We have had a little snow and this morning my neighbors’ pond had a skim of ice, so I think it is safe to assume that Winter is here. Fortunately, we have filled the opening for a light equipment operator at the Department of Public Works and will not be as shorthanded for plow drivers. Adam Blanchette is the new person at the DPW, but is certainly not new to the Town. Adam grew up here and is a former member of the Hancock Fire Department. He also has experience with plowing snow as well as in construction work.

The compensation study is nearly complete and we will be able to use it in preparing this year’s budget. Our current plan has 21 grades and 20 steps with each step providing for a 3% increase in pay. It had been the normal practice to give a yearly step to each employee. It was very unwieldy and definitely outdated. Our new plan is based on a survey of pay scales in similar towns. Our new plan has 6 grade levels and 3 salary ranges within each grade level. Updated job descriptions have been developed and were used in a point system to establish the proper grade level for each employee position. One of our major concerns was to examine whether our pay scales were competitive such that we should expect to retain our experienced employees. Generally, we found that our employee salaries were in the competitive range with a few exceptions. We will look at making some adjustments, but do not anticipate a large impact on our overall budget.

Budget preparations are continuing and we are still receiving budgets proposals from different departments. The only new purchase in the Capital Improvement Plan for this year is a dump truck for the Department of Public Works. We are currently looking at a six year replacement cycle on the three large dump trucks which would mean the replacement of a truck every two years. These are our primary plow and work trucks and are out in the worst weather conditions. There have been problems with the reliability of the engine control systems after five or six years. Having a disabled truck puts a serious burden on our resources.

The new HVAC system is being installed at the Post Office, surely to the relief of the people who work there. The cost did come in under $10,000 as anticipated and will be covered in this year’s budget with funds not needed in another line item. The Post Office has just signed a new lease with the Town and the income is certainly helpful.

I want to wish everyone the best in this holiday season.
Happy Holidays from HFD

Here it is, December already, so this will be my last article for Hancock Happenings this year. Time for my annual reminder of fire safety issues related to the holiday, right? I’ll keep it brief. Be careful with Christmas lights and wires. Be extra careful with candles. Keep them away from kids and pets, in a spot where they can’t be knocked over. And never leave candles burning unattended. Bag up gift wrapping residue and recycle it at the Dump; don’t try to burn it in your wood stove. Make sure you have a designated driver if you are likely to get into the eggnog at a Christmas party, know what I mean? Drive carefully and slow down in cruddy weather. It seems like every year, we need to be reminded that snow and ice make for slippery conditions on the roads. I don’t imagine that this winter will be any different.

Hancock residents should have received our newsletter, Firelines, in the mail recently. Thanks to Eric Aldrich for helping write and edit this year’s edition. Please consider sending in the enclosed raffle tickets if you have not done so. This is the biggest yearly fund-raiser for the HFD Association, and it allows us to purchase needed equipment without using tax dollars. As an example, we just bought a portable suction machine to be used in medical emergencies to clear a patient’s airway.

HFD members had to deal with a fatal car crash this past month, and it is always tough on our EMTs and firefighters to deal with a situation like that. As always, wear your seat belt every time you get in your vehicle, even for short trips. It can save your life.

On Veteran’s Day, we were called out for a smoky brush fire just after dark. It had been a very windy day, and several trees had already fallen in town so we assumed we might find a hot power line on the ground as a cause. However, this fire was started by a bucketful of wood stove ashes dumped in a backyard. Remember, ashes can stay hot for a remarkably long time. Keep them in a covered metal container well away from your house or anything else combustible. Once there is sufficient snow cover, it is OK to dump ashes out on the ground- just make a little pit so they don’t blow around.

There, that was pretty short, eh? We hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.

November Raffle Winners:
Maribel and Bob Cypher, $40; Joyce Stevens, $20; Kathleen Robbins, Nina Pollock, Michael Ball, $10 each. Plus- 40 extra $10 prizes to end our 2016 Raffle with a total of 100 winners!
Sunday Morning Worship at 9:45 am—Advent Services on November 27, December 4, 11, and 18; Christmas Day Service on December 25. Come settle in for an hour of calm and spiritual enrichment. The Hancock Guild’s Cookie Walk will be held in the Vestry after the December 18 service.

Advent Mondays at 4:30 pm on November 28, December 5, 12, and 19.
Join us in the quiet of the sanctuary for half an hour of reflection on some of the lesser-known aspects of season. Among this year’s topics: a look at an unusual nativity painting by Albrecht Altdorfer, Christmas trees as Trees of Life, and the popularity (and spiritual meaning) of Christmas trains.

The Journey To Bethlehem, Sunday, December 11, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Come take a tour as Main Street in Hancock is transformed into Bethlehem. Or better yet, take a role in this live-action telling of the Christmas story. Last year over 350 people attended. Tours start every 10-15 minutes from the Meetinghouse. Contact us at the hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com if you would like to take part in this community-wide production.

The Hancock Family Concert, Saturday, December 17 at 4:00 pm
It’s an annual tradition as the Junior Mints, Norway Pond Festival Singers, and others offer some of the best music and storytelling of the season.

Christmas Eve Worship—Saturday, December 24, Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm
Christmas Day Worship—Sunday, December 25 at 9:45 am
And a New Year’s Day bonus...

Mini-retreat on Sunday, January 1 from 2:00-4:00 pm
You may have heard of bullet journaling—a flexible way of setting up a planner/journal/calendar that many productivity and lifestyle experts have been promoting in recent years. It can be minimalistic or a showcase for artistic expression and is a good way to live more intentionally. We’ll start off the New Year by spending a couple of hours together learning about bullet journaling and setting up our own. There is a strong historical link between calendar-keeping and Christianity and we’ll look at that, too. Pre-registration is required. Contact Judy Copeland at hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com to sign-up.

Do you know a family or an individual that could use a little extra help this year? If so, please let our Pastor know--Judy Copeland, P.O. Box 98, Hancock, NH 03449.
TRANSFER STATION AND RECYCLING CENTER REVISED HOLIDAY HOURS:

This year, the Hancock Dump (a.k.a. “Transfer Station and Recycling Center”) Saturday days of operation fall on the eves of Christmas and New Year’s. **On both Christmas eve and New Year’s eve,**

**THE DUMP WILL BE CLOSING EARLY at 3:00 p.m.** The gates will open as usual at 8:00 a.m., and if you are not quick and don’t make it out of the gate by **CLOSING TIME AT 3:00 p.m.**, you might be spending Christmas with the dump elves, and you probably would not want to do that. Same hours on New Year’s eve, and if too slow, similar consequences await you with the new year’s cherubs. You really don’t want to go there either. Visit [http://www.hancocknh.org/dump-transfer-station-recycling-center](http://www.hancocknh.org/dump-transfer-station-recycling-center), you will know what I mean.

Wrapping paper? Yes please, we love to recycle wrapping paper as much as all the other recyclables. Most of those campaign signs from the recent election are recyclable too, and we have fine bins waiting for them. Bring it on, we can handle it. Have a great holiday season!

Submitted by Denny Caldwell

Hancock Historical Society

We would like to say thank you for all who came to the presentation of “Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale”. It is great to know that our state has done so much to contribute to our great nation. We look forward to bringing you similar programs next year to enjoy and learn from.

----------

Upcoming Programs & Events

**Holiday Gathering at the Historical Society**

December 10, 2016, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Historical Society Board of Directors would like to welcome all Historical Society members and anyone who is interested in becoming a member for a time of socializing in our newly renovated Historical building. There will be an opportunity to talk with other members about any membership questions you may have, sharing winter stories of times past and good ‘ole Hancock Holiday Cheer. Warm drinks and light refreshments will be served.

**Hancock Historical Society Annual Meeting**

January 22, 2017, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

---

**Hearing loss affects one in ten people in America**

Hearing loss can make you feel embarrassed, frustrated, isolated. But it is treatable!

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PETERBOROUGH

Greenfield

Chiropractic Office

Crotched Mountain
Let there be Ice?

The Ice Out Team for 2017 has begun work preparing for the next contest; the tickets are printed, Dick Warner is refurbishing the little church on the pond, and Marc Spinale is significantly up-grading the electronics. All that is required to make the fifth annual 50/50 contest a success are participants and …ice.

Last year, the ice arrived late and went out early. This year? Who knows? Here are the data on the contest over the years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Ice Out</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Payout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 10, 2013</td>
<td>Phil Mathewson</td>
<td>$706.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16, 2014</td>
<td>Riley Grise</td>
<td>$801.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15, 2015</td>
<td>Matt Harwood</td>
<td>$617.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 11, 2016</td>
<td>Jaime Donovan</td>
<td>$410.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tickets are now on sale at the Hancock Market, Hancock Inn, and Fiddleheads. All members of the Ice Out Team and the Hancock Congregational Church can also sell you a ticket; $2 for one, $5 for three. Tickets may be purchased on line at hancock.iceout.us. The rules are printed on each ticket.

Remember: Half of the proceeds from ticket sales go to the contest winner as above; the other half go to maintain the two buildings we use the most: the Hancock Meeting House and Vestry. This is both fun….and a worthy cause.

Now, let there be ice. Good luck in 2017!

Ice Out Committee, 2017

---

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(603)525-4765

---

Hill Top Farm
Norway Hill
Hancock, NH
525-6616

We will be open for business
Saturdays and Sundays
starting on Saturday, November 25th
9am to 4pm
All trees are fresh cut from New Hampshire

We will have goodies in the cabin for sale,
along with the Boy Scout Wreaths

Jeff and Mary
Community Supper

Our next Community Supper will be held on 8 December. In the spirit of the holiday season we will be providing entrees, side dishes and desserts provided by members of our community. In addition, our food servers for this supper will be leaders from our community as they take their time to give to our town in a special way. Our committee is extremely grateful for this outpouring of support during a time when giving is so important.

As co-chairs of the Hancock Community Supper, we would like to say thank you for all who supported this great cause during the 2016. We look forward to 2017 with the confidence that this event will continue to thrive and we welcome anyone who would like to participate or sponsor one of our monthly meals.

Happy Holidays,
Mike and Carol Domingue

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

Being too lazy to keep a proper diary, I keep a notebook of names of all the people I’ve ever known. Each name brings back a story from the past that seems like it happened only yesterday. In fact, the only thing that doesn’t seem like yesterday is yesterday. I can’t remember what the heck happened yesterday.

The Hancock Area Watercolor Group will start a new six week session on January 11, 2017. Classes are held Wednesday mornings at the brick vestry next to the church in Hancock from 9 to noon. Beginners and people of all levels of experience are welcome. For more information, please call Sue Francis, 525-3313.

The Circle of Strength Military Support Group NH for Moms, Friends and Family member of the Military would like to thank the Great Brook and Wells school students once again for their wonderful handmade cards for Veteran's Day and Christmas to the deployed troops and Veterans. We have sent boxes, envelopes of cards and goodies to the deployed troops on our list. I want to thank all the members that have made the delicious treats that they will enjoy for the holidays. We could not have done this without the generous donations from The Brick Ends Financial Services, Mr. & Mrs. Hollister and others. With their help this was possible. We will also be sending a gift to the active troops on our list here in the USA away from their families for Christmas that are protecting us.

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Ken Moller Ann Moller
Tammy Garre Dorreen Raitto
Janet McEwen Sean Kerwin
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

Happy Holidays! The end of 2016 is almost here and we at the Hancock Town Library want to thank you for another wonderfully busy and eclectic year here in the center of town. Your enthusiasm, curiosity, and participation are what make the library the heart of Hancock. We hope you will consider an end-of-the-year gift to the library so that we can continue to provide the services that are so vital to this unique small town.

Don’t forget! The ping-pong table is here and ready to be used. Just call us (525-4411) to arrange a time to play. Get in shape for our ping-pong tournament this winter!

Thursday December 15th at 7:00 pm
The Halifax Disaster & the Boston Common Christmas Tree
The story of the Halifax Disaster and the Boston Common Christmas Tree is known to many and much has been written about the disaster response from physicians and politicians. After almost 100 years this story of war, international terrorist fears, devastating urban disasters, unprecedented international relief response, and maritime responsibility has much to teach us about contemporary debates. But it is also a story of who responds across boundaries and why; how we see ourselves and others in times of disaster; and how women and nurses are critical but often invisible actors in any disaster response story. Dr. Deb Sampson tells this story with a focus on the courage, compassion, and determination of the New England nurses who boarded a train to travel into the unknown of one of the worst urban explosion disasters of the 20th Century and the gratitude of a city in Canada; gratitude that to this day is commemorated by the Christmas tree on Boston Common. Dr. Sampson earned a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania where she was a National Institutes of Health Predoctoral Fellow. Her research focuses on place, culture, health policy and professional gendered boundaries. She has research, teaching, practice, and consulting experience in Africa, Central America, and Southeast Asia and has had faculty and administrative appointments at several universities, where she taught across programs, including Yale, the University of Michigan, and the University of Pennsylvania. She was a Senior Consultant at the Health Resources Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services and is also former trauma and ICU nurse, currently practicing occupational medicine nurse practitioner and health care administrator. Free and open to all.

---continued to page 8---

The Hancock Inn
INNKEEPERS’ SUNDAY SUPPER
December 2016

THE 4TH
Baked Mushrooms in sour cream
Chicken Kiev
with broccoli & potato mash
Poppy Seed Cake

THE 11TH
No Sunday Supper
Christmas Open House 2:30-4:30
Please join us for some holiday cheer!
stop in after your
Journey to Bethlehem
or before you visit The Depot’s
The Polar Express

THE 18TH
Green Salad
Baked Ham & Cheese Fondue
Chocolate Cookies

THE 25TH
No Sunday Supper
Merry Christmas!
Sunday Supper $18.99 per person
Excludes tax, gratuity & beverage
5:30 – 7:00PM
Reservations Encouraged
603-525-3318 www.hancockinn.com

Michigan, and the University of Pennsylvania. She was a Senior Consultant at the Health Resources Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services and is also former trauma and ICU nurse, currently practicing occupational medicine nurse practitioner and health care administrator. Free and open to all.
Saturday, December 17 from 10 am - Noon  
**Holiday Wreath Making with Megan Dodge**
Whether you are new to wreath making, in need of a refresher, or a seasoned wreath maker please plan on joining us for a morning of merry wreath making. All wreath making supplies provided. Please feel free to bring along your favorite ribbon and embellishments. Megan Dodge has fifteen years of experience as a floral designer. Providing unique designs specifically suited to your personal style. She operates her floral design business “Flowersdamore” out of her home in Hancock. Pre-register @ the Library before December 15 by calling us at 525-4411. Free and open to all.

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

**A Note from Miss Jenn**
Happy Holidays everyone! As our winter weather approaches I would like to remind everyone that we have lots of online resources and books available through links on our catalog. These resources will let you enjoy doing research from home or curling up with a good book on a snow day. If you need any help learning how to use these resources please just stop by or call.

**I Spy Contest**
There will be a contest for all ages. Children under 10yrs old will be searching for an elf on a shelf hidden in the Children’s Room while those ages 10-18 will be searching for snowflakes. If you find them you get a small prize. These items will move once a week so you can play every week!

*This program is brought to you by the Tween/Teen Advisory Board.*

**Tuesday December 5th 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm**  
**Lego Club**
Join us for a free build session here at the library. We provide the Legos, you provide the creativity. We display all creations for one month in the Children’s room so you can see what they’ve built. All ages welcome!

*Every Thursday @ 10:30 Family Storytime*  
This storytime is open to all ages. We have a great time reading a few stories and then dancing and singing along!

**Monday December 5th and December 19th @ 3:30pm**  
**Paws to Read with Coffee**
Come by the library 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!*

**Tuesday December 7th 3-6 pm**  
**Gingerbread House Contest**
Gingerbread house contest is open to the public. All supplies will be available from 3-6pm. When you finish your gingerbread house we will take a picture and submit it to the contest. Voting will take place from Monday November 12th through Saturday November 17th. Winners will be called on Monday December 19th. All ages welcome.

Any questions please contact the Children's Librarian Jenn Wood. hancockkidlib@gmail.com

*This program is brought to you by the Tween/Teen Advisory Board.*

**Wednesday December 14th 4:30 pm-5:30 pm**  
**Tweens/Teen Advisory Board**
Join us! We will be working together to find out what we should add to the collection and what programs you want to see at the library. This is your chance to have a say in how things work! This group is for ages 10-18 yrs old. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person please feel free to join the email list and give your input and feedback through email. Just send an email to hancockkidlib@gmail.com, subject line: Join TAB. Our next meeting will be picking out our magazine choices, choosing our January programs, and deciding on teen decor items.

**Monday December 27th 2 pm**  
**Movie and popcorn**
Arthur’s Christmas is rated PG. Come enjoy this fun family friendly movie with popcorn at the library.

*This program is brought to you by the Tween/Teen Advisory Board.*

**Wednesday December 28th 2-4 pm**  
**Holiday Party**
Board games, cookie decorating, Karaoke, and a surprise! This will be a fun chance to hangout, play games and just have fun at the library. This event will be followed by the movie Elf.

*This program is brought to you by the Tween/Teen Advisory Board.*

**Wednesday December 28th 4 pm**  
**Movie and popcorn**
Come watch the movie Elf at the library! Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

*This program is brought to you by the Tween/Teen Advisory Board.*

**Thursday December 29th 2-4 pm**  
**Robots!**
Introducing Dash the robot! We will be using apps to code and control Dash the robot. We will be building obstacle courses and challenging each other to navigate Dash from start to finish. Enjoy this fun filled afternoon of robots. All ages welcome.
Hancock Woman’s Club

December…..Ahh! Take a break from holiday preparations and join us for a delicious potluck lunch on Wednesday, **December 14, at 12:30pm** in the Vestry.

If you would like to attend this festive potluck luncheon, please contact Sonja Mucha at 525.4970 or email sonjamucha@hotmail.com. Let her know what you would like to prepare; a salad with dressing, vegetable, main dish or dessert.

Hope you plan to come! It is a nice way to begin the upcoming holidays.

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

*Submitted by Gertie Kanner*
Grand Monadnock Youth Choirs

Maria Belva and Esther Rhoades, Directors

Presents

“Sure stars shining”

Our 20th Annual Winter Concert

100 singers in 5 different choirs

Saturday, Dec 3, 2016 6:30 pm
Redfern Arts Center
Keene State College

Sunday, Dec 4, 2016 3:00 pm
Peterborough UU Church
Main St Peterborough

Adults $10 Youth $5
Tickets available at Toadstool Bookshops in Peterborough and Keene, and at the door

www.grandmonadnockeyouthchoirs.org
GrandMonadnockYouthChoirs@gmail.com

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Jaime Donovan, Editor

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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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- Engine • Tune-ups • Transmissions • Brakes
- Exhaust and emissions • Scheduled maintenance and so much more

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

John Gorka
with
Lucy Wainwright Roche
Friday, December 2, 2016
Advance: $22.00
Day of Show (cash only): $25.00
Tickets available at Toadstool Bookshops in Peterborough, Milford & Keene or online at TicketStage.com/PFMS
info: (603) 927-2005. 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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Halloween at the Vestry

I wanted to send thanks to all the people that helped make Halloween night happen at the town vestry. Judy, thank you for lending the vestry space so that families can fill their bellies with snacks and cider while warming up. It is a great space to meet up with friends and family throughout the night. We appreciate all of the volunteers that showed up to make the night go so smoothly. Thank you everyone for all of the food and beverage donations. This helps everyone's energy level on such a busy night.

This was a fun event to be involved in and glad it was successful. We are looking for a group or person to take this on for 2017. This is a tradition in Hancock that would be missed if not carried forward. If interested please email me at kmason8@yahoo.com for information and decorations.

Thank you, Karie Mason, Jim Mason, and Michele Spinale

THANKSGIVING LETTER FROM OLD HOME DAYS COMMITTEE

It’s November now and we want to extend thanks to all of the townspeople who worked together to make Old Home Days a wonderful weekend!

It is truly a group creation from so many dedicated people.

This was Siobhan Martin’s final year to be on the committee. She and her family have given so much each of these past years. Everything from sound systems, tee shirts and communications with the Fire Department and Town offices have been her domain! Her husband and son help behind the scenes with carrying chairs and checking the recycling. We thank them and are so glad Siobhan has promised to stay available for consultation!

We welcome ideas and participation from everyone! Please feel free to contact me or Mandy Whicker over the months ahead if you have suggestions, a theme, a talent!

The secret to the success is like a healthy perennial. Many parts of the weekend are self-perpetuating. For example:

Neal Cass and Lexi cover the parade and Saturday night movie; The Fire Department hosts the superb Chicken Barbecue; The Hancock Market helps order food and offers the annual lobster roll Special. Dedicated groups continue to organize the Run for the Honey, the Pancake Breakfast, and the Bake Sale. Various town businesses offer prizes for the parade. I am only naming these folks as examples. Our thanks go to everyone.

And the invitation is to everyone who wants to participate. Even an hour sitting at the Information Table adds to the whole.

2016’s theme was “There’s No Place Like Home…” There was an essay contest on the theme. As far as we know one person sent in an entry. And in closing here it is!

Melody Zahn Russell and Mandy Whicker
melodyzahnrussell@gmail.com
mjwhicker15@hotmail.com

(Please see page 20 for the essay)
ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

Hancock Elementary School Art Exhibit

Artwork created by the students at Hancock Elementary School will remain on display in the Daniels Room at the Hancock Town Library throughout the month of December and continue into the New Year until January 5, 2017.

Art teacher Andrew Schultz, who is in his third year of teaching in the district, described the project: “The students of Hancock Elementary School worked incredibly hard on this art project. They were taught about the role of observation in art and how important it is to look closely at the things around them every day, and how those observations influence all of the art they create.

“The focus of their observational studies was that of sunflowers. All of the community schools collaborate with The Cornucopia Project to maintain a vegetable and flower garden, and that is where the sunflowers were gathered. We took the sunflowers into the classroom and observed shape, line, and detail so that we could then create realistic works based on what we saw.

“Approximately 50 students between kindergarten and 4th grade created their artwork using pencil, colored pencil, markers, crayons, and/or oil pastels. This show highlights the students’ talents and the beautiful work that came out of this careful study.”

The show can be viewed in the Daniels Room during regular library hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 6:00 pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm; and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Since the Daniels Room is sometimes reserved for
HANCOCK FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

featuring

Norway Pond Festival Singers
Norway Pond Junior Minstrels
Village Ringers

And special guest John Muratore, guitar

Saturday, December 17, 4:00 pm
Hancock Congregational Church

No admission charge but donations gladly accepted.
December 2016

HANCOCK HAPPENINGS

---

**Welcoming New Volunteer Drivers**

If you have some time now and then to give someone a ride, please let us know.

CVTC’s (Community Volunteer Transportation Company) volunteer drivers provide “no fee” transportation for people who do not have access to transportation because of age, ability, economic situation or other limiting circumstances. Our trip purposes include non-emergency medical and social service appointments as well as trips to the grocery store and pharmacy.

In addition to the 13 towns of the eastern Monadnock region that we have served since 2008, we have added since July 1st the 20 towns of the western Monadnock region which was formerly served by American Red Cross for a total of 33 towns.

CVTC is always enrolling new volunteer drivers to get people where they need to go. Drivers may choose trips for individuals in their own town but many also help out with those in neighboring towns. Our new western Monadnock region has many people in need of transportation.

---

**December quote:** "Life is too fragile to be bitter. Repent, forgive, let go of the past and be a blessing to someone and a reflection of God and His unconditional love."

Caroline Naoroji --- Virginia

**On going during December our practitioners are available by appointment:**

Spiritual & Angel Card readings & Sound Therapy - Anne Marie Will, CST, RMT - 845-800-3764

Soul Auras & Past Life & Angel Card readings - Susi Marrotte, BA, RM, CST - 603-547-7604

Congratulations to the newest Reiki Master Teacher, Anne Marie Will who received her certification on November 16th. And, congratulations to the newest Reiki Level I class students who received their certification on November 20th.

A Crystal Christmas Tea 1:30 - 4:00 PM - Sunday, December 18th Beautiful display of crystals, stones and jewelry. Refreshments Tea and scones.

Location: 123 Prospect Hill Road, Hancock Everyone welcome.

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Gardening?

Attention all Gardeners: Hopefully your garden beds have been put to rest by now for the long winter "snooze". However, you can snip off some hemlock, arborvitae and pine branches to make your own Christmas bows. Most of us in the Hancock area have conifers on our property which will provide plenty of material. Look for the little red berries from the "burning bush" euonymus shrubs and snip a couple of twigs adding them to the conifer branches; add a classic bow in your favorite color and you are all set for the holiday season.

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2017 Announcements

Reiki Level I & Reiki Level II classes are being scheduled

SomaEnergetics Sound Therapy workshops Phase I scheduled for January 28th & 29th

Respectfully submitted, Arlene Smith

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Our drivers are all volunteers and use their own vehicles. They receive an optional reimbursement of $.41 per mile on the trips they provide. Trips needing a driver are listed on our website and each driver can use his/her computer to determine which trips would fit in with their plans. For those drivers who do not use a computer, our staff will help select trips that match time availability and complete a monthly mileage log.

We look forward to sharing details about the Volunteer Driver Program when you call 1-877-428-2882, ext. 5. CVTC is a Monadnock United Way Partner Agency.
The Harris Center for Conservation Education is dedicated to promoting understanding and respect for our natural environment through education of all ages, direct protection and exemplary stewardship of the region’s natural resources, conservation research, and programs that encourage active participation in the great outdoors.

Thursdays, December 1 and 8
10 a.m. to noon at the Harris Center
$20 for Harris Center members / $40 for nonmembers
Homeschool students, get ready for a winter of adventures by boning up on your tracking and wildlife identification skills! Work with the Harris Center’s naturalists and our instructive natural history collection – including bones, skulls, scat, and mounted specimens – to learn the difference between the gray fox and the red, and the weasel from the mink. After these workshops, you’ll see winter in a whole new way. Registration is required — Contact Sara at (603) 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Dec 17 (Sat) 43rd Annual Christmas Bird Count for Hancock, Peterborough, and Surrounding Towns
Begun locally in 1973, and compiled by Dave Rowell for the 24th straight year, the Christmas Bird Count is the world’s oldest and largest biological survey and citizen science endeavor, with thousands of participants worldwide. No need to be an expert! For more information and to sign up, contact Dave at (603) 924-8790. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with NH Audubon.

Dec 17 (Sat) Exploring the Burgess Burn
This past April, on the 75th anniversary of the Great Marlow-Stoddard Forest Fire, a new fire burned approximately 200 wooded acres in Stoddard. Though it was a case of arson, the 2016 fire has created an opportunity to study the effects of burns on mixed hardwood forests. Forester Swift Corwin will lead a moderately strenuous, 3-mile roundtrip hike through the burned area to observe these effects. Bring lunch and meet at 9 a.m. at Mr. Mikes on Route 9 in Stoddard. Back by 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Swift at swiftcorwin@gmail.com.

Dec 18 (Sun) Keene Christmas Bird Count
The Christmas Bird Count is the world’s oldest and largest biological survey and citizen science endeavor, with thousands of participants worldwide. The Keene Count is one of the oldest, dating all the way back to 1900. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with NH Audubon. For more info or to sign up for this fun day of birding, contact Phil Brown at (603) 525-3499 or pbrown@nhaudubon.org.

Dec 31 (Sat) Exploring Osgood and Hurd Hills
The Harris Center and the Nelson Conservation Commission recently protected 580 acres in Nelson, including much of Osgood and Hurd Hills. On the eve of the new year, join Kathy Schillemat and Al Stoops for a moderately strenuous, 4-mile roundtrip exploration of this new conservation land. Bring lunch and meet at 9 a.m. at the junction of Old Stoddard Road and Homestead Lane in Nelson. Back by 2 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy at (603) 847-9785 or kschillemat@yahoo.com or Al at al.stoops@gmail.com.

Dec 2 (Fri) Easygoing Hike to Mount Watatic
Join Lee Baker and Ollie Mutch for a moderately easy, 3-mile roundtrip hike through a wildlife management zone in the Mount Watatic (Ashby, MA) area, followed by lunch and dessert at Ollie’s home. Meet at 10 a.m. next to Ocean State Job Lot in Peterborough (at the intersection of Routes 101 and 202) to carpool. Back by 3 p.m. For more information, contact Lee at (603) 525-5262 or snowman3137@gmail.com.

Dec 15 (Thur) Conservation Research Poster Sessions
This year, seniors in the Environmental Studies Department at Keene State College once again focused their two-semester capstone research projects on Harris Center lands. The students assessed road-stream crossings for fish passage and flooding potential, investigated road salt impacts on water quality and aquatic life, conducted bee surveys at our new pollinator garden, surveyed trail use and conditions on four popular Harris Center hiking trails, and studied the abundance and distribution of fisher (Martes pennanti) in the SuperSanctuary. They’ll present their findings in two poster sessions – one from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Keene State College Student Center, and a second from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Harris Center. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with Keene State College. For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen (603) 358-2065 or thelen@harriscenter.org.
December 3 Depot Cabaret

This month, our feature will be Folksoul Ensemble, a four-piece combo featuring Fred Simmons on guitar and trombone, Leslie Vogel on piano and accordion, Rebecca Simmons on fiddle, and Dan Wheeler on stand-up bass. Come experience their large repertoire of material of all kinds, spanning folk, oldies, and originals.

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 also hold a 50/50 raffle, so you just may walk away a winner! All proceeds go to help support the Depot Association.

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

Upcoming Feature Acts

- January 7: Sugarbush Road (Folk/Rock/Americana at its best)
- February 4: MidWinter Frolic (more to come!)

Monthly Association Meetings

Interested in joining the Hancock Depot Association? We meet at the Depot on the third Monday of each month from 7:15 – 8:00. If you’d like to help out with planning, events, cleanup days, etc., feel free to join us!

Rent the Depot for Your Special Event

Did you know you can rent the Depot? It’s true – the Depot is available for parties, meetings, celebrations, concerts, and other special events. To learn more, call David Young at 603-525-3085 or Nancy Adams at 603-525-4433.

The Polar Express @ The Hancock Depot!

Sunday, December 11, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

- Where & When: Hancock Depot, Depot Road, Immediately after the Journey to Bethlehem.
- What We’re Doing: Showing the film, The Polar Express, based on the beloved children’s book by Chris Van Allsburg and starring Tom Hanks. The film will start at 4:45.
- Model Train Exhibits: We’ll also have some serious train experts at the Depot showcasing their model trains!
- Who Can Come: Anyone and everyone! The event is free – just stop by the Hancock Inn during the Journey to Bethlehem and visit Santa Claus to get your free tickets!
- Santa Will Make a Special Appearance @ 4:00! We’ll have a professional photographer on hand in case you missed getting a picture with St. Nick!
- Free Snacks! Popcorn, Cider, and Water provided by the Depot Association!

Please bring an unwrapped toy or book, which we’ll donate to a family in need.

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This year we celebrate 20 years of service to our community! We have come a long way since our humble beginnings in 1996. I am proud that we have stayed true to our roots, while continuing to grow and seek new opportunities. I truly value community feedback and ideas on what you like, how we can improve and what you want to see more of. Please email me directly with your thoughts and ideas at melissag@grapevinenh.org. And if you haven’t already, please consider supporting us this holiday season with a financial contribution. Thank you for your continued support! Happy Holidays!

Grapevine Special Programs and Events - for all programs please call 588-2620 to register and for more information

Internet Safety Training for Parents
What do you need to know about monitoring your child's use of the internet? How can you oversee their computer and internet use while respecting their autonomy? How do you monitor your child's use of social media and communication? Back by popular demand, we are once again offering our Internet Safety Training for Parents. This will be Part 1 in a series for parents and is a collaboration of The Grapevine and The River Center. Register online at www.rivercenter.us or call the Grapevine at 588-2620. This training is free, and donations are gratefully accepted. **Thursday, December 1st from 7:00 – 8:30.**

At Avenue A Teen and Community Center
Creative Writing Club – 9-12th graders
Our Creative Writing Club meets on **Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm** for feedback, publishing help, and visits from local writers! New writers are always welcome!

Friday Open Hours – Ages 13-18
Friday Open Hours provide a safe place for teens to socialize and unwind. Over the summer we’ve enjoyed fun snacks (nachos and bagel pizzas) and our expanding board game collection (Heads Up, Pandemic, and more!). Stop by **Avenue A from 6:30 - 9pm** and join us!

Avenue A Club – 5th-8th graders
The Avenue A afterschool club meets on **Wednesdays from 2:20 – 4:15.** Students enjoy group activities, snacks, and free time in Avenue A’s awesome space. School bus transportation to Avenue A from GBS is available with late bus pick up. Contact us for info on registration.

Musical Mondays!
For youth in grades 3 – 5. Join us for karaoke music, games, snacks, foosball and fun! If you don’t like to sing, that’s okay! This is a great chance to spend time with friends, make new friends and enjoy Avenue A’s awesome space. Parent may drop their kids off or stay and enjoy the activities. For more info, email avenuea@grapevinenh.org or call 588-2620. **December 5 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

The Vine Story Hour - "All for Love" - Thursday, February 2nd at 7pm
Based off the popular MOTH story telling hour that airs on National Public Radio, The “Vine” Story Hour invites storytellers to bring their story to the Avenue A “stage”. Come just to listen or seize the opportunity to share your story with a captive audience! Your story must be a true account of something you experienced and must not exceed five minutes. Notes may not be used. Our theme for this event is “All for Love”. Admission is by donation. Proceeds benefit the Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center. Beverages and light snacks will be served. This event is intended for adults and older teens.

WEEKLY CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS
The Grapevine welcomes all children birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly children’s programs.

Better Beginnings playgroups and parent groups:
- Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:30-11:30;
- The Learning Vine parent co-op preschool: Wednesday and Friday 9-11:30. for children 3 ½ to 5 years old – We still have space available for the 2016-17 school year!

Better Beginnings for Babies: Parents with babies who are crawling and young toddlers meet on Wednesdays from 10:00am – 11:30 and parents with younger babies and newborns meet on Wednesdays from 1:00pm – 2:30. Expectant parents are always welcome.

Hillsborough parent-child playgroup – Meets on Wednesdays from 10:30 – 12:00 at the Dubben House next to Smith Memorial Church on Main Street in Hillsborough.

Please call Carol at 588-2620 to sign up for programs, or for more information.

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Editors Note: Testimonials from a family in Hancock will be run in the January issue.
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 Tuesday at 5:00pm 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 903.0190 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 unless for ad copy. Call if you do not have access to a 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 below for the newsletter’s editorial policy. Distribution–Hope Pettigrew, Edna Drasba, Sandy Brooks, Josephine Warner, and Marcia Coffin. (Sorry if I missed anyone) Printing by Gem Graphics; Nameplate by Eleanor Amidon
THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME
SUMMER SOLSTICE
Sunset
My daughter and I go out for an evening swim after an 80 °day.
The beach at Norway Pond is empty. We put our towels on the large granite blocks and enter the water.
Water like black silk.
Laughter ripples over the water from the rope swing out of sight.
Quiet cemetery above.
Wispy white angel clouds over us.
I float on my back gravity free.
Michelle does laps near by.
Perfection!
We Live here!
HALLOWEEN NIGHT
I grab my purple raincoat and a witch’s hat.
Michelle takes a brown shawl and an owl mask.
We go up to Main Street.
Pirates, Princesses, Harry potter, Witches, Ghosts, Robots, Aliens, Superman and a baby pumpkin!
It’s theater in the street!
The church tower is bright in the moonlight.
Brisk October clouds above us in the bare branches.
Houses aglow!
Rick Simpson is in his doorway passing out treats.
Families roam the street laughing and rustling leaves under their feet.
Fiddlehead’s Café has eerie folks sitting amongst cobwebs and shadows...where is Sherry?
It’s a Norman Rockwell Painting come alive!
We live here!
CHRISTMAS EVE
A light snow... its dark out.
We walk down Main Street in a silent hush.
The glorious architecture of the buildings surrounds us.
There is ice on the pond.
The trees stretch out their branches up into the falling flakes.

So quiet.
Holy.
A plow goes by.
Laughing people come tumbling out of the Inn, well fed and hugging goodnight in the doorway.
The big tree near the Inn is all lit up.
Candles in every window.
Silently a car passes.
The bandstand holds the center like a heart.
Footprints in front of the Vestry.
We are not alone witnessing this magic.
We live here!

SPRING ON OLD DUBLIN ROAD
Taking a walk to drink in the new green coming into the field and buds on trees.
Polly and Jim wave from their porch over looking the meadow.
An owl is watching us.
We see a woodpecker in his high rise.
And spot a hedgehog munching in the field, our own Mrs. Tiggywinkle!
Michelle is looking for birch bark fallen from trees to woodburn into pictures.
I tell her, "When I die, you can find me here in the mist in this meadow where the stream runs through..."
It is sacred here.
Kim and Scott drive by in Dumpella, their truck glorified with recycled treasures.
Next we see Kit waving and smiling as she comes down from her house for her daily walk.
We pass Elephant Rock
Susie and Tom are pruning their young apple trees and David playing with his truck, still plowing the last snow!
We marvel at the amazing people who live here.
Trees and stonewalls line the road.
Robins have returned!
I don’t see gnomes or fairies but I know Nature is happy here! And so are we!
We live here!

Melody Zahn Russell