Dublin Fire Department, which held a



water rescue training at the beach. Despite the cold, windy weather, 10 members of the fire department, along with two Women's Club lifeguards, participated. Everyone learned new safety and rescue techniques. We extend our sincere thanks to Chief Vanderbilt, Deputy Chiefs Joe Sangermano and Brian Barden, Jason Budzik, Justin Carpenter, Bob Edick, Alan Goohs, Andy Hungerford, Matt Katka, and Noah Paquin. Participating DWCC lifeguards were Megan Kendall-Briggs and Jessica Strassburg.

As of Saturday, August 24, there are no longer lifeguards on duty and the docks have been stored for the season. Please continue to enjoy the beach after it "officially" closes. September is usually a beautiful month for swimming and relaxing at the lake. Thank you for all your support. We are already looking forward to a wonderful fun-filled summer in 2025!

PAMELA CELKO is a member of the Dublin Women's Community Club.



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200 Quilts to be Displayed

BY JAN HICKS

The Monadnock Quilters' Guild biennial quilt show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 12 and 13, at the South Meadow School in Peterborough. The quilts represent quilters (male and female) from 14 Monadnock area towns and seven nearby communities. Among your Dublin neighbors are four guild members, most of whom will have a quilt or two displayed at the show. The Fall Festival of Quilts will be open from 10 am–5 pm on Saturday and 10 am–4 pm on Sunday. Admission is \$7, with children under 12 free.

In addition to the main quilt exhibit, an exciting feature will be an exhibit of over 75 small quilts resulting from two challenges, one entitled "Playing with a Full Deck," the other "Do Me a Solid." They demonstrate amazing creativity!

There will also be vendors, a boutique of handmade items, new and antique quilts for sale, 12 raffle baskets in a wide variety of themes,

a café serving light refreshments and lunch, activities for children, and demonstrations of quilting techniques.

A special raffle of 28 small wall hangings will be held to benefit charitable endeavors that bring warmth and love to those in need among our neighbors.

The guild is celebrating over 40 years of fostering the love of quilting and providing quilts to those in need. Over 100 members range in age from their 20s to 90s, and skill levels range from beginner to award winners! The guild meets every third Friday of the month at Divine Mercy

Church. More information on the guild and the show can be found at the MQG website at monadnockquiltersguild.org, or visit them on Facebook at facebook.com/MonadnockQG.

JAN HICKS is a member of the Monadnock Quilters' Guild.

Monadnock Art Open Studio Tour

The 28th annual Art Tour will take place Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, October 12, 13, and 14. This annual event allows "art tourists" to visit artists in their studios during fall foliage season. This year, there are 65 stops on the tour, some with several artists. Visit MonadnockArt.org to view the tour map, or pick up a paper copy at local businesses. There will be an opening reception at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture on Saturday, October 5, from 4–7 pm. Attendees will be able to view examples of participating artists' work and make their touring plans accordingly.



Moose quilt by Jan Hicks

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2024 NH State Primary on September 10

In the 2024 New Hampshire Primary, Dublin is part of District 13 (Dublin and Jaffrey), and District 18 (Dublin, Jaffrey, and Rindge) for NH House elections.

Dublin is part of District 10 for NH Senate elections. For Executive Council elections, we are part of District 2.

Local elections can make a significant difference in policy, and in how state and federal funds are used here in New Hampshire. So be sure to vote!

The New Hampshire Primary Election takes place at Town Hall on Tuesday, September 10, 8 am–7 pm.

Absentee ballots are due on Monday, September 9.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Governor

Joyce Craig, PO Box 3893, Manchester, NH 03105 • joycecraig.org

Jon Kiper, 170 Main St., Newmarket, NH 03857 • votekiper.org

Cinde Warmington, PO Box 2133, Concord, NH 03302
cindewarmington.com

Executive Council, District 2

Mike Liberty, PO Box 2328, New London, NH 03257
electliberty.com

Karen Liot Hill, 24 Messenger St., Lebanon, NH 03766 • karenliothill.com

Representative in U.S. Congress, District 2

Maggie Goodlander, 44 High St., Nashua, NH 03060 • maggiefornh.com

Colin Van Ostern, 20 Auburn St., Concord, NH 03301 • vanostern.com

State Senator, District 10

Donovan Fenton, 32 Salisbury Rd., Keene, NH 03431 • donovanfenton.com

State Representative, District 13 (Dublin, Jaffrey) (Vote for 1)

Richard Ames, 12 Blackberry Ln., Jaffrey, NH 03452
bit.ly/DickAmesNHstaterep
Richard Ames on Facebook

State Representative, District 18 (Dublin, Jaffrey, Rindge) (Vote for 2)

Hannah Bissex, 138 Thomas Rd., Rindge, NH 03461
facebook.com/hannahbissexNH

Jed Brummer, 36 Golf Course Ln., Rindge, NH 03461 • Jed Brummer for State Rep - NH on Facebook

Tom Hsu, 103 Prescott Rd., Jaffrey, NH 03452
no website available

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Governor

Kelly Ayotte, PO Box 4723, Manchester, NH 03108
kellyfornh.com

Shaun Fife, 125 Stockwell Hill Rd., Gilmanton, NH 03237
facebook.com/shaun.fife.9

Robert Wayne McClory, 32 Grady Hill Rd., Goffstown, NH 03045
instagram.com/wethepeopleiam

Richard A. McMenamon II, 10 Crystal Lake Rd., Gilmanton Iron Works, NH 03837
no website available

Chuck Morse, 18 Brookhollow Dr., Salem, NH 03079 • chuckmorsefornh.com

Frank Negus Staples, 332 Merrimack St., Manchester, NH 03103
franknstaples.org

Executive Council, District 2

Mary Rose Deak, 3 Jennings Dr., Concord, NH 03301 • *no website available*

Kim Strathdee, PO Box 774, Plymouth, NH 03264 • *no website available*

Representative in U.S. Congress, District 2

Tom Alciere, PO Box 106, Nashua, NH 03061 • tomalciere.us

Gerard Beloin, PO Box 86, Colebrook, NH 03576 • *no website available*

Michael Anthony Callis, Box 259, Eaton, NH 03832 • www.facebook.com/parnarsus

Randall Clark, 80A West Hollis Rd., Hollis, NH 03049 • *no website available*

Casey Crane, 37 Burnside St., Nashua, NH 03064 • caseyforcongress.org

Robert D'Arcy, PO Box 186, Keene, NH 03431 • *no website available*

Bill Hamlen, 11 Downing Rd., Hanover, NH 03755 • hamlenforcongress.com

William Harvey, 61 Scenic View Dr., Colebrook, NH 03576 • *no website available*

Vikram Mansharamani, PO Box 932, Lincoln, NH 03251
facebook.com/vikram4NH

Jay Mercer, PO Box 8, Nashua, NH 03061
no website available

Jason Riddle, 108 Howard St., Apt. 2, Keene, NH 03431
ballotpedia.org/Jason_Riddle

Lily Tang Williams, 252 Pine Hill Rd., Weare, NH 03281 • lilytangwilliams.com

Paul M. Wagner, 385 North Rd., Danbury, NH 03230 • *no website available*

State Senator, District 10

Rick Merkt, 80 Hurricane Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467 • *no website available*

State Representative, District 13 (Dublin, Jaffrey) (Vote for 1)

Donald R. Primrose, PO Box 89, Dublin, NH 03444
donprimrose4NH.com

State Representative, District 18 (Dublin, Jaffrey, Rindge) (Vote for 2)

Jim Qualey, 18 Meadow View Rd., Rindge, NH 03461 • jimqualeyfornh.com

Rita Mattson, 72 Burpee Rd., Dublin, NH 03444 • ritamattson.com

Remembering Tom LaFortune

BY YUMMY CADY

Nearly 40 years ago, when my two children were very young, we would oftentimes go to Aubuchon's, the wonderful hardware store in Peterborough. I am a sucker for a really good hardware store. This particular store had two enticing attractions for my little kids: a great Tonka Toys section and Tom LaFortune. With his infectious laugh and a truly authentic smile, Tom was a presence wherever he went. My little boy nicknamed him "Hee-Hee," in reference to his wonderful, ever-present laugh. Tom was as inviting as the shiny Tonka dump trucks!

I feel so blessed that Tom was able to be an influential part of my children's lives all the way through to the days they left for college. I was a family co-owner of Carr's Store for many years, so Mitchell and Margaret inevitably were in the store all the time and, when they became old enough, worked there. Tom was a beloved part of our store family. He came in every single afternoon to pick up his *Keene Sentinel* and spread his goodness and kindness to all. My kids soon grew to call him Tom

and continue to this day to speak of his wonderful laugh and gentle demeanor.

Last September, I was in Belletete's, another wonderful Peterborough hardware store. As I was deliberating which color paint to go with, I heard it! Tom had entered the store, immediately met up with Ben Bensinger, a one-time Dublin neighbor, and the laughter and banter could be heard throughout the store. Such joy! As they passed the paint aisle, I greeted them both. Once the men found what they came in for, Tom came over to me and asked how Mitchell and Margaret were doing. I was overwhelmed with gratitude. After all the years that had passed, my children were his first concern. We quickly went to the other end of the aisle and had a wonderful catch-up. Tom eventually left, and as



Tom with his wife Maureen.

I returned to the paint samples, I heard him laugh and joke with the cashier – all the way out the door.

Tom LaFortune was many things to many people. Devoted father and husband, skilled accountant, involved citizen, steadfast person of faith. But to me and my children, he was "Hee-Hee," the kind and gentle man who brought laughter into the lives of every single person he came in con-

tact with. Could there be a more meaningful legacy? I can still hear him.

YUMMY CADY has lifelong ties to Dublin, although she now lives just over the line in Harrisville.



Photo by Linda Abriam



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Invasive Plant Treatment Wrap-up 2024

BY JAY SCHECHTER

This summer, the Dublin Conservation Commission continued its efforts to control invasive plants. This is an annual event funded by the town of Dublin.

Brooke Sullivan and I accompanied John Chicoine from Vegetation Control Services as we treated various properties. We visited a total of 29 properties (a record number) on August 12 and 13. The weather cooperated this year, as the temperatures were mild, the days were dry, and there was no frost. This is New Hampshire, you know! The following invasives were treated: autumn olive, bittersweet, buckthorn, burning bush, barberry, bishop's

weed, honeysuckle, knotweed, swallow-wort, multiflora rose, and purple loosestrife.

This service is performed by a licensed company that specializes in invasive plant management. They are available for a no-charge consultation and can be hired for projects that exceed the scope of what our town offers. Feel free to reach out to the Conservation Commission for their contact information.



Bittersweet overtakes trees.

For the first time, the town requested that residents make a voluntary contribution toward the cost of this valuable service, and the Conservation Commission wishes to thank those who provided financial support for our efforts.

We have started a list of properties to be treated next year. Please contact Jay Schechter at JSchechter@FocusSales.us to be added to next year's list.

JAY SCHECHTER is chair of the Dublin Conservation Commission.



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Sing with Music on Norway Pond

Music on Norway Pond's women's chorus, the Norway Pond Festival Singers, will begin rehearsing soon – and you might just love joining the community.

Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 12:15–1:45 pm in the Hancock Meetinghouse, which is the lower floor of the First Congregational Church in Hancock on Main Street. The first rehearsal is on September 26, leading to the annual holiday concert on Saturday, December 21 (the Solstice!) at 4 pm. Among other favorites, this year the chorus will be performing selections from Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*.

The fee for this fall season is \$120, with scholarships available. You are certainly welcome to come try the chorus before you commit.

Student Authors Write a Mystery

continued from page 3

approach to the school, and now it is an integral part of the DCS culture.

As the story unfolds, Heather types the students' suggestions on her laptop and projects the text onto a whiteboard. Sentences are written in real time as the students engage in editing and envisioning their illustrations. Heather designed the book so that each child draws their individual page.

Every page reflects the students' respect and affection for Chief Suokko, who visits their class often to read to them. Officer Stephen Dalterio, also a frequent visitor, has a specialty in math games. Heather suspects he may be the subject of the next book, but she will defer to her new students – a combined class of 16 first and second graders.

Do you know any kids who like to sing? The Jr. Mints will begin the fall session on Tuesday, October 1. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 4–5:30 pm, also at the Hancock Meetinghouse. All kids between ages 6 and 16 are welcome to rehearse and join the Norway Pond Festival Singers for the Hancock Family Holiday Concert on Saturday, December 21.

Parents are welcome to hold a space for their children and encourage them to try it out for a couple of rehearsals before making a commitment.

The tuition fee is \$120 for one child, \$220 for two siblings, and for three or more siblings, \$100 per child. Scholarships are available on request.

To join the fun, text or email Jody Simpson at 617-838-3360 or jody@musiconnorwaypond.org.

Among Heather's educational strengths is a passion for reading. With 17 years' experience in elementary education, she is currently completing a graduate-level certification course in dyslexia from the University of Florida. She says, "DCS is a school like no other, from the intimate size to the staff's absolute commitment to the children. It isn't just their academic growth we care about – it is the well-being of the whole child that is always a priority." Heather says the staff is like a family of hard workers who enjoy each others' companionship – even out of school. (Many meet at the lake for summer kayaking.)

Heather and her colleagues welcome community members. If you have a talent or skill to share, email Jo-Ann Hopkins (jhopkins@conval.edu).

POLLY BANNISTER is a former editor at *Yankee* magazine, and contributor to the *Old Farmer's Almanac Garden Guide*.

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Dublin Historical Society Elects Officers

The annual meeting of the Dublin Historical Society was held Friday, August 16. K. Vanderbilt was elected as a new member of the board, and officers were selected: Sarah Katka, president; Meg Page, vice president; and Donna Garner, continuing as treasurer. Judy Knapp, retiring board president, was honored for her long service. Following the business meeting, the audience enjoyed an informative presentation on the deep history of the geology of the Monadnock Region by Fred Rogers, professor of geology and environmental science at Franklin Pierce University.

The Dublin Historical Society reminds readers that the current exhibition in the 1841 Schoolhouse Museum on Main Street, "Reflections of Dublin Artists," featuring artwork from the historical society's collections, continues through Saturday, September 7, 11 am–1 pm.

The Gift of Thrift

An abundance of clothing, jackets, shoes, linens, housewares, jewelry, handbags and accessories, toys, books and music of all kinds, crafts, some antiques, and other surprises awaits you at the Dublin Community Church, 1125 Main Street, on Friday, September 20, 9 am–5 pm and Saturday, September 21, 8–11 am. Please honor our start time. There are no fees, no prices. Donations to the church's outreach program are encouraged. See you there for a treasure hunt!



Update from End 68 Hours of Hunger

September is National Hunger Awareness Month, and End 68 Hours of Hunger is focusing on raising awareness, funds, and food donations all month long. We're starting with a bang: another huge Peterborough Fire & Rescue food drive at Shaw's on September 7. The firefighters always have shopping lists available at the store entrance to help shoppers identify the foods that are most needed.

That event will be followed by month-long special collections at 15 sites throughout the ConVal district, including the Dublin General Store. Foods on our wish list for these collections are canned tuna, canned chicken, fruit cups, canned pasta, and mac and cheese. Thanks so much to everyone for your continued support! It makes a world of difference to hungry kids.

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SEPTEMBER 2024 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 HUB Song Circle 3-5pm	2 LABOR DAY DPL CLOSED; CEM Cem. Com 9am; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm	3 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; DPL GOP 5:30pm	4 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Homeschool/Storytime 10:30am; Journal Club 3:30pm	5 DPL Game Night 4-6pm; TH Planning Bd 6pm	6 CRICKET HILL FARM Gas Engine Meet; HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	7 CRICKET HILL FARM Gas Engine Meet; SHAW'S End68 Food Drive; HUB Drawing Class 10-noon; DPL Stories & Songs 10:30am; DHS Art Exhibit 11am-1pm	
8 CRICKET HILL FARM Gas Engine Meet	9 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL DHS meeting 4pm; TH Select Bd 4:30pm	10 TH NH State Primary Election; HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herb Class, 7:30pm; DPL WR&RC 4pm; FDPL 5pm	11 HUB Coffee & Conv. 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Homeschool/Storytime 10:30am; Journal Club 3:30pm; Papa John 3:30pm; Trustees 5pm; TH DEAC forum 6:30pm	12 DPL Game Night 4-6pm; HUB Financial Fraud Class, 6pm	13 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; 10-Year Art Reception 5-7pm	14 DPL Dublin Dems 10am; TH DEAC forum 10am	
15	16 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; TH Select Bd 4:30pm	17 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm	18 HUB Coffee & Conv. 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; Storytelling Circle 6:30-8:30pm; DPL Homeschool/Storytime 10:30am; Journal Club 3:30pm; TH Cons. Com 5pm	19 DPL Game Night 4-6pm; HUB Meditation Class, 5:30-7pm; TH Planning Bd 6pm	20 DCC Gift of Thrift Rummage Sale 9am-5pm; HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am	21 DCC Rummage Sale 8-11am; HUB Blood Drive, 9am-2pm; Drawing class 10am-noon; Coffee House & Open Mic 6-9:30pm; DPL FDPL Annual Meeting 10am-noon	
22	23 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; TH Select Bd 4:30pm	24 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm	25 HUB Coffee & Conv. 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Homeschool/Storytime 10:30am; Journal Club 3:30pm	26 DPL Game Night 4-6pm; HUB Meditation Class, 5:30-7pm	27 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; DCC Community Lunch noon-12:30pm	28 HUB Singing workshop 3-4pm; DCC Community Supper 5-7pm	
29	30 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; TH Select Bd 4:30pm					Photo by Linda Abram	CEM Cemetery Trustees DCC Dublin Community Church DPL Dublin Public Library HUB Dublin Community Center TH Town Hall, Dublin

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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