



News from the Selectboard

Submitted by Erik Spitzbarth, for the Selectboard

APPOINTMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS: The BOS accepted the Conservation Commission resignation of Dave Westaway effective December 2, 2015, and approved the appointment of J.P. Bernier to fulfill the remainder of Westaway’s term ending March 2018. The CC & BOS thanks Dave for his service.

The BOS accepted the resignation of Nahida Sherman as webmaster effective Feb 1, 2016 and thanks her for her service and the many contributions she has made in both maintaining and transitioning our town website (www.Hancocknh.org) to the key communications tool it is today.

INSPECT BEFORE YOU RENEW your vehicle registration to avoid *buyer’s remorse* in the event your vehicle reaches a repair cost beyond your view of its value. Registration fees are not refundable. You can transfer a registration from a currently registered vehicle to another vehicle. Transfer credit is allowed if the primary owners name on the old registration and the new registration does not change. Remember, you can have your vehicle inspected up to 4 months before the registration renewal is due!

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/nhsp/fob/troopg/fieldop/faqfieldop.html#insp5>

POST OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT was signed by BOS for the period effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021 for an annual rental fee of \$28,248.00. This negotiated rate is significantly higher than first offered by USPS representatives. Additionally, a number of details had to be worked out before an amicable agreement could be reached.

78% OF HANCOCK’S REGISTERED VOTERS voted in the February Primary Election. We continue to be one of the top politically engaged communities in the region. Every vote counts.

MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT earned an award last month. The NH Chapter of the American Institute of Architects awarded the Rick and Duffy Monahan Award for Design Excellence in Architectural Restoration and Preservation. The BOS approved the mounting of the framed award in the Meetinghouse recognizing the investment of private donors and taxpayers to the project. Time & materials for the framing will be donated.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT:

2015 TAX RATES for CONVAL TOWNS
\$ Per \$1000 VALUATION

	\$ MUNICIPAL	\$ COUNTY	\$ CONVAL	\$ TOTAL	% to CONVAL
Antrim	12.52	1.25	13.96	27.73	50%
Bennington	12.20	1.22	17.16	30.58	56%
Dublin	7.34	3.37	15.79	26.50	60%
Francestown	8.38	1.26	15.55	25.19	62%
Greenfield	8.23	1.35	18.18	27.76	65%
Hancock	5.24	1.29	15.66	22.19	71%
Peterborough	10.06	1.34	18.31	29.71	62%
Sharon	5.88	1.30	13.57	20.75	65%
Temple	5.73	1.33	18.96	26.02	73%

Source: NH Dept of Revenue Administration Note: Amount paid to ConVal is sum of Local and State Educational Taxes

Hancock Fire & Rescue

Nevan Cassidy, Chief, Hancock Fire Department

Not a lot to report....

Every month, Jaime sends me a reminder to file an article for Hancock Happenings. I usually come up with something right at the deadline, as you can probably tell from the quality of my journalism. Hey, I don't get paid for this; cut me some slack.

It has been a relatively quiet month for us at HFD, so this will be short.

Josh Moreen has started an EMT class in Hillsboro and will be our 11th EMT when he completes that training. That gives us a lot of trained EMS folks on the department. I am grateful to all of the members who maintain their EMT certifications. We are lucky to have dedicated people willing to put in the hours needed to stay certified.

We had a few minor car crashes in February because of the light, but slippery snow conditions. Nobody was injured in these incidents, outside of a woman with a cut on the nose from bouncing her face off the steering wheel. A seatbelt would have prevented that, but, "No, I was only going to Peterborough." I don't care if you are driving to your mailbox- put on your #%^\$# seatbelt!

The worst crash did not involve any serious damage to a vehicle, but a Stoddard woman ran into a snow bank on Route 123, and her crockpot full of beef stew on the back

seat flew all the inside of the car. It smelled delicious at the time, but probably does not smell so good now.... She was wearing a seatbelt.

The folks at Sargent Center had an old building they wanted to be rid of, and were nice enough to let the Fire Department train in it before they tore it down. Our Captains spent time to set up this building for a good training session on a Tuesday night. We had a burn barrel in the building, and the HFD Association purchased a smoke machine to fog the interior. It made for realistic low visibility conditions for doing several evolutions of searching and fire suppression. Thanks to everyone at Sargent Camp for their help.

That's it. Told you it would be short.

February Raffle Winners:

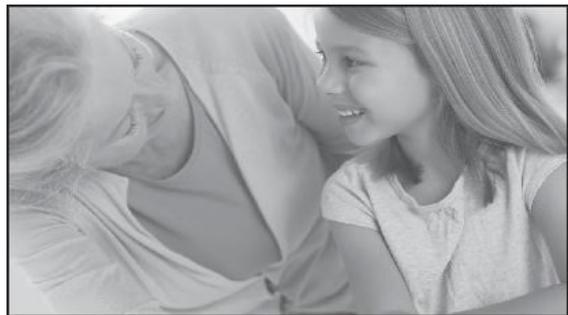
Daniel Johnston, \$40; Tom Shevenell, \$20; Karlene Emblor, Mike and Carol Domingue, Jamison Coty, \$10 each.

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PETERBOROUGH Bard Chiropractic Office	GREENFIELD Crochted Mountain
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Hancock Elementary School

Amy Janoch, Cooperating Principal,

District Literacy Coach

We Are ConVal

For many years, a student could move from one elementary school to another in the ConVal school district and learn very different things. While the uniqueness of schools is valued, the inconsistency of instruction was a problem. Students often had significant gaps in their learning. It was particularly difficult for middle school teachers because students from a number of schools entered fifth grade having been exposed to different learning targets. In an effort to ensure that all students had similar learning expectations, the elementary schools have developed and piloted a common standards-based report card.

A standards-based report card is designed to clearly identify skills to be learned through a school year. Over the course of two years, ConVal teachers and administrators worked diligently to consider what they believed students should know and be able to do academically and socially by the end of each grade. A pilot of the report card in the 2014-2015 school year enabled committee members to review and revise the report card based on feedback from teachers and parents. We are now in our second year of implementation and I am thrilled. I feel that we have a common lens in which to measure our students' success and areas of need. Furthermore, we are working collaboratively across the district and across grade levels to ensure that all students are learning and are challenged. Is the tool perfect? Absolutely not. Like good scientists, teachers are continuously refining levels of proficiency for students in relation to the standard. However, finally teachers are working collaboratively to determine what we want ConVal students to know and be able to do. We are ConVal!



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INNKEEPERS' SUNDAY SUPPER

March 2016

THE 6TH
Vegetable Soup
Chili Dogs & chips
Brownies

THE 13TH
Smoked Salmon with
red onion, capers & sour cream
Bangers & Mash with beans
Bread Pudding with whiskey sauce

Eat Out for The Grapevine!

THE 20TH

Chicken Nuggets
Burgers & Fries
Chocolate Parfait

THE 27TH
Empanada
"Ital" Vegetable Stew
Banana Fritters

Sunday Supper \$17.89 per person
Excludes tax, gratuity & beverage

5:30 – 7:00PM

RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED

603-525-3318 www.hancockinn.com

HANCOCK WOMAN'S CLUB

Wednesday, March 9th at 2 pm in the church vestry, the aromatic smell of coffee will wafer throughout the Vestry. Our guest speaker, Mason Parker, owner and roaster of Parker House Coffee at Noone Falls in Peterborough will tell us how his rewarding hobby quickly grew into his full-time profession. He is a 'one man operation' roasting the beans and running the cafe at Noone Falls. Purchasing the beans from Columbia, Burundi, Peru and Honduras, Mason roasts them himself at his facility in Noone Falls. His coffee beans are available for purchase at local farmers markets, Hancock Market and at the Hancock Inn. At his cafe he sells baked goods, sandwiches and salads made from ingredients from local farmers. You will find out that Mason is passionate about his coffee!

This month's hostesses are Marcia Coffin, Ethel Piotrowski and Marcia Schwartz. Refreshments will be served after our guest speaker's presentation. The meeting is open to men as well as women in the community.

DEADLINE - The Hancock Woman's Club \$1000 Annual Scholarship is open to applicants within the ConVal School District. In the past it was available only to women residing in Hancock. By extending the reach, the Club hopes to be able to provide this opportunity to more qualified women throughout our entire community. The scholarship is provided every year to an adult woman who is in mid-career or plans to begin, change or return to a career after some years of family or other responsibilities.

To qualify the applicant must be a current resident within the ConVal School District and have lived in that area for at least two years. The applicant must be planning to attend an educational program and will be required to provide confirmation of her acceptance or enrollment. Educational program refers to a recognized college, university, technical or training school, or professional organization. The scholarship is not available for independent study, or recreational workshops. Recipient will be notified in early May.

Since its inception in 1991 the Club has awarded scholarships to women who have advanced their skills and positions in Nursing, Education, Child Development and many other fields.

Deadline for filing is March 31st. Contact Joyce Perry at 525-3304 **OR** by mail at Hancock Woman's Club, PO Box 366, Hancock, NH 03449 for an application or more information.

REMINDERS: The Hancock Woman's Club will host the April Community Supper. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13th!

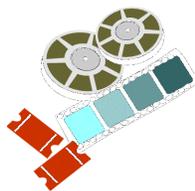
Check us out on Facebook: Hancock Woman's Club Hancock New Hampshire

Submitted by Gertie Kanner



HANCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hancock Historical Society program for February will be showing a double matinee with a 1934 film titled "Skiing, sledding, and snowshoeing in New Hampshire". The second feature is titled "Secrets of the Mt. Washington Hotel". This 40-minute film provides us a history of the grand resort in New Hampshire's Bretton Woods and can also provide some insight to the old days in Hancock when trains and stage coaches brought tourists to our grand town. These videos will be shown Sunday, Feb 28th at 2:00pm in the Daniels Room of the Hancock Library and will conclude approximately at 3:15pm. We hope you will join us!



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Hancock Happenings
 If you would like to submit an article or place an ad, email to happenings@hancocknh.org or call 525.9459
 Jaime Donovan, Editor

Ice Out 2016

Ice Out: the cold facts.

“Pure liquid water is transformed to its solid state, ice, at a temperature of 32°F (0°C) when the pressure is at one atmosphere. Interestingly, the density of liquid water at the freezing point is 62.418 lb/ft³ (0.99984 g/cm³) but decreases to 57.23 lb/ft³ (0.9168 g/cm³) when that water organizes itself into crystalline ice at 32°F (0°C). This density difference is due the large open spaces within the crystal lattice of ice. The increased volume of the solid lattice causes pure water to expand by approximately 9% upon freezing, resulting in ruptured pipes or damaged engines when the process occurs in a closed vessel. Ice is one of a very few solid substances that is lower in density than the corresponding liquid.” <a



href="http://science.jrank.org/pages/3498/Ice-Physical-properties-ice.html">Ice - Physical Properties Of Ice

Pick your date and time for the ice to go out on Norway Pond. Ice Out tickets are on sale from Ice Out committee members and at the Hancock Inn, the Hancock Market, and Fiddleheads through March 2016. The prediction closest to the actual time of the ice out event will win half the funds. The second half will help maintain the Meeting House and the Vestry in the coming year. Good Luck.

2016 Hancock Ice Out Committee

News from the Depot March Hancock Depot Cabaret!



"Come taste the wine
Come hear the band
Come blow your horn
Start celebrating right this way
Your table's waiting"

-- from "Cabaret," music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb

This month, we'll hold the Depot Cabaret on Saturday, March 5, and our feature act will be Sugarbush Road. Come out and experience their tight harmonies, excellent musicianship, and diverse repertoire of original and cover songs!

The show begins at 8:00; doors open at 7:30 if you want to sign up to play at one of several open mic spots. In addition to the music, visitors will enjoy snacks, veggies, and drinks (BYOB!). We'll also hold a 50/50 raffle, so you just may walk away a winner! All proceeds go to help support the Depot.

Sponsored by the Hancock Depot Association and the Keene Music Festival and hosted by Crazy Cowz, the Hancock Depot Cabaret is a music, arts, and function venue located in the old Hancock Train Station/Depot on Depot Road.

The Cabaret was created to provide a venue for local and regional musicians, poets, and other artisans to share their talent in a comfortable, friendly, and inspirational environment. While admission is free, we suggest a \$5 donation, which the Association will use to keep the lights on and provide general maintenance for the Depot.

If you are interested in performing as a feature performer, want to sign up for an open mic spot, rent the Depot for an event, or simply want more information:

--> E-mail: hancockdepotcabaret@yahoo.com

--> Phone: 508.641.0076

Like us on Facebook and receive automatic notifications about upcoming shows: www.facebook.com/hancockdepotcabaret.



BULLETIN BOARD



Community Supper

Join Seven Maples Campground as they host the community supper on Thursday, March 24th at 5:30 pm at the Vestry. We hope to see you there as we welcome in spring together!

Submitted by Mike & Carol Domingue

St. Patrick's Day



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Dear Citizens of Hancock

My name is Marc Edscorn and I am a Boy Scout of Peterborough Troop 8. I was in need of a Service project in order to achieve the highest rank in scouting and that is Eagle Scout. Your Conservation Commission offered me a project, removing and replacing a bridge by your town's elementary school. The current bridge has been removed, my goal now is to make the new Boardwalk! so that the school and other programs of the town may have a path to get to the ball field instead of walking on the highway. But for this project I am going to need help building the new bridge

The current planned work date is

Building day 4/9/16

With a bad weather date of 4/23/16

Please RSVP me at
scoutermarc117@gmail.com

From Hancock History Volume 2

by Ella Averill Robinson

The winter season brought with it its own particular circumstances, some of which were harrowing. The most extraordinary surprise party convened at the Robinson homestead during the great blizzard of 1888. The last trains to reach Elmwood on the 12th of March were stalled there for four days by drifted snow. The passengers and crews were marooned until help could get through. Mrs. Robinson prepared supper for over 35 people that first night. Those who could not be lodged in the house slept in the barn, kept warm by piles of hay. In today's world of easy access to supermarkets, no house would have been so well stocked with provisions. The Robinsons had 17 milk cows and were making 75 lbs of butter a week. The cellar was filled with potatoes, vegetables, apples and cider. Besides poultry and eggs, they had on hand a side of beef, and a dressed pig. The men brought in wood and kept the fires going as well as helping with the house work and cooking. As it happened, only one woman was among those stranded! They made biscuits by the peck and cooked other things in equal proportion. They spent the hours while the storm raged outside with singing, card playing and impromptu entertainment. Each person contributed his specialty. There was a minister and a lawyer in the group, and also the popular lecturer, George Makepeace Towle, who delivered the speech that he was scheduled to deliver in Concord that same day. Finally, mid-day on March 15th, plow trains broke through and everyone was shortly on their way.

Submitted by Peggy Emerson

Another "Tale From Home" at www.herb-gardner.com

An actual question from a bandleader: "From where you are, how long does it take you to get where you're going?"

Hancock Happenings is available online at

<http://www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings>



Hancock Town Library Events

Amy Markus, Hancock Library Director

<http://hancocktownlibrary.blogspot.com>

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 7:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am to 4:00pm

March & April 2016

Big Community Read: The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery

The Hancock Town Library, Jaffrey Public Library and Peterborough Town Library announce a new collaboration: The Big Community Read featuring Sy Montgomery's *The Soul of an Octopus*. This program runs March 1st to April 22nd. Here's how you can participate.

Read the book! You can pick up a copy of *The Soul of an Octopus* at the library beginning March 1st. We'll have many copies to lend.

Attend a program! We'll have several programs for adults and for children centered around topics relating to the book. We'll also host two discussion groups, one in March, one in April. See the March calendar of events below. More coming in April!

Meet Sy Montgomery! Join us for our culminating event on **Earth Day April 22nd at 7:00pm!** Sy will be at the Peterborough Town House to talk about her experiences with these amazing animals.

This program is possible due to the generous support provided by the NH Charitable Foundation.

Monday Yoga at the Library

Two Different Classes

9 – 10am with Christine Justice – Gentle stretch.

5:45 – 7:00pm with Charissa Biederman – A more rigorous yoga practice.

Saturdays March 5, 12, 19 at 1:00 pm

Acro Yoga 101 with Erica Fayrie & Phillip Malone

Acro Yoga is FUN! It's a great way to connect to yourself and to others. No prior experience needed in yoga or acrobatics. This is a judgement-free, open atmosphere. Come solo and meet friends or bring a friend with you! Contact Erica at 503.953.0234 or efayrie@gmail.com. Cost is \$12 solo or \$20 as a pair. Don't miss this chance to try something new!

Mondays March 14th, 21th, 28th from 4 – 5pm Introduction to Bridge

Learn the fundamentals of this enjoyable card game. Taught by retired educator Jane Richards-Jones. Bring a partner or come on your own but please do register by calling the library at 525-4411. Free & open to all.

Thursday March 17th at 12:30pm Books Sandwiched In

Join us for the HTL book group. This month's book is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Pick up a copy at the front desk. Thanks to Joyce Perry for leading the book group! Free and open to all.

Thursday March 24th at 7pm Kombucha!

Stop spending \$4.00 a bottle on your favorite Kombucha and learn how to make this new drink that's all the rage! Kombucha is any of a variety of [fermented](#), lightly [effervescent](#) sweetened [black](#) or [green tea drinks](#) produced by fermenting the tea using a "symbiotic 'colony' of bacteria and yeast" ([SCOBY](#)). Diane Goff of Antrim began research on how to make Kombucha due to poor gut health and on the advice of a health professional. She has been making the drink for a year and loves to share what she's learned. Free and open to all.

Saturday March 26th at 2pm The Viola Question: Yale University Improv Group

Come see Yale University's improv comedy group, The Viola Question! They make up their shows on the spot based on audience suggestions—so, the show you'll see will be invented just for you. It's never been seen before and will never be seen again! They perform a mix of both short-form and long-form improv games. They'll make you laugh, make you cry, and maybe—just maybe—make you think a little.

Warning: blindingly yellow shirts will be used in this performance. Recommended for grade 5 and up but open to all. Grown-ups, you're going to love this!

—————continued to page 8



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**Wednesday March 30th at 7pm
The Soul of an Octopus Discussion Group
 with Henry Walters**

Borrow a copy of Sy Montgomery's book *The Soul of an Octopus* at the front desk starting March 1st (thanks to a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation we have multiple copies of the book for our Big Community Read) and then join us on March 30th for a discussion of the book, led by Henry Walters. Mr. Walters is a teacher, naturalist, falconer, and former steward of the Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in Hancock. His writing about the natural world appears on a blog for *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, and his first book of poems, *Field Guide A Tempo*, has been named a finalist for the 2016 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. He is currently Writer-in-Residence at the Dublin School. This program will be presented again on Tuesday April 19th at 2:00 in the afternoon. Free and open to all!

**Thursday March 31 at 7:00pm
 The Web of Marine Life in the Gulf of Maine**

As part of our series of programs around our Big Community Read of *The Soul of an Octopus*, come learn about marine life in the Gulf of Maine with Barbara Beblowski. Ms. Beblowski is a native of Antrim and a 2014 graduate of College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME. Since her graduation she has been working with marine mammal researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution regarding population biology and ecology of the mysterious animals in the Gulf of Maine. While still an undergraduate she had the opportunity to work on an offshore research station 25 miles offshore exploring the small gull colony and the marine life around the island. Her talk will cover these adventures and the research she is working on currently. Free and open to all.

**From the Children's Room
 Jennifer Wood, Children's Librarian**

A Note from Miss Jenn~

I wanted to take a minute and thank everyone for giving me such a warm welcome. My first month here just flew by! If I haven't had a chance to meet you yet please stop by to say hello. I am always looking for suggestions for programs you would like or items you want to see in the collection. Please feel free to stop by and chat or send me an email at hancockkidlib@gmail.com.

Make and Take Spring Craft

During the month of March, drop in anytime the library is open and make a spring inspired craft. We will have all supplies on hand in the Children's Room. So come by and create something unique as we count down to spring!

**Tuesday March 1st from 3:30 to 4:30pm
 LEGO Club**

LEGO Club is back to once a month on the first Tuesday of the month! Come to the library after school to work on your Lego creations or try a Lego building challenge. Bring your friends! Held in the Daniel's Room of the Hancock Town Library.

**Wednesday March 2nd at 4:30pm
 Dr. Seuss Storytime**

Come read some stories and play some games to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday! This is a special story time for anyone who likes Dr. Seuss.

**Every Thursday at 10:30am
 Story Time**

We always have fun at Story Time! Each Thursday morning we sing songs, read stories, dance with scarves, play, and do crafts. For preschoolers and their parents and caregivers. Held in the Children's Room of the Town Library. No need to sign up; just drop in when you can.

**Monday March 7th & March 21st from 3:30 to 4:30pm
 Paws to Read with Coffee**

Come by the library after school and practice your reading with Coffee the Chihuahua! Coffee, a registered reading therapy dog, loves when kids practice their reading with him or tell him stories. *Also, if you bring 3 non-perishable items for the Food Pantry, you get to choose a free stuffed animal graciously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys!*

**Saturday March 19th from 11am to 12pm
Paws to Read with Toven**

Come read to Toven, a gentle Great Pyrenees dog! Toven, a registered reading therapy dog, comes to the library one Saturday a month and loves when kids read to him. Reading to a therapy dog is great for children who want to improve their out-loud reading skills. Come meet Toven, you will love him!

**Saturday March 19th, 7:30-10:30pm
Sticks & Tricks at Avenue A in Antrim**

Looking for a place to play pool with friends or a place to socialize with other adults close to home? Come to Avenue A Teen & Community Center, 42 Main Street in Antrim. The Hancock Town Library and Avenue A are co-sponsoring a game night on the third Saturday of the month through May. Pool, foosball, ping pong, cards and board games! For more info contact info@grapevinenh.org or 588.2620. This is a free event with a \$5 suggested donation.

Fiddleheads



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**Wednesday March 30th 3:30-5pm
Art Afternoon with Melody Russell**

As part of our Big Community Read (check out our octopus books!) come create a Sea Creature Puppet to honor the life in the big blue sea. Everything from snails to whales! For grades 1-4. Limited to 12 so **please sign up** by stopping by the front desk or calling the library at 525-4411 [*we will keep a waiting list so please call if you cancel*]. Melody Russell M Ed /art educator is a favorite here at the Hancock Town Library. Free!

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"...laughed so hard my face hurt for awhile...."



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Syrup, home-baked goods

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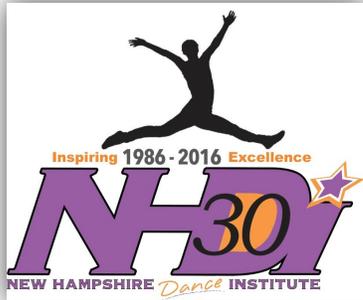
Mon-Fri 7-7 • Sat 8-7 • Sun 8-6

Suggestions encouraged @
hancockmarket@hotmail.com

Give Kids A Dance Fundraiser

Celebrating 30 Years of Inspiring Excellence

Join us to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the New Hampshire Dance Institute (NHDI). The evening will include music, dance performances, a silent auction and our special guest, former New York City Ballet dancer and National Dance Institute founder Jacques d'Amboise.



Proceeds from the event will fund NHDI scholarship programs, giving all kids a chance to dance.

Cash Bar • Guests must be 21 or older • Cocktail attire

Saturday, March 12, 2016
7 – 10 p.m.

The Marlborough House
9 Ling Street, Marlborough, NH

\$40 per person

To make reservations, go to: www.nhdi.org

Planning Board Proposes Zoning Amendment

Editor's Note:

The Planning Board will place an amendment concerning adoption of the International Building Codes (IBC) as a ballot question on the Tuesday before Town Meeting,

In 2002, the New Hampshire Legislature adopted state-wide building codes based on the IBC superseding a patchwork of local codes in force at that date. Local authorities – such as Hancock – are still allowed to adopt more stringent regulations. The IBC are updated frequently, mostly to allow for new materials and new building techniques. In 2012, the NH Legislature adopted, as the state-wide code, the version of the IBC updated to 2009. Hancock had formerly adopted pertinent sections of the 2003 version of the IBC. We now seek to update our ordinance to bring it into line with the state version.

Voting on this issue will take place as a ballot question on the Tuesday before Town Meeting, at the same time and place as the election of Town Officials.

*Submitted by Stephen Froling, Chairman
Hancock Planning Board*

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Call Jaime Donovan, editor, 525.9459 or email
happenings@hancocknh.org*



Airport Transport

Linking Hancock area with MHT, Logan and Bradley
Jane Billings 525.4641
References Available

HOUSECLEANING

As needed
Pet & plant care; Housesitting
45 years in Hancock.
Peggy Emerson 525.8050

Children and the Arts

Children and the Arts is happy to announce the theme for the 2016 Festival: Tell Me a Story! The annual festival will be held in downtown Peterborough on May 21, 2016. Children and the Arts acts a venue for many local performers, especially children and teens, and artists whose work focuses on children. We're excited to see how Hancock will contribute to our storybook-themed performances, artwork, and giant puppets.

We are looking for volunteers for the day of the Festival - you can help make Children and the Arts the best it can be. Volunteers take short shifts throughout the day to help with set up, take down, and everything in between. It's great community service! For more information, visit our website at www.childrenandthearts.org/get-involved.

The 2016 Festival is supported by the John and Maude Corser Fund, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the local community. Donations can be sent to: Children and the Arts Festival
PO Box 771
Peterborough, NH, 03458.
For more information, please visit www.childrenandthearts.org or find us on Facebook.

Hancock Happenings is available online at

<http://www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings>

Peterborough Folk Music Society
(an all-volunteer, non-profit organization)

March 5th--Trout Fishing in America, plus
Dana Louise and the Glorious Birds

March 18th-- Catie Curtis and Garnet Rogers

April 2nd-- Susan Werner and Vance Gilbert

Tickets available at Toadstool Bookshops in Peterborough, Milford & Keene
or online at TicketStage.com/PFMS
Info: (603) 827-2905 Email: deb@pfmsconcerts.org

Peterborough Players Theater, Hadley Road, Peterborough, NH
For detailed information & Directions visit our web site: pfmsconcerts.org

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The Hillsborough County Conservation District is offering a Hands-On Web Soil Survey workshop to interested individuals who have an interest in learning how to maneuver this online tool. NH DES Subsurface Bureau has approved 3.0 credit hours to this educational workshop. Foresters, Soil & Wetland Scientists may also receive credit hours. RSVP deadline is March 16th. Space is limited. Contact Kerry Rickrode, District Manager at 603.673.2409 ext 100 with any questions.

ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

"The February Project: Images with Brush, Words & Lens" by John Sirois, Sandy Sirois, and Carolyn Gregsak remains on view in the Daniels Room through March 31st.

Artist John Sirois works with acrylic and oil. His process has clearly been taking him from the traditional to the



Poppies in Summer by John Sirois

abstract and his goal is to integrate those two visions. John believes that art should be accessible to everyone and would like his to be a bridge to understanding the abstract. He wants to enable a viewer to relate to something in an image that will then lead to an

exploration, a new viewpoint. John's paintings offer a refreshing perspective on familiar scenes and convey a strong sense of freedom and joy through the use of color and form.

Sandy Sirois' photography has her "zooming in" on places and objects that, in the past, she passed by or viewed only from afar. Most things, she believes, need to be looked at in more than one way. Her favorite shots are those that cause one to say, "It's familiar—but what is it? Oh, yes! Now I see!" She wants viewers to see the familiar and quirky, the light and reflection in the world around them. Her photographs communicate layers of meaning through an emphasis on the texture and perspective found in the details of our surroundings.

Carolyn Gregsak writes poetry and fiction and also works in mixed media with distressed metals, natural fibers, and foils. These current works on paper are a monochromatic display, simple in form and presentation, exploring the sometimes inaccessible world of dreams and its relationship with our daily lives. Complexities arise in a closer observation of the written word, original diary entries alongside typewritten transpositions.

"The February Project" can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2pm – 6pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10am – 7pm; Saturday, 10am – 4pm; closed Friday and Sunday.

It is always best to call the library (525-4411) to make sure the Daniels Room will be available at the time of your visit.

Submitted by Sandy Taylor

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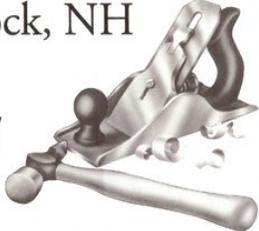
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"Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher." ~ Japanese proverb

Mar 2nd (Wed) First Session of ESI Course NH Mammals - Mounts, Scat, Skulls, and Pelts Wednesdays, March 2nd, 9th, and 16th 10:30am to noon at the Harris Center \$45 Harris Center members/\$55 nonmembers Registration is required.

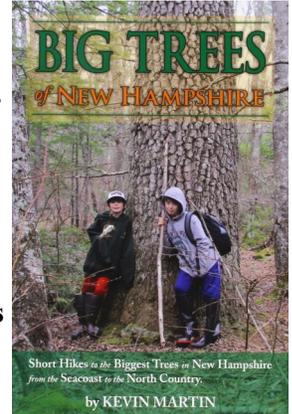
Join Susie Spikol Faber to learn about the lives and times of many of our state's mammals. This indoor course will be very hands-on, working with the Harris Center's natural history collection to identify and categorize the skulls, scats, pelts, and forms of New Hampshire mammals. Through observation, sketching, and field guides, you'll learn to differentiate the mink from the otter and the gray fox from the red. Registration required. For more information or to register, contact Sara LeFebvre at lefebvre@harriscenter.org or 603.525.3394. *Susie Spikol Faber has been an avid tracker and student of New England mammals since studying with Meade Cadot in 1992. If she could be a New Hampshire mammal, she would swim and slide across the land and waters of Hancock as a river otter.*

Mar 4th (Fri) Easygoing Hike Along the Souhegan River Trail Join Ollie Mutch and Lee Baker for a moderately strenuous, 4-mile roundtrip snowshoe hike along the Souhegan River Trail to Fitch's Four Corners in Milford. Bring water, lunch, and snowshoes. **Meet at 10am next to Ocean State Job Lot in Peterborough (at the junction of Routes 101 and 202) to carpool.** Back by 3pm. For more info, contact Ollie at 978.386.5318, wapack@peoplepc.com, or Lee at 603.525.5262, snowman3137@gmail.com.

Mar 5th (Sat) Mount Thumb "Directissimo" Hike Join Dave Butler and Russ Daigle for a strenuous variation on an old favorite. We'll start on the Cadot Trail from Old Dublin Road, but instead of taking the hard right turn to Skatutakee Mountain, we'll take the "directissimo" approach to the ridge connecting Skatutakee and Thumb. We'll turn left on the ridge toward our lunch spot on Thumb, then traverse the ridge to Skatutakee, passing impressive glacial erratics on the way. Bring water, lunch, and snowshoes. **Meet at 10am at the Harris Center. Back by 3pm.** For more info, contact Dave at 603.472.5608 or Russ at 603.477.7506

Mar 5th(Sat) NH's Big Trees!

Kevin Martin is the coordinator of the New Hampshire Big Tree Program and author of *Big Trees of New Hampshire*. His presentation will focus on the big trees in different areas of the state, their status with the Big Tree Program, and their value to wildlife and woodworkers. Weather permitting, we'll also visit some of the Harris Center's bigger trees to demonstrate how to measure their size. **10 to 11am at the Harris Center.** For more information, contact Eric Masterson at 603.525.3394 or masterson@harriscenter.org.



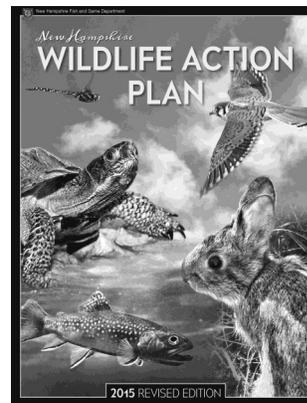
Mar 6th(Sun) Pisgah State Park Hike

Denny Wheeler and Russ Daigle will lead a moderately strenuous, 4-mile roundtrip snowshoe hike along the Kilburn Loop Trail through Pisgah State Park, bypassing the old munitions-testing area. Bring water, lunch, and snowshoes. **Meet at 9:30am at the Kilburn Road trailhead, off Route 63 in Winchester.** Back by 2pm. For more information, contact Denny at 603.313.0350 or Russ at 603.477.7506.

Mar 8th (Tues) What's New in the NH Wildlife Action Plan?

The New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan was just updated for the first time in ten years, and there's a wealth of new data and information. Join us to learn what's new and how you can use this information to take your wildlife and conservation efforts to the next level. This workshop will provide an overview of the 2015 plan; a review of the wildlife maps, data, and information in the updated plan;

and, most importantly, information about actions you can take to help NH's wildlife and habitats. Refreshments will be provided, and registration is requested. **6 to 7:30 p.m. in Heberton Hall at the Keene Public Library.** Snow date, March 15th. Cosponsored with NH Fish and Game, UNH Cooperative Extension, and the City of Keene. For more information and to register, contact Sharon Hughes.



Mar 18 (Fri) Sing in the Spring

Invite spring back by enjoying an evening of song and story with folk-heritage musician Mary DesRosiers and naturalist Susie Spikol Faber. Come ready to sing, laugh, and warm the chill March air with us. Bring a song, story, and/or musical instrument, if you'd like. **7 to 8pm at the Harris Center. For more information, contact Sara LeFebvre at (603) 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.**

Mar 19 (Sat) Fox State Forest Hike

Dave Butler and Russ Daigle will lead a moderately strenuous, 4-mile snowshoe hike in Fox State Forest in Hillsborough. Starting at the forest headquarters, we'll sample a number of trails over varying terrain in this beautiful reservation, stopping for lunch atop Monroe Hill. Bring water, lunch, and snowshoes. **Meet at 10am at the Fox State Forest Headquarters parking lot in Hillsborough.** Back by 2pm. For more information, contact Dave at 603.477.7506 or Russ at 603.472.5608.

Mar 24th (Thur) "Salamander Crossing Brigades" Volunteer Training in Keene

As the earth thaws and spring rains drench New Hampshire, thousands of salamanders, frogs, and toads make their way to vernal pools to breed. Many are killed when their journeys take them across busy roads. Every year, we train volunteers to serve on Salamander Crossing Brigades at amphibian road crossings throughout the Monadnock Region. These heroic volunteers move migrating amphibians across roads by hand during one or more "Big Nights" each spring, keeping count as they go. To join the ranks – or simply to learn more about the remarkable spring amphibian migration – attend this training in Keene, the training at the Nelson Town Hall on March 26th, or the training at the Harris Center on April 2nd. (One training will do!) **7 to 9pm in the Keene State College Science Center (Room 127).** Cosponsored by the Harris Center with Keene State College. For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen. at 603.358.2065 or thelen@harriscenter.org

Mar 26th (Sat) "Salamander Crossing Brigades" Volunteer Training in Nelson

For a full description, see the March 24th event. **11am to 1pm at the Nelson Town Hall.** Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Nelson Conservation Commission. For more info, contact Brett Amy Thelen at 603.358.2065 or thelen@harriscenter.org.

Mar 31st (Thur) Introduction to Surveying

Can't read your deed? Want to find your property corners? Ed Goodrich, a licensed surveyor well known to the conservation community in southwest New Hampshire, has participated in numerous Harris Center land protection efforts. Ed will share with us his knowledge of the practice and history of surveying. **7 to 8pm at the Harris Center.** For more information, contact Eric Masterson at 603.525.3394 or masterson@harriscenter.org

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Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Living Strong at the Grapevine

One of the things I love about the Grapevine is how it seems to touch people in every phase of life. While you may associate the Grapevine with childhood and parenting supports, we offer many other programs and resources. One of them is the Strong Living Exercise Program for Seniors, which meets Tuesdays and Fridays at the Grapevine from 1:30 – 2:30.



I am pleased to share that I have accepted the permanent position of Executive Director of the Grapevine. I look forward to learning, growing and succeeding in this new role! I am also excited to announce the hiring of Arlene Soule as the Avenue A Club Coordinator. Arlene will be working with GBS middle school students every Wednesday afterschool at the Avenue A Club. She comes to us as a long-time volunteer with Avenue A and brings expertise in afterschool programming with youth. She has also done considerable work in programs focused on bullying prevention. Welcome, Arlene!

Grapevine Workshops, Programs and Upcoming Events -

for all programs please call 588.2620 to register and for more information

Eat Out for The Grapevine in March! Four generous local restaurants, with Rick and Diane’s taking the lead, are once again donating 20% of their gross receipts on their “Eat Out” day:

- Rick and Diane’s—All day Friday, March 11th
- The Common Place Eatery—Sunday Breakfast 7-11 am, March 13th
- Fiddlehead’s Café and Catering—All day Wednesday, March 16th
- The Hancock Inn—Sunday Dinner, March 20th

Please support The Grapevine by enjoying a meal!

Free Tax Preparation

IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Mondays from 3-6pm through April 11th. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine at 588-2620 now for your appointment.

Thank you to the people of Hancock who supported The Grapevine recently including:

- **Larry Schwartz** for the free tax preparation he has been offering since January (and continues to offer every year);
- **Jarvis and Marcia Coffin of The Hancock Inn and Sherry Williams of Fiddleheads** for once again participating in our Eat out for the Grapevine event in March. Both of these establishments will be donating 20 percent of their proceeds back to our organization on their designated day!
- **Matt Ferrisi** for volunteering at Avenue A during Open Hours on Friday;
- **Hancock Board of Selectman** for inviting the Grapevine to attend and speak at their recent meeting to share information on our services and programs;

We continue to draw amazing support from our community for The Grapevine’s annual appeal for donations. Thank you to all in Hancock who gave to us during the holiday season.



Seven Maples General Store will be filling LP tanks through the winter.
Stop by or call ahead... 525.3321
Thank you!

24 Longview Rd.
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MUSIC ON NORWAY POND
PRESENTS
RISING STARS OF THE OPERA WORLD

SATURDAY MARCH 12th at 4:00

HANCOCK MEETING HOUSE

Since it began 8 years ago, Music on Norway Pond has had a knack for attracting young artists who are on exciting upward career trajectories. As audience members, we can boast that we “knew them when” as we follow their progress. On Saturday afternoon, March 12th, we will have the opportunity to witness and savor the artistry of two of the finest vocalists at the New England Conservatory. This a concert not to be missed!

For those of you who were at *Carmina Burana* two years ago, you will recall the memorable performance of bass-baritone Joshua Quinn. He was spell-binding. In two years, one can just imagine the growth of this dynamic young artist’s impactful presence! Finally, we get to hear him again, in concert with another rising star, Nataly Wickham.



Praised as a "soaring soprano" by the Boston Musical Intelligencer, Nataly Wickham is rapidly earning a reputation as a rising star. Originally from the Seattle metropolitan area, Ms. Wickham has been living and performing in the Boston area. In February, Ms. Wickham performed the role of Lisak (The Fox) in Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* with New England Conservatory where she is a second year Artist Diploma candidate. The Huffington Post wrote that she “... acted with panache and brilliance and is someone we should all look out for”.



They will be performing songs by Verdi, Rossini, Mozart, and more.

Tickets are \$20, available at the door. Children and students are admitted free of charge.

NORWAY POND JUNIOR MINSTRELS
ARE RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS
FOR HMS PINAFORE
IN MAY

The Norway Pond Junior Minstrels have a few openings for children between 7 and 13 who like to sing and act. This spring, they will present Gilbert and Sullivan’s beloved operetta HMS Pinafore in Hancock on May 7th.

The ensemble is limited to 25 children. There are no auditions but parents are asked to make sure their child has a good musical ear and the ability to focus during rehearsals. In the past, the Junior Mints have presented Peter Pan, Damn Yankees, Honk!, 1776 and Wizard of Oz. Rehearsals start on March 15th and are in Hancock, mostly on Tuesday afternoons. Tuition is \$120 per child with scholarships available.

The Junior Minstrels have been invited to perform *Carmina Burana* with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood this July for the opening concert of the Tanglewood season. Many of the older children in HMS Pinafore will be part of the Tanglewood project.

To sign up for Junior Mints or to ask any questions, call or email Jody Hill Simpson, conductor Junior Minstrels. (musicnornorwaypond@gmail.com 525.9303)

**Hancock Historic District Commission Town Survey
Compilation of Results**

A survey was sent out to Historic District residents in early October. This Survey was also included in the October Hancock Happenings paper in order to broaden the scope of responses beyond the Historic District. **Twenty-three completed responses** were received. Following are the tabulations of the results as well as some individual comments made by respondents.

Question #1

“Are you familiar with the Hancock Historic District?”

22 yes 1 no

“Are you familiar with what the role of the Hancock Historic Commission is?” 18 yes 5 no

Question #2

“Has the HDC met its responsibility in maintaining the character of the village center?”

15 yes 2 no 6 with reservations

Question #3

“List three structures/buildings or areas within the village center, which best represent significant elements of the town’s cultural, economic, political and architectural history”

- Hancock Meeting House/Church 19
- Hancock Historical Society Building 9
- John Hancock Inn 17, Hancock Market 8
- Vestry 2, The Forest House 2, Library 2
- Gazebo/Bandstand 4, Fountain 2
- Moller Office Building 1, Simpson House 1
- Hayward House 1, Ann Dumler’s House on Main Street 1
- Common 4, Most of the Houses on Main Street 2
- All of Main Street...”Best in State” 1
- Impossible to choose only three...the HDC as a whole 1
- The former Brick Post Office 1, The Pond 1, Cemeteries 1

Question #4

“List three examples of unique historic features you would like to see preserved on buildings, other structures and landscapes within the village center”

- Front doors and surrounding treatments 6, Windows 2
- Historic colors 4, The Fountain 3, Wooden Fences 6
- Current elements on Main Street Houses 2, Wood 1
- Period features 1, Front porch Fiddleheads Café 1
- Pathways 3, Hancock Inn 2, Common 1, Beach 1
- Keep commercial properties the same 1, Cemeteries 2
- Simplicity of design 1, Carriage Shed 1
- Bell Tower 3, Views of Norway Pond 1
- Historical Society Building 1, Granite posts 1
- Nix the unnecessary traffic signs 1, Trees 1

Question #5

“In your opinion, what is the best action that the Historic District Commission can take to conserve property values within the village center?”

“Use common sense and negotiate”

“Work side by side with building owners to encourage and make them aware of the importance of maintaining their property in the historic area. Create partnership with property owners not a “court” system that puts owners on the defense-remembering that these properties and homes are owned by private individuals are private property and because of finances there should be flexibility.”

“Get rid of the 18 wheel trucks!”

“Encourage property owners to preserve the historic features of their properties and protect the historic vision of the District.”

“Keep small businesses very low profile such as cheese makers next to the Inn. I am not against small scale business as long as the Center looks residential for the most part.”

“Preserve good taste and continuity of New England town appearance yet letting buildings evolve within the framework to meet the needs of modern society.”

“Remain vigilant and enforce current rules and regulations. The village looks as good as it does because of the commitment of past HDC. We trust you’ll do the same.”

“Continue to be deliberate in their consideration of requests that come before them”

“Old style street lights” “Christmas lights in downtown trees”

“Keep the Historic District so it appears to those visiting or traveling through that it represents a glimpse of the past-a special place.”

“Advocate for lower taxes...encourage and support younger families to move downtown (cell service!)... promote village tourism...be a resource to village property owner instead of preservation cop.”

“Be vigilant...know the guidelines before problem arises...be sure property owners know restrictions and benefits”

“Ensure that buildings and other structures are well maintained”

Hancock Hours and Meetings

*Please review your listings
and correct as needed by emailing
happenings@hancocknh.org.*

Tax Collector - Monday 3:30 to 6:30pm

Town Clerk – Monday 6:00 to 9:00pm
Wednesday 3:00 to 6:00pm

Town Dump and Demolition Hours – Wednesday 3:00
to 7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am to 5:00pm;

Selectboard – First three Mondays at 4:00pm; Fourth
Monday at 7:00 pm, Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room

Planning Board - On the 1st Wednesday of every month
at 7:00pm: may hold working sessions for planning
purposes. On the 3rd Wednesday of every month at
7:00pm: 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 E
Caverly Meeting Room

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

Advisory Committee – as noticed, Town Office;

Conservation Commission – 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm,
Town Office 2nd floor;

HEAT Committee – Meets on an as needed basis

Historic District Commission – 4th Tuesday at
7:00pm, Barbara Caverly Meeting Room;

Hancock Library Trustees – 4th Wednesday at 1:00pm
in the Daniels Room;

Recreation Committee – 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm.,
Town Office;

Town Archives Committee – as noticed, Town Office
Archives Room;

Water Commissioners – 4th Wednesday at 4:30pm,
DPW;

Dump Committee –3rd Tuesday at 4:00pm, 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 7:00pm, Town Office.

Meetinghouse Restoration Committee – as noticed,
Meetinghouse

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



Publishing Information

Editor and Publisher: Jaime Donovan

Submit articles to Editor at happenings@hancocknh.org
or call 525.9459 for information and rates.

For advertisement sizes and rates please go to :
www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings/pages/block-advertising-rates All submissions must be in text or PDF
format; PDF or JPG of scanned text will not be accepted
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computer.

Deadline for submissions, advertising and payment for
advertising: 5pm on the 22nd of each month. Checks
should be payable to Town of Hancock (memo line
“Hancock Happenings”) and mailed to the Town at PO
Box 6, Hancock, NH 03449. Inserts are not accepted.

Refer to the Hancock Happenings Mission Statement on
page 1 for the newsletter’s editorial policy. Distribution–
Hope Pettegrew, Edna Drasba, Sandy Brooks, Josephine
Warner, and Marcia Coffin. (Sorry if I missed anyone)
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Hancock Happenings Mission Statement

Hancock Happenings is the monthly newsletter of the
Town of Hancock, established in 1999 for the purpose of
publishing news articles by Town Departments and local
organizations. The publication is self-supported through
the sale of block and classified advertising. *Hancock
Happenings* is not a forum for opinion pieces of any
nature, political advertising and political columns; any
such submissions will be edited or rejected.

