News from the Selectboard

Submitted by Erik Spitzbarth, Chairperson

The Voters are In Charge

Congratulations to our newly elected officials: Richard Haskins (Moderator), Laurie Bryan (Selectboard), Linda Coughlan (Water Rent Collector), Joel Chandler (Water Commissioner), Allison Kerwin (Common Commissioner), Kary Shumway (Library Trustee), Leonard Dowse Jr. (Trustee of the Trust Funds), John Hayes (Cemetery Trustee), and Katherine Anderson (Supervisor of the Checklist).

16 Things Every Voter Should Know About Town Meeting

Credit for the following commentary belongs to H. Bernard Waugh Jr., former New Hampshire Municipal Association legal council.

1. **Every voter is a Legislator:** State law refers to the town meeting as the “legislative body” (RSA 21:47). There is no higher authority in town.

2. **The Moderator Presides, and Can Do What it Takes to Maintain Order:** Your right to vote is subject to the moderator’s authority to keep order. RSA 40:9 allows the moderator to evict unruly participants.

3. **The Voters Can Always Overrule the Moderator by a Simple Majority:** The moderator is merely a facilitator to enable the voters to take orderly joint actions. The moderator can prescribe rules, but the voters can alter those rules (RSA 40:4)

4. **There is No Such Thing as an “illegal” vote:** Whether a vote is legally binding is another issue.

5. **Its OK to Ask Questions:** The more educated the group becomes.

6. **No Vote Can be Legally Binding Unless Its Subject Matter was Stated in the Warrant.** (RSA 39:2)

7. **Any Twenty Five Voters Have the Right to Add Articles to the Warrant by Petitioning the Selectboard Five Weeks in Advance of the Annual Town Meeting.**

8. **Ordinary, Everyday Language is perfectly Okay.**

9. **Any 50 Voters Can Call a Special Town Meeting.** The Selectboard can call a “special” meeting whenever they feel there is a need for it. In order to petition a special meeting, you need 50 voter’s signatures.

10. **You Can Ask for a Secret Written Ballot on Any Question.** 5 voters may request in writing to the moderator before the vote is taken.

11. **Virtually any Town Vote can Later be Reconsidered and Rescinded.** This is still the case even if some voters have left the meeting and can occur up to the adjournment of the meeting.

12. **The Actions of One Town Meeting are Not Binding on Later Town Meetings.**

13. **A Vote to Go Into Debt (Issue Bonds or Notes) Must Pass by 2/3 ballot Vote.**

14. **You Can Act On, or Amend, Particular Line Items in a Budget.** This in effect lowers the budget, but the Selectboard can “transfer” amounts from one line item to another during the year.

15. **Attend your School District Meeting Too.** A school district is legally a separate municipal entity with equal footing with the town. The “School Board” in effect is the “Selectboard”. All of the above rules apply.

16. **Democracy – Use it or Lose it.** The voters are in charge.

Welcome to Laurie Bryan as our newest Selectboard member. Her previous two terms of experience will be well received. Many thanks to Tom Shevenell for his tireless commitment and devotion to the board for the last 3 years.
Hancock Fire & Rescue  
Tom Bates, Chief, Hancock Fire Department

**Spring has Sprung!!**
Well maybe somewhere under the snow piles. With all the dead branch cleanup and other yard waste everyone has accumulated I’m sure the fire department will have quite a few requests for burn permits. In case you have not been paying attention or want to just say “I didn’t know”, any property owner in Hancock that wants to burn outdoors must have a valid burn permit. Getting a burn permit is easy. Just contact Nevan Cassidy, Hancock Fire Warden, or any of the Deputy Fire Wardens; Tom Bates, John Pirkey, or Mark Thompson. When you get and sign your permit you should read the back of the piece of paper that spells out the rules! You can also get a burn permit online through the state website for $3.00. By having a permit, the fire department can let our dispatch center in Keene know about the burn and thus avoid being dispatched for a permitted fire. Sometimes we cannot give out permits because of dry and/or windy weather conditions. Each day the State of New Hampshire determines the fire index. We can only allow burning on Class 1 and 2 days, and only after 5:00pm. That rule is suspended if it is raining, however we still need to be aware of any burning. This next comment is important!! **If you call one of us for a permit and we are not available at that time DO NOT just leave a message saying you are going to burn.** That doesn’t count and if a fire is reported we will come out and either have you extinguish the fire or we will do it. There are other basic rules to follow but those can be explained when you get your permit. Just remember, it is never legal to “smoke the neighbors out!” We also issue seasonal burn permits for campfires, portable outdoor fireplaces and the chimeneas. Now is the best time to get those seasonal burn permits.

The fire department would like to extend their gratitude to all that came to the town meeting and voted yes for the new fire engine. Once we have all the paperwork in place it will take approximately one year for this apparatus to be built and delivered.

The Fire Department recently held its’ annual dinner and awards night. Two important awards were presented that evening. First was a 20-year award for service to Jon GrosJean. The other big award of the night was to Paul Towers who is our Hancock Firefighter of the Year. Congratulations to both great members. Also present at the dinner were retired members of the Fire Department, members of the Hancock Police Department, Hancock Highway Department, and Hancock Town Administration. Thanks to the Northern Lodge staff at Sargent Center for another good meal.

Check out our Facebook page. Eric Aldrich is always adding exciting news for all to share.

**Important Phone Numbers:**
- Tom Bates Fire Chief 525-3789
- John Pirkey 1st Asst. Chief 966-5214
- Mark Thompson 2nd Asst. Chief 234-6418
- Nevan Cassidy Fire Warden 525-4786

Raffle winners for the month:
- $40 Steve Sherman
- $20 Sara Gervasio
- $10 Laura Holcomb, Max Shumway, Medora Raborg-Law

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Due to inclement weather in March, thus having to cancel the program, we’re pleased to have the opportunity to reschedule Hannah Bissex for our April 11th meeting at 2:00 in the Vestry. Our guest speaker, Hannah, is from the Cornucopia project and will present their “Farm to Fork Project”. She grew up with homesteading parents and recognized while studying mathematics at Northeastern University that farming is alive with problem solving opportunities. She is the coordinator for the Cornucopia Farm to Fork program.

Farm to Fork is an “innovative agricultural and entrepreneurship program for high school students”. A group of students (Fellows) are trained to develop and manage a small year-round agricultural operation and associated business plan. In the summer of 2016, four young women constructed a 30’x 96’ hoop house, planned and planted a growing zone of 6,000 square feet, and set up a small business to sell local produce to community vendors.”

After the presentation a tea will be served.
News from the Hancock Congregational Church

Judy Copeland, Pastor

We begin the month with **Worship on Easter Sunday, April 1.** The service is at 9:45 am and will include Communion and music by the Village Ringers. Judy Copeland will be in the pulpit and Carol Hamilton at the organ. All are welcome!

**The Speedbumps** will be presenting a concert in the sanctuary on **Saturday, April 7 at 7:30 pm.** You know them from Frost Heaves, but on this occasion it will be pure music—classic rock from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Tickets are $20.00 each and all proceeds will be used for maintenance and upkeep of the Meetinghouse. Please contact Jane Richards Jones at 525-4485 for tickets.

The Women’s Guild invites the public to a program called **Calvin Coolidge: The Monadnock Region As I’ve Known It** on Wednesday, April 18th, to be held in the Vestry at 7:00 pm. Historian Tracy Messer will offer a first-person presentation of the 30th President, whose wife, Grace (Goodhue) Coolidge, had ancestral ties to Hancock. We’ll meet “Silent Cal” as he passes through the Monadnock region on the way from his birthplace in Vermont to the summer White House in Massachusetts. Refreshments to follow.

Thank you for your continued contributions of cereal to **End 68 Hours of Hunger** program. Approximately 170 children in the ConVal school district receive a bag of food each Friday to help tide them over the weekend. So far this year, at our collection point in the Church vestibule we have received an average of **82 boxes of cereal per month.** Please keep those generous contributions coming, as the need is great.

Want to **fill a school kit for a child** in need? Diane Kidd and her group of seamstresses have been making colorful cloth bags and they would be happy to provide you with a bag (or several bags!) to fill and return with the following items: One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only); three 70 page spiral bound single subject notebooks; one 30-centimeter/12” ruler; one hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package; one large eraser; six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers; and one box of 24 Crayola crayons. The kits are distributed by Church World Service and are delivered to children whose schooling has been interrupted by natural disaster or war. Last year kits made their way to refugee camps in Syria and Jordan, as well as to hurricane ravaged areas in Texas and Florida. If you would like to help, please leave a message at 525-4626.

Looking ahead….The **spring Yard Sale will be held at the Vestry on Saturday, June 9th.** As you begin your spring cleaning, please remember to set aside items any items you wish to donate to the sale or for the collection for refugee families we hold at the same time. Proceeds from the sale will be used to help us keep the Vestry available for community events.

Hancock Historical Society News and Events

As we wait for Spring to arrive, we are already busy planning our annual Plant Sale. Mark your calendars for this great opportunity to add to your garden – this year the HHS Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 19th.

If you already have an established garden and would like to support the Historical Society, please consider potting up any extra perennials you divide and donating them. Anything that grows well locally will be gratefully received.

We can also pick up plant donations at your home. Just call Carol Domingue at 664-8877 or email at mcdomingue@comcast.net to arrange a time.
Waiting for the Ice to Melt

At press time, Norway Pond’s ice had yet to melt. The payout to the winner was determined to be \( \frac{826}{2} = 413 \). We expect the winner(s) to be announced in the May Hancock Happenings.

Ice Out Committee, 2018

Meet the new meat guy!

ADAM STACY

Expanding your meat shopping options
Tuesday – Saturday 2PM – 7PM
Custom Cuts
Special Orders
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Also featuring Boar’s Head Cold Cuts

Sign Adam’s guest book and receive $5.00 off of your first purchase of $25 or more during the month of April.

HANCOCK MARKET

**APRIL 1ST 12:00 - 2:30PM**
**EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHEON**
An à la carte menu

**APRIL 8TH**
Closed – Private event

**APRIL 15TH**
Mint & Pea Soup
Hungarian Goulash With Spatzle
Chimney Cake

**APRIL 22ND**
Chilled Asparagus
Salmon Cakes With Mustard Remoulade
And Green Rice Pilaf
Chocolate Eclair

**5:30 - 7:00PM**
**INNKEEPERS' SUNDAY Supper**
Sunday Supper $18.99 per person
Excludes tax, gratuity & beverage

**Reservations Encouraged**
603-525-3318   www.hancockinn.com
HANCOCK HAPPENINGS
April 2018

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**Community Supper**

The next community supper will be held on Thursday, April 26th and will be sponsored by the Hancock Woman’s Club. We would like to express our thanks for the contributions given to us by the area friends for the March Community Supper, this is truly a community effort. We look forward to seeing you on the 26th!

Submitted by Mike and Carol Domingue

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**2nd Annual Monadnock Hunger Walk Scheduled**

Save this date: **Saturday, May 5, 2018**

The walk will take place in Peterborough this year. Last year it raised over $6,000 for the local food pantries. In addition to walkers and sponsors, the effort requires local registrars and many other helpers. Contact this year’s area coordinator: Julie Flood Page juliefloodpage@gmail.com or 603.899.9759.

Submitted by Phil Jones

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**Hancock Roadside Clean-Up Day**

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

1:30 Town Office – 3:00 Transfer Station

Let’s gather once again to celebrate **Earth Day**, to clean up our lovely Village and roads! Please plan to meet at the Town Office at 1:30. Participants will be given safety vests and trash bags and then join a group of other volunteers to scour our town roads to pick up lots of trash and treasure.

Participants will then meet back at the Dump at **3:00 sharp** to show off your findings and to enjoy an ice cream treat!

Prizes will be awarded for the strangest, biggest, and oldest trash! Participation Certificates will be given to all middle and elementary school students.

Please call Roberta LaPlante at 525.3828 if you have any questions.

Sponsored by the Hancock Conservation Commission
Not a Conval School sponsored event.

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

A banjo playing friend couldn’t afford a proper case so he used an old guitar case instead. Once at a subway stop he put it down and a thief ran off with it, my friend in hot pursuit, yelling, “It’s a BANJO! It’s a BANJO…”

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**Welcome to Spring! Anyone interested in Writing Poetry?**

I am starting a new poetry writing class at the Town Library on Monday, April 9th at 2pm in the Daniel's room, ending at 3:30pm. The plan is to meet again on April 23rd, and again for two times each in May and June (dates to be decided.) This is a 'Free' class and all are welcome - beginners or 'old-timers'. This would be perfect for anyone interested in sharing his or her poems, and discovering some new ideas from others. Why not take-a-chance after you've raked out your gardens, to rake out the special ideas you've been writing about this amazing winter? I hope to see you there, whether you're a 'beginner' or 'experienced' writer.

margaret Carlson 525.4406
Hancock Town Library Events

Amy Markus, Hancock Library Director
http://hancocktownlibrarynh.wordpress.com
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 7:00pm
Saturdays 10:00am to 4:00pm

April is National Poetry Month! Come in and create a poem with our magnetic poetry kit at the front desk! And join Swift Corwin for a reading on April 19th (see page 8).

Wednesday April 4th at 7:00pm
The Star-Nosed Mole and the Deep Dark Below with Susie Spikol-Faber
22 tentacles on the end of a nose! 100,000 nerve endings in each tentacle! The fastest eating mammal known and it lives right here, under our toes, welcome to the world of the Star-Nosed Mole. Come find out everything you never knew about this local ubiquitous but rarely seen mole. Hold on to your seats for this one! You’ll be blown away! Co-sponsored with the Harris Center.

Tuesday April 10th at 7:00pm
State Representative Jon Manley
Join Rep. Manley as he updates his constituents on what’s going on at the statehouse in Concord. Rep. Manley represents Bennington, Greenfield, and Hancock. All are welcome.

Wednesday April 11th at 7:00pm
Game Night for Grown-ups
Bring a game if you’ve got one, and snack or beverage for the table. Always the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00pm. Please RSVP to us here at the library: 525.4411 or hancocklibrary@comcast.net just so we have an idea of numbers! All are welcome.

Thursday April 12th from 5:00-7:00pm
Prayer-Bead Necklace Workshop with Padma Pali
Create a traditional wooden "mala" (prayer-bead necklace), including making your own tassel. Choose from a variety of pre-packaged (108) wooden bead sets, plus main "guru beads". A colorful selection of semi-precious gemstone beads will also be available at cost ($5-$15). For ages 12 and up; limited to 10 participants. Please sign up at the library, give us a call at 525.4411 or email us at hancocklibrary@comcast.net. Free (unless you want extra beads)!

Friday April 13th at 7:00pm
Concert: Wendy Keith and Her Alleged Band
Wendy Keith has been playing around the New England music scene since the 70’s and has played on stages from Harvard Square to the Folkway to the Colonial Theatre in Keene. She has opened for Mark Erelli, Jesse Colin Young and the band, America. Vance Gilbert described her singing this way: “What a voice! Hubba Hubba!” Greg Brown said she “Sounds like an angel.” Dayton Duncan referred to Wendy Keith as the “Songbird of the Monadnock Region.” After years of playing music with Doug Farrell of Decatur Creek, Wendy has combined efforts with another member of that trio, Jack Carlton and has added the multi-instrumental talents of Walden Whitham of Tattoo and Folksoul to create an ensemble capable of instrumentation including guitars, strong harmonious vocals, lap-steel guitar, dobro, bass, sax, clarinet, flute, Celtic harp and penny whistle just to name a few. Each varying interpretation in song brings further exploration into the musical fusion of Americana, folk, blues and other melodic and acoustic adventures. Free!

continued to page 8
Tuesday April 17th from 5:30-7:00pm
Free-Form-Français
“Parlez vous Français?” Are you learning French and would like a chance to get better at speaking it? Were you fluent once and wish you had the opportunity to converse once again? Or would you just like to brush up on this romance language? The Hancock Town Library is hosting a French language conversation group and you’re invited! The setting is very informal and will be open from 5:30 to 7:00 on the third Tuesday of the month, beginning February 20th. Arrive and leave at your leisure. All levels welcome. Modeled on the Manchester Franco-American Centre’s “Prêt-à-Parler,” the sessions will be free flowing and with your help, fun. Hélène Laliberté Bickford, French first-language speaker (“mais très rouillé”) will help to keep the conversations going. “Venez tous!” Open to all.

Thursday April 19th at 7:00pm
An Evening of Poetry & Pie with Swift Corwin
Swift has been in NH since 1982 doing work as a forester. To supplement his income, he writes observational poetry. His family might take issue with his observations and that he is supplementing his income. It is true, he has made money selling poems. There is a book. He calls it The Problem With Poetry. There are at least 3 volumes. He has also been paid for a few poems. Any money was quickly squandered at fast food restaurants. His poetry subjects are all over the place because he is all over the place. The themes of his poems are often about the natural world but they also about growing up. It would be safe to say that they range from green to blue. His poetry writing has been happening for about 30 years. The poems happen to him rather than he making them happen. He has had little involvement other than holding the pen. He enjoys reading them. In Hancock in April, he will attempt to weave them into a story so his presentation is less random than they would be if he were to just let them fly.

From the Children’s Room
Jenn Wood, Children’s Librarian
Tuesday April 3rd 3:30-4:30pm Lego Club
Free build with Legos. Each participant gets one base to build on. At the end of the one-hour build time we put all our creations up on display! This program is open to all Lego fans and builders, all ages welcome.

Thursday April 12th 3:30pm-4:30pm Button Making
Make your own buttons! We will have our button maker out and ready to go. Design your own button or use one of our templates. This program is open to all ages.

Wednesday April 18th 4:30pm-5:30pm
Tween Teen Advisory Board
This is your chance to plan out summer reading! Help pick prizes, vote on program you want to have, tell us what you want this summer. If you cannot make it to the meeting please submit your ideas to hancockkidlib@gmail.com before April 18th This program is for ages 10 and up!

Monday April 23rd 3:30pm-4:30pm 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 April 24th 2pm Movie and Popcorn
Come join us for a fun afternoon with a movie and popcorn!

Wednesday April 25th 2pm
Make Your Own Chocolate
Come make your own chocolates. This is a chance to let your creativity loose and create a yummy snack in the process! This program is limited to 12 people, please sign up in advance.

Thursday April 26th 10-4pm
Ping Pong for Tweens and Teens
Did you miss out on our winter tournament? Here’s your chance to play more Ping Pong! The Ping Pong table will be set up from 10-4 just for you. You can sign up ahead of time with a partner or you can just show up and play against the next available players. This program is for 10 years old and up.

Thursdays at 10:30am Family Storytime
Every Thursday we will gather in the children’s room for stories, songs, and movement!
HAPPY SPRING FROM HANCOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

AMY JANOCHE, PRINCIPAL

When we look out the window, it is hard to believe that it is actually spring. While the multiple Nor’easters have given the children plenty of snow to play with and in, I think they are ready for green grass and warm sunshine. Over the winter months, teachers, parents, and children have been very busy.

Susie Spikol, along with a group of parents, has organized a Nature Lunch Bunch at HES. Every other week, a group of students, parents and a teacher put on snowshoes and explore the fields and trails behind the school. When snow is difficult to find, the children use the school binoculars to go birding.

In the classroom, the third and fourth grade students just wrapped up a six week New Hampshire mammal study. Students worked with their teacher, library media specialists, and Harris Center specialists to research a mammal. Students created models of animal as well as a book and a PowerPoint explaining the habitat, eating habits, and family life for each animal. They shared their PowerPoints with family, friends, and school mates.

In February, Kindergarten students spent a week celebrating Dr. Seuss. Each day a guest speaker read a Dr. Seuss story to the students. The students then participated in an activity corresponding to the story. Imagine what might have happened after reading *Green Eggs and Ham*!

Thank you for supporting our schools in the deliberative sessions. It was wonderful to see so many family and communities members at the first session. I was fortunate to have several students sit with me through the meeting. I was so impressed with how attentive and curious they were. With the budget passing, we can continue our mission of ensuring growth for all students! Staff and students appreciate your ongoing support.

Over the next few months there are a number of community events to add to your calendar. On April 14th at 6pm, the PTO will be hosting a Dance Party at the Vestry. May is our month to host the Hancock Community Supper. Students will be making and serving their traditional chili, salad, and bread. Finally, Children and the Arts is May 19th. Be sure to watch for the HES banner in the parade! Behind that banner, you will find an array of HES Pirates!
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Still looking for a new Hancock Community Supper Committee and Committee Chairpersons
Unfortunate to say that we are still searching for a new person or group to step forward to take on the role of managing the Hancock Community Supper Program. This doesn't mean putting on the suppers every month. It means recruiting groups throughout the year to host the supper and provide the food and a fairly static schedule has been established. If no one steps up May will be the last Community Supper – we would hate to see that occur.

The Grapevine started these suppers in our area towns 15 years ago. We and the Grapevine really want to ensure that the suppers continue in Hancock. Enjoying a meal together with friends and neighbors is a wonderful way to build community. If you or anyone you know might be interested in learning more about the coordination of the suppers please be in touch with Carol and Mike at: mcdomingue@comcast.net; talk with us at the next Community Supper, or contact Melissa Gallagher at the Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center; 603-588-2620.

Thank you in advance for your consideration to support this worthy community event once a month.
Mike and Carol Domingue

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Dottie Cullinane, LMT

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Rex/Take Out Bennington, NH
(603)588-6512 Open Daily 5 p.m.
"From Tri-X to Pixel Puddles, 50 Years of Paul Willis Photographs" is on exhibit in the Daniels Room at the library through Wednesday, May 9th. There will be a reception to meet and talk with Paul on Saturday, April 7th, from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

The title of Paul’s show refers to his path through photography—from black and white news photographs of the 1970s to megapixel digital photography today. Paul, who retired from a career in newspapers and newspaper printing technology, now identifies as a nature photojournalist: “The goal of a photojournalist is to inform, entertain, and educate visually.”

Paul photographs nature with a journalistic curiosity and uses Facebook and a photo website (www.paulwillisphtographs.com) as platforms to achieve this goal. His primary current muse is a beaver pond off the back of his wooded property in New Ipswich.

The show can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-6:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 am-7:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm; closed Friday and Sunday.

Because the Daniels Room is sometimes reserved for community activities, it is wise to check with the library (525-4411) to make sure the room will be available at the time of your visit.

Submitted by Sandy Taylor

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ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

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FRIENDS OF THE HANCOCK TOWN LIBRARY

Friends of the Hancock Town Library will meet Tuesday, April 10th at 6:30pm in the Daniels Room of the library. New Friends are always welcome. Following a brief meeting, we will prepare our mailings for membership support. Please join us for an evening of envelope stuffing, good company and conversation as well as some sweet treats!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Deb Shumway for her outstanding dedication and contributions to the Friends. It has been a complete pleasure working with her over the past two years as she served as President. We are thrilled that Deb will remain with the committee as a member at large.

Submitted by Megan Dodge, President

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Spring cleaning?

Would you? Could you?

Donate your books to the Hancock Town Library’s annual Book Sale?

Thank you.
THE SPEED BUMPS
YOU KNOW THEM FROM FROST HEAVES

Saturday, April 7, 7:30PM
$20 per person

Meetinghouse Sanctuary
First Congregational Church of Hancock

CLASSIC ROCK FROM THE 50S, 60S, 70S AND 80S

CONCERT

simple refreshments will be served during intermission
HES PTO presents a family-friendly **DANCE PARTY**

**LIVE DJ • DANCING • REFRESHMENTS • FAMILY FUN!**

**SATURDAY APRIL 14TH**
6:00-8:00 pm @ the Hancock Community Center (in the Church basement)

Public welcome! Bring your family & friends and get ready to dance the night away!

**Tickets $10 per family or $3 per person**

For more info visit our Facebook page: HES NH PTO or email hesnhtpto@gmail.com
On April 7th, we will feature Off The Cuff a semi-acoustic instrumental and vocal quartet, interpreting great songs from the 20s to the 21st Century.

Off the Cuff has been delighting audiences across southern New Hampshire and surrounding areas for over a decade. Incorporating elements of jazz, swing, blues, bluegrass, rock, folk, and world music styles, Off The Cuff infuses a special blend of vocal and instrumental harmony into every song to reinvent it as something new and personal. In other words, each song gets “Cuffed” :)

Audiences love this music! Whether an original tune or an old standard, a pop tune or a nugget by some little known songwriter, the music touches a familiar chord in everyone, whether they grew up dancing to the big bands or rock bands. It’s music that each generation has managed to share -- a part of the American musical soul. The music is upbeat, energetic and fun, and The Cuffers have a great time playing and interacting with the audience.

In October, 2008, Off The Cuff released the band’s first CD, “Cuffed… At Last!” Recorded live at the Caleidh House in Westmoreland, NH, the CD contains 14 songs covering a broad range of styles that highlight the diversity and variety of an Off The Cuff performance.

Visit their FB page: https://www.facebook.com/offthecuffnh/

About the Venue
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!).

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.

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

Upcoming Feature Acts
• May 5: Decatur Creek – Note: This will be an “all train song show,” so if you want to sign up for an open mic spot, your songs will need to include references to trains!

• June 2: Sugarbush Rd. – Super-tight harmonies, excellent musicianship, and diverse repertoire of classic and contemporary cover songs!

Monthly Association Meetings
Interested in joining the Hancock Depot Association? Our next meeting will be at 7:00 on Wednesday, April 11 in the Depot. 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!
The venue is available for events. To learn more, call David Young at 525-3085 or Nancy Adams at 525-4176.
Special Traffic Study Counts Truck Traffic through Town

Many residents are concerned about the amount of truck traffic on Main Street. In 2016 the Selectboard asked the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) to study truck traffic in town. These are the results:

All Main St. traffic, cars and trucks, declined from 2009 to 2013 before increasing again (at one recording site) in 2016. Daily traffic in 2016 was still below the 2010 level:

Main Street, (west of the 137 South intersection):

- 2013 – 2000
- 2016 – 1800

In addition, traffic was measured at another Main St. site – east of School St. -- in 2016. This showed an estimated 3000 vehicles a day, which is still below the 2009 figure.

Bennington Road. (137 North) by Moose Brook:

- 2010 – 1200
- 2013 – 1100
- 2016 – 1600

The study classified traffic for both Main St. and Bennington Rd., reporting that “medium-duty vehicles (Classes 4-7) account for approximately 2% of average weekday traffic at both locations. Trips by “Heavy” vehicles (Classes 8-13) were consistently infrequent, less than 1% of all traffic at both locations.” Medium-duty vehicles are dump trucks, tow trucks, cement trucks, or any truck with two axles (and six tires) up to four or more axles on a single unit (often smaller delivery trucks). Heavy vehicles include tractor trailers.

“On average, morning peak hours of truck traffic were found to be between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. at the Main Street site and 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Bennington Road site (a weekday average of 8.8 vehicles per hour and 7.0 vehicles per hour, respectively). Evening peak hours of truck traffic were found to be between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Main Street site and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bennington Road site (a weekday average of 8.5 vehicles per hour and 5.5 vehicles per hour.”

The study also recorded the traffic’s average speed. Drivers on Main St. were close to the 30 mph speed limit with 85% of drivers going 30.27 mph or below. But on the Bennington Rd., drivers were zipping out of town with 85% of drivers far over the 30 mph speed limit. They were averaging 37.22 mph. The Bennington Rd. speed limit has since been raised to 40 mph.

SWRPC will be returning to study truck traffic this summer at four locations. See the March Happenings for the details.

Submitted by Howard Mansfield & John Hayes for the Hancock Traffic Study Group
Thank you to our supporters who makes these programs possible.

The Harris Center for Conservation Education is dedicated to promoting understanding and respect for our natural environment.

HARRIS CENTER
FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Apr 4 (Wed) First Session of ESI Course: Wild to Domestic – A Canine’s Tale
Wednesdays, April 4, 11&18, 10 to 11am at the Peterborough Town Library, Free of charge
Explore the evolution of wild canids into domestic companions in this reading and discussion group, led by Susie Spikol Faber. Readings will include such doggedly good writers as Barry Lopez, Mary Oliver, Willie Morris, Alexandra Horowitz, and Susannah Charleson. Class will conclude with a visit from Elizabeth Marshall Thomas discussing her groundbreaking book, The Hidden Lives of Dogs. Co-sponsored by the Peterborough Town Library. **Space is limited and registration is required.** For more info or to register, Sara at 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Apr 4 (Wed) The Star-Nosed Mole and the Deep Dark Below
22 tentacles on the end of its nose! 100,000 nerve endings in each tentacle! The fastest-eating mammal alive and it lives right here, under our toes. Come find out everything you never knew about this ubiquitous, but rarely seen, mole. **7 to 8pm at the Hancock Town Library** (Co-sponsor) For more info, contact Susie Spikol Faber at (603) 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Apr 6 (Fri) Easy Going Hike in Otter Brook Preserve
Join Lee Baker and Rich Taylor for a moderately strenuous, 4-mile hike through the Otter Brook Preserve in Sullivan (not to be confused with Otter Brook Dam). Bring lunch and meet at 10am. at the Granite Gorge parking lot on Route 9 in Roxbury. Back by 2pm. Cosponsored by The Nature Conservancy. For more info, Lee at 525-5262 snowman3137@gmail.com, or Rich at 827-4105 or kayaks100@msn.com.

Apr 14 (Sat) Trail Maintenance on the Eastview Trail
Join Eric Masterson for a full day of work (or as many hours as you can spare) clearing ditches of debris and blowdowns along the Eastview Trail between Jaquith Road and Hancock Road in Harrisville. Bring gloves and tools if you have them (or use ours) and **meet at 9am at the Harris Center**. Back by 5pm. Lunch will be provided by the Harris Center. For more info and to RSVP, contact Eric 525-3394 or masterson@harriscenter.org.

Apr 15 (Sun) Trail Maintenance on the Cadot Trail
Join Eric Masterson for a morning’s work along the Cadot Trail in Hancock, removing blowdowns and clearing historic stone culverts of debris. Bring gloves and tools if you have them (or use ours) and **meet at 9am at the Harris Center**. Back by 1pm. For more info, contact Eric 525-3394 or masterson@harriscenter.org.

Apr 19 (Thu) First Session of ESI Course: NH’s Birds of Prey
April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17&24, 2 to 3:15pm., RiverMead Auditorium in Peterborough, $50 for RiverMead residents /$60 nonresidents
From eagles to owls, falcons to hawks, come learn about New Hampshire’s birds of prey! Expert speakers will include Polly Pattison, Julie Brown, Chris Martin, Eric Masterson, and Tom Warren. This program will come to a soaring conclusion with an amazing live owl presentation by Marcia and Mark Wilson of Eyes on Owls. **Registration is required.** RiverMead residents, register by contacting Kim Mansfield at 924-0033ext. 201 or kmansfield@rivermead.org. General public, register by contacting the Keene State College Dept of Continuing Ed at 358-2290.

Apr 19 (Thu) Conservation Easement Monitoring Training
Every year, the Harris Center must make monitoring visits to all of our 100+ conservation easements. You can help us fulfill this critical part of our mission, while exploring the great outdoors by becoming a volunteer easement monitor. Join Eric Masterson for a workshop to learn more. **7 to 9pm at the Harris Center.** For more info, Eric at 525-3394 or masterson@harriscenter.org.

Apr 20(Fri) Surveying the Microburst Damage/McGreal Forest
Last August, a microburst tore through the Monadnock Region, leaving a narrow path of devastation running in a straight line from Keene to Hancock. Join Dave Anderson (Forest Society), Eric Aldrich (Nature Conservancy), and Jeremy Wilson (Harris Center) for an exploration of the disturbance at the McGreal Forest in Hancock, where we’ll learn about the storm’s impact on the forest and its wildlife. **Meet at 9am at the Harris Center.** Back by 5pm. Cosponsored by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the Nature Conservancy. For more info, contact Eric Masterson at 525-3394 or masterson@harriscenter.org.

Apr 22 (Sun) Vernal Pool Project Volunteer Training
Vernal pools are small, temporary woodland ponds that serve as critical amphibian breeding habitat and as important feeding grounds and shelter for many reptiles, birds, and mammals. In efforts to protect these vital yet often overlooked ecosystems, we’re once again training volunteers to identify and document vernal pools, with special focus on lands where information is needed for conservation planning – including the Harris Center’s own protected lands. We’ll cover the building blocks of vernal pool ecology indoors, then venture outside for hands-on instruction at a nearby vernal pool complex. **1 to 4pm at the Harris Center.** **Registration is required.** For more information or to register, contact Brett Amy Thelen at thelen@harriscenter.org or 358.2065.

Apr 23 (Mon) Spring Survival Skills for Middle Schoolers
9am to 3pm., at the Harris Center, for ages 10 through 14 $50 for Harris Center members / $60 for nonmembers
Join Eagle Scout and Harris Center naturalist Michael Hightower for a day of spring survival skills, including fire making, shelter building, water gathering, and foraging for wild edibles. Learn how to lost-proof your hikes, and connect with your inner Yeti. This day could teach you how to save your own life! **Space is limited and registration is required.** For more info or to register, please contact Sara at lefebvre@harriscenter.org or 525-3394.

Apr 24(Tu) Vernal Pool Hike/Horatio Colony Nature Preserve
Every spring, small depressions in the forest floor come alive, filling with rain, melting snow, and, eventually, salamander and frog eggs. By summer’s end, many of these vernal pools will dry up, revealing little trace of the life they contained in April. Join Brett Amy Thelen for a moderately-strenuous, 1.2-mile roundtrip hike to a hilltop vernal pool at Horatio Colony Nature Preserve, where we’ll explore the fascinating world of spring-breeding amphibians. **Meet at 1pm at the Preserve parking lot on Daniels Hill Road in Keene.** Back by 3pm. Cosponsored by the Horatio Colony Nature Preserve. For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen at thelen@harriscenter.org or (603) 358-2065.
Apr 25 (W) First Session of ESI Course: Field Notes in Verse
April 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 10 to 11:30am at the Harris Center
$60 Harris Center members / $80 for nonmembers
Instructor: Henry Walters
Bring your naturalist’s eye for detail to this four-week poetry course, in which the act of writing becomes itself a form of observation. Taking our cue from an anthology of poems that have grown out of intimate study of the natural world, we'll look for fox tracks inside Ted Hughes' poem "The Fox," keep company with garden spiders in Whitman's "Noiseless Patient Spider," and catch fish on Elizabeth Bishop's imaginary hook. In this course, we'll workshop participants’ writing and analyze that of our anthologized "specimens." Henry Walters is a poet, essayist, naturalist, and currently writer-in-residence at the Dublin School. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Sara at (603) 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Apr 26 (Thu) First Session of ESI Course: Birding By Ear
Thursdays, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 24, 8 to 11am.
Local field sites in the Monadnock Region
$120 for Harris Center members / $140 for nonmembers
Join expert birder and naturalist Phil Brown as we take to the SuperSanctuary in search of birds. We’ll observe fascinating bird behaviors and study the vocalizations of many species in depth. We’ll also learn about each group’s unique adaptations to finding food, migrating, and raising young. Phil Brown is a lifelong bird enthusiast who has traveled extensively in search of birds and natural places, but equally enjoys exploring close to home. He’s a frequent field trip leader for the Harris Center and NH Audubon, where he coordinates their raptor observatories and manages wildlife habitat at Willard Pond and other sanctuaries. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Sara at (603) 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Apr 28 (Sat) Exploring Frog Rock Road in New Boston
Join Dave Butler and Ben Haubrich for a moderately easy exploration of Frog Rock Road, an abandoned town road in New Boston. Expect a 3.5 mile roundtrip hike with total elevation gain of 160 feet. In addition to Frog Rock (a tourist attraction during the grand hotel era), this walk will include a glacial esker, a kettle pond, and an enormous barn cellar hole. Bring lunch and meet at 10am at the town sheds in the center of Franconia to carpool to the trail head. Back by 2:30pm. For more information, contact Dave at davidlbutler@comcast.net.

HES PTO
Donations Needed...
Spring cleaning?

We are in need of clean, sellable items to be donated to the Hancock Elementary School PTO. Books, toys, housewares, bric-a-brac... All proceeds from the sale of these items will directly benefit HES children.

Items can be dropped off at 16 Carriage Hill in Hancock, anytime but no later than June 10th. Pick-up may also be arranged. Please call Megan Dodge @ 525.9465 with any question or to arrange a small pickup.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The sale will take place Saturday, June 16th at the Union Congregational Church, 33 Concord Street, Peterborough at Kiwanis Club Spring Yard Sale.
Welcome Spring!

It doesn’t look like it now, but I’ve heard rumors that crocus and snowdrops have been ignoring the “white stuff” and pushing their way through to herald the earths’ reawakening.

The Guild took a few months’ winter hiatus, but before we did, we were busy assembling holiday baskets for local shut-ins and some local nursing home residents. We filled them with home-baked goodies, small personal care items, candies, good cheer, and of course a traditional clementine. We also sent many personal holiday greetings to honorary lifetime Guild members who have moved from the area. Member Melody Russell taught us how to make decorative translucent stars to hang in the window or on a Christmas tree. They’re so pretty they’re not limited to just the holidays either!

We reconvened in March and again turned our attention to our community. We spent the evening reconnecting and filling treat bags for 68 Hours of Hunger. Kids will get a little extra Easter surprise when their bags go home. What a great program!

Coming in April, the Guild is hosting Tracy Messer as Calvin Coolidge. Details below. While this is a free presentation, donations will gladly be accepted for our Scholarship Fund for Graduating ConVal Seniors.

Also coming up faster than you think, is the semi-annual Guild Clothing Sale. Look for more details in the May Happenings, but keep us in mind as you start to pack away your winter clothes and pull out those warm weather items. We’ll be taking donations and holding our sale in June.

Submitted by Darlene Tarr, President
Monadnock at Home

will be hosting Community Events throughout the year

Don’t miss our Spring lineup!

Thursday, April 12th 11am-1pm, Jaffrey Civic Center. MaH will host Francelia Clark talking about her book *Circle Around Monadnock - Time Travel with Horses*. Over the course of three days, Francelia Clark, author and MaH member, along with two companions traveled around Mt. Monadnock on horseback. Join Francelia for lunch and a lively discussion about their journey and the connections she makes with the history of the beloved Mt. Monadnock. Lunch provided by Fiddleheads Café. Cost is $10 for lunch. Please mail R.S.V.P. with check to: MaH, PO Box 422, Jaffrey, NH 03452.

Wednesday, May 2nd, 6pm at Reynold’s Hall, Concord St., Peterborough, MaH presents, *Finding Meaning and Joy in Growing Older*. Renowned author, Thomas Moore will speak to the topics in his new book, *Ageless Soul*. This program is about the inner experience. In all Moore's books, he writes about the soul—our humanity, deep values and essential pleasures. Now he reflects on growing older as the positive unfolding of character and the opportunity to share what has been learned and experienced. He shows how to keep youth and old age together, one helping the other. He explores ways to deal with anger and sadness. He discusses the value of telling your story and developing a natural senior spirituality with the natural world, the arts and simple practices of contemplation. He offers an uplifting and inspiring approach to being older in these changing times. Free and open to all. Light Refreshments. Book signing and purchase available.

Save the Date Saturday, May 19th

7:30pm at The Monadnock Center for History and Culture, 19 Grove St., Peterborough, for *An Evening of Music to benefit Monadnock at Home*. After you enjoy a day at Children and the Arts, kick back or kick up your heels at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture! Join us for an evening of music performed by the Footings and Charlie Chronopolous. Tickets are $30pp and are available by calling MaH at 371-0809 or emailing help@monadnockathome.org. Refreshments will be available.

Monadnock at Home is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) serving seniors in the ten towns in our region, providing them with the support and practical means to live and thrive in their homes and communities. www.mondnockathome.org.

**Wildlife Rule Proposal Hearings Set**

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will hold three public hearings on the 2018 hunting and trapping season rule proposals. The hearings begin at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates and times:

**March 30th** -- Fish and Game Region 1 Office in Lancaster

**April 2th** -- Keene High School, LGIA Room

**April 3rd** -- N.H. Fish and Game Department, Concord

Data from New Hampshire's hunting seasons are reviewed every year to monitor the status of game species, but, unless otherwise necessary, changes are recommended every two years to make sure that season dates and bag limits are in line with population goals reflected in the state's ten-year Game Management Plan. Proposed revisions are based on a review of field data and other scientific information.

The complete rulemaking notice is available on the Fish and Game Proposed Rules page at www.wildnh.com/legislative/proposed-rules.html
**WEEKLY CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS** Please call Carol at 588-2620 for info or to sign up for programs

**Services at The Grapevine**

- **Information & Referral**: Information about area resources for financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.
- **Child & Family Counseling** by Monadnock Family Services and Riverbend Community Mental Health
- **Help Finding Shelter** for families who are homeless or face homelessness.

The Grapevine is a nonprofit service organization located behind the Tuttle Library and serving residents in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Franeestown, Hillsborough, Deering and nearby towns. The Grapevine exists because of charitable contributions from people like you. Tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at PO Box 637, Antrim, or drop by the center at 4 Aiken Street (behind the library). Visit us online at www.GrapevineNH.org and LIKE us on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org/](https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org/)

**Monadnock Roller Derby**

Monadnock Roller Derby is kicking off its 2018 season our largest, most skilled roster ever. Community members are invited to join us as fans, sponsors, or members. If you don't want to skate, you can train to be a timer, score keeper, or track taper!

April 14th and May 12th are our last Community Roller Skating Nights until next fall. They are 6 - 9 pm at Great Brook School, $5 donation for admission + $6 for skate rentals. Hot and cold concessions, official team merchandise, great music, games, and old-fashioned fun for all ages.

We still have a limited number of cookbooks for sale! $20 each, packed with full-color photos of our games and community events, created by our own members, and featuring our favorite recipes, like "brute punch," "screaming spinach dip," and "assaulted caramel" cake.

Monadnock Roller Derby is a registered NH nonprofit. We are a league of skaters and community members dedicated to the sport and spirit of roller derby. Our members come in all shapes, sizes, colors and flavors. We have multiple jobs, roles, challenges, and gifts, but above all, we are tribe.

Our mission is threefold:

Challenge ourselves to get back up, as many times as it takes;

Challenge one another to be our best, because no one survives alone;

Create a safe and supportive space for all members to learn, grow, and destroy fear.

Email: contact@monadnockrollerderby.com or visit: [www.MonadnockRollerDerby.com](http://www.MonadnockRollerDerby.com)
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
Thursday 9:00am to 12:00pm

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. 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, Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room

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

Hancock Library Trustees – 4th Tuesday at 5:00pm in the Daniels Room

Recreation Committee – 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm, Hancock Inn

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

Water Commissioners – 4th Wednesday at 4:30pm, Town Office Main Floor

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 Main Floor

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.
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.


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 ads. 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.
Hailed by The New York Times as an “outstanding ensemble,” the Verona Quartet has quickly earned a stellar reputation as one of the most compelling young quartets in chamber music today for their “interpretive strength...robust characterization [and] commanding resonance” (Calgary Herald).

And here are a few more descriptions, if we haven’t already convinced you that this is a concert worth experiencing.

“They play and breathe as one”

“Luminous”

“The unbridled polyphony of the finale literally shook the hall”

“Clear, shiny, fluid...sweet, feisty”

“Sensational powerhouse performance”

“Electrifying”

The Verona Quartet is currently the quartet-in-residence at the New England Conservatory of Music’s Professional String Quartet Training Program. The members hail from USA, UK, Singapore and Canada.

Tickets are $20 and available at the door or on-line at musiconnorwaypond.org. Students are admitted free of charge. The concert will be one hour lone with no intermission.