



The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Dublin, NH 03444

President's Day 2025

BY LINDSAY BROWN

On February 17, New Hampshire will celebrate President's Day. This holiday comes after flags have been at half-staff in recognition of the passing of former president Jimmy Carter and just a few weeks after the inauguration of President Donald Trump. It seems appropriate and timely to consider the meaning and history of this day.

In neighboring Vermont, they will celebrate "Presidents' Day," while other states will recognize "Presidents Day." What is the meaning of the placement of an apostrophe, or its omission? Meanwhile, the federal holiday is actually titled "Washington's Birthday," but states may label the holiday as they choose.

Originally, the nation celebrated Washington's birthday on February 11, 1796, using the older Julian calendar. With the acceptance of the more modern Gregorian calendar, the day moved to February 22, although it was not a federal holiday. In 1879, under President Rutherford B. Hayes, the day became a legal holiday, and in 1968, Congress designated the third Monday of February to be the day to recognize Washington and a way to create a three-day weekend for workers. Since 1968, individual states have titled the day in their own way.

Many states also use the day to recognize Abraham Lincoln since he too was born in February, and Washington and Lincoln are often ranked as the two greatest U.S. presidents. Thus, states might use "President's Day" to recognize Washington, "Presidents' Day" to commemorate Washington and Lincoln and other great presidents, or "Presidents Day" to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of all presidents from Washington to the present.

One tradition of George Washington's birthday commemoration is that the Senate reads aloud his 1796 Farewell Address. If you have never looked at this document, it is worth reading: bit.ly/washfarewelladd.

According to the U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Washington's principal concern was for the safety of the eight-year-old Constitution. He believed that the stability of the Republic was threatened by the forces of geographical sectionalism, political factionalism, and interference by foreign powers in the nation's domestic affairs. He urged Americans to subordinate sectional interests."

Washington believed that the country was most powerful when it was united. He also acknowledged the danger of political factionalism. He urged Americans to see themselves as part of one great nation, regardless of their differing individual

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The Presidents of My Lifetime

BY ANNE LOFTIS

Editor's note: *The following article, written in 2018, was found among the author's papers by her daughter, Advocate co-editor Mary Loftis.*

My husband, John, was born in 1919 under Democratic president Woodrow Wilson, a former college president and governor of New Jersey, who promoted the creation of the League of Nations after World War I. I was born in 1922 under Republican president Warren G. Harding, who died in office.

Harding was succeeded by his vice president Calvin Coolidge, who was born in Vermont and later practiced law in Northampton, Massachusetts. When I was a

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Anne Loftis at 100 with her granddaughter Laura Tuller.



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February at DPL

BY KAREN MADIGAN

The year is off to a speedy start with programs, groups visiting the library, a new book order, and big ideas. We are thrilled with our 2024 numbers, which are in the Town Report. In addition to the *Advocate*, DPL advertises programs and events in “The Bookworm Beat” library newsletter and on Facebook, Instagram, the Nextdoor app, and Discover Monadnock. In addition to Creative Club, Stories & Songs with Opa Volkert, Storytime with Emaline, Homeschool Group, Mindfulness with Zach Redler, Make & Take with Pam, Book Club, and Tech Night, we now offer Return to Bridge: Renewing Fundamentals on the first and third Monday of each month from 3–4:30 pm. Please call for more information.

Last month, Miriam Carter presented a fabulous felting program. Three amazing artists from Derry, Ingeborg Seaboyer, Corinne Dodge, and Judy Krassowski, have graced DPL through the end of February with *The Road Not Taken*, an art collection based on Robert Frost’s poetry. Interspersed with the artwork are various Frost books available for checkout.

On Tuesday, February 25, at 6 pm, Kim Varney Chandler will host Covered Bridges of New Hampshire, sponsored by New Hampshire Humanities. NHH has given the library a grant to cover the costs of the program, and we’re excited to learn more about our historic structures.

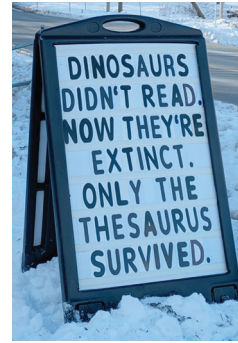


The Road Not Taken, an art collection based on poetry of Robert Frost.

Our basement redo is coming along, with the vision of a cozy space to meet, learn, Zoom, study, play, or just chill. We are using found items and have received donations of lamps, rugs, furniture, and bookcases from Felicity Pool and Pam Bator, so the cost to revamp is just our labor (and my husband’s, poor guy). There is now an ongoing display of books from our Friends of the Library sale, so our big book sales will be easier to set up. Our Library of Things is progressing slowly but surely, and that should be online by summer with photos of items available for checkout. We are so grateful for donations of items to the LOT, including

an Alexa Echo with speakers, a blood pressure kit, a meditation device, a PullerBear (see the article in the January *Advocate*), artwork, tools, games, puzzles, and kitchen gadgets.

Children’s books from the Pilcrow Foundation grant will arrive soon. Thank you again to our generous donors for raising the \$400 matching amount to receive the \$1,200 grant! Our Friends of the Library also received a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation in honor of the Wright family for \$2,050. Grants are such a vital part of any library.



Two of our main goals for 2025 are increasing programming by utilizing the talents and skills of local residents, and performing outreach to our community. We appreciate all input on these two important issues. If you have a hankering to present an event at the library, let us know. We’ve enjoyed many local celebrities and hope to add you to the list! If you know anyone who might need books delivered to their home, we’re ready to go with our outreach program.

You do not have to be homebound to use the program; we will deliver to anyone needing books, audiobooks, magazines, or puzzles. Our goal is to serve Dublin and the surrounding areas in any way possible, even if we can’t tool around in a zippy Bookmobile!

Stay warm and healthy, give us a call, or come visit when you’re out and about.

KAREN MADIGAN is the director of the DPL.

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2025 Town Elections

BY PAM CELKO

Once again, it is time to turn our attention to governing our wonderful town of Dublin. There are a couple of important dates to mark on your 2025 calendar:

March 11 – Town Election – Please vote at Town Hall (third floor) 8 am–7 pm.

Are you running for an elected position in town government?

Send the *Advocate* (dublinadvocate@gmail.com) a brief statement about your background, a photo, and reasons for seeking the position by February 15. We will publish these in the March *Advocate*.

March 15 – Town Meeting – Please attend this meeting held at the Dublin Consolidated School’s gym, beginning at 9 am, to vote on the warrant articles that will affect the town’s budget and operations.

This is also a reminder that the residents of Dublin are the governing body of our town, and there are many elected positions that need to be filled his year. Please see the available openings on the town’s website under the top tab of Departments. Then select Town Clerk/Tax Collector or come see us at Town Hall. Though elected positions generally require a commitment of three years, because appointments were made throughout the year, some positions only require a commitment of one or two years. It’s a good opportunity to get your political feet wet!

Dublin has a population of approximately 1,600, of which there are about 1,177 registered voters. However, on average, only about 200 residents attend the Town Meeting to discuss and vote on the warrant articles. This means that approxi-

mately 20% of our community makes these important decisions for all of us. We all share the responsibility of determining our town’s future. Please do your part in keeping Dublin’s governmental operations successful by voting and possibly running for office.

PAM CELKO is the office assistant for the town of Dublin.

Pre-Town Meeting

On March 4, the Dublin Community Women’s Club will host a Pre-Town Meeting in the basement conference room at Town Hall beginning at 7 pm. At this time, the town moderator, Sterling Abram, will read each warrant article, open up the floor for discussion, and answer any questions concerning the articles.

Light refreshments will be offered at 6:30 pm, when you can meet many of the candidates running for office. Please attend this community event for a social and informative evening.

Town of Dublin’s Swap Shop Seeks Volunteers

BY HANNE HANSEN

One hundred and fifteen! This was the average number of items “re-homed” every Saturday at the Swap Shop in 2024. That is more than 3,000 items not going into a landfill every year.

The Swap Shop is located at the Dublin Transfer Station. We are currently closed for the season, but come spring, we look forward to meeting you. Please bring clean, usable items to the Swap Shop so we can find a new home for them. We will post a list of acceptable items in the spring. In

the meantime, please do not leave items outside the shop while it is closed.

The successful operation of the Swap Shop is due to our volunteers, who are overseen by the Recycling Committee. Are you looking for the opportunity to volunteer? We have four shifts of one and a half hours every Saturday from 9 am–3 pm from April through November. If you are interested, please stop by the shop when it opens in the spring, or look for announcements on the Nextdoor app.

HANNE HANSEN is a volunteer at the Swap Shop.





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Mid-Winter at DCS

BY NICOLE PEASE

The longer-than-usual winter recess gave staff, students, and their families a nice opportunity to connect with each other and with friends. Returning to school in the new year required revisiting routines and expectations, but we all quickly moved back into the groove. Students are hoping Mother Nature will work in our favor so those blustery, frigid temperatures don't come again soon. Many students did a snow dance in hopes of more snow for sledding and other winter activities. Despite the limited snow, the end of January brought a field trip to Dublin School to cross-country ski on the Nordic trails. Dublin School was able to secure a grant to provide more cross-country skis for our students to use. We are so appreciative of this community connection and generous donation! Thankfully, Dublin School has the capacity to make snow to cover their trails. The trip was wonderful, and we look forward to returning in February.

Staff and students worked hard to complete the mid-year assessments in January, and it will be exciting to see how students have progressed in their learning. Assessments are also used to identify focus areas for small group instruction.

The Ski/Ride Program planned and run by the DCS PTO started in early January. Students travel to Crotched Mountain each Friday for six weeks, participate in a ski/snowboard lesson, and enjoy some chaperoned free ski time. Thanks to all who make this program possible! In lieu of Movie Night, the DCS PTO coordinated a fun-filled evening that included puzzles, games, and pizza.



The month of February is a time to focus on our school motto "DCS Cares." Classroom teachers discuss what caring means, and we challenge each classroom to commit as many acts of kindness as they can. We celebrate the DCS motto each month during our whole-group assembly by presenting the Miss Emily Award in honor of Emily Brnger, longtime teacher at DCS. One student receives the award, and we share how that student exemplifies the characteristics of caring and kindness.

February 4 at 6 pm brings the annual District Deliberative Session, in which the warrant articles included in the ConVal School District budget are reviewed and discussed. This event will be held at the ConVal gym (snow date February 5). It is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the different aspects of the budget, which will be voted on in March.

Kindergartners are wanted! If you have or know of a child who will be 5 years old before September 30, please contact the SAU at 603-924-3336.

NICOLE PEASE is the principal teacher at Dublin Consolidated School.

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Implications of Withdrawal from ConVal District

BY ALAN EDELKIND

In my opinion, there are two basic reasons for a town to consider withdrawing from a school district: the education of the children and the financial considerations of the taxpayers.

The Dublin Educational Advisory Committee's argument for withdrawal is primarily focused on the financial aspects and has nothing to do with the quality of education for our middle and high school students. Our middle and high school students would be tuitioned back to ConVal with the same curriculum and teachers. Using the current staff, we would educate our elementary students at our own Dublin Consolidated School.

This is the wrong direction to take. It would be better, from a financial standpoint, to have all the ConVal towns vote for a change to the funding formula percentages which are currently based 50% on the number of students in town in relation to all towns, and 50% on the town's equalized tax rate in relation to all towns. (Note: To change the funding formula percentage

requires a supermajority [60%] vote from all towns combined.)

If the withdrawal article does not receive a majority of votes from the town seeking to withdraw, the withdrawal process is terminated (RSA 195:29 I). If the article passes in the town seeking to withdraw, and a majority of voters in the entire cooperative district vote in favor of the article, then withdrawal will pass (RSA 195:29 II). If a three-fifths supermajority of the voters in the withdrawing town vote in favor of withdrawal, then the withdrawal vote will pass unless a three-fifths majority of voters in the entire district votes against withdrawal (RSA 195:29 III). If the vote to withdraw passes, the withdrawal takes effect on July 1, 2026.

From an educational standpoint, withdrawal is not a good idea. Our town will lose its ability to vote on the educational direction the school district is taking. We could also withdraw from a negotiated tuition agreement and try to tuition our students to another SAU, which would not be appropriate for the educational well-being of our students.

Viewpoints on the Proposal to Withdraw from ConVal School District

The following three articles represent a range of views on the possible withdrawal from the ConVal School District, an important – and complicated – issue for our town. You may share your viewpoint in the March *Advocate* by sending it to dublinadvocate@gmail.com by February 15. Our goal is to provide a forum for constructive dialogue. As with all articles for publication, *Advocate* editors reserve the right to edit for length, style, and clarity of content.

Withdrawal was brought up after the vote on consolidation was defeated, even though the school board clearly stated that the Prismatic consolidation solution (which included DCS) was accepted to complete their contract and that we would take an entire year, with town involvement, to determine if any and in what sequence schools would be closed.

Closing of DCS was not a foregone

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Time for a Change

BY CAROLE MONROE

The Dublin Education Advisory Committee was formed by the Dublin Select Board last spring to study the quality and cost of the education provided by the ConVal School District to the children of Dublin. The DEAC was instructed to report their findings and to make recommendations to the Select Board.

The district continues to struggle with meeting its own goals for the quality of education. Test scores in English, language arts, math, and science are significantly below the standards the district finds acceptable.

Despite increasing budgets, there is no plan for cost savings other than closing elementary schools. The ConVal assessment is the single largest portion of a Dublin resident's tax bill. Dublin's apportionment is now \$5.4 million, the highest cost at \$37,497.60 per student in the system.

The DEAC and Select Board unanimously recommended withdrawal of DCS from ConVal and the creation of a Dublin School District. There are many reasons for this recommendation, including:

- Regaining local control of education and finances
- Protecting quality public education in Dublin, eliminating the long-standing threat to close DCS
- Helping to make ConVal education stronger in the upper grades as an equal partner, not as a town subsidizing all other towns in the ConVal District
- Creating opportunities to enrich and improve the education received by all Dublin students
- Building a firm foundation leading to a better transition to middle and high school
- Withdrawing at a debt-free time (once in seven decades), without the restrictions imposed by outstanding municipal bonds

In March of 2024, our town overwhelmingly passed a warrant article requiring ConVal to determine the feasibility of withdrawal from the ConVal District. ConVal created a Feasibility Committee and the DEAC was tasked by the Select Board with producing a response. The Feasibility Committee and the town's reports were submitted to the State Board of Education.

The ConVal Majority Report stated

that it was not "feasible or suitable" for Dublin to run its own school. We suspect the real reason for this rejection was the fear that costs would rise for the other towns if the subsidies provided by Dublin were reduced. Our Minority Report stated that it was feasible for Dublin to run its own school. Our main contention was that it should be up to the voters to decide this issue. Dublin's proposal to withdraw received unanimous support from the New Hampshire Board of Education when our Select Board and DEAC presented at the formal hearing on November 14 in Concord. ConVal's report attempting to block Dublin's withdrawal received no votes of support from DOE Board members.

The residents of Dublin and the eight other towns in our school district will have the opportunity to vote in March 2025 on whether Dublin can withdraw from ConVal.

The Select Board unanimously supports the proposed withdrawal and recommends Dublin citizens work together and vote for a brighter future for Dublin's children and a much fairer tax burden for Dublin's citizens. This effectively ends the role of the DEAC in this process. However, a small

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A Parent's Perspective

BY JESSE MARCUM

This year, our town will be presented with one of the most consequential decisions regarding education that we have faced: the choice of whether or not to withdraw from the Contoocook Valley School District. After lengthy analysis and deliberation, the Feasibility Study Committee, which was commissioned by Dublin voters at last year's annual Town Meeting, voted not to recommend that Dublin withdraw from the ConVal district. In spite of this recommendation, the NH State Board of Education chose to side with authors of a minority opinion in favor of withdrawing, allowing the issue to go to ballot this March.

What would withdrawal mean? What would be the plan for the future of education in Dublin? The fact is, I don't know. The Minority Report was largely focused on perceived grievances with the ConVal district – cost, quality, and control – without putting forward a meaningful plan for what would happen after withdrawal.

Other than painting a few "broad strokes" that included acquiring complete ownership of our elementary school and tuitioning middle- and high-school students into area schools/districts, the plan provided no means by which any of the grievances could be addressed were we to go it alone.

The report proposed an initial budget equal to what Dublin currently pays into ConVal, but this number is not backed by any attempt to flesh out actual operational costs associated with running an independent school district (e.g., staffing, maintenance, curriculum, special education, etc.) or to factor in the economies of scale we currently benefit from as part of a coopera-

tive district. The report provides no means (abstract or objective) by which education outcomes would be improved or even how we would guarantee that we can provide the broad range of resources needed to support all of our students. Obtaining full ownership of the elementary school would allow for local control there, but this would come at the expense of our voice in educating our middle and high school students. We wouldn't be able to participate in deliberative sessions or vote on school budgets, and we would lose school board representation. Our voices would be reduced to a line item in a tuition agreement.

Without a meaningful education plan, without guaranteed cost savings, and without representation, I cannot see how withdrawing from the district would benefit either the children or the taxpayers of Dublin. This March, I will vote to remain a part of the ConVal School District.

JESSE MARCUM is a Dublin parent who previously served on the Dublin Education Advisory Committee.

Time for a Change

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group will continue to meet and disseminate information to Dublin voters. If you would like to join us, you are welcome.

The detailed reports, including the Minority Report submitted to the DOE remain on the town of Dublin's website at townofdublin.org/dublin-education-advisory-committee. We encourage you to reflect on the data provided before the vote in March. The warrant article to withdraw will be on the ConVal ballot.

CAROLE MONROE is a member of the Select Board and served on the Dublin Education Advisory Committee.



Implications of Withdrawal

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conclusion, but the school board took any further study of consolidation off the table. Instead, we have focused (by statute) on the withdrawal effort.

Withdrawal is filled with financial unknowns. There are many expenses from the SAU that would need to be apportioned per town (that currently do not need to be, due to being a one-district SAU). There are also certain educational expenses that can no longer be shared.

There are expenses that would have to be picked up by the withdrawing district that cannot be calculated at the current time, such as special education. Dublin would be responsible for employees who are currently shared within the district but who would not be able to be shared in a separate district. There is also the issue of DCS building maintenance. These are only a few of many expenses.

As your school board representative, I deal logically with issues with an open mind. I fully support the needs of our schoolchildren and the desires of our taxpayers. A financial solution should be tried again by voting for changes in the funding formula before taking the major, no-going-back direction of withdrawal. Our children and town deserve no less.

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



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February 2025 Events at the DubHub

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Coffee & Conversation, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 am–noon

Adult Yoga, Mondays, 3–4:15 pm

Early AM Yoga, Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 am

DubHub Open Hours, Tuesdays, 9 am–3 pm

Director's Office Hours, Wednesdays, 10 am–3 pm. Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to set up a meeting or to see the space.

Qigong, Wednesdays, noon–1 pm

Knit with Nancy via Zoom, Fridays, 10 am

Balsam Fir Pillows, Sunday, February 2

From 1–4 pm, join fellow crafters at the DubHub in making traditional New England balsam fir sachets and sleep pillows! We'll provide the tree needles (leftover from holiday trees) as well as fabrics and patterns for the pillows. Feel free to bring your own tree needles and fabrics as well. It'll be a midwinter afternoon of creating and connecting with each other.

Song Circle, Sunday, February 2

All are welcome 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! If you don't have a printer, please send a printable version by the previous Friday to David Mueller at dmueller55146@gmail.com.

Valentines, Songs, Story, and Lunch, Saturday, February 8

What could be a sweeter activity than creating your own valentines using supplies provided by the DubHub, surrounded by family, friends, and cuddly

live animals? What if we add kid songs performed by Opa Volkert Volkercsz and a community lunch of grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup? Also, Amazing Grace founder Donna Waterson will bring her animal ambassadors, such as a bunny, a pig, and some goats to visit. All welcome, please come between 11 am–1 pm. This event is for kids and kids at heart, from age 1–100!

Ping-Pong, Saturday, February 8

Come from 2–4 pm to play some ping-pong! We are looking for players of high school age or older who are interested in social and/or competitive play. We already have a handful of players ready to go! Interested in playing on the second and fourth Saturday of every month? A town tournament in the spring? Please stop by and tell us what you are interested in. This initiative is organized by Chris Sprague and Rebecca Welsh.

Herb Class with Katherine Gekas, Tuesday, February 11

Herb classes happen on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. This month, Katherine Gekas will focus on

herbs to manage pain and inflammation. People will go home with a sample and a handout with information and resources so they can continue learning at home. Herb class is open to everyone, and there is a sliding scale fee (\$10–\$40). For more information, email katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

Coffee House & Open Mic, Saturday, February 15

On the third Saturday of each month, the DubHub hosts a combined Coffee House & Open Mic from 6–9:30 pm. A monthly coffee sponsor provides the java, and sweet and savory snacks are available. Attendees are also welcome to BYOB and dinner/snacks. 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 Wendy Keith & Her Alleged Band. Wendy will be performing original and classic cover songs with the talented Jack Henry and Doug Farrell. They have been performing together for years, bringing tasteful harmonies and top-notch musicianship with songs meant to touch the heart and spirit.

Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to reserve a spot on the open mic sign-up, or just show up that evening to try your

Art Show Reception, Friday, February 14

All are invited from 5–7 pm to a reception celebrating the art of woodworker Franz Feige. With over 35 years of experience working with wood, Feige has engaged in many areas of woodworking but always returns to the turned, carved, sculpted, and band-sawn wooden vessel. He creates functional pieces as well as those that emphasize beauty and imagination. Recently, he and his wife moved from Long Island, New York, to Peterborough so he could dedicate himself more fully to his craft. There will be a range of work on display, small to large in size, including bowls, boxes, pencil/brush holders, spoons, candle holders, and objects of art. This show will remain up for viewing and for purchase through Wednesday, March 5, during open hours and by appointment. Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org to make an appointment.





Wendy Keith & Her Alleged Band

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).

Storytelling & Spoken Word, Wednesday, February 19

On the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30–8:30 pm, the DubHub hosts the Monadnock Storytelling & Spoken Word Circle, an open mic to share stories, poetry, rap, comedy, or any kind of spoken word. 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 – you are welcome to BYOB. For more information, contact Papa Joe at papajoestorytelling.com and Sebastian at bit.ly/slockwood.

Herbal Office Hours, Tuesday, February 18

On the third Tuesday of the month, Katherine Gekas will hold herbal office hours from 4–6 pm. Herbal office hours will be one-on-one sessions for people who have questions about medicinal herbs but need a private consultation. Payment will be sliding scale and optional (\$0–\$125).

Music of Peter, Paul & Mary, Saturday, February 22

Come at 6 pm to enjoy the music of Peter, Paul & Mary as performed by a variety of talented local musicians and singers such as Decatur Creek, Kota, and others. The audience is welcome to sing along as well. PP&M helped popularize the folk music revival with their performances of songs such as “Leaving on a Jet Plane”

and “If I Had a Hammer.” Big thanks goes out to Volkert Volkercz for organizing this free special event, with donations gratefully accepted. A snow date is set for the next day, February 23 at 3 pm.

We Want to Hear from You!

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? If you are a person or business who would like to collaborate with us to hold a class, event, or service, please let us know. If there is a product or service that you produce that you would like to share with the community, or if you might like to be involved in any future fair or event, email info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

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**, for updated information about events. Email info@dublincommunitycenter.org if you would like to be added to the Hubbub weekly mailing list.

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The Smiths Move to Dublin

BY KIM ALLIS

Ellen Smith moved to Dublin with her husband James in September of last year. Ellen feels this is the place they've been searching for always, after leaving their larger house in Greenfield and trying condo-living in Jaffrey for the past three years. They are very happy they found their Dublin home and have settled in nicely.

Originally from the Netherlands, Ellen moved to the United States in her 20s and founded her business, European Esthetics, in Peterborough in 1992. James, now semiretired, keeps busy with various small jobs and projects. Their daughters have also started their own chapters in life. Sabina and her husband, Nick, live in the Netherlands and are expecting their first child this June. Fiona is completing her residency in prosthetics in Rochester, New York. Ellen's family, including her 92-year-



old mother, reside in the Netherlands, so one or two trips a year to visit are a regular occurrence.

Ellen looks forward to tending a vegetable garden this spring and has found Dublin to be a wonderfully active community. She enjoyed a recent newcomer event at the DubHub, joined the Dublin Library Book Club, and plans to explore more walking trails with the Riding and Walking Club.

Welcome to Dublin, Ellen and James!

KIM ALLIS is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

Snow White's Journey

BY ROSEMARY WEIDNER

A therapy dog at Cheshire Medical Center, Cheshire County Department of Corrections, local colleges, and various assisted living facilities, Snow White has come a long way from her life on the streets in Arkansas. The Lucky Pup Rescue Service almost missed out on this special girl. They had left her behind because there was no more room in the van. While they debated the problem of too many animals, they noticed this white and yellow Lab mix running after the van.

Out the window, they saw this dog who wouldn't stop running. They took her in

and called her Snow White, not knowing that making room for one more dog really meant 12 more dogs when she delivered 11 puppies. Snow herself was in no shape for nursing – running for her pups was about all she could do – so 11 newborn puppies had to be bottle-fed. All 11 puppies were given Disney names to go with the Snow White theme, and all were adopted much more quickly than their mom, who needed several years of rehab and exposure to indoor living.

We were so lucky to be able to adopt this sensitive, gentle, and intuitive canine. The foster family loved Snow and would have kept her themselves if our family hadn't met their standards for love waiting for her at our home. And we are so grateful for her!

ROSEMARY WEIDNER is a retired therapist and therapy dog companion.



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Dr. Vrtiak is a spouse of a retired Military Officer.

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The Presidents of My Lifetime

continued from page 1

student at Smith College many years later, I visited two elderly ladies in town, one of whom had been a lawyer in Coolidge's firm.

After Coolidge, who declined a second term, came Herbert Hoover. John and I knew Hoover at Stanford University in the 1950s, long after he left office. The tower library that houses the papers connected with Hoover's post-World War I relief work in Europe continues to attract scholars. I wondered that this was the same man who was criticized for inaction during America's Great Depression of the 1930s!

My parents voted for Hoover's successor, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the New York governor who came into office prepared with emergency programs to meet the crisis. My uncle, Army General Arthur Nevins, was assigned to work for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which put young unemployed men to work building and repairing the nation's infrastructure. The bridge behind our house in Portola Valley bears the CCC label.

Many years later, I talked to a San Francisco lawyer about his work with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the first summer of Roosevelt's New Deal. Traveling in box cars and on top of trains with homeless people looking for work, he camped out with them at night and listened to their hopeful conversations about Roosevelt's programs.

Roosevelt won a second term by a landslide in 1936 and went on to an unprecedented third term in 1940. My journalist grandmother, Anna Steese Richardson, who had an autographed picture of Hoover on her desk, voted for Roosevelt. My mother voted for Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate.

I moved to California from New Jersey on election day in 1948, when Harry S. Truman, Roosevelt's successor, was running an uphill race against New York governor Thomas Dewey, New Dealer Henry Wallace, and a Dixiecrat candidate. In the rush to move, I had missed voting. It seemed a good omen to learn that Truman had overcome the formidable opposition to win four more years in office.

My father's brother managed a farm in

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, belonging to the next president, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Our Aunt Ann played bridge with Mamie Eisenhower in the White House. But we were fans of Eisenhower's opponent, former Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. We were happy that Stevenson went on to join the cabinet of Eisenhower's successor, John F. Kennedy.

When John was invited to teach at Rice University in Houston, I didn't want to live in Texas, the state represented by Lyndon Johnson. But I came to appreciate Johnson's impassioned championship of civil rights, which resulted in the confirmation of the first Black justice on the Supreme Court. It is a tragedy that Johnson was caught up in the Vietnam War.

Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon, was the first president to resign from office following revelations aired during the Watergate hearings. Like Hoover, he was of Quaker heritage. Since we lived in his home state, we heard both accusations and defense of him. Only recently did I learn that Gerald Ford, Nixon's vice president and successor, provoked anger even among Republicans for his pardon of Nixon. Benign President Ford became a close friend of his successor, Jimmy Carter, an outspoken Christian. I think Gerald Ford eased the transition between the heritage of Nixon and the Christian ethics of Jimmy Carter.

I learned about Carter's successor, Ronald Reagan, when he was governor of California. Reagan's positive qualities were sometimes praised even by his ideological opponents. He energized fellow politicians.

His successor, George H.W. Bush, served only one term. He sometimes described his political career with disappointment, except when he spoke about his wife, Barbara. She was at Smith College when I was there, although I never met her. I did meet (and interviewed) Nancy Davis Smith, who later married Ronald Reagan.

Between the presidencies of George H.W. Bush and his son, George W. Bush, came Bill Clinton of Arkansas, who served two terms and went on to support the presidential candidacy of his wife, Hillary.

My most memorable recollection of a U.S. president is listening with my granddaughter, Laura Tuller, to Barack Obama sing "Amazing Grace" at a funeral for

murdered churchgoers. The moment lives on in my mind.

Who was my favorite president? Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was assisted by his wife, Eleanor. She went on to become a U.S. representative to the United Nations after World War II. I feel nostalgia for that period when politicians took action to help people in need.

ANNE LOFTIS, a historian and summer resident of Dublin in the 1970s, died in 2023 at the age of 101.

President's Day 2025

continued from page 1

interests. His words were prescient and wise. He understood the human tendency toward factionalism, and he feared that parties would focus more on "the spirit of revenge" rather than on the defense of liberty and the strength of the nation. Washington reminded citizens that "the independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts – of common dangers, sufferings, and successes," and he admonished Americans when he wrote, "...you should



Lindsay Brown

properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness."

Abraham Lincoln, in his first inaugural address, echoed this appeal to the common purpose of all Americans and urged the states to remain united, despite their many differences: "The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The great presidents whom we celebrate on the third Monday of February call on us to build a nation together, to accept our differences, to work for unity, and to strive for the highest ideals that are at the foundation of the United States.

LINDSAY BROWN teaches American history at Dublin School.



Dublin School Presents *Hadestown*

Dublin School will present the award-winning Broadway musical *Hadestown: Teen Edition* on Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, at 7 pm, and Sunday, March 9, at 2 pm. All performances will be in the Fountain Arts Theater on the Dublin School campus. Tickets are free, donations are welcome, reservations suggested, and seating is limited. Go to the website with the QR code, or visit bit.ly/dshadestown.



You may also make reservations by

calling 603-563-1283 or emailing alord@dublinschool.org.

Anaïs Mitchell's *Hadestown* is the winner of eight Tony awards and is still a hit on Broadway. Dublin School is proud to be granted special permission to perform the teen edition of this creative retelling of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice.

"To the world we dream about, and the one we live in now." Orpheus offers this toast early in the show, and it evokes an important theme the play asks us to consider. As myths, legends, and histories are repeated and retold, sometimes to tragic end, the musical asks us to think about the value of trying, even when the outcome is not what we envisioned, and to "keep on singing."

The production is led by Dublin faculty, director/choreographer Jenny Foreman, musical director Zach Redler, and technical crew director Sophie Luxmoore. The cast and crew of 40 includes 17 local students as well as boarding students from around the world. They will be joined onstage with live music by accomplished local musicians.

Women's Health at MCH

This year, Monadnock Community Hospital offers free wellness seminars covering essential health topics. This month's offering is Women's Guide to Cardiovascular Wellness on Thursday, February 27, at 5:30 pm in the Bond Wellness Center.

Join Dr. Robert Spencer of Monadnock Gastroenterology Associates for a discussion of cardiovascular health tailored for women. In honor of American Heart Month, this session will cover unique risk factors, early warning signs, and lifestyle changes to help women reduce heart disease risk and manage existing conditions.

Space is limited for these seminars. To reserve your spot, go to MCH.EventBrite.com. For more information, visit MonadnockHospital.org.



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Are We What We Eat?

Stories About Food & Ourselves
Friday, February 28, 5 pm on Zoom

Join us for this interactive event and share your own Foodstory! Everyone is invited to participate.

We all have a story about food, whether it is sharing a meal, memories of learning a recipe, or foods we might avoid due to negative associations. During this program, Shanta Lee will discuss her project, "Foodstories – We Are What We Eat: Intersections Between Food, Memory, Identity, and Our Stories," and participants are welcome to share their own stories, culminating in a multimedia exhibition. The final project will feature Foodstories from the community through audio, images, and text paired with an original soundscape designed by another artist.

The purpose of Foodstories is to explore the idea that food can be a bridge to who we are as individuals and as a human collective while also creating community. To learn more about the project, visit shantalee.com/foodstories.

Shanta Lee is an award-winning author

of several books and a visual artist, as well as a regular contributor to *Ms.* magazine and *Art New England*. She was the 2020 gubernatorial appointee to the Vermont Humanities Council's board of directors.

All-time favorite Meat Loaf!

Home-cooked community supper
4th Tuesday of each month.

February 25
5:30–7 pm

Meat loaf, potato,
vegetable, dessert.

(always a vegetarian option too)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

In the meeting hall of the
Dublin Community Church.

Hope to see you there!

General info: 860-574-4235

End 68 Hours

Many thanks to all who contributed to the recent Peterborough Fire & Rescue food drive for End 68 Hours of Hunger in front of Shaw's. That drive brought in 970 food items and \$671 in cash and checks – a real boost in our effort to provide weekend food to food-insecure kids!

End 68 Hours is continuing the effort to bring in extra food and cash with food collection bins and cash donation jars placed in businesses throughout the towns of the ConVal School District through mid-February. One of those locations is the Dublin General Store, where donations of canned chicken, tuna, canned pasta, fruit cups, and mac and cheese are especially welcome.

Of course, donations are always welcome at the Dublin Community Church, too. Since the side entrance and donation shelves get pretty cold this time of year, it's tremendously helpful to keep the church donations to foods that won't freeze. Mac and cheese, nutrition bars, and Ritz crackers are perfect. Thank you so much!

17.9% of children in the US live in food-insecure households. (USDA 2023)

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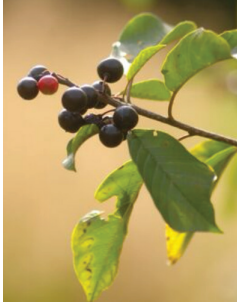


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Swapping Invasive Shrubs for Natives

COURTESY OF NH LAKES

With its fiery red leaves and clusters of jewel-toned berries, burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) might look like a perfect addition to your landscape. Like many invasives, this striking shrub escapes into forests and wetlands, spreading relentlessly. It's one of the most common invasive species. Left unmanaged, burning bush and other non-native shrubs create dense thickets that block sunlight and nutrients from reaching other native plants and cause them to die off. Soil becomes more exposed to the elements, resulting in sediment and nutrient pollution entering our lakes.



Create Room for Natives to Grow

If you find an invasive shrub on your property, it's crucial to remove it and replant the area with native plants to prevent further spread. Here are a few resources to

help you identify invasive plants and how to control them:

- "Spotlight on NH Invasive Plants," from UNH Extension, written by NH Master Gardeners, spotlighting invasive species and their management, bit.ly/unhextspotlight
- "Invasive Plants: Specific Methods of Control," from UNH Extension, bit.ly/unhextmethods
- "Picking Our Battles," from New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, bit.ly/habitatbattles
- "Invasive Plants," from New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, including New Hampshire's invasive species information and guidance, bit.ly/nhaginvasives

Replant with Native Shrubs

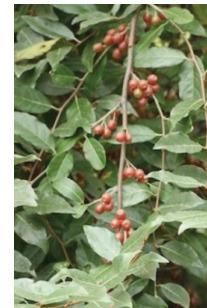
Restore your property with native plants that offer seasonal beauty, support wildlife (think birds and butterflies!), and protect the lake. Here are some outstanding native alternatives:

- Native sumac, such as smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), winged sumac (*R. copalinum*), or staghorn sumac (*R. hirta*)

- Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) is commonly recommended for its abundance of berries and ability to thrive along the shoreline. For a unique option, try nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- Highbush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*); its red-colored berry is a snack loved by black bears, small mammals, and birds alike

LakeSmart Can Help Identify Invasive Species

The LakeSmart Lake-Friendly Program helps property owners identify invasive species by performing site visits and providing suggestions to help cultivate a native, lake-friendly landscape on their property. If you're interested in learning more about all the lake-friendly living



practices you can adopt on your property, answer some questions through the LakeSmart Survey at s.pointerpro.com/lakesmartstart2. You will receive a personalized report filled with suggestions for a lake-friendly property.



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Annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey, February 8–9

BY GRACE MCCULLOUGH

NH Audubon is calling on all nature enthusiasts and bird lovers to participate in the annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey, a unique opportunity to contribute valuable data from your own backyard to help track New Hampshire’s winter bird populations. Scheduled for February 8 and 9, the survey is open to participants all across the state. Whether you are a seasoned birder or just starting to learn to identify the birds in your backyard, the survey is fun for all ages. Last year, we had over 1,500 participants.



range northward. Wild turkey numbers dropped, likely due to a poor breeding season the year before. Some surprises included the first-ever yellow-throated warbler recorded in the survey – a bird that typically nests no farther north than New Jersey and usually migrates to southern Florida or the Caribbean.

Many will remember the flocks of pine siskins and dark-eyed juncos that visited their feeders last February. While we don’t expect as many pine siskins this year, there’s always something exciting to observe. This year, we predict high counts of red-breasted nuthatches, a species that often moves south into New Hampshire in response to dwindling food supplies up north. We anticipate strong showings of favorites like red-bellied woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, and eastern bluebirds.

Our Winters Are Changing and So Are the Birds

This is the 38th year of the survey. Over this time, we have seen dramatic changes both in our winters (which are getting warmer) and the birds that call New Hampshire home for the winter. Twenty-five years ago, almost no eastern bluebirds stayed in New Hampshire for the winter; today, people see them throughout much of the state during the colder months. We have also tracked red-bellied woodpeckers and Carolina wrens moving into the state over the last 25 years. We’ve observed steep declines in other species, like evening grosbeaks. This is where the value of this long-term dataset is realized, allowing us to monitor bird populations and identify critical trends.

Last year’s winter brought surprises. We recorded a record high count of pine warblers, a species that typically winters farther south. We also saw record numbers of turkey vultures, a bird expanding its winter

Last year, the top five species on the survey were:

- American goldfinch (9,925 birds counted)
- Dark-eyed junco (9,665 birds counted)
- Mourning dove (4,695 birds counted)
- Black-capped chickadee (4,395 birds counted)
- Blue jay (4,373 birds counted)

Participation is simple

- Count the birds in your yard or at your bird feeder for any amount of time on February 8 and 9.
- Record the numbers of each species you see.
- Submit your data online using our easy-to-use form.

Visit nhaudubon.org/bwbs for more information, including tips for identifying winter birds, full survey instructions, printable tally sheets, and instructions for submitting your data online. Email bwbs@nhaudubon.org with any questions.

GRACE MCCULLOUGH is the community science project leader for NH Audubon.

Photo courtesy All About Birds.org, © Joseph Boros

Paul Tuller to Speak in Jaffrey

On Friday, February 7, at 5 pm, the Jaffrey Civic Center will continue its “Stories to Share” series with an illustrated talk entitled “Japanese House in New Hampshire, a Long Journey,” by Paul Tuller of Dublin.

After acquiring a timber frame made by Japanese carpenters for the Brattleboro Museum in 1987, Paul spent 15 years completing exterior and interior details of the traditional structure. For the past four years, he has worked on the garden and water feature surrounding the Japanese house on his property.

The program is free of charge, but donations are appreciated. To register for the event, go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories/, or call Laura Adams at 603-532-6527. The Jaffrey Civic Center is located at 40 Main Street.



Photo by Nancy Bellisario



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FEBRUARY 2025 Calendar

Photo by Zack Rizzo

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>CV ConVal High School DCC Dublin Community Church DPL Dublin Public Library HUB Dublin Community Center JCC Jaffrey Civic Center MCH Monadnock Community Hospital TH Town Hall, Dublin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mt. Washington Observatory</p>		1
<p>2 HUB Balsam Fir pillows 1-4pm</p>	<p>3 TH Cemetery Comm. 9am; Select Board 4:30pm; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL Make & Take Lab, Creative Club 3:30pm; Mindfulness 2pm; Bridge Club 3pm</p>	<p>4 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; Book Club 5:30pm; CV Deliberative Session 6pm</p>	<p>5 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Story Time & Homeschool Group 10:30; CV Deliberative Session (snow date) 6pm</p>	<p>6 DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; TH Planning Board 6pm</p>	<p>7 HUB/Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; JCC Stories to Share: Japanese House 5pm</p>	<p>8 Backyard Winter Bird Survey; DPL Dublin Dems 10am; HUB Valentines and Lunch 11am-1pm; Pingpong 2-4pm</p>
<p>9 Backyard Winter Bird Survey</p>	<p>10 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL Make & Take Lab, Creative Club 3:30pm; DHS 4pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm</p>	<p>11 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herb class 7pm; DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; Waste & Recycling 4pm; FDPL 5pm</p>	<p>12 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Story Time & Homeschool Group 10:30am; DCS Visit 1:45pm; DPL Trustees 5pm</p>	<p>13 DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm</p>	<p>14 VALENTINE'S DAY HUB/Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; Art Reception 5-7pm</p>	<p>15 <i>Advocate</i> deadline; HUB Open Mic 6-9:30pm</p>
16	<p>17 PRESIDENT'S DAY HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL Make & Take Lab, Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm</p>	<p>18 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herbal Office Hours 4pm; DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; Tech Night 6pm</p>	<p>19 HUB QiGong noon-1pm; Storytelling Circle 6:30-8:30 pm; DPL Story Time & Homeschool Group 10:30am; TH Cons. Comm. 5pm</p>	<p>20 DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; TH Planning Board 6pm</p>	<p>21 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am</p>	<p>22 HUB Concert: Music of Peter, Paul & Mary 6pm</p>
23	<p>24 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; DPL Make & Take Lab, Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm</p>	<p>25 HUB Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; Covered Bridges 6pm; DCC Community Supper 5:30-7pm</p>	<p>26 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; DPL Story Time & Homeschool Group 10:30am</p>	<p>27 DPL Creative Club 3:30-4:30pm; MCH Wellness Seminar 5:30pm</p>	<p>28 HUB/Zoom Knit w/Nancy 10-11am; Zoom NH Humanities Food Stories 5pm</p>	

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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