

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Dublin, NH 03444

Celebrate New Hampshire's Earliest Free Public Library

BY CHRIS SPRAGUE AND WADDY ROWE

The Dublin Public Library became the first funded free library in New Hampshire in 1822. This was 11 years ahead of Peterborough. The cornerstone of the current library was laid on July 10, 1900. In it was placed a time capsule containing objects that provide a snapshot of that day. Fast forward to 2026, the 125th anniversary of the library's opening, and we are planning a busy year of celebration and community engagement.

We kick off our celebration with Dublin archivist and former library trustee Celeste Snitko, who will present "How Dublin Public Library Saved the Village...and Other Stories" on Saturday, January 10, at



A mason in 1900 places the time capsule in the lower stone. Below: The cornerstone sat above the time capsule.

10 am. Rebecca Rule follows with "Moved and Seconded: Town Meetings in NH" on Saturday, January 24, at 1 pm, courtesy of NH Humanities.

In late July on Dublin Community Day, in conjunction with the Friends of the Library's annual ice cream social, we will reveal the contents of the time capsule. In preparation, Paul Tuller worked diligently to find its exact location. He drilled through the cornerstone and threaded a camera inside to locate the box! The time capsule has been extracted by employees of the

Sandri Companies, and its contents will be evaluated and displayed in the library.

We will engage students, parents, and others in deciding what to put in the time capsule when we replace it. We will solicit letters and other content to include. We hope the time capsule will be reopened in 2151, when the library celebrates its 250th anniversary.

We are also planning a scavenger hunt

continued on next page

Share Your Favorite Library Memory

We know many of you have interesting memories of the library. We'd like to capture your stories and share them as part of our celebration.

For example, one of our patrons remembers visiting the library at the age of 10 and seeing either Queen Elizabeth or First Lady Barbara Bush riding in a horse drawn carriage. Our research confirms it was First Lady Barbara Bush. She visited New Hampshire during the 1992 presidential campaign, with documented stops in Peterborough and Dublin on January 23, 1992. Share your memories with the library staff on your next visit!



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Paul Tuller used a drill, a camera, and old photos to locate the time capsule. Right: Ezra Faucher of Sandri Companies holds the 1900 time capsule.



Photos by Julie Rizzo and Mary Loftis

Earliest Free Public Library continued from page 1

based upon buildings and landmarks that existed in 1901. Which graves of important residents of the day can be found in the cemetery? Cemetery supervisor Will Elcoate will help identify them all and provide historical insights. Keep an eye on the library website and the *Advocate* for more information.

Meanwhile, Maria Finnegan is forming *Future Dublin*, a group of young parents and families who will help shape the next 100 years of our library. Members of this group will propose events that will form the basis of new traditions. Other meetings will include people of all ages and will generate input about what they would like to see as we plan for 2026 and beyond.

Funding the Future

While we will continue to get funding for operations and capital improvements from the town, our historic library needs

to invest in building modernization, historic preservation, staff development, outdoor meeting spaces, and more. To this end, we are launching a campaign to create a Dublin Public Library 125th Anniversary Fund.

If you would like to be a part of these events or contribute to our anniversary fund, please contact 125th Anniversary Task Force chair Chris Sprague (cs@dplnh.com) or Friends chair Pam Bator (pb@dplnh.com).

CHRIS SPRAGUE (trustee) and WADDY ROWE (alternate trustee) are members of the 125th Anniversary Task Force for the Dublin Public Library.

Dublin remembers

Susie Catlin, 1942–2025

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More Ways to Serve Your Town

Last month, the *Dublin Advocate* featured eight town boards and committees in need of volunteers to help do the important work of our town. This month, we feature the remaining five.

Any town resident interested in running for any elected town position must declare their candidacy at the Town Clerk's office between Wednesday, January 21, and Friday, January 30. (Town Hall will be open on Friday, January 30, from 3–5 pm). Available positions will be posted.

ConVal School Board Representative

—from Bill Gurney

Shortly after the last town election, I was asked by our Select Board to serve as the Dublin representative to the ConVal School Board. While flattered, I was hesitant. During my career, I had spent many hours in school board and education committee meetings and knew the challenges and commitment necessary to be an effective representative for our community.

I am glad that I accepted the offer for the following reasons:

- The work is worthwhile. At a time when public education is facing sometimes harsh criticism, I have met a good many dedicated and committed educators doing their best to educate and support our students.
- The work is intellectually stimulating. Whether learning about new instructional practices, new curriculum initiatives, technology, or school law, there is always more to learn.
- I have met some wonderful board members doing their best to represent their respective communities. While we may disagree on some issues, I have found fellow members willing to resolve

concerns and to entertain differing viewpoints, with mutual respect and often with a sense of humor.

Serving on a school board is important work, and our students and families deserve the best representation. In addition to attending school board and committee meetings, the job requires considerable preparation time.

Energy Committee

—from James Finnegan

I ran for the Energy Committee because I'm personally interested in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and "cleantech." I thought it would be a great way to learn more about these subjects and help the town upgrade its infrastructure and save money on energy costs. Turns out I was right!

It helps to have a working understanding of energy topics, but really all one needs to serve is enthusiasm for all things energy and a desire to benefit the town. We meet once a month on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Meetings typically run from 90 minutes to 2 hours. If there's a need for a "field trip" (e.g., visiting a town site that might be a candidate for a project) or any urgent business, we may agree to schedule an in-between meeting. Usually, the only matters that would be pressing enough for a non-regularly scheduled meeting would be if the town is in the middle of a project that the committee is helping manage (e.g., the solar installation at the fire house this year) or if there is an inflexible deadline (e.g., if we are trying to help the town apply for a grant).

We are an agreeable bunch and have a record of listening well and taking all members' views and ideas into account. Whether you bring previous expertise or are considering upgrades to your

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More Ways to Serve Your Town continued from page 3

home and are just hoping to learn more, we would love for you to attend a meeting to see what it's like. Please reach out to any of the committee members (Select Board representative Susan Peters, Jack Munn, or James Finnegan) if you are interested.

Supervisors of the Checklist

—from Kyle Wilcox

I ran for Supervisor of the Checklist out of a desire to serve our community. I had previously worked as a ballot clerk in our elections and was familiar with some of the coordination required to facilitate voting, so as I looked for ways to be more involved, this was a natural fit.

In brief, the supervisors maintain the checklist of registered voters in Dublin. We update the checklist with new voter registrations, death notifications, residence moves, and more. We also make the checklist available through posted copies at Town Hall and the Post Office and provide print copies when requested. The supervisors assist the town moderator with election set-up and coordination (scheduling ballot workers, printing the checklist, etc.).

If you have an eye for details, can learn and follow instructions, and interact well with others, this may be the role for you. All supervisors receive training from the state.

Trustees of the Trust Funds

—from Charlie Champagne

The Trustees of the Trust Funds are charged with the administration and management of the town's Common and Reserve

**FILING PERIOD FOR
TOWN OFFICES:
Wednesday, January 21 –
Friday, January 30**

funds. Common funds include total cemeteries and specific gifts resulting from an individual bequest to the town to be used for a specific purpose. Reserve funds are monies set aside by the town to cover things like road construction, purchase of heavy highway equipment, fire equipment, etc.

Both Common and Reserve funds are conservatively invested and managed for the town by Bar Harbor Bank. The trustees meet with bank representatives on a quarterly basis to review portfolio performance for both Common and Reserve funds. The trustees also review and process any requests from the town throughout the year to make sure any request from the Reserve accounts is compliant with the vote of the town and properly documented. Requests for distribution from Common funds must match the intent and purpose expressed in the governing instrument.

Those individuals considering running for a three-year term as trustee should have an interest in financial markets, various forms of investments, be detail-oriented, and feel comfortable as a member of a small team of volunteers working to monitor investment performance of town funds and guarantee the appropriate application of these funds. The state of New Hampshire offers on-line training for trustees, and the town will support new members in this endeavor.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

—from Susan Phillips-Hungerford

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), unlike the other town boards, is quasi-judicial. The ZBA hears applications requesting relief from specific articles of the Zoning Ordinance, appeals from administrative decisions, special exceptions, variances, and equitable waivers of dimension requirements. The applicant presents their case at noticed hearings.

Members should be acquainted with the Dublin Zoning Ordinance and the Rules of Procedure as outlined in *The Zoning Board of Adjustment in New Hampshire, A Handbook of Local Officials*, and be able to read and understand site plans, building plans, and similar documents. The time commitment is three years, with monthly board meetings or as required to hear an application. There are five full members, with a maximum of five alternates. The board is always looking for new members! Members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment aim to work with open minds and without prejudice, case by case.



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Get Ready for Styrofoam Recycling!

BY THE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The Dublin Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee is hosting two events in January:

How Is Styrofoam Recycled and What Does It Become?

Date: Saturday, January 17

Location: Dublin Community Center

Time: 10–11 am

Meghan Theriault, director of Public Works in Gilford, New Hampshire, will answer all our questions about Styrofoam recycling. Gilford is the home of the only foam densifier in the state and is where Dublin's foam will go once collected. Following her presentation, we will discuss ways for reducing single-use plastics in our daily lives. Bring your suggestions to share! Refreshments served.

First Annual Styrofoam Drive

Date: Saturday, January 31 (snow date February 7)

Location: Dublin Transfer Station

Time: 8 am–5 pm

All collected foam will be transported to Gilford, where it will be compacted into plastic ingots and transformed for use

into new materials – saving space in our compactor and reducing polystyrene going into our waste stream, our waters, and our landscapes. Members of the committee will be present to answer any questions.

You may bring:

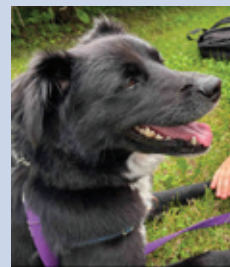
- Clean Styrofoam packaging (such as from electronics or appliance boxes)
- Food containers (free of food residue)
- Cups, trays, and other foam packing materials

Remember to look for the #6 recycling symbol somewhere on the item. Please, no packing peanuts, dirty foam products, or pipe insulation. To learn more, don't miss the information session on January 17. Your participation makes a difference in reducing waste and supporting sustainability in Dublin. See you at the Transfer Station!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS are Judy Mortner, May Clark, Dian Stolar, Libby Haddock, and Katie Featherston.

MISSING DOG

Small 30-pound female border collie named Nova, mostly



black with white on her chest. She ran away near Oxbow Road on November 23. She was last seen on Thanksgiving near the entrance to Monadnock State Park off Upper Jaffrey Road and then near Dublin School trails. If you see her, please contact Granite State Dog Rescue at 855-639-5678 or Judy Mortner at 617-777-5639.

Dublin remembers

Delcie Bean, 1942–2025

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News from ConVal School Board

BY BILL GURNEY

It has been a busy fall for the ConVal School District. While the faculty and students have been engaged with academics, sports, and lately holiday events, school board members have been developing the 2026–27 budget and trying to address numerous new and revised policies put forth by the legislature and courts.

The most recent draft of the proposed 2026–27 budget is \$60,724,488, which represents an increase of 1.4%. This sum does not include warrant articles, which may draw up to \$975,000 from our district trust funds if approved by the voters. A factor in limiting the overall budget increase was a smaller-than-anticipated cost for health benefits. **A public hearing on the budget is scheduled for January 6, followed by the district meeting on January 20.** Both meetings will be held at 7 pm in the high school gym. These sessions offer the public an opportunity to share their ideas and concerns about the proposed budget.

The S.A.U. Policy Committee has been reviewing the minutes of non-public sessions when the minutes were sealed from public view. The minutes date back through many years. Sealing minutes serves to protect the reputations of individuals (not board members), rendering a proposed action ineffective or for emergency planning such as terrorism. School boards are now required to review all sealed min-



utes every 10 years, which is proving to be a laborious process.

Recently, open enrollment has been garnering interest. School boards are required to develop policies and criteria to allow students to attend public schools outside their home district. Should a student choose to attend a neighboring school district, their home district will be required to pay tuition to the accepting district. Districts have the option of establishing their level of participation in the student exchanges. Some districts will benefit from the opportunity to enroll more students, while losing students may create additional financial challenges for other districts.

To address this mandate, ConVal is developing a warrant article that will appear on the March ballot. The article will outline the district's position on accepting students and whether our students will be able to attend schools outside the district.

A ban on student cell phone use during school hours went into effect this fall. Concerns were raised about whether such a prohibition could be reasonably enforced within the schools. Plans were developed with input from faculty and administration as well as from students. Students were provided with pouches that are locked during school hours and unlocked as students exit the buildings at the close of the academic day. Initial results have been positive in all ConVal schools. Teachers report that the absence of cell phones has fostered a more conducive learning environment within the classrooms, and students have also expressed approval of the absence of phones.

The Frankestown School Board has

successfully petitioned the New Hampshire State Board of Education for approval of their proposal to bring their withdrawal request to the voters in March. You will recall that both Dublin and Frankestown had their minority reports approved by the NH State Board of Education last year, only to have their withdrawal requests rejected by district voters. If voters approve the proposal in March, Frankestown will become an independent district.

There are many challenges ahead for our public schools in the coming year. Our students and communities are best served when we work together to address the needs of our students. Please consider getting involved and helping to make a difference in our communities.

BILL GURNEY is Dublin's representative on the ConVal School Board.



Winter Classes at the Dublin Ceramics Center

MAxT Makerspace is offering exciting ceramics classes right here in the Dublin Village Park. Classes beginning in January include beginner classes on wheel throwing, intermediate and advanced thrown and altered forms, hand building, and creating forms with functional handles. Email ceramics@maxtmakerspace.org for more information and to register.



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Welcome to 2026!

BY NICOLE PEASE

As we begin a new year, it is exciting to reflect on all that makes Dublin Consolidated School such a special place. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to support the growth and progress of every student, providing enriching and meaningful learning opportunities. We are also fortunate to be part of a caring and generous community that is ready to lend support when needed. I am truly grateful to be part of this special school and town.

December was filled with many cherished traditions. DCS staff member Vicki Brown organized our Round Robin Craft Day. Students rotated through craft stations, creating beautiful gifts for their families. Later in the month, students visited two nursing homes in Peterborough,



Second annual Macy's Parade – DCS style

continuing our strong focus on kindness and community.

January brings Winter Fun afternoons.

Members of the Dublin community joined together on a cold day in December to dedicate the new Peace Pole. Children of Dublin Consolidated School and Mountain Shadows School expressed what "peace" means to them, and Volkert Volkert performed a song he wrote for the dedication.



Some students will travel to Crotched Mountain to participate in the Ski/Ride Program, coordinated by the DCS PTO and parent volunteers. We are grateful to the Dublin Community Foundation for supporting this wonderful opportunity. Students remaining at DCS will enjoy extra outdoor time with cross-country skiing, sledding, and other winter activities. We are also planning a field trip to the Dublin School Nordic cross-country trails, an adventure made more special when we are joined by students from Dublin School. Snow certainly makes these activities more fun, so we are hoping Mother Nature cooperates!

As we enter 2026, we also begin planning for the upcoming school year. If you know of a child who will be five years old by September 30, please encourage their family to contact the school at 603-563-8332.

NICOLE PEASE is principal teacher at Dublin Consolidated School.



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January 2026 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 and Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 am

Open Hours, Tuesdays, 9 am–3 pm

Open Hours w/DubHub Director, Wednesdays, 10 am–3 pm

Qigong, Wednesdays, noon–1 pm

Needle Mania, Wednesdays, 3:30–5 pm

Mahjong Group, Thursdays, 1–3 pm

Knit with Nancy, Fridays via Zoom, 10 am

Tree-mendous Treat, Saturday, January 3

Bring your Christmas tree to the DubHub between 10 am–noon, and we will donate it to the animals at Amazing Grace Animal Sanctuary who are eager to help you get rid of your green-stemmed yuletide leftovers. Donna and Daryl Waterson, who run the farm, say that Christmas trees are like candy to the animals on the farm and are actually a healthy snack loved by the goats, pigs, and alpacas.

Please make sure that the trees are free of hooks, tinsel, and any kind of ornament. We will have hot coffee, cocoa, and donuts for you while you unload your tree and visit with some of the “amazing” animals from the farm. Bring the kids! If you are unable to come during that time, we will have a tarp behind our building starting on Friday, January 2, where you can leave your tree until our event on Saturday.

Song Circle, Sunday, January 4

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 play along. Bring your instrument if you have one, including your voice. If you’ve never attended, please email David Mueller at dmueller55146@gmail.com for more information.

Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, January 10

A blood drive is being conducted at the center from 9 am–2 pm. To sign up, visit their website, redcrossblood.org/give, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Building True Community, Monday, January 12

Join Balmeet Lasky and Leaf Seligman from 6:30–8 pm on the second Monday of every month as they host a community circle experience. This is time and space for slowing down and connecting deeply with self and other community members. All are welcome – please join

2025 Photo Contest Reception, Friday, January 9

Have you taken any cool photos with your phone this past year? If so, enter our Smartphone Photo Contest! This contest is open to amateurs, professionals, and children (12 and under) who live or work in the Monadnock Region. Entrants may submit up to three smartphone photos, taken between December 2024 and December 2025, of a person, place, detail, or event anywhere in the Monadnock Region. The entry deadline is Monday, January 5. Photos will be printed by Peterborough Camera, Copies & More on 8x10 glossy photo paper and hung in our gallery. All entrants and their families, as well as the general public, are invited to our reception at the DubHub on Friday, January 9, from 5–7 pm.

Winners will be announced and prizes given at the reception. All entrants may keep their printed photos. There is a \$10 entry fee per photo to help cover the cost of printing. This contest is sponsored by Peterborough Camera, Copies & More and the DubHub. Good luck!

- Photo entries should be emailed as jpegs to: info@dublincommunitycenter.org.
- Please electronically label your jpegs with your name and the title of your photo before submitting to help us keep them all organized.
- Photos will be officially entered and printed once payment of \$10 per photo is received.

You may pay by mailing a check, made out to the Dublin Community Center, to P.O. Box 249, Dublin, NH 03444, or by dropping off cash or a check during open hours. If mailing a check, be sure to add a note that the check is payment for the



Smartphone Photo Contest. If dropping off cash or a check, be sure to place your payment into an envelope labeled Smartphone Photo Contest and your name, and give it to the director or the volunteer on duty. If you would prefer to pay via credit card, use this secure payment link: bit.ly/dubhubpay, or email info@dublincommunitycenter.org for further instructions.



Photos by Nancy Jackson (top), Ruth Thompson (bottom)

us and spread the word! For more information, email lasky.balmeet@gmail.com or leaf1231@gmail.com.

Herb Class, Tuesday, January 13

Join trained herbalist Katherine Gekas at 7 pm as she teaches about herbs for sleep. The fee for class is a sliding scale (\$10–\$40), and everyone will go home with small samples and a handout with resources. For those who would like one-on-one consultation time with Katherine, she offers private office hours at the DubHub on the third Tuesday of the month from 4–6 pm. Email her for more info at katherinegekas2@gmail.com.

Coffee House & Open Mic, Saturday, January 17

On the third Saturday of each month, there is a combined Coffee House & Open Mic from 6–9 pm. Coffee and snacks are available. Attendees are also welcome to BYOB and dinner/snacks. A featured performance takes place for about 60 minutes, with open mic slots available both prior and after.

This month, we are pleased to feature the trio, Dragonfly, made up of members



Judy Blake, Danny Solomon, and Ken Hamshaw. This group of experienced musicians has been making music together for almost 20 years, adding their special touch to an eclectic mix of some of the best songs by the best artists from the 60s to today, with funky grooves, rich vocals, and lots of soul and harmony.

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 for the featured performer(s).

Storytelling & Spoken Word, Wednesday, January 21

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 truly any kind of spoken word, going round the circle. The organizers are Sebastian Lockwood and Papa Joe Gaudet. For more information, contact Papa Joe at papajoe storytelling.com and Sebastian at bit.ly/slockwood.

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

Memoir Writing Workshop via Zoom

A Zoom workshop is being added to two existing memoir workshops taught by Pam Bernard. Reach out if you are curious about the process of these well-known and respected writing workshops.

The governing philosophy that makes Bernard's teaching of memoir so effective is that the struggle must be to nurture a healthy relationship with the past to get beyond the "authorized" version of oneself.



The central paradox of this kind of writing is that a memoirist must rely on memory, though, at best, memory is mutable and utterly fallible. Memoirists learn to honor artful leaps of dramatic presentation in order to create a narrative nimble enough to fully and convincingly reveal a life.

A retired professor of writing, Pam Bernard is an author, editor, writing mentor, and instructor. She works with writers of nonfiction and poetry in a variety of ways. Bernard is the author of four books, the latest a novel in verse titled *Esther*.

Workshops are hybrid, using the Owl meeting device, to accommodate those who must attend remotely. The Owl makes the experience of the remote participant more like being there in person. For more information, including days and times, please visit Bernard's website at pambernard.com, or email pambernardwriter@gmail.com, or call 603-439-1809.



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Overseeing the Cemetery

BY MARY LOFTIS

Will Elcoate is Dublin's new cemetery superintendent. He assumed the role after the recent retirement of Hank Campbell, who held the part-time job for many years. Dublin's cemetery, overlooking the lake and mountain, is a place of natural beauty and historical significance. As the final resting place of generations of Dubliners, its personal and spiritual importance is acknowledged by those who care for it.

The Cemetery Board of Trustees oversees the work, which involves skill and care, and the superintendent and other employees perform the mowing, trimming, brush and leaf removal, loaming, seeding, and fertilizing. In addition, they maintain cemetery buildings, stone walls, and memorial stones. The superintendent also serves as the intermediary with plot owners, funeral directors, and outside contractors and must maintain accurate records for the town and the state of New Hampshire.

Will, originally from the New Forest, Hampshire, England, moved to Dublin in 2013 with his wife, Laura. A chemist by training, he worked in analytical testing, supporting the clean-up and monitoring of environmental pollution for regulatory and private clients. He and Laura joined the Dublin Historical Society, and Will was pressed into service as the curator of the 1841 Schoolhouse Museum on Main Street. Will says he enjoys "figuring



things out and fixing things," and these skills were useful in making repairs and upgrades to the old building.

After he retired from his demanding job, Will felt he needed more structure in his days, so he signed on as a seasonal assistant at the cemetery, working with Hank Campbell and Mike Edick. A focus became maintaining the beautiful stone walls that define the historical development and add to the visual appeal of the cemetery.

When Hank announced his retirement, Will decided to apply for the job of superintendent. He acknowledges that he lacks Hank's longtime connection to the town and its families, but he is willing to do the research to learn what he needs in his new

job. Before he left for a recent vacation, Will oversaw his first burial, and he will be ready when cemetery maintenance begins again in the spring.

The practical, historical, and aesthetic aspects of maintaining our beautiful cemetery make this a perfect retirement job for Will.

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

Photo by Laura Elcoate

Dublin remembers

Raymond Simard, 1935–2025



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Headlamp Hustle Returns to Outdoor Center

BY HOLLY MACY

The Headlamp Hustle is a cross-country ski race series hosted by the DublinXC Ski Club at the Dublin School Outdoor Center, featuring races for skiers of all skill levels. Head of school Brad Bates, who helped coordinate a former incarnation of the Hustle, remembers fondly how it lured “both people on wooden skis and people in Lycra. The first 15 skiers would treat it as a serious race, then there’d be a middle group that wanted



to try racing without pushing themselves too much. And then there were the 15 in the back who said, ‘We don’t care where we finish!’”

Races are held on Thursdays at 6 pm at the Dublin School Outdoor Center, 380 Dublin Road. Dates: January 8 and 22; February 5 and 19; and March 5. Race fee is \$5 per race. Register at dublinxc.com.

We hope you join us and get outside this winter with DublinXC!

HOLLY MACY is the director of college counseling at the Dublin School.

Engines Off!

BY KATIE FEATHERSTON

Back in the days when cars had carburetors, it might be a bad idea to turn off your engine while running a quick errand for fear it wouldn’t start back up. But the fuel-injected engine of today is a completely different machine. It takes a mere thimble full of fuel to restart a modern engine, meaning that if you are going to be idling for anything more than 10 seconds, it is more efficient to turn off your engine. Extra wear and tear on the starter is inconsequential. In fact, idling more than 30 seconds is inadvisable because of the incomplete combustion it causes, leading to carbon build-up and stripping lubricating oil from cylinders and pistons. These facts have led car companies to come up with start-stop technology that pauses the engine at lights and other stops to save fuel and reduce emissions, restarting as soon as you take your foot off the brake.

The cars of today will reach an ideal operating temperature more quickly by driving gently than by idling. Idling also produces twice as much exhaust as a car in motion. Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and carbon monoxide are pollutants with links to asthma, heart disease, cancer, and chronic bronchitis. This makes idling vehicles especially dangerous in places like school zones or where people may be working, such as drive-throughs, parking lots, and recycling centers. An idling car is wasting fuel and polluting the air.

Please do us all a favor and turn off your engine!

KATIE FEATHERSTON is a member of the Conservation Commission.

Celebrate the Joy of Birding with NH Audubon

Birders across New Hampshire have something new to celebrate. NH Audubon has officially launched the *Joy of Birding*, an online publication dedicated to birds, birding, and the vibrant community that brings their stories to life. The website is the new digital home of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, a publication with more than 40 years of history documenting the state’s birdlife.



range from expert insights to quirky observations (like a tailless red-winged blackbird named Bob) capturing the wonder and excitement of birding in New Hampshire.

The site includes pieces from longtime volunteers and seasoned experts.

Visitors are encouraged to sign up for email updates

via the homepage to receive new articles as they are published.

The *Joy of Birding* invites you to discover the stories that make birding in New Hampshire so much fun. Visit joyofbirding.nh Audubon.org, and join the growing community of New Hampshire birders.

For information on NH Audubon, including membership, volunteering, programs, sanctuaries, and publications, call 224-9909, or visit www.nh Audubon.org.

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Season Overview from the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory

In late November, the Harris Center wrapped up its 21st consecutive season of raptor migration monitoring as staff and other volunteers logged more than 600 hours of observation time.

The season tally was below the long-term average due to a second consecutive year with fewer broad-winged hawks, but there *was* one banner day for broad-wings: On September 14, over 3,000 broad-wings moved through in spectacular flocks! This common forest-breeding species represents 68% of the total raptor migration observed at the Pack summit.

Certain species are on the rise: Black vultures, opportunistic scavengers, set a new season-high count, and an abundance of juvenile northern harriers points to a successful breeding season. Observers noted 196 American kestrels, indicating that nest box projects, like the one launched by the Harris Center, may be showing promising results for this species in decline. In addition, turkey vultures,



bald eagles, and Cooper's hawks showed upward population trends.

The Harris Center counted human visitors as well – 6,449 of them, which included school groups and visitors from around the world. On World Migratory Bird Day in mid-October, visitors counted 33 different species of birds!

Upcoming Harris Center Adventures

Don't let the snow keep you inside! Bundle up, head outdoors, and celebrate the beauty and wonder of winter.

Trees and Tracks for Veterans. Join

naturalist Susie Spikol and forest ecologist Jeremy Wilson for a winter ramble focused on mammal tracks and winter trees. Wednesday, January 7, 10 am–noon at the Harris Center.

Winter Walk at Goose Pond. Take time to notice winter's quiet beauty on a leisurely two-mile hike around Goose Pond with naturalist Nikko Gagnon. Friday, January 9, 10 am–noon in Keene.

Birding in Surry. Join ecologist Nate Marchessault and the Monadnock Bird and Nature Club for a morning of winter birding. Saturday, January 10, 8–11 am in Surry.

Environmental Studies Institute Course: Winter Tracking and Sign. Search local fields, forests, and wetlands for animal sign during this three-part winter tracking course with naturalist Susie Spikol. Wednesdays; January 14, 21, and 28; 10 am–noon at the Harris Center.

For more information and to register, go to harriscenter.org.

Photo by Ben Conant




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Thomas Wentworth Higginson in Dublin

BY TOM SILEO

Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1823–1911) saw himself as a writer. He did write books and articles on many subjects, but today, he is most known as a Unitarian minister, an advocate for women's rights, the commander the Union's first all-black regiment, an abolitionist, and a mentor of the poet Emily Dickinson.

A summer resident of Dublin from 1879, he built a house on Lake Road known as "Glimpsewood." This was the same year he published a beautiful nature book, *In a Fair Country*. In it, he seems to describe Dublin: "The walls of my study are of ever-changing verdure, and its roof and floor of ever-varying blue," Higginson wrote. "I never enter it without a new heaven above and new thoughts below. The lake has no lofty shores and no level ones but a series of undulating hills, fringed with woods, from end to end."

On June 20, 1890, Higginson wrote in his journal, "We ... are right among the pine trees with the pretty lake in sight and mountains farther off ... Then close behind us are the children of Thayer, the New York artist, wild, very picturesque little creatures. There is a perpetual Pumpelly circus (children of Raphael Pumpelly). They keep seven ponies and are always riding about the country, bare-backed and astride, boys and girls alike."

He described how he and others slept one night by the lake, to see the "treasures of the lake in their morning hour ..." We watched, he wrote, "the hilly and wooded shores of the lake sink into gloom and glimmer into dawn again, amid the low splash of waters and the noises of the night." A song-sparrow sang at half-past three. It "gave one liquid trill, so inexpressibly sudden and delicious that it seemed to set to music every atom of freshness and fragrance that nature held."

One summer in Dublin, he met his neighbor, Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), after which he wrote in his diary: "Called on Clemens. Found him in bed where he prefers to write, a strange, picturesque object, in night-clothes, with curly white hair standing up over his head. The bed was covered with



LEFT: Portrait of Higginson by Frank Benson (1893); RIGHT: Glimpsewood in Dublin.



Photos courtesy of the Dublin Historical Society

written sheets which his daughter carried off at intervals, to be copied by her on typewriter, his secretary only writing his correspondence. He often leaves off anything in the middle and begins on something else and goes back to it. He has always worked in this way and likes it."

Higginson mentored Emily Dickinson and promoted her poetry. When he saw four of her poems, the "impression of a wholly new and original poetic genius," he wrote in an essay, "was as distinct on my mind at the first reading of those four poems ..."

Though a world traveler, Higginson loved Dublin. He spoke at the church, and he was involved in town affairs, often, as a lover of books, promoting the town library. My favorite Higginson story is related in Tom Hyman's wonderful *Village on a Hill* (2002): "As he aged," according to Hildreth Allison, Higginson "had trouble retrieving his mail at the Dublin Post Office." Allison, with a cart tied to Archibald, his goat, picked up Higginson's mail. Allison seldom saw Higginson on the piazza when he arrived at his home. But one day, Higginson did appear to receive his mail.

"His tall, gaunt frame appeared somewhat stooped, and his kindly face lined as he greeted me with his usual benevolent air," Allison described. "Then Archibald perceived the Colonel's 'sideboards,' and, like a bull maddened by a red flag, swung into action." The goat "charged up the steps, cart and all, bent on mutilating the Colonel in short order. For a brief moment,

the latter appeared flabbergasted; then he appraised and took command of the situation. Seizing the goat by the horns, he forced the rearing animal down the steps again, twisting his head the while. On the ground, man and beast tussled for supremacy, executing a series of grotesque gyrations, but the Colonel eventually predominated. Deftly avoiding the goat's lunges, and with surprising agility for his age, he turned the animal about and headed him in the direction of the village. Archibald appeared cowered and subdued, his fighting spirit broken.

"I don't believe you'll have any trouble with him now," observed the old gentleman firmly; and as we wheeled down the drive, he gave me a parting gesture that might have passed for a military salute."

TOM SILEO is a financial advisor and writer.

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Beauty and Preservation

BY JESSECA TIMMONS

The Garden Club of Dublin has been hard at work beautifying our town and working to preserve our natural environment. The summer of 2025 was a busy one for our members, who come from surrounding towns as well as from Dublin.

The GCD's most exciting new project is an upcoming redesign of the landscaping at the Dublin Post Office. The GCD has maintained the landscaping at the Post Office for many years. The redesign will take into account what is most sustainable, what is most efficient, and what is reasonable for "old knees"! There is a new committee, including master gardeners Laurie Appel of Harrisville and Trim Hahn of Peterborough, to figure out the best plan for the Post Office going forward. We are all excited to find out what they come up with.

Recently, members met at Nina Anderson's house to create wreaths from local greenery to decorate the Town Hall and other village buildings.

This past summer, the club was asked to create and maintain the garden boxes at

the Dublin Police Station. We are currently in discussion with the Dublin Select Board about the possibility of creating a new garden in front of the Town Hall. We have also been asked to consider beautifying the Fire Department!

The Garden Club of Dublin also has a longstanding commitment to the health of Dublin Lake. Our club is looking at the long-term needs of the lake and how we can best contribute to keeping it healthy.

The Garden Club of Dublin was founded



Wreath makers l. to r. Ingrid Miller, Nina Anderson, Margot Sprague, Beate Becker, Mollie Miller, Sarah Tibbetts, Georgia Wright, and Laurie Appel.

in 1928 and is a chapter of the Garden Club of America. For more information, go to gardenclubofdublin.com.

JESSECA TIMMONS is a member of the Garden Club of Dublin.

The Dublin Food Pantry has put out a call for the following donations:

Toilet paper	Canned chicken	Cheese	Feminine hygiene products
Paper towels	Oatmeal	Veggies	Personal care item
Coffee	Milk	Fruit	
Pasta sauce	Butter	Frozen meals	

Donations can be dropped off anytime at 1283 Main Street, Dublin Village Park, Unit 8B. Monetary donations can be made through dublinfoodpantry.com.

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The American Beech Tree

BY LISA FOOTE

The American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) grows in northern hardwood forests like ours in Dublin. It is slow growing, but healthy trees eventually reach over 100 feet in height with a widespread crown of branches. With the future of American beech trees in question due to infestations of beech bark disease and beech leaf disease, it seems timely to delve into the beech's importance in forest ecology and into how beech wood products have contributed to the economy over time.

Beech trees are recognizable by their smooth light-gray bark and ovate serrated-edged leaves. The understory will be full of beech saplings springing up from the root systems of the more mature trees. Those shallow root systems can travel as far as 100 feet from the bole of an individual

tree and serve to amplify regeneration and to absorb rainwater to meet the high moisture requirement of the beech.

Furthermore, unlike white pines, oaks, and birches, which need full sun to regenerate, beech saplings can thrive in shady conditions. In many forests, the beech is out-competing the regeneration of other hardwood trees, in essence changing the make-up of the woods.

Beeches, as well as hickory and oaks, are also important sources of hard mast, nuts, and seeds, providing a food source for wildlife. The beechnut is encased in a barbed seedpod that splits wide open to reveal a single triangular seed. From bluejays, ruffed grouse, and wild turkeys to squirrels, chipmunks, foxes, porcupines, deer, black bears, and mice, these animals rely on beechnuts to eat and to cache. A small pile of them might even be found indoors, say under a pillow, stashed by an industrious mouse.

Today, the wood of American beech trees is not used as dimensional lumber for building. In *Silvics of North America*, vol. 2, pub-

lished in 1990, the authors write "Beech wood is excellent for turning and steam bending [for furniture use]. It wears well, is easily treated with preservatives, and is used for flooring, furniture, veneer, and containers." They continue that it is also used for "plywood, railroad ties, baskets, pulp, charcoal, and rough lumber . . ."

In the mid 19th century, beech wood was probably used for making woodenware. Shoe lasts, the carved wooden shapes that leather uppers for shoes were formed around, were primarily made of beech. There was a charcoal kiln in Dublin that may have burned beech wood.



The 1850 Federal Census for Dublin delineated the number of industries in town as well as their yearly output of goods. It lists 22 woodenware manufacturers, 10 shoemakers, and three boxmakers. The woodenware output that year included 4,000 dozen washboards

and 225,000 feet of shoeboxes (presumably board feet of wood milled for construction of the boxes). Another table showed the cash value of mop handle production. It is likely that beech wood constituted a good portion of that production.

The most astounding statistic in the 1850 census is the number of clothespins produced in Dublin – 66,000 gross, or 7,524,000 pieces. They, like shoe lasts, were made of beech. In 1850, they would have been made of one Y-shaped piece that used friction to peg the clothes to the line. The now-familiar spring-loaded, two-piece version was invented in 1853.

Finally, two products still in use today originated in the 19th century: Wood tar creosote, made of beech wood, contains a higher level of the phenol guaiacol than other woods and was found in the 1830s to cure meat in a matter of hours, replacing curing in a smokehouse. It is sold today as Liquid Smoke. By the 1890s, the phenol guaiacol was isolated and replaced creosote for medicinally treating TB until around 1910. In the 1940s, a synthetic

version of guaiacol, called guaifenesin, was developed and is used currently as an expectorant in some cough syrups.

The 19th-century applications for the use of beech wood for woodenware are largely gone. However, production of beechnuts as mast to sustain wildlife remains an essential element in our forest ecology. May scientists find a means to control the beech leaf disease before the species disappears from our woods.

(Quotations and much information in this article came from the summer 2025 issue of NHTOA's *Timber Crier*.)

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

Scheinblum to Head MCH

Monadnock Community Hospital's Board of Trustees announces that Richard Scheinblum has been selected as the organization's next president and chief executive officer. Scheinblum will officially assume the role in February.

Scheinblum, who holds a master's in business administration, brings more than 31 years of healthcare experience, including over 25 years at MCH in key executive and operational roles. Currently serving as executive vice president and chief financial officer, he has also held positions as financial controller and director of perioperative services. His leadership has helped strengthen MCH's operational and financial performance, expand access to essential services, and guide long-term planning.

End 68 Hours of Hunger

So far this year, Dubliners have donated 825 food items to End 68 Hours of Hunger. Thank you so much! We're feeding 200 kids every weekend and sending home double amounts ahead of school breaks, so those donations really make a difference.

As the cold weather sets in, we need to watch out for foods freezing when left at the church – so Ramen, nutrition bars, and mac and cheese are all good choices for those looking to donate. And plastic Market Basket bags – feeding 200 kids each weekend means we go through 400 bags a week, so we always need those bags.

Again, thank you so much for your support!

The Park Theatre January Highlights

Please visit theparktheatre.org for specific dates and times and later additions to the schedule.

Through January 8:

Wicked: For Good in the main Eppes Auditorium

Marty Supreme in the King Screening Room, named one of 10 best films of 2025 by National Board of Review and American Film Institute. Starring Timothée Chalamet and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Jan. 9–15: *Fackham Hall*, a funny and fun parody of English period pieces like “Downton Abbey”

Jan. 14: Art Cinema Series: *Caravaggio*

Jan. 17: Let’s Groove Tonight: Earth, Wind & Fire tribute band, with original EWF band member Curtis Johnson

Jan. 19: Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr., “Lift Every Voice: A Celebration in Song,” featuring the Monadnock Chorus and Dublin School Chorus. Free.

Jan. 24: Ben Pratt, magician and illusionist



Klezmer Music at MONP

Music on Norway Pond in Hancock invites everyone to join Levyosn, a dynamic ensemble specializing in Yiddish songs and klezmer, for a concert of vibrant music and rich vocal harmonies on Sunday, January 25, at 4 pm in the Hancock Congregational Church.

Founded in 2021 and named after the Ashkenazi Hebrew word for the leviathan – a mythical sea creature said to travel the oceans collecting songs, krill, and dreams – the group released its debut album, *Levyosn’s Lullaby*, on Borscht Beat in 2023. Their repertoire spans traditional and original music in Yiddish, Hebrew, Ladino, and English, enriched by influences from Eastern European folk traditions. Known for intricate arrangements and lush vocal harmonies, Levyosn brings audiences into the heart of Yiddish culture through concerts, participatory song and dance, workshops, and musical celebrations.

Levyosn’s members include Lysander

Jaffe, an exquisite vocalist and multi-instrumentalist with expertise in building community through collaborative music-making. He is joined by Adah Hetko, Raffi Boden, and Lexi Ugelow. Adah is a Yid-



dish singer, songwriter, and dance leader active in the international Yiddish culture scene. Raffi is a NYC-based cellist, composer, improviser, and educator. Lexi is a vocalist, songwriter, and expressive arts workshop and music education facilitator based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For tickets, please visit musiconnorway-pond.org.

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Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. in Jaffrey and Rindge

Gather on January 19 in Jaffrey and on January 25 in Rindge to remember the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., reflect on the values he stood for, and renew commitment to peace, community, and social justice.

The first program, at The Park Theatre in Jaffrey, will celebrate song and delve into its powerful influence. Music played an important role in Dr. King's life and in the Civil Rights Movement, helping to build community and support the quest for equal rights.

The Monadnock Chorus and Dublin School Chorus, conducted by Dublin resident Brittney Redler and accompanied by Dublin School director of music Zach Redler, will sing the gorgeous and moving "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and the Civil Rights standard "Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Freedom." Singer/songwriter Devin Johnson, Franklin Pierce class of '28, will perform his original composition, "Lift." Jaffrey 5th-graders will give presentations on important singer-activists.

The following week, at Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, the community celebration will continue with a keynote address by Andre de Quadros, professor of music at Boston University, international music director, and human rights activist. Professor de Quadros will reflect on his extensive musical and peace-building experiences around the world in "Beloved Community in the Making: Performance, Radical Hope, and Repair." He has worked in over 40 countries seeking to generate collaborations and understanding, with historic projects bringing together Palestinians and Israelis

for dialogue and peace-building through music. Reservations are strongly recommended at cathedralofthepines.org/register.

Lift Every Voice: A Celebration of MLK Jr. in Song

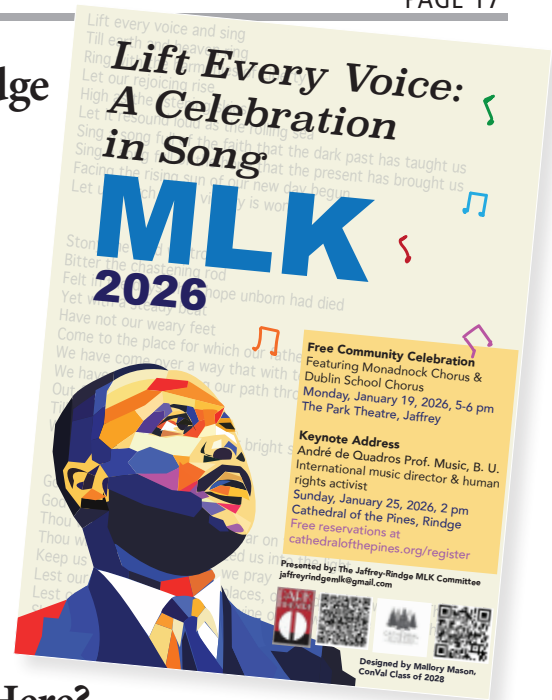
Monday, January 19, 5–6 pm

The Park Theatre, Jaffrey, featuring the Monadnock Chorus and Dublin School Chorus. Keynote address by Professor Andre de Quadros

Sunday, January 25, 2 pm

Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. programs are free and open to all. Questions and updates: contact jaffreyrindgemlk@gmail.com.



Where Do We Go from Here?

The eighth annual celebration of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., presented by the Hancock Community Conversations On Race (HCCOR), will be held on Monday, January 19, in Peterborough. Each year, the HCCOR planning group selects a quote from King as the theme for the program. The quote this year comes from the title of his last book, *Where Do We Go From Here?*

This year's program, "The Fierce Urgency of Now," features a presentation by Amilcar Shabazz, professor at UMass, Amherst, and Tom Weiner, author and activist. They are the co-authors of *In Defiance: 20 Abolitionists You Were Never Taught in School*. In looking at the lives of individuals dedicated to the abolition of enslavement, participants will discuss possible avenues for where we can go from here.

A summative reflection will be led by the speakers. The program will also feature music with Wendy Keith and will encourage all participants to "go forward from here."

HCCOR began meeting weekly more than eight years ago to discuss a wide range of issues related to race. At the time, there were no local events honoring Martin Luther King Jr., so the members decided to engage the community in collaborative conversation.

This year's event is scheduled from 10 am–noon at Reynolds Hall, 52 Concord Street in Peterborough, across from All Saints Church. Parking is available behind the building. Doors open at 9:45 am with a free and plentiful potluck brunch until 10:30 am. Those interested in contributing a brunch item can contact HancockConversations@gmail.com for information.

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JANUARY 2026 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CTP Cathedral of the Pines DPL Dublin Public Library HC Harris Center HCC Hancock Community Church HUB Dublin Community Center JPT Jaffrey Park Theater RHP Reynolds Hall, Peterborough SAU ConVal School District Building TH Town Hall, Dublin TS Transfer Station			31 NEW YEAR'S EVE HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY TH, DPL CLOSED	2 HUB /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	3 HUB Christmas Tree drop off 10am-noon
4 HUB Song Circle 3-5pm	5 TH Cemetery Trustees 9am; Select Board 4:30pm; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm	6 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; SAU Public Budget Hearing 7pm	7 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; HC Trees & Tracks 10am-noon; DPL Stories & Songs w/ Opa 10:30am	8 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Mahjong 1pm; DS Headlamp Hustle XC race 6pm	9 HUB /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; Smartphone contest reception 5-7pm	10 HUB Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-2pm; DPL Celeste Snitko "DPL Saved the Village" 10am; Dublin Dems 10am
11	12 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; Community Circle 6:30-8pm; DPL Historical Society 4:30pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm	13 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herb Class 7pm; DPL Waste & Recycle Comm 5pm; FDPL 5pm; TH Budget Committee 6:30pm; SAU Public Budget Hearing (snow date) 7pm	14 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; HC Winter Tracking/Sign 10am-noon; DPL Trustees 5pm	15 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Mahjong 1pm; TH Planning Board 6pm	16 HUB /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	17 HUB Styrofoam recycling presentation 10-11am; Coffeehouse & Open Mic 6-9pm
18	19 MLK JR BIRTHDAY; TH, DPL CLOSED; HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; RHP MLK Jr Program 10am-noon; JPT Celebrating MLK Jr 5-6pm	20 TH Town Officer filing period begins; HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm; Herbal Office hours 4-6pm; DPL Tech Night 6pm; SAU ConVal School Board 7pm	21 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; Storytelling Circle 6:30-8:30pm; HC Winter Tracking/Signs 10am-noon; TH Con. Comm 5pm	22 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Mahjong 1pm; DS Headlamp Hustle XC race 6pm; TH Zoning Board 6pm	23 HUB /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am	24 DPL Rebecca Rule "Moved & Seconded" 1pm
25 CTP Celebrating MLK Jr keynote 2pm; HCC Levynosyn Klezmer music 4pm	26 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; Yoga 3-4:15pm; TH Select Board 4:30pm	27 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Open 9am-3pm	28 HUB Coffee & Conversation 10am-noon; QiGong noon-1pm; HC Winter Tracking/Signs 10am-noon	29 HUB Early Yoga 6:30-7:30am; Mahjong 1pm	30 HUB /Zoom Knit w/ Nancy 10-11am; TH Town Officer filing period ends 3-5pm	31 TS Styrofoam recycling 8am-5pm; DPL Rebecca Rule "Moved & Seconded" rain date 11:30 am

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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