



Season's Greetings!

Volume 12

Published monthly since May 1999

December 2014

## News from the Selectboard



### Tax Rate Explained - *Hancock Happenings* Editor Retires

*Jim Mose, Chairman, for the Selectboard*

... in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes. — Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy, 1789

Hancock's final tax bill of the year was mailed in mid-November. The Selectboard agreed a short discussion in *Hancock Happenings* is in order to recap where we've been and where we're headed, specifically as it relates to the certainty of those taxes.

The new tax rate is established at \$22.40/1,000 of assessed property value as assigned by the most current assessment. The combined tax rate has increased \$0.13/1,000 (from \$22.27 in 2013) for all of the citizens of Hancock. The overall tax obligation is determined by the calculated sum (from highest to lowest) of the Local School Effort Tax, the Town of Hancock Tax, the State School Effort Tax and the County Tax.

#### School Effort Taxes

This year's Local School Effort Tax is down \$0.20 to \$13.17 (from \$13.37 in 2013). The School Board, superintendent and his staff are doing their best to maximize educational outcomes with eyes fixed on guarding resources. It's working and they continue to improve.

#### State School Effort Tax

The rate has increased \$0.07 to \$2.50 (from \$2.43 in 2013). Educating our Hancock kids in the public schools costs each taxpayer \$15.67/1,000 (from \$15.80 in 2013).

#### Town of Hancock Taxes

The Town legislative body will recall that during last year's Town Meeting the Selectboard and Town Administrator estimated an increase in town tax to \$5.54 (from \$5.25 in 2013). The actual rate for the Town of Hancock Tax is \$5.48. Higher than 2013, but lower than expected. Lower-than-expected costs for the Meetinghouse restoration project and lower-than-expected employee health care costs (in the form of a rebate from the Health Trust to the Town of Hancock) are the primary reasons.

#### Hillsboro County Tax

Up \$0.03 to \$1.25 from \$1.22

In short, the Town Administrator, Town department heads, Town employees, the School Board, superintendent and staff and the sea of volunteers in Hancock are all working well together to thoughtfully manage and preserve our precious resources.

#### Nahida

Further to the theme of those things certain in our lives... and not all bad – is Nahida Sherman. Nahida Sherman is one of the smartest, kindest and hardest working people I have known. In July 2012, she graciously volunteered to “temporarily” edit and produce the *Hancock Happenings* immediately following Nancy Adams's long and distinguished service of thirteen years in the same capacity.

Last week, Nahida gently informed the Selectboard that she would be retiring from her post in the next couple of months (February 2015 is her final issue). Although we were devastated by the news of losing such a great editor-in-chief, we completely understand and respect our friend's need to lighten her burden.

Remember, the Hancock webmaster is Nahida Sherman. She continues to place the needs of others above herself and serve Hancock with honor and distinction. On behalf of the Selectboard and entire town, I humbly extend my heartfelt “Thank you!” to Nahida Sherman for her service ethic to Hancock.

We are in desperate need of a Nancy/Nahida kind of special person/team willing to edit and publish the *Hancock Happenings*. As with all things associated with Nahida, she has brilliantly outlined her roles and responsibilities, and thoughtfully prepared a succession strategy for the new editor. Please feel free to throw your hat into the ring by contacting our Town Administrator Diane Kendall or Nahida. This can be an opportunity to take over a Hancock institution.

# Hancock Fire & Rescue News

*Nevan Cassidy, Chief, Hancock Fire Department*

This is the December edition of *Hancock Happenings*, so it is time for my traditional nagging to Hancock residents. I'll try to make it brief.

- It's getting cold out... check and clean your wood stove chimneys on a regular basis. The same goes for pellet stoves. Make sure that oil- and propane-fired furnaces and boilers get an annual checkup from a qualified technician.
- If you have a generator, test it out before the power goes out. Make sure it has fresh, clean gas, and never run it in or near your house. Do not back-feed into your electrical system. At best, you would be trying to power up your neighbor's houses, and at worst, you could kill the PSNH guy trying to restore electricity to your street.
- Drive cautiously when the weather turns crappy. Snow and ice will be slippery this year, same as last year. Slow down, you will still get there. Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter – good tires, antifreeze up to snuff and a full tank of gas. Wear your seatbelt, every trip!
- Keep a bucket of sand or salt around your house to deal with icy conditions. The DPW provides sand at Moose Brook Park every winter. Go get some!
- Do not text and drive! This is a year-round issue, but it can't hurt to repeat it. You become a terrible driver if you are reading or sending a text. Don't think that you are not. Ignore your phone, or pull over to the side of the road.
- Holiday decorations – be extremely careful with candles! Keep them away from kids and pets, and blow them out if you leave the room. Keep

candles away from combustibles, and make sure they are on a non-flammable holder or base.

- Be careful with holiday lights and extension cords. Check all your lights and cords each year. Don't overload cords or run them under carpets. I can still remember trying to protect kid's Christmas presents under a tarp when a Hancock house caught fire in mid-December.
- Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure they all work and cover your entire house. If you choose to ignore everything else, please do this one thing.

That wasn't so bad, was it? You should have recently received a copy of our annual newsletter, *Firelines*. We owe a big "Thank You!" to Eric Aldrich for once again writing and editing this year's edition. We include a few tickets to our monthly raffle, and hope that you will participate. Each month, we pull numbers and pay out prizes of \$40, \$20 and three \$10 winners.

Each November, we mail out an additional forty \$10 winners to bring the totals to 100 people. I'm glad to say that I nearly always know the names of the winners – this is strictly a Hancock raffle. This is one of our biggest fund-raisers each year, and allows us to purchase badly needed equipment without having to go to the Town for tax money. Remember, you can't win if you don't play!

### *November Raffle Winners*

Jean Harrison, \$40; Paul Hansen, \$20; Don Lussier, Matt Evans, Linda Coughlan, \$10 each  
PLUS 40 additional \$10 winners!!

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*Jeff and Mary*

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### Hancock Meetinghouse Restoration Project

In case you chose to not brave the cold wind to see the Meetinghouse basement during the open house, these two photos show the dramatic difference between the old and the new supports. It is a good thing that we did not experience a severe earthquake, considering that the building was supported on piles of loose rock. The new support columns were cut from cedar shrubs on the Meetinghouse property. Forms were built around the piles of rock and filled with concrete. There are now many more supports than the original construction.

*Submitted by Byron Niederhelman*



*Photos:*

*Byron Niederhelman*



*The* **HANCOCK INN**  
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**December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 Italian Garden Salad  
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**December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 No Sunday Supper  
 Christmas Open House 2PM – 4PM

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
 Lentil Soup  
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 with Stuffing & Asparagus  
 Chocolate Molten Lava Cake

**December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
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#### *Hancock Happenings Mission Statement*

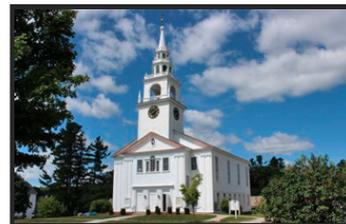
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## THANK YOU!

### Since 1820 - The Heart of Hancock *Hancock Meetinghouse Restoration Committee*

The Meetinghouse Restoration Committee and Hancock Improvement Association, Inc. express their gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of this challenging and vital project.

At last March's Town Meeting, Hancock voters approved a warrant article to spend a total of \$864,956 for the first major renovation and restoration in over a century of the historic structure. The Meetinghouse is generally considered one of New Hampshire's finest Federal-style churches.



*Photo: Byron Niederhelman*

Following Town Meeting, a capital campaign raised more than \$300,000 via private donations and grants, lessening the amount to be borrowed, and reducing property taxpayers' share of the project's total cost. As the funds are received, The Hancock Improvement Association, Inc. will grant these tax-deductible funds to the Town of Hancock,

MacMillin Company of Keene was the project manager along with a coalition of community volunteers. The slate roof, dating back to the 1880s, was completely removed and replaced with new slate from a Vermont quarry. Sixty support pads and posts replaced the original posts to improve the structural integrity of the building while also leveling the floors. Additionally, structural work was completed in the attic to correct irregularities in the roofline and steeple.

Handicapped access has been significantly improved with new bathrooms, a glass enclosed "lift" to the second floor, and a wheelchair ramp from the entry foyer to the old town hall on the lower level.

For the first time in decades, the newly refurbished performance stage will feature Hancock's fully restored theatre curtain, which was painted by the Aladdin Scenic Company of Boston, and delivered on September 17, 1923. The curtain shows a summer scene looking across Norway Pond to the Meetinghouse.

A new kitchen area with custom cabinetry constructed and donated by Hancock's D.S. Huntington Co., will be available for community dinners and events.

New, energy efficient heating systems and updated electrical and alarm systems were completed. The exterior of the building and interior of the old town hall received a fresh coat of paint.

**The Center of Our Community:** Since its dedication in October 1820, Hancock's Meetinghouse has reflected the needs of the community, providing space to support an array of activities for townspeople and visitors. In addition to its architectural beauty and iconic anchoring effect in the historic district, the Meetinghouse has remained an essential gathering place for community life in Hancock, with continual usage, for some 200 years.

Hancock's Meetinghouse today stands renewed for generations to come.

#### **Meetinghouse Restoration Committee:**

*Neal Cass, Jarvis Coffin, III, Judy Copeland,  
Hunt Dowse, David Drasba, Kurt Grasset,  
Woody Huntington, Howard Mansfield,  
Nathaniel Peirce, Bob Pettegrew,  
Dennis Rossiter, Gary Ryer*

#### **Hancock Improvement Association, Inc.:**

*Regina Bringolf, Lois Haskins,  
Byron Niederhelman, Rod Perry,  
Tom Shevenell, Chuck Van Horn*

#### **Thanks Also To:**

***The taxpayers of Hancock, and:***  
*Jeff Brown*  
for milling the new cedar supporting posts in the basement  
*Nevan Cassidy*  
for skilled carpentry and finishing touches  
*David Drasba*  
for the architectural design drawings and expert advice  
*Woody Huntington*  
for the beautiful new kitchen cabinetry  
*Kurt Grasset*  
for keeping all this on track!

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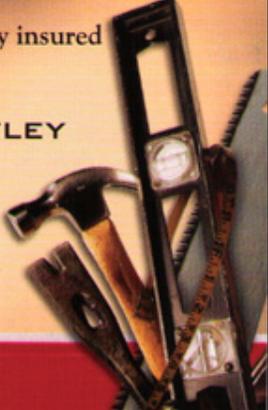
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## Hancock Elementary School

### Busy Learning at Hancock Elementary School

*Amy Janoch, M. Ed., Principal, Literacy Coach*



We have been very busy throughout the first quarter of school at Hancock Elementary School. Using topics and activities such as fairy house building, Native American exploration, the origin of chocolate, and worms and rocks, children have built their reading, writing and math skills.

In our k/1 classroom, HES students started the year building fairy houses behind their classroom. These fairy houses have provided the platform for building speaking, listening, writing and cooperation skills. Karen Lowenthal supports the students as they discuss what the fairies need to survive, and work together to build and refine the houses (the houses have come indoors for the winter).

In the 2nd grade classroom, Carol Schieb and Susie Spikol Faber had children playing in the dirt. They have been digging for worms! Throughout

September and October, students answered questions such as what makes a worm a worm, what type of environment do worms live in, and how are red worms and dilly worms similar and different.

Mrs. Richardson always starts her school year with a rock unit. She understands the importance of engaging 3rd graders at the onset of school, and knows that rocks and minerals are the way to do it! Children have read and written about rocks. They have also mined (Ruggles Mine field trip) and categorized minerals.

Finally, a study of maps, globes and New Hampshire geography was embedded in the 4th graders exploration of Abenaki Indians. They answered the essential question "Who are the Abenaki Indians and how did they utilize the resources of New Hampshire to survive?". A day trip to the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum and building wigwams brought their studies to life!

### News from the Tax Collector

The property tax rate for 2014 has been set by the Department of Revenue: it is \$22.40. Property taxes are due on **Saturday, December 13, 2014**. On that day, the Tax Office will be **open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** for your convenience.

This is a reminder that you can access your tax and assessing information online at the NH Tax Kiosk, anytime, any day, simply go to the Town website at [www.hancocknh.org/Tax/Tax.htm#Kiosk](http://www.hancocknh.org/Tax/Tax.htm#Kiosk). You will see a large tax kiosk button, click on it and the button will bring you to the Town of Hancock's Tax Kiosk. The Tax Kiosk is a great place for taxpayers with escrowed accounts to verify that the Town has received your property tax payment.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Town of Hancock and all community members for the opportunity to have served you these past 5+ years. I am grateful for all the support I received and the many smiling faces at tax time. It has been a pleasure and I thank all of you who have wished me well in my new endeavors.

*Submitted by Rennie Timm*

### Hancock Police Department

#### Publisher's Clearing House Phone Scam

The Hancock Police have received a report of a new phone scam. The scammer calls and acts as a representative of Publisher's Clearing House, claiming that a delivery team will arrive at the recipient's house at a given time with a check for the total amount of prize money won.

The caller also requests that the winner purchase a Green Dot Money Card and pre-load it with a determined amount for processing. The caller calls back shortly before "delivery time" and asks for the "delivery number" on the back of the Green Dot card, which gives them access to the funds charged to the card.

Please be aware that these scammers sound legitimate. They sound like they are coordinating with the "delivery team" during the course of a phone call, and will have used the name of a nearby business as their staging point. Again, please be aware of these calls and do not provide them with any personal or financial information!

*Submitted by Chief Andrew M. Wood, HPD*

## Dump News

### Free Paper Shredding

Save this date: On **Saturday, December 6**, we will be again offering a paper shredding service at the Dump from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** A commercial shredding contractor will set up equipment and will shred all your confidential documents while you watch. This is a free service for Hancock residents. Clip and save the poster on page 14.

### Plastic Shopping Bags

Most plastic shopping bags are recyclable. Some local supermarkets have recycling bins available for this purpose. They can also be recycled at the Dump – they are usually either #2 or #4 plastic and can be deposited in the appropriate container in the Recycling Center. Other plastic wrap material, such as dry cleaner bags or package wrap, is often recyclable as well. Check for the recycling symbol and number stamped on the material.

*Hancock Dump Committee*

## Call For Photographers For the 2014 Town Report



The Selectboard is looking for photographers to submit their work for the front and back covers of the 2014 Town Report.

If you have photos that you would like the Selectboard to consider, please email them to Linda Coughlan at [office@hancocknh.org](mailto:office@hancocknh.org) or call 525.4441.

**Deadline for submission: December 19, 2014**  
*Submitted by Linda Coughlan*

## Recreation Committee Winter Frolic 2015

Please save the date! The Recreation Committee will sponsor the annual Hancock Winter Frolic on **Saturday, February 7, 2015**. Events will include box sled races, ice skating and broomball on Norway Pond, and the popular Food Court outdoors at the horse sheds (horses not included). More details to follow as the day draws nearer, but please circle this day on your calendar to save the date!

*Submitted by Kary Shumway*

## From the Editor

To all the Contributors, Advertisers  
and Readers of *Hancock Happenings*

When Nancy Adams was ready to retire in the summer of 2012 after launching Hancock Happenings and being its wonderful editor for 13 years, she contacted me to ask if I might interested in taking over. Big shoes to fill, I thought, a bit apprehensively! The “trial basis for several months” for which I accepted the challenge at the time ended up turning into 29 months! It is now time for me to start on my fourth retirement. The February 2015 issue will be my last.

The reason this turned into 29 months is that I have thoroughly enjoyed all parts of the job: contributors, advertisers, readers, the interesting articles, the creative ads, composing other ads, the hunting for graphics and a bit of whimsy once in a while (silly at times, I know). The Selectboard made my job easy by giving me free rein and letting me stand on my own. This autonomy is what made this phase of my life such a special and enjoyable adventure.

I couldn't have done it without Nancy's wise counsel along the months! Thank you, Nancy! And “Thank you!” also to our advertisers who have supported Hancock Happenings so faithfully along the years and allowed this newsletter to grow!

It has been a real privilege to serve the Town and its residents in this capacity. I will certainly miss the person-to-person (well, email-to-email, most of the time) contact with all contributors – one of the special rewards of the job. But I'll still be around the campus to wave hello!

I informed the Selectboard of my decision on November 10, giving the Town time to post the position and find a replacement to be available by the end of January 2015, ready to begin the process of collecting information for the March issue. Should you be interested in continuing this fine 15-year+ Hancock tradition, and taking on what is fun and creative work, please contact Town Administrator Diane Kendall at 525.4441 or email her at [townadmin@hancocknh.org](mailto:townadmin@hancocknh.org).

Sincerely,  
*Nahida Sherman*

## Art Exhibit at the Library Abstract Representational Style

Paintings by Janet Hymowitz will remain on display in the Daniels Room through the entire month of December, so there's still time to drop by and enjoy the show.

Janet discovered her love of art as a child, while growing up in New York City, where she was exposed to all manner of art museums and galleries.



*Monarch Migration*  
by Janet Hymowitz

"I was born in NYC and spent my childhood going to many art museums, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and especially the Cloisters, which is part of the MET and was in walking distance of where I grew up.

"I spent the summer of 1963 in Provincetown, Massachusetts, with my family and that is when I was exposed to art galleries and art openings on a regular basis. It was there that my mother purchased a small original painting that had been done by an artist whom we had met at the beach. Although my mother did not have the financial means to 'splurge' on a real painting, she informed all of us that it was

important to support struggling artists. The painting now hangs in my studio and is still an inspiration for me.



*Turbulence*  
by Janet Hymowitz

"I went to Lake Forest College in Illinois, which had a wonderful art history department, so, even though my major was psychology, I took enough art history classes to almost have a minor in the subject. Ironically, I avoided taking the studio art class, which would have entitled me to a double major.

"In 2007 I was experiencing empty-nest syndrome and needed an artistic outlet in my life, having previously been a knitter and a quilter. So I decided to try out a beginner's watercolor class at the Sharon Arts Center with Evelien Bachrach.

"I had never taken any art classes before and chose watercolor since my children had done watercolor painting throughout their elementary education at the Pine Hill Waldorf School. I figured that if they could do it, so could I. In 2009 I started working with Frankie Brackley-Tolman and so have now incorporated gouache, acrylic, and mixed media into my artistic endeavors."

## The Mollers, Inc.



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Last month, at Janet’s opening reception, friends, family, and new viewers gathered in the Daniels Room for refreshments and the opportunity to talk with the artist. Her paintings range in size, style, and mood—from the small, contemplative work “Haiku” to the larger, full-of-motion piece “Moving Up, Moving On.”

So take the chill off the winter season and warm up with Janet’s colorful collection. The show can be seen during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; closed Friday and Sunday.

Since the Daniels Room is sometimes reserved for community meetings, please check with the library (525.4411) to make sure the show can be viewed at the time you plan to visit.

*Submitted by Sandy Taylor*

### News from the Hancock Congregational Church

Sometimes we feel like the little congregation that could. While churches with more people and greater financial resources are shuttering their doors across the country, we somehow manage to keep going. Call it some combination of faith, Yankee stubbornness, extremely loyal members, a wider community that seems to value our presence and, of course, God’s will. Right now, we are reeling from our pastor’s diagnosis with multiple myeloma and the bone marrow transplant she will face later in 2015. But we want you to know that we are here, trying to stay spiritually fit and present in the community even during this time of challenge for us. In December we will be doing the following:

- **Reinstating Office Hours** so that you can conduct any business you need to with the church (scheduling, etc.). We will have volunteers in place twice a week—Monday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (one-stop shopping if you also have business at Town Hall) and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Hearing a series of “Advent Letters”** written to the congregation by our Pastor Judy Copeland. Judy hopes to be present in Sunday morning worship as her condition permits and is working with her oncologist to schedule her chemo treatments so as to make Sunday her “good day.” Her letters to the congregation will explore the classic Advent theme of Waiting—the hard task of waiting laced throughout the Christmas Story, as well as our own life experiences. Join us for worship at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings.
- **Staging a good old-fashioned Christmas Pageant.** Deacon Emily Daniels is organizing this with assistance from Martha Pinello and Kristen Bernier as an after school opportunity. Seventeen children are already hard at work and play upstairs in the Vestry! There will be two performances: Sunday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lower Meetinghouse in conjunction with the Inn’s “Christmas in Hancock” event, and Sunday, December 21 during the Sunday morning worship service.
- **Co-hosting the Hancock Family Christmas Concert on December 20.** Judy Copeland is requesting help with this, as she has usually been in charge of the reception but “won’t be lifting punch bowls this year.” Please e-mail Judy at [hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com) if you would be willing to decorate a few tables in the Vestry, receive the plates of goodies that concertgoers and participants

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drop off before the performance, mix up batches of our now traditional White Christmas Punch (recipe provided) and clean up afterwards. Volunteers do not have to be church members—so many in town are familiar with the Vestry kitchen!

- **Selling Ice-out Tickets for our 2015 prediction contest on Norway Pond.** Looking for a stocking stuffer? They will be available at various venues around town and during our office hours beginning in December.
- **Gathering a little gallery of digital photos** on a theme that is both seasonal and spiritual: “And the darkness shall not overcome the light.” Find those shots where darkness and light meet and email them to [hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com).
- **Receiving a special Christmas offering.** We depend on this offering to keep the church afloat and this year have some pressing expenses—insurance premiums and replacing the organ blower that was removed downstairs as part of the Meetinghouse Restoration Project, but not included in the scope of work funded by the Town. In the end, the replacement is costing the church double what we had been led to believe it would. We miss our organ and are eager to power it up again.



- **Worshiping on Christmas Eve** with special music, candlelight and the old familiar story. The service is at **7:00 p.m.** and all are welcome.

Finally, if you would like to receive an occasional medical update from Judy Copeland about how her treatment is going, please drop her an email at [copeland.judith@gmail.com](mailto:copeland.judith@gmail.com) and put “ADD ME TO THE LIST” in the subject line.

Thank you for your continuing support of our mighty little congregation!

*Submitted by the Church Council of the Hancock Congregational Church*



**NORAD Tracks Santa**

Start visiting NORAD on December 1st to begin the official countdown to Santa's launch!  
<http://www.noradsanta.org/>



**Community Supper**

The Friends of The Community Supper will be the hosts on **FRIDAY, December 12 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Vestry. Join us and start celebrating the holidays!  
*Submitted by Donna Coty*

**Friends of the Library**

**OHD Library Book Sale**

The Old Home Days Eve book sale is coming. Only 200-some donating days are left.

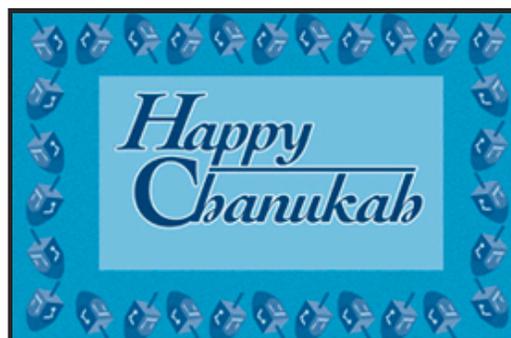
Ho, ho, ho!

A snug sorting area is nestled in the northeast corner of the library. Please put donations along the wall near the card table, and we'll go straight to work, lively and quick.

Thank you!

Your Merry Book Boxers

*Submitted by Donna Geer*



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### What's happening at the Hancock Professional Center 15 Forest Road, Hancock

From all of us associates at the Holistic Professional Center, "Happy Thanksgiving!"  
"If you just 'listen' during your day, you will find out the answer to the question that God reveals to you for the day." – D. Talbert

**December 6**, Arlene Smith, certified angel reader, will be giving readings at the Sixth Annual Festival of The Angels, **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH, accompanied by various readers and vendors. Donations accepted for the New Hampshire Food Bank.

**December 21 –Psychic Sunday** at Life Path Energy Healing Center, 33 Howard Street, Wilton, NH. Registration: Jeanne Larssen, 603.654.3330

**Give the gift of health and well-being** for the loved one in your life! Purchase a gift certificate from Hancock Holistic Healthcare. 603.525.4229.

**For December 2014 only:** Personalized Spiritual Astrology chart and report only \$25.00. This offer

includes 35+ page complete analysis of the individual's chart, portfolio-bound and gift-wrapped for the holidays. Contact Arlene Smith, 603.525.4229 or 603.933.3294.  
*Submitted by Arlene Smith*

### Hancock Woman's Club News Update

As the short days and long nights are with us, it could be worse... we could be buried in snow! Let's hope that our Christmas Luncheon planned for **Wednesday, December 10 at 12:30 p.m.**, will bring us all together to enjoy a delicious potluck meal prepared by our members. Music during lunch will be provided by Louise Curran and Bernard Watson. If you missed our last meeting and are planning to attend the luncheon, please contact Sonja Mucha at 525.4970 to let her know what you plan to make.

We have many hostesses involved this month, from setting up our Vestry dining room to setting up the tables and chairs for our luncheon, and they are: Terri Lombardi, Karen McCormack, Sonja Mucha, Marcia Schwartz, Wayan Suarni, Cathleen Calmer, Edna Drasba, Jean Harrison and Deborah Lehan. The floral centerpiece will be created by Joanne Frigulietti and it will be our raffle item to adorn someone's home!

Since this is the time of year of "giving" and thinking of others in need, there will be two envelopes passed around to members during the luncheon. One for

**Haley's Service Center, LLC**  
4 Forest Rd • Hancock NH 03449  
**603-525-8024**

**Happy Holidays!!**

*We are thankful for your continued support and business, and we wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!*

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[www.facebook.com/HaleysServiceCenter](http://www.facebook.com/HaleysServiceCenter)



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Arlene Smith 525-4229  
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**Affordable Sessions**

our usual monthly donation envelope to the Food Pantries, and a second one for Circle of Strength Military Support Group. The latter will help to provide holiday care packages to our active troops, Wounded Warriors and the children of fallen heroes from the Survivor Outreach Services in NH. Please feel free to support either one or both, if you so choose.

Suncatchers for last minute Christmas gifts will be on sale for \$10.00.

Karen Nigh won November's monthly raffle: a lovely basket with a bottle of maple syrup donated by Polly Curran, and homemade pancake mix prepared by Marcia Schwartz. Enjoy, Karen!

Please mark your 2015 calendar on **Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 p.m.** for the Monadnock Music Chamber Singers concert in the church. It is FREE, but free-will donations will be accepted to help support the Charitable Giving and Scholarship funds. The chorus is under the direction of Dr. Dan Carberg.

Be sure to look out for the holiday decorations filling the window boxes at the post office and the band stand decorated for the holidays in all its finery by the Hancock Woman's Club!

*Submitted by Gertie Kanner*

## "Great Decisions - 2015" Begins in January

Do you ever wish you could influence global issues, or at least feel more knowledgeable about what is going on around the world? If you like to stay on top of the news, in a totally non-partisan way, and if you like to chat with friends and neighbors, perhaps you would consider joining the discussion at Great Decisions in January. Developed by the America Foreign Policy Association whose goal is to inspire learning about the world, Great Decisions takes you behind the headlines to look at eight of the year's most significant and far-reaching challenges facing the world. Topics for discussion this year include: Russia and the Near Abroad, Privacy in the Digital Age, Syria's Refugee Crisis, and Brazil in Metamorphosis. The discussions are always interesting and informative, even when the topics are a challenge for us! And we have snacks!

We will be meeting at the Library for eight Monday afternoons **beginning on January 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** The book of background materials costs \$20 and will be available to pick up at the Library after January 1. Please call to register, so we will know how many books to order: Hancock Town Library at 525.4411 or Jane Richards-Jones at 525.4485. New participants are most welcome!  
*Submitted by Jane Richards-Jones*

## Hancock Women's Guild Guild News

Welcome December! As we usher in the holiday season, the Guild is turning its efforts toward its community. We will be busy assembling and delivering holiday baskets to local shut-ins.

Cory of The Monadnock Oil and Vinegar Company was our presenter at the November meeting. He became aware of our efforts and has generously donated handmade locally "grown, milled, and made" wooden baskets, as well as shrink-wrapping service to secure the contents and to ensure they arrive in beautiful and festive condition. We graciously thank him and The Monadnock Oil and Vinegar Company for their generosity!

**On Sunday, December 7,** we will be hosting our annual Holiday Cookie Walk. We will be in the Vestry immediately following the Church service. As we wrap up our year with community endeavors, we will not be holding a public program this month. Please keep an eye on *Hancock Happenings* for our January program. Kin Schilling will be joining us with some cooking tips and a delicious recipe... if we can convince her to share a specialty of hers!

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season! See you next year!

*Submitted by Darlene Tarr, President*



**Another Tale From Home:** [www.herb-gardner.com](http://www.herb-gardner.com)  
Sports are very pervasive in New England. A young mother was helping her little daughter with spelling homework. The sheet had a picture of a pair of socks and five blanks to put in the letters. She scowled, turned to me and said, "I'm stumped. What comes after the "X"?"

**Monadnock Roller Derby** practices **every Monday and Wednesday** (unless schools are closed) from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at Great Brook School in Antrim. For more information, contact Jess Gerrior or Amelia Gardner at [info@monadnockrollerderby.com](mailto:info@monadnockrollerderby.com) visit [www.MonadnockRollerDerby.com](http://www.MonadnockRollerDerby.com), or see us on [www.Facebook.com/MonadnockRollerDerby](http://www.Facebook.com/MonadnockRollerDerby)

*Submitted by Jess Gerrior*

## Circle of Strength Military Support Group



The Circle of Strength Military Moms, Friends and Family Members Support Group would like to thank all the people who bought raffle tickets in September during the Antrim Home Harvest Day fest. The

money went to care packages. Congratulations to all the raffle winners! Thank you also for all the gift certificates donated by Rick & Diane's Restaurant, Edmund's Hardware, Ginger House Restaurant, Trends of Fashion Hair, all of Antrim; The Peterborough Basket Company and Kathleen Holmberg-Botelho of Mary Kay.

Also thank you to Brick Ends Financial Services, Peterborough, Contoocook NH VFW, Peterborough

Salvation Army for postage for the care packages, The Bennington Congregational, the Hollisters of Jaffrey, the Woodins of Antrim, the Michaels of Milford, Gaia's Blessing of Peterborough, the Peterborough Fire Department, Candice Bergstrom, St. Patrick school students for their donations to buy products to send to the troops.

I would like to say a big thank you to Ocean State Job Lot of Peterborough. They gave our group 25% off all our shopping for the troops for this mailing. With all our donations, we sent 23 boxes to former ConVal Student troops, other troops and the Wounded Warriors. This year we have also helped our Fallen Heroes of New Hampshire's children through the Survivor Outreach Services, NH, with gift cards for them. We want to let them know that they are not forgotten and that we thank them for their parents' sacrifice.

I want to personally thank the students and staff at Antrim's Great Brook School, St. Patrick's school in Jaffrey, the Wells School in Peterborough and the Peterborough Daisies for their wonderful handmade cards, letters and picture for our Christmas 2014 care packages. I received thank you notes from the troops in the past and I was told that they passed all the cards and letters around, so that their entire platoon got to read them on Christmas Eve.

These little gifts from the children let them know that people from home were thinking of them and were proud and thankful for their service. It was an honor to be a part of this wonderful event and I hope to do it as long as our children, family members and friends are in the military protecting us here at home. Thank you also to the caring ladies who belong to

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**Thursday and Friday,**  
**November 27 and 28**  
**Thanksgiving holiday**

**Town Clerk Office for car registrations will be closed**  
**Wednesday, December 24, 2014**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Wednesday, December 31, 2014**  
**New Year's Eve**

the Circle of Strength Military Moms & Family Members Support Group for all their hard work in helping me make this idea come to life, and to Peter and Mike at the Antrim Post office for getting these packages out in time so the troops receive them in time for the holidays.

If you would like to join our group or know of a troop to whom you would like us to send a care package, please email [ellsworthsusan@ymail.com](mailto:ellsworthsusan@ymail.com). Our next mailing will be in April for troops to receive our mailings in May 2015.

Thank you all again!

*Submitted by Susan Ellsworth*

## YogaWeekend 2015 to Benefit Hospice at HCS

Save the Date! All residents of Hancock and surrounding towns are invited to attend YogaWeekend, set for **Saturday, January 24 and Sunday, January 25**. YogaWeekend is an opportunity for those new to yoga, as well as the more experienced student, to try a variety of yoga styles first-hand with classes led by several local instructors. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. each day. Classes will **begin at 9:00 a.m.** and the last class will start at 3:00 p.m.

Massage and Reiki will be available throughout each day. Continental breakfast and a light lunch are provided. There will be a raffle for a stay at the famed Kripalu in Stockbridge, MA, and a silent auction with many items donated from area businesses and individuals.

All classes, massage, Reiki, and breakfast and lunch are by donation, with proceeds benefiting Hospice at HCS, the local non-profit hospice providing end



of life care to people at home, in assisted living facilities and in long term care facilities in southwestern New Hampshire. HCS is a Monadnock United Way agency with offices in Keene, Peterborough and Charlestown.

YogaWeekend 2015 will be held at Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services, 312 Marlboro Street in Keene. For more information call HCS at 352.2253 or visit [www.HCSservices.org](http://www.HCSservices.org).  
*Submitted by Lara Larson, HCS*



*Kristen Vance, Director*

**An Ounce of Prevention...**—By now we hope you've received our annual appeal letter asking you to support the work of The Grapevine with a financial contribution. If you didn't, that means you're not on our list, but it doesn't mean we don't need your support! According to NH Charitable Foundation, one dollar invested in early childhood development produces an annual return to the economy of 7 to 10 percent, or a total of \$4 to \$17. And The Grapevine is so much more: Family support, senior wellness, Teen Center, parenting education, before and after school programs, helping families to meet basic needs. Please donate today—mail your tax-deductible contribution to The Grapevine, PO Box 637, Antrim 03440. Thank you for doing your part to keep The Grapevine here for our community!



Seven Maples General Store will be filling LP tanks through the winter.

*Stop by or call ahead... 525.3321*

*Thank you!*

24 Longview Rd.  
Hancock, NH 03449  
[www.sevenmaples.com](http://www.sevenmaples.com)



**The Avenue A Club for GBS Students** Wednesday afternoons from 2:15 to 3:45 p.m. at Avenue A Teen Center on 42 Main Street. Play pool or foosball, hang out with friends, listen to music, work on homework. Some club days will have local experts in the areas of nature, wellness and culture. Registration is required, you will find forms at GBS, Antrim Recreation Office or The Grapevine. Call Ave A Coordinator Heidi Schultz at 588.2620 or email Heidi at [AvenueATeenCenter@gmail.com](mailto:AvenueATeenCenter@gmail.com).

**Looking for something to do Friday night?** Spend as few as two hours a month as a chaperone at Avenue A Teen Center. It's fun, it feels good and we'll team you up with a seasoned teen center volunteer. Heidi awaits your call!

**Call Now for Guiding Good Choices in January**—This nationally-recognized workshop, set for five Thursday evening sessions beginning January 22, teaches parents of children ages 9 to 14 the effective family management and communication skills needed to help reduce their children's risk for using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Says one parent, "Guiding Good Choices gave our family the skills to help our son deal with peer pressure. Now that he's in high school, we're thankful we took the course when he was nine." Offered in partnership with Great Brook and Antrim Elementary Schools and PTOs. Call 588.2620 now to register, it will fill quickly.

**Free Tax Prep (yes, FREE)**—Hancock resident and IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz will provide free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Mondays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. starting January 19, 2015. All returns will be filed electronically. Larry has been providing this free service at The

Grapevine for a number of years as a volunteer with Money Matters of Peterborough and as a member of the People's Service Exchange. Call The Grapevine now for your appointment.

**Fuel Assistance**—For an appointment to apply at the Hillsborough or Peterborough location, call 1.877.757.7048, or call The Grapevine 588.2620 for more information.

**Services available at The Grapevine...**

- Assistance with on-line applications for food stamps, Healthy Kids insurance and other State assistance
- Child and family counseling through Monadnock Family Services
- GED preparation and employment services for adults through Project LIFT
- Help meeting basic needs—food, transportation, shelter, and other resources.

*The Grapevine is a nonprofit organization serving residents in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Francestown and nearby towns. Other programs and resources include the People's Service Exchange, Senior Wellness, The Learning Vine Preschool and Better Beginnings parent-child programs. Tax-deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at PO Box 637, Antrim, or drop by the center at 4 Aiken Street in Antrim (behind the library).*



**Hancock Town Library Events**

*Amy Markus, Hancock Library Director*

*Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

**Exciting news here at the Hancock Town Library:** we have a brand spanking new, online catalog that you can now check from the comfort of your own home. You can browse the catalog, see what's new, what's popular, renew and reserve books, make suggestions for purchase, and bookmark books to a list of your own. We also have new library patron cards with 14-digit numbers for you, so please be sure to come into the library to pick yours up. To access our new online catalog, go

*Joyce Welby*

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to <https://hancock.biblionix.com>. Log in with your current library card number followed by an exclamation point, i.e., 12345! Your password is whatever phone number you gave us when you signed up for a card (no dash needed). Once you're logged in, click on My Account and it should welcome you and tell you how much money you've saved by using your public library instead of buying items!! Always a good thing!

For those of you who use OverDrive and our downloadable e-books and audiobooks, keep using it the same way you always have. But know that in the near future we will be changing the way you log into OverDrive so keep checking the library's blog <http://hancocktownlibrary.blogspot.com> or give us a call at 525.4411.

**In other news**, I am very sad to say that Rennie Timm is leaving the library for a full-time position in the Keene school system. She has been a wonderful children's librarian, and we will miss her good humor and creative programming. Good luck Rennie! Thanks for all you have done to make the Children's Room a welcoming and educational place where to gather!

**Wednesday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. (Tea time!)-** Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Frauds and Scams But Were Afraid to Ask—Every day, millions of Americans lose their hard-earned money to identity theft, investment fraud and other types of scams. Last year alone, 12.6 million were victims of identity theft. That's one person every 3 seconds! And that is why the AARP New Hampshire fraud fighters and the Hancock Town Library are hosting a free presentation open to the public, to educate people about the three Rs of fraud: recognize, resist and report. The program will be presented by AARP trained "Fraud Fighter" Marc Boyd. He will present and discuss an overview of local and national fraud trends, the Con Artist Playbook, how to prevent fraud, and talk about available resources. This should prove to be a lively and informative evening. Free and open to all.

**Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.—Five Bullets with Larry Duberstein**—Author Larry Duberstein will read from his latest book, *Five Bullets*, which even Kirkus Reviews loved. Every Jew who lived through the Holocaust had a story worth telling, but not every Jew has been inclined to tell that story.

Such was the case with Karel Bondy, a rising young structural engineer in Prague when the Nazis invaded his nation and began preparing the fortress town of Terezin to "receive" his people. Married and the father of three when he was taken there (and from there to Auschwitz), he was alone when luck allowed him to fight back, first with the partisans and later the Russian army. And he was alone when after the war he came to America to begin a new life as Carl Barry. What these experiences did to a strong yet sensitive man caught in the grip of the 20th century's greatest tragedy is at the heart of this extraordinary novel. And because Bondy/Barry was not eager to share those experiences, we must rely on his inquisitive American nephew Lewis to ferret out the details for us—and upon author Larry Duberstein to weave their tales together, in all the horror and sadness and, more unexpectedly, the beauty and humor. Karel Bondy is an unforgettable character whose story will by turns shock, intrigue and amuse you. "Duberstein creates a powerful story of humanity and inhumanity in this tale of war, survival and healing."—Kirkus Reviews A native of Brooklyn, Larry Duberstein now lives and works in Hancock, New Hampshire. Free and open to all.

**Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.—Claremont Boy with Joe Steinfield**—In *Claremont Boy*, Joe Steinfield shares humorous, insightful, and often poignant recollections spanning more than half a century, recalling his New Hampshire childhood, as well as his personal and professional adventures over the years. In this collection of short pieces, readers will meet immigrant grandparents and other relatives, influential public school teachers, personalities as diverse as Julia Child, a Hebrew-speaking Muslim from the Northern Caucasus Republic of Adygeya, Ozzy Osbourne, and a P.L.O. leader from Jericho in the West Bank. Originally written over several years for the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* of Peterborough, New Hampshire, these essays are united by the author's sense of irony and the unexpected. Joseph Steinfield was born and raised in Claremont, New Hampshire, where he graduated from Stevens High School in 1957. He is a graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School. He was formerly a partner at Hill & Barlow in Boston, and is currently a member of the Boston firm of Prince Lobel Tye, LLP, where he specializes in litigation and media law. He and his wife, Virginia Eskin, live in Boston and in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

**Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. – noon– Holiday Wreath Making**–Please join Megan Dodge for a morning of merry Holiday Wreath Making. Greens, wreath forms and embellishments will be supplied. Please feel free to bring along a favorite ribbon or ornament to personalize your wreath. PLEASE REGISTER AT THE LIBRARY BEFORE DECEMBER 11 so we know how many materials Megan needs! Megan has 13 years of experience as a floral designer. She operates her business “Flowersdamore” out of her home in Hancock. You may view Megan’s recent designs on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/flowersdamore](http://www.facebook.com/flowersdamore). Free and open to all, families welcome.

**From the Children's Room**

*Rennie Timm, Children's Librarian*

**Thursdays in December at 10:30 a.m.–Laptop Storytime**–Walking and talking, the babies to toddler story time is an interactive program for all preschool children and their parents or care providers. We’ll share books, rhymes, songs, finger play and movement. Our goal is to foster an early love of books and literacy. At the end of the program, there will be playtime for parents and caregivers to share books, puzzles, or other literacy activities with their toddler. Dress comfortably, as we will be sitting on the floor in the Children’s Room. No registration required, feel free to drop in anytime.

**Wednesday, December 3 at 3:15 – 4:15p.m.–Block Party: LEGO® Fun**–Let your imagination run wild, a hands-on learning opportunity to explore how things work. LEGO® bricks are provided by the library. This program is on the first Wednesday of every month. All ages welcome.

**Tuesday, December 9 at 2:45-4:15 p.m.–Wreaths, Greens, and Berries**–Join Megan Dodge to make

and take crafts for the Holiday Season. All ages are welcome. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun. PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE LIBRARY TO ENSURE ENOUGH SUPPLIES FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

**A Special Note**–To all the families and children who have made my tenure as Hancock Children’s Librarian a joy and blessing, thank you for the opportunity to have served you. To Amy, the Friends, the Trustees, thank you for all your support and the opportunities to grow and expand my horizons as a children’s librarian and a community member. I will miss you all!

Fondly,  
**Rennie Timm**



CASA 34 Main is a one-weekend only Holiday Gift Barn Sale on **Friday, November 28 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** (preview hours), and then again on **Saturday, November 29, from noon to 7:00 p.m.**

“It’s like a pop-up retail shop here in town,” said Raisa Lawrence West, owner and lead designer of Raisa Antonia Textiles and also the organizer of CASA 34 Main. “I love how this beautiful historic barn is returning to its roots – as recently as a few years ago a lovely antique store here in the center of town. But this year CASA 34 Main is just a weekend-only store, yet still filled with beautiful things for people to buy for their friends and loved ones.”

The CASA 34 Main “pop-up shop” will include local artisans selling gifts for the holidays. Several artisan participants are members of The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, and will be selling and sharing their furniture, textiles and other wares with the public.

CASA 34 Main and Raisa Antonia also are sponsors of the MONADNOCK BUY LOCAL/PLAID FRIDAY effort, which encourages area residents to buy local and support small business owners and handmade goods during the holidays.

*Submitted by Raisa L. West*



## The Harris Center for Conservation Education

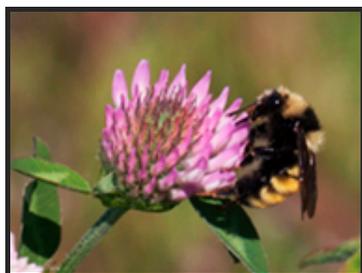
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For information about programs call 603.525.3394  
or email Diana at [jacobs@harriscenter.org](mailto:jacobs@harriscenter.org).  
Harris Center online calendar: [www.harriscenter.org](http://www.harriscenter.org)

**Dec 2 (Tue) US National Park and Wildlife  
Refuge Slideshow**—Andy and Beth Greenwood have  
spent the last 15 years traveling to approximately  
sixty National Parks and Wildlife Refuges  
throughout the United States. Their digital  
presentation, with a focus on wildlife, begins in New  
Hampshire and ends in Alaska. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at  
the Harris Center. For more information, contact  
Eric Masterson at [masterson@harriscenter.org](mailto:masterson@harriscenter.org).

**Dec 5 (Fri) Easygoing Hike On Mount Watatic**—  
A moderately easy, 4-mile hike around Mount  
Watatic and Binney Pond, ending at Ollie Mutch and  
Jan Miller's house for soup and sandwiches. Bring  
water and lunch and meet at 10:00 a.m. in the  
parking area beside Ocean State Job Lot in  
Peterborough (at the intersection of Routes 101 and  
202) to carpool. Back by 3:00 p.m. For more  
information, contact Lee Baker at .603.525.5262,  
[snowman3137@gmail.com](mailto:snowman3137@gmail.com) or Ollie Mutch at  
978.386.5318, [wapack@peoplepc.com](mailto:wapack@peoplepc.com).



**Dec 10 (Wed) The  
Plight of the  
Bumble Bee**—  
Several species of  
bumble bees have  
disappeared from  
New England over  
the past few decades

(three species lost from Vermont) and some have  
vanished altogether. Their loss from parts of China  
is so severe that certain crops are now pollinated by  
hand. Sara Zahendra, biologist with the Vermont  
Bumble Bee Survey led by the Vermont Center for  
Ecostudies, will discuss several aspects of bumble  
bee natural history, including diversity, distribution,  
colony cycle, conservation status and their role as  
pollinators. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Harris Center. For  
more information, contact Eric Masterson at  
[masterson@harriscenter.org](mailto:masterson@harriscenter.org).

**Dec 13 (Sat) Trail Clearing on the Channing  
Trail**—All ages and abilities are welcome to help  
clear debris from the Channing Trail. Bring your  
own tools or use ours. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the  
Harris Center. Back by noon. For more  
information, contact Jim Orr at 603.924.6934,  
[trailchief@gmail.com](mailto:trailchief@gmail.com) or George Preston at  
[gfp@netryders.com](mailto:gfp@netryders.com).

**Dec 20 (Sat) 41st Annual Christmas Bird Count  
for Hancock, Peterborough and Surrounding  
Towns**—Begun locally in 1973 and compiled by  
Dave Rowell for the 22nd straight year, the  
Christmas Bird Count is the world's oldest and  
largest biological survey and citizen science  
endeavor, with thousands of participants throughout  
the world. No need to be an expert! For details and  
to sign up, contact Dave Rowell at 603.924.3890.  
*Submitted by Margaret Baker*

## Monadnock Humane Society News Handcrafted for the Holidays A Holiday Tradition for the Community!

Monadnock Humane Society is holding its 8th  
annual craft fair Handcrafted for the Holidays in the  
MHS Guinane Training Center at 101 West Swanzey  
Road in Swanzey from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on  
Saturday, December 6, 2014.**

The Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair has  
been a favorite event in the Monadnock Region and  
promises something for everyone. More than 50  
local crafters and gift vendors will present their  
wares and make for one-stop shopping for holiday  
gift giving. Offerings include handmade chocolates,  
soaps, jewelry, textiles, birdhouses, one-of-a-kind  
artwork, doggie clothing, toys and accessories, and  
much more!

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[edshoeandleather@msn.com](mailto:edshoeandleather@msn.com)

Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm  
May drop off at Hancock Market  
NANCY M. DRISCOLL  
Owner

Come prepared to shop till you drop and then refresh yourself with a hot lunch at Alice's Restaurant. Lunch includes a bowl of homemade soup or chili; bread, a yummy dessert and a drink all for only \$5. Satisfy your sweet tooth at the Holiday Bake Sale table with an assortment of goodies for immediate indulgence, or take something home to share with family and friends or bring to a holiday party. Enter to win one of over 50 items that have been donated to our Brown Bag Raffle!

Holiday Pet Photos will also be available. Humans can participate, or just your pet(s). Our friendly photographers, Heather and Jennifer, will take a beautiful keepsake photo. A \$10 suggested donation includes a 4 x 6 glossy photo in a paper frame, as well as access to an electronic downloadable version that you can use for your holiday cards or reprints. (Please make sure dogs are leashed, and cats, rabbits and other small pets are secured in carriers). Also this year we will hold an Early Bird drawing for a Samsung Galaxy tablet. When you come between 10:00 and 11:30 am, you will be entered to win. Just download the raffle ticket on our website or facebook page. No purchase necessary, one entry/ticket per person, you do not have to be present to win, however you need to deliver the ticket in person on **December 6 between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.!**

All proceeds from the Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair including Holiday Pet Photos, Brown Bag Raffle, Hot Lunch at Alice's Restaurant and the Holiday Bake Sale – will directly support the animals at MHS.

"It's great to be able to support the animals and enjoy a holiday shopping experience at the same time," says Rebeccah Colburn, the Volunteer Craft Fair Chairperson for the second year. The Handcrafted for the Holidays Craft Fair is a great opportunity to kick off the holiday season, do some gift shopping, and help raise some much-needed funds to support the life-saving work of Monadnock Humane Society.

Admission is free, and there's plenty of parking. Fun for the entire family and while you're there, you can check out our adoptable animals who are waiting for their forever families

For additional information on this event or any of Monadnock Humane Society's programs and services, please make sure to visit our website at [www.monadnockhumanesociety.org](http://www.monadnockhumanesociety.org). MHS is dedicated to fostering a compassionate community by promoting and providing for the well-being of animals. Founded in 1875, MHS serves 44 communities of the Monadnock Region.

*Submitted by Carol Laughner*

### Holiday Yoga Giving: YogAnimals Day!

Monadnock Humane Society is pleased to be the beneficiary of proceeds from a day of yoga at the Keene Yoga Center at 80 Roxbury Street in Keene on **Saturday, November 29 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.** The event is designed to bring together people who love animals and people who enjoy yoga. "Yogis have compassion for animals and make wonderful pet owners," said Josephine Russell of the Keene

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*Order your Holiday meats and fish  
along with all the fixin's!*

*Join us on December 5th, 4 to 6 p.m.  
for a Beer and Wine Tasting along with  
hors-d'œuvre to celebrate another great year!*

*Meet our local authors on December 5th  
and buy their books all month!*

Mon-Fri 7-7 - Sat 8-7 - Sun 8-6

Suggestions encouraged @  
[hancockmarket@hotmail.com](mailto:hancockmarket@hotmail.com)

Yoga Center. “We are very excited about helping Monadnock Humane Society and supporting the wonderful work they do in our community.”

There will be several traditional yoga classes taught by the Keene Yoga Center instructors. Classes will be geared for all abilities, and there will be activities for children. A special class, taught by instructor Michelle Davis, will explore classic postures with an emphasis on poses named after animals. Davis started Holiday Yoga Giving several years ago and she is delighted to see the event expanded and to be able to raise even more money to help the homeless animals.

Monadnock Humane Society will be there with some adoptable animals. Snacks will be served. The Keene Yoga Center has been collecting donations for the animals from students and visitors during the month of November. For more information, visit [www.keeneyogacenter.com](http://www.keeneyogacenter.com)  
*Submitted by Carol Laughner*

## News from Fish & Game

### Hike Safe Cards to be Available for 2015

A new law authorizing the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to sell voluntary “hike safe” cards for \$25 per person and \$35 per family was signed into law by Governor Maggie Hassan on July 21, 2014.

Those who obtain the cards will not be liable to repay rescue costs if they need to be rescued due to negligence on their part, regardless of whether they are hiking, boating, cross-country skiing, hunting, or engaging in any other outdoor activity.

It is important to note that people may still be liable for response expenses if they are deemed to be reckless or to have intentionally created a situation requiring an emergency response. The card will cover the calendar year from the date and time of purchase. A family is considered the cardholder, spouse and minor children.

Individuals who possess any valid New Hampshire hunting or fishing license, or a current registration for an off-highway recreational vehicle, snowmobile or boat, will also be exempt from repaying rescue costs due to negligence.

The law will take effect January 1, 2015. Cards will be available for purchase only through the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s license sales website (visit [www.wildnh.com](http://www.wildnh.com) and click on “Buy a license online”). There is no actual card – purchase information can be printed out by the consumer or saved as a PDF on a Smartphone.

Funds raised through sale of the hike safe cards will go to Fish and Game’s Search and Rescue Fund, with the exception of a \$3 transaction fee going to the automated issuing system vendor.

“Being voluntary, it’s too soon to say how much revenue the card will generate. It will contribute some revenue to the Search and Rescue Fund going forward, however, which is an important start,” said Fish and Game Executive Director Glenn Normandeau.

Under State Law, the Fish and Game Department can pursue reimbursement for rescue costs if the person rescued is deemed to have acted negligently. In practice, it has proven difficult to recoup costs in this way.

The Search and Rescue dedicated fund is supported by a \$1 fee collected for each boat, snowmobile and OHRV registered in New Hampshire. That typically brings in upwards of \$180,000 a year. Over the last several years, annual Search and Rescue expenditures (\$350,000+) have exceeded revenues, causing a resulting deficit in the Fish and Game Fund.

Normandeau acknowledged that the actual cost of search and rescue far exceeds Fish and Game’s outlay, if all the manpower provided by volunteers is taken into consideration. That doesn’t even touch on the amount each volunteer pays for his/her own training, certifications, equipment and time lost from work.

Normandeau also pointed out that, while expected to generate some revenue, the hike safe card does not alleviate the Fish and Game Department’s wider funding crisis.

“The card is a step in the right direction, creating a means for the broader public that relies on Fish and Game services to help pay for those services, but it is not a cure-all. The deficit in the Search and

Rescue Fund contributes to a larger funding dilemma that Fish and Game faces,” explained Normandeau.

“Without an additional revenue source or supplemental funding from the state in the new biennial budget, the Fish and Game Fund is expected to be depleted by the end of the current Fiscal Year,” he continued. “This would seriously compromise the Department’s ability to deliver essential fish, wildlife and boating access-related services to the public.”

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is the guardian of the state’s fish, wildlife and marine resources and their habitats. Visit [www.wildnh.com](http://www.wildnh.com). Learn more about Fish and Game’s funding situation at [www.wildnh.com/funding](http://www.wildnh.com/funding).

*From New Hampshire Fish & Game Newsletter*

## Hancock Hours and Meetings

*Please review your listings  
and correct as needed by emailing  
[happenings@hancocknh.org](mailto:happenings@hancocknh.org)*

**Tax Collector** - Monday & Wednesday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or by appointment;

**Town Clerk** – Monday 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.;  
Wednesday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.;

**Town Dump and Demolition Hours** – Wednesday 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;

**Selectboard** – First three Mondays at 4:00 p.m.;  
fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m., Barbara Caverly Meeting Room

**Planning Board** - On the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.: may hold working sessions for planning purposes. On the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.: meets to process subdivisions, site plans and other applications which may legally come before the Board. Appointments can be made by calling the Town Office at 525.4441.

Applications must be received prior to the end of the preceding month to be included in the schedule and satisfy notification requirements. The Planning Board may hold working sessions for planning purposes the first Wednesday of every month; Barbara Caverly Meeting Room

**Zoning Board** – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays as needed at 7:00 p.m., Barbara Caverly Meeting Room, meetings will be noticed;

**Advisory Committee** – as noticed, Town Office;  
**Conservation Commission** – 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., Town Office 2nd floor;

**HEAT Committee** – 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., Barbara Caverly Meeting Room;

**Historic District Commission** – 4th Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., Barbara Caverly Meeting Room;

**Hancock Library Trustees** – 4th Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Daniels Room;

**Recreation Committee** – 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Town Office;

**Town Archives Committee** – 2nd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., Town Office Archives Room;

**Water Commissioners** – 4th Wednesday at 4:30 p.m., DPW;

**Dump Committee** – 3rd Tuesday at 4:00 p.m., DPW  
**Trustees of Trust Funds** – as needed, Town Office;

**Cemetery Trustees** – as needed, Town Office;

**Common Commission** – every other 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Town Office.

**Meetinghouse Restoration Committee** – as noticed, Meetinghouse

**School Board** – 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Board Room



## Publishing Information

Submit articles for *Hancock Happenings* to N. Sherman, editor, at [happenings@hancocknh.org](mailto:happenings@hancocknh.org) or call 525.4061 for information and rates. Advertisement sizes and rates are listed at [www.hancocknh.org/HanHap/hhnews.htm](http://www.hancocknh.org/HanHap/hhnews.htm). Unless you do not have access to a computer, all input must be submitted electronically in text or PDF format; PDF or JPG of scanned text will not be accepted unless for ad copy. **Deadline for submissions, advertising and payment for advertising: 5 p.m. on the 22nd of each month.** Checks should be payable to Town of Hancock and mailed to N. Sherman (not the Town of Hancock) at PO Box 95, Hancock, NH 03449. Inserts are not accepted. Please refer to the *Hancock Happenings* Mission Statement on page 4 for the newsletter’s editorial policy. Distribution by Elinor Johnson, Lynn Frank, Edna Drasba and Sandy Brooks; copying by Savron Graphics; nameplate by Eleanor Amidon.



# HANCOCK FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*featuring*

**Norway Pond Festival Singers  
Norway Pond Junior Minstrels  
Village Ringers**



*and special guests*

**Fiddlin' Quinn Eastburn  
and his dad, Chris**



**Saturday, December 20th  
4:00 pm**

**Hancock Meeting House**



*No admission charge but donations  
at the door are gratefully accepted.*



## ***Christmas in Hancock***

With fond memories of the Bethlehem Stroll of years past and hopes of building similar happy memories for years to come, let's all gather for an afternoon of holiday cheer in our beautiful village.

***Please Join Us***  
***Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>***



### ***1:00 Children's Christmas Pageant***

An after school, all volunteer production of the "The Christmas Story" featuring 1<sup>st</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> graders from the Hancock Elementary, Great Brook and area private schools. Come and enjoy the first performance on the newly renovated stage in the Hancock Meetinghouse!



### ***1:30 Stroll***

Meet a menagerie of Hancock animals at the horse stalls behind the Meetinghouse. Stroll to the Inn, knock on the door ... do you know how Mary & Joseph were greeted? What might happen today?

### ***2:00 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hancock Inn Christmas Open House***

Santa & his sleigh will be on the front porch, refreshments will be served inside, so please join us for some holiday cheer & don't forget to bring your cameras!

### ***4:00 Tree Lighting & Caroling***

In front of the inn and on the village green, the Christmas trees will illuminate and an old-fashioned sing-along of classic Christmas carols will take place.

