News from the Selectboard
Submitted by Tom Shevenell, Chairperson (shevenell@hancocknh.org)

The Selectboard’s focus in December is working on the 2018 Town budget and warrant articles for the 2018 Town Meeting. Our first step was to set the final 2017 tax rate, which for the Town’s portion was $5.78 per $1,000. This rate met our estimate, and is 2.2% lower than last year’s. Only part of the tax rate decrease was due to the Town-wide re-valuation, which came in at an overall increase of 1.4%; therefore, we were able to keep our municipal costs in check with a little to spare. The Meetinghouse Windows rehabilitation project was completed within budget in November. The only remaining part of the Meetinghouse restoration is what I call the “crowning phase”, i.e. the steeple restoration. We are currently waiting to hear about our LCHIP grant; and if all goes well, no additional taxpayer’s funds will be requested in this year’s budget to complete the final touches. One important outcome of the community support for revitalizing the Meetinghouse is the Selectboard and the Church Council are now drafting revised Articles of Agreement for the first time since 1851. This agreement pledges to continue the historical relationship in our “common undivided interest” in the Meetinghouse and lays out the responsibilities of each party to provide responsible stewardship to this historic, iconic structure.

Lesson 9: The Selectboard’s Relationship with Other Town Officials, Part 5. In October we looked at our relationship with the Fire Department. This month let’s take a look at our relationship with the Town Administrator.

There are no state laws that provide guidance into the role of a Town Administrator (TA). That said, there is a myriad of state laws listing the Selectboard’s (SB) the duties and responsibilities. By last count there are over 80 such RSA’s. In today’s complex and ever changing legislative world the SB cannot function and manage your municipal government obligations without delegating many of responsibilities to the TA, while retaining our final decision-making authority. The TA is the chief administrative officer of the Town and in Hancock the responsibilities and duties of this position have expanded over time as state and federal laws and regulations have changed along with the evolving needs of our community. The TA’s job responsibilities are broad, ranging from human resources and financial admin to overseeing property assessment, the building inspector, land use coordination, and health and welfare. Another key area of responsibility is “chief of staff” duties.

As this term implies TA is responsible for handling the day-to-day administrative staff operations of the Town. This includes being the “gatekeeper” by organizing and prioritizing critical issues to keep the SB on focus for timely decision making. The TA is responsible for researching issues that come before the SB so we have the facts necessary to make sound decisions. The TA is then responsible to make sure those decisions are carried out. The TA is responsible for scheduling the SB’s agenda to make sure state-law mandated deadlines are being met. The TA is also the liaison and coordinator among town officials, employees and citizens to keep the SB fully appraised and advised on all issues related to the town’s departmental operations and financial health. As part of this role the TA manages the budget development process, tracks the revenue and expenses, and works with the Town’s auditor to document the Town’s fiduciary compliance.

Many times the role of the TA is to “just say no”. That is a good thing since the TA makes sure the SB is following state and federal laws and regulations, as well as established town policies, while we manage the prudential affairs of the town and perform the duties prescribed by law. So if you don’t hear what you want to hear from the TA, don’t get mad there is usually law or regulation to blame!

Next month, I’ll focus on the 2018 proposed budget.

See page 23 & 24 for a Residents’ Survey from the Planning Board
It seems like this month has been Motor Vehicle Crash month. As you may know, we recently had a very serious traffic incident on Route 202 that seriously injured three people. A few nights before that we responded to another motor vehicle crash on Stoddard Road. While not as serious, there was still the potential for major injuries. The roads for both of these were closed to traffic but sometimes we try to keep one lane open so you can get to your destination. A third accident we responded to was a vehicle into a tree.

Our department has put together critical information for Hancock to help motorists react properly when approaching and passing an emergency scene on the roadway. It is our hope that you will help us protect the driving public and our first responders by following these lifesaving tips when you come upon traffic accidents and other roadway incidents so motorists know how to safely avoid or pass the scene:

- **SLOW DOWN** as you approach and pass the incident. If at all possible, avoid the area and take an alternate route.
- **MOVE OVER** any time you approach a stopped emergency vehicle. Look for and obey all temporary traffic control signs and directions from first responders.
- **REMAIN ALERT**, even if you have to sit in traffic. More first responders are injured or killed at the scene of an accident than any other fireground operation.
- **THINK** and use some common sense when you approach a problem in the roadway. As a first responder working at the scene of an accident I have seen drivers do some really stupid things. Please don’t place yourself on the stupid list.

It's Raffle time!! If you are a Hancock homeowner, you should have received a copy of our newsletter, Firelines. Thanks to Eric Aldrich for writing and editing most of it. As always, we included two raffle tickets for our year-long drawings held at our monthly meetings. If you have not yet done so, please consider mailing them in to us. This is our biggest fund raiser, and allows the fire department association to purchase equipment without dipping into town tax dollars. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in raffle tickets - good luck to you!

Hard to believe it’s time for Christmas and the holidays. We’ve said this before but here it is again. Be cautious with candles! Don't leave them burning if nobody is in the room, and keep them away from curtains, home furnishings, kids and pets. Be careful setting up Christmas lights. Use decent extension cords, and make sure they aren't a trip hazard or run under carpets. As always, NEVER burn wrapping paper in your fireplace or woodstove!

May your holiday be filled with family and friends enjoying great food and friendship for a safe holiday gathering. Remember – when the smoke detector goes off dinner’s ready. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Joyous New Year from all of us at HFD.

Raffle winners for the month:
- $40.00 - Marsha Kono
- $20.00 - Ann Veverka
- $10.00 - Jamison Coty, Ian Aldrich, Karen McCormack

Firefighters and EMT’s do not regard themselves as heroes because they do what the task requires.
The Holidays are upon us and we invite you to come to our traditional pot luck lunch on Wednesday, December 13th at 12:30 p.m. in the Vestry. All are welcome for this festive occasion and this year we will be entertained with Holiday music by Bob Pettegrew on the piano. As always, please bring a salad, vegetable, main course, or dessert to add to the bounty. Contact Sonja Mucha by phone 525-4970 or by email sonjamucha@hotmail.com to let her know what you plan on bringing.

This year we will be offering our beautiful Hancock, NH canvas tote bags made right here in Bedford, NH. They have a very nice design on them which was created by Diane Kidd. The cost of the bag is $15 and they make wonderful a Christmas present!!

Submitted by Sara LeFebvre
News from the Hancock Congregational Church

Judy Copeland, Pastor

Our 2017 Giving Tree
There are many holiday gatherings scheduled in the Vestry this month and while you are there enjoying a Christmas Party or a holiday meal, we hope you will take a moment to make a donation in one of the envelopes on our Giving Tree. The tree is decorated with Puerto Rican themed ornament as a reminder of those who lost so much in the recent hurricanes. Our goal is to collect $1646 (or $1 for every resident of Hancock) for hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico. You can donate in one of the jars at the Market, the Inn, Fiddleheads, or the Library, or by mailing a check to the church (P.O. Box 98).

Christmas Activities
Sadly, we have had to cancel the Journey to Bethlehem for 2017. It takes between 30 and 40 volunteers from the church and wider community to bring the living nativity to life, and this year we just did not have the numbers. However, we do invite you to attend the other programs and services we will be offering throughout the Advent and Christmas Season, including: December Mondays—Join us on December 4, 11, and 18th at 4:30 pm for a soothing half an hour of reflection and meditation. Less formal than our Sunday morning services, this is a time to step out of the busyness of the season and enjoy the peaceful setting of our sanctuary as darkness approaches.

Hancock Family Christmas Concert—Saturday, December 16 at 4:00 pm. Come early if you want to find a seat at this event that we co-host with Norway Pond Music. Also, as you park, please remember not to block the loading dock at the Post Office, as that is used even after regular Post Office Hours.

Worship Services—The Christmas season is a good time to begin or rekindle a worship practice. Our Sunday morning services (on December 3, 10, 17 and 24) begin at 9:45am and all are welcome. The Village Ringers join us on December 17. Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:00 pm on December 24th and once again, Pamela Stevens will be our soloist.

Home Practice—We know that family and other obligations can make attendance at Sunday services difficult. If you would like a resource for deepening the meaning of Christmas at home, please stop by and pick up one of our free “Advent in Full Color” booklets. Approaching the themes of hope, peace, joy and love, it offers readings, meditation topics, prayers, song suggestions, and dinner conversation starters. These will be available at the Church beginning on December 1. If you would like us to send you one, please email us at hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com and we will get one out to you.

Finally, if you need a little extra help this holiday season, the Helping Hands Fund or the Pastor’s Fund may be able to provide some assistance. Please contact Pastor Judy Copeland at hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com or 525-8037 or 525-4626.

Hancock Historical Society

News and Events

See You Next Year!

Throughout the year, the Hancock Historical Society offers programs, exhibits and events focused on Hancock history.

Right now, we’re busy planning next year’s programs and events, starting with the Annual Meeting in January. (We’ll have all the details in next month’s Hancock Happenings.) We hope to see you there — and that you’ll consider becoming a member for 2018.

In the meantime, happy holidays from all of us at the Hancock Historical Society!
Quarter One at Hancock Elementary School  
Amy Janoch, Principal

The first quarter of the school year has come to an end. Here are some of the many things that we have accomplished as a school-wide community.

93% of our parents attended Open House in September. We hosted the Harvest Feast for approximately 110 people as a culmination of our work with Cornucopia. Thank you Megan Dodge for spearheading the event. Thank you to families and PTO for your contribution toward the evenings’ success. All students and many community members participated in our annual Halloween Parade and Halloween Party. Thank you teachers and parents for your contributions and support.

Our PTO has elected a new President, Michele Spinale, and Treasurer, Laura Akerley. Thank you for volunteering your time and talent.

Doug Sutherland has started to work with our students to help them understand how they function as a community. Thank you to the Daniel’s Trust Fund for supporting our year-long work with Doug.

At the same time, the children have been working hard to master new concepts and skills.

- Kindergarten students have settled in and are well on their way to knowing all letters in the alphabet and their associated sounds. Understanding numbers and number sequences have also been introduced.
- First graders are able to decompose numbers in the teens (what two numbers make up the number 17). They are reading more and more words as they develop an understanding of important phonic concepts.
- Second graders are entering the world of place value and story elements.
- Third and fourth graders have created a wigwam village and begun to identify the various land formations in the New Hampshire.

Thank you for supporting the important work that children and staff do at HES.

THIN ICE??

Each year there is less certainty, but nonetheless the Norway Pond Ice Out Committee again expects: winter will come, there will be ice….which will melt next spring. Accordingly, we plan to conduct another contest this season.

Dates of Ice Out over the past five years were:

- April 10, 2013
- April 16, 2014
- April 15, 2015
- March 11, 2016
- April 11, 2017

The average payout to the winner was $604.73 [$3,023.64 / 5]. In addition to the winner, four runners-up receive $25 each year.

A 50/50 proposition, half the proceeds go to the holder of the winning prediction of the exact ice out date and time and the other half go to the Meeting House and Vestry Maintenance Fund. Ticket sales will begin December 15th and will end on March 15, 2018 (unless the ice goes out sooner).

Note: Ice out tickets make great last minute Christmas Gifts. Get them at Fiddleheads, The Hancock Market, and the Hancock Inn (as well as members of the Ice Out Committee and the Hancock Congregational Church). Ice Out Committee for 2018

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**BULLETIN BOARD**

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**Community Supper**

Our next Community Supper will be a Holiday Community Supper and will be held on Wednesday, December 6th. Please note the change of date and day of the week. We look forward to serving this special meal during this special time of the year.

We plan to prepare the meal during the day and would welcome anyone who would like to bake a dessert item or assist with servicing the meal that night. If you would like to participate please contact us at the e-mail listed below. Thank you!

Happy Holidays!  
Mike and Carol Domingue (mcdomingue@comcast.net)

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**Town Office and Town Clerk:**
Closed  
Monday, December 25th and  
Monday, January 1, 2018

**Tax Collector:**
The December property tax bills were mailed November 17th, and are due December 18th. The Tax Collector will be open Mondays December 4th and December 11th 3:30PM to 6:30PM, December 18th 9:00AM to 5:00PM and all Thursdays in December 9:00AM to 2:00PM. You may also pay your tax bill on-line via the town website, www.hancocknh.org, or at www.nhtaxkiosk.com. Tax bills may also be dropped off in the Administrative Office to Linda Coughlin, Deputy Tax Collector.

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

Is it just me or has anyone else been hesitant to put too many ice cubes in a glass of water for fear of watering it down?

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The Mollers, Inc.

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* The Hancock Town Library Book Sale  
Committee sends warm Salutations and Solicitations:  
Winter Solstice = More Reading.  
As you peruse your own library collection to make room for new literature on the shelf,  
Please donate extra books to our sorting nook.*
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

Congratulations to Susie Spikol Faber who won the Fiddleheads Café gift certificate for filling out our library survey. Thanks to all who filled out the survey over these past few months. Lots of great suggestions and kind feedback!

Looking for something to do over the holidays? Why not use some of our passes to local (and not-so-local) museums? Here are the museums that we cover: Canterbury Shaker Village in Canterbury, Cheshire Children’s Museum in Keene, Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, The Fells in Newbury, Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, VT, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

On the other hand, we’ve got plenty to do here at the library in December, including making wreaths and wrapping paper and marshmallow snowforts. And don’t forget to search for our Elf on the Shelf when you come in!

Happy Holidays!

Tuesday December 5th at 7:00pm
Howard Mansfield & Sy Montgomery Read

Both share a Hancock address -- an address they also shared with a famous, 750-pound pig. And they both have brand-new books of essays, many of them featuring characters that area residents will recognize, out this fall. Howard Mansfield's new book, Summer Over Autumn: A Small Book of Small Town Life, calls on thirty years of his observations of life in a small New Hampshire town – in this case Hancock. He tells stories about neighbors, animals, tractors, trees, yard sales, funerals, money, and fidelity to time itself. But these stories also contain much more. Mansfield writes, “We get from stories what we bring to them, and in small towns we may bring entire lives to the reading, and sometimes a simple story runs deep.” Mansfield is the author of nine books, including In the Memory House, The Bones of the Earth, The Same Ax, Twice, and Dwelling in Possibility: Searching for the Soul of Shelter. His book, Turn & Jump, won an “IPPY,” Independent Publisher Book Award, in 2011.

Howard's wife, Sy Montgomery, is co-author (with her friend, former Peterborough Selectman Elizabeth Marshall Thomas) of Tamed and Untamed: Close Encounters of the Animal Kind. Monadnock area neighbors will find familiar characters in these pages, too: Sy and Howard's pig, Christopher Hogwood gets more press, as well as the couple's hens and border collie, Thurber, joined by other dogs and cats, hawks, hyenas, hummingbirds, an octopus, and others. Author and scientist Frans de Waal writes of the collaboration, "Two kindred spirits treat animals as they ought to be treated, with understanding, knowledge and humor."

Montgomery has written 20 books for both adults and children, which have won many honors. The Soul of an Octopus was a 2015 Finalist for the National Book Awards. She is the winner of the 2009 New England Independent Booksellers Association Nonfiction Award, the 2010 Children’s Book Guild Nonfiction Award and many other honors. Montgomery is “part Indiana Jones and part Emily Dickinson,” says The Boston Globe.

Books will be available for sale and signing. Free and open to all.

—continued to page 8—
Thursday December 7th at 7:00pm
A Time to Dance with Dick Nevell
Richard Nevell opens the doors to dance, inviting us in to fully experience what has stirred the mind, heart, and feet for generations. A Time to Dance explores the evolution of American country dance from Colonial times to the present, taking the reader across the USA in search of the reason why so many millions of Americans love to share the country dance floor with friends, neighbors, even total strangers, in a celebration of community. Like dancing itself, A Time To Dance entertains, instructs, and leaves us enthused. Richard Nevell is a photographer, author, filmmaker, and songwriter. He is a member of ASCAP. With funds from the National Endowment for the Arts he co-produced two films with Robert Fiore: Country Corners and Full of Life A-Dancin’ based on material in this book. He lives in Bali, Indonesia and New Hampshire. Free and open to all.

Saturday December 9th from 10:00am – Noon
Holiday Wreath Making with Megan Dodge
Whether you are new to wreath making, in need of a refresh- er, 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. This program is geared to adults but families are welcome. Pre-register @ the Library before December 2nd by stopping by or calling us at 525-4411. Free and open to all.

Tuesday December 12th from 6:00-7:00pm
State Representative Jon Manley
Come with your questions for Rep. Manley (Hillsborough County District 3: Bennington, Greenfield, Hancock) as he reports to his constituents on current legislation. Rep. Manley is at the Hancock Town Library the second Tuesday of every month.

Wednesday December 13th at 7:00pm
Board Games for Grown-ups!
Got Game? The days are getting shorter but the nights won’t feel so long if you’re frittering away an evening with board games and socializing. It’s a chance to relax and play games with neighbors. Once a month, we gather to play our dusty old favorites and break out those challenging new-in-the-box games. Bring one if you’ve got one, and a snack or beverage for the table. Second Wednesdays 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.

Thursday December 14th at 7:00pm
Be Nice to the Weather Guy with WMUR’s Josh Judge
WMUR’s meteorologist Josh Judge will be presenting his newest children’s book "Be Nice to the Weather Guy: A New England Christmas Story." This humorous, colorful picture book re-imagines the classic poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and throws in some Dr. Seuss for good measure! Of course the weather plays a central role in all the fun. Written by meteorologist Josh Judge from WMUR, the book includes pages of “Weather Facts” to bring the science front-and-center for STEM lessons. Says Josh, “This book is dedicated to the boys and girls of Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHaD). You are all the greatest. Also to the men and women who work to improve the lives of these children, thank you. That’s why 100% of the profits from this book are being donated to CHaD.” He will bring books to sell. Free and open to all ages!
From the Children’s Room
Jennifer Wood, Children’s Librarian

A Note from Miss Jenn

Somethings have moved! There is a new display area in the Children’s Room for the seasonal and holiday books. There will be quite a few books out in that section this month so be sure to take a look. Also our juvenile graphic novel collection has grown! Graphic Novels now have their own shelf between Biographies and YA New Releases. If you ever have any trouble finding what you want don’t hesitate to ask!

Elf on a Shelf and I Spy Snowflakes are back! It is that time of year again. Each week you will have the opportunity to play I Spy for a small prize. Stop in and have some fun!

Tuesday December 5th 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.

Wednesday December 6th 3:30pm-5pm
Make Your Own Wrapping Paper
Come on in to the library and design your very own wrapping paper! We will be using large rolls of paper and decorating them with stickers, stamps, glitter, markers and more! Free and open to all!

Monday December 11th Read with Coffee
Come by the library and practice your reading with Coffee the Chihuaha! 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!

Thursday December 14th at 7:00pm
Be Nice to the Weather Guy with WMUR’s Josh Judge
Kids, bring your parents to see the Channel 9 weather man read his new children’s book!!

December 20th 3:30pm-5pm
Snowfort Building (with Marshmallows!)
We will be constructing our very own snow forts using marshmallows and toothpicks. Decorate with candy and icing to create your very own winter wonderland. Free and open to all! Sign up is required, supplies are limited.

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

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Hill Top Farm
Norway Hill, Hancock
525-6616
We will be open for business Saturdays and Sundays Starting Saturday, November 25th 9am to 4pm

Cut Your Own!
We have Balsam, Fraser Firs and Blue Spruce on the farm for Cut Your Own

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

Jeff and Mary

---

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‘A Christmas Carol’ Brings Festive Spirit to Region

By Caroline Tremblay Excerpted from Parent’s Express of the Keene Sentinel

On December 17, Deborah Thurber’s Project Shakespeare will give a unique set of performances at the Hancock Inn.

“Our historic venue (New Hampshire’s oldest inn circa 1789) provides a rich and natural backdrop for the show. Given the colonial size of door openings and passageways, we devised a schedule of three intimate stagings followed by dinner,” explained inn owner Marcia Coffin.

Groups of 16 audience members will follow the action from Scrooge & Marley's counting house, upstairs to Scrooge’s bedroom where he encounters Jacob Marley and the first of the Christmas Ghosts, to the Cratchit’s dwelling to meet Tiny Tim and back down to the Fezziwig Warehouse for the big party and Scrooge’s redemption before being seated for their Sunday holiday supper.

“You travel with us,” Thurber said, adding, “Every time you travel from one place to another, the kids will be singing a carol.”

Show times are at 3:30, 5 and 6:30 p.m. Guests of the early performances are invited to join the cast as party-goers in the tavern, the stage for Fezziwig’s party. Tickets cost $50, which includes admission, appetizer, entree and dessert; beverages, taxes and gratuity are separate. Call 525-3318 to purchase tickets and select your entree.

Additional performance times and locations are available at ccommagic.wixsite.com/projectshakespeare.

The site also provides a look at Project Shakespeare’s other upcoming productions.

Project Shakespeare draws students from all over the Monadnock Region, and they come from public, independent and homeschool settings. As always, Thurber’s mission is to transform students’ lives through theater education, and she envisions many more creative endeavors ahead.

Though Shakespeare is Deborah Thurber’s specialty, it wasn’t a Shakespearean play that expanded her thinking around what her theater company would be and do. It was “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, now in its ninth year of annual performances here in the Monadnock Region.
CLASSIFIEDS
Classified rate: 20 cents per word, maximum of 50 words.
Call Jaime Donovan, editor, 903.0190 or email
happenings@hancocknh.org

OLD HOME DAYS TOWN PHOTO
Prints of the Old Home Days town photo taken on August 19th are now available, in either an 8½ x 11 for $10 or 16 x 20 for $20. A copy of the photo is on display at the Town Office building. To order a print, or if anyone has questions, contact Deb Porter-Hayes at 525-4952, or porterhayes@comcast.net. Checks should be made out to: Town of Hancock Old Home Days Committee.

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Jane Billings cell 547-0665

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High School Student Rachel Cass
525-4132

Boy Scouts Selling Wreaths
Troop 2, which serves Hancock, Franconia, Bennington, Greenfield, and Antrim will once again be selling their "famous" boy-made Christmas wreaths starting on 11/25. This fundraiser will help the boys fund their trips to summer camp, a tour of Pennsylvania this summer, and Yellowstone National Park in 2019. It helped fund their trip to New York City this past summer. More info will be available at troop2nh.org

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ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

Maryann Mullett’s ongoing show—“A Passion for Pastels” is on display in the Daniels Room through Wednesday, December 27th. A native of New Hampshire, Maryann has been working as an artist since the 1980s. "Painting feeds my soul. It relaxes me yet challenges me. It makes me feel complete. Nature, flowers, and fungi and nature's reflections are among the subjects I enjoy painting. I also love still life, birds and animals--anything that I feel a life connection with. While exploring different views of a subject, I choose to paint close-up segments, studying detail and design elements within a single subject."

Maryann has exhibited in Maine, Connecticut, Cape Cod, and New York City, as well as New Hampshire. In addition to her paintings at the Hancock library, other works are available at Creative Encounters in Keene, Shaker Style in Harrisville, and the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce.

“A Passion for Pastels” can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 to 6:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm; and Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; the library is closed Friday and Sunday.

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

Submitted by Sandy Taylor

Orchids by Maryann Mullet

“Great Decisions - 2018”

Begins in January

Are you in the mood for a rousing discussion of major international issues and crises?? If you like to stay on top of the news, in a totally non-partisan way, and if you like to chat with friends and neighbors, perhaps you would consider joining the discussion at Great Decisions in January. Developed by the America Foreign Policy Association whose goal is to inspire learning about the world, Great Decisions takes you behind the headlines to look at eight of the year’s most significant and far-reaching challenges facing the world.

Topics for discussion this year include: The waning of Pax Americana?, Russia’s foreign policy, China and America: the new geopolitical equation, Media and foreign policy, Turkey: a partner in crisis, US global engagement and the military, South Africa’s fragile democracy, Global health: progress and challenges.

The discussions are always interesting and informative, even when the topics are a challenge for us! And we have snacks!

We will be meeting at the Hancock Town Library for eight Monday afternoons beginning on January 15 from 1:45-4:00 PM. Please call to register and for information about ordering your book by December 11: Jane Richards-Jones at 525-4485. New participants are most welcome!

Submitted by Jane Richards-Jones

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

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www.facebook.com/HaleysServiceCenter
News from the Depot

On December 2, we’ll host Volkert Volkersz as our feature performer. Volkert is a seasoned folk singer and songwriter. He survived the great folk-scare of the Sixties and he is a recovering Beatlemaniac. He’s also a former “Jesus Freak,” and a reborn “peacenik.” Volkert mainly writes songs to process things like love, peace, violence in our society, gratitude, home, snow, and stone walls. He even sings songs about singing songs and has written guitar instrumentals to accompany the late-summer crickets on the mountains of southern New Hampshire.

Volkert will be joined at the Hancock Depot Cabaret by “The Walking Antiques,” a loose-knit band of friends including Bruce Simpson on guitar, slide guitar, and mandolin; Jeannie Butler on vocals and guitar; and Bob E. Kelly on vocals and keyboards.

Logistics & More
All shows begin at 8:00; doors open at 7:30 for performers who want to sign up for one of several open mic spots. In addition to the entertainment, visitors will enjoy snacks, veggies, and drinks (BYOB!).

Thank you! Everyone who has donated previously deserves a train whistle in their honor. We appreciate it very much, and we’ve been busy. The various activities and events the Depot has hosted include:

* Rentals for private dinners and parties
* Easter Egg Hunt
* Storytelling (Winter Frolic)
* Canine Comeback

With your support, over the past couple of years, we’ve managed to improve and maintain the Depot in a number of ways. This didn’t happen without your financial support and the efforts of numerous volunteers.

* Fixed a broken water line
* Made minor electrical repairs
* Repaired the wheelchair ramp
* Hosted annual yard cleanup days
* Built a new staircase for the emergency exit
* Installed new smoke detectors

We still have quite a bit of work to do, and your membership and support will make the difference:

* External painting
* Insulation
* Electrical
* Refinishing the floors
* Replace several exterior boards and beams ($$)

Please become a Conductor or Engineer level member. A membership at any level makes a difference:

$50 — Conductor – Come to cabarets or any event, knowing you’re already a supporter.

$150 – Engineer – Schedule your own private event! As an Engineer, you’re entitled to a private event of your own (transferable) at the Hancock Depot. Please contact us for details.

100% of your money goes to maintain and support the Depot, because it’s run completely by volunteers and event revenue. Any dollar amount or in-kind donation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for consideration and support of our community’s asset, the Hancock Depot!

The Hancock Depot Association Board of Directors:

President - David L. Young, Secretary and Treasurer - Nancy Adams
Board Members - Monica Laskey-Rigrod, Kari Shumway, Sean Sweeney, Chris Marshall, Eliza Allen
Historical Advisors - Roberta Nylander, Robert S. Fogg, Sr. and Ric Haskins
Call David at 603-525-3085 or Nancy at 603-525-4176 with any questions
Announcing…

Crotched Mountain West!

The Francestown Land Trust (FLT) is very pleased to introduce its’ latest land protection project, Crotched Mountain West. FLT has the opportunity to acquire approximately 120 acres on the west face of the mountain in Bennington.

The property fronts along the class VI unmaintained Mountain Road for over 1,400 feet, and rises easterly up the slope of Crotched Mountain to the Francestown town line at an elevation near the mountain summit. The property is highly visible on the mountainside, within Bennington and Hancock in particular.

The “Bennington Trail”, a popular hiking trail from Mountain Road to the mountain summit is very close to the property. This is the last large parcel of unprotected land on the mountain, and its’ acquisition will effectively complete the initiative to protect Crotched Mountain as started back in the late 1980’s. The property directly abuts over 2,000 acres of protected land area on the mountain.

According to the NH Fish and Game Department, approximately 67% of the property is identified as highest ranked wildlife habitat in the state, with an additional 25% identified as highest ranking wildlife habitat within the biological region. FLT will own the property outright, and will continue to keep it open to the public for traditional uses. Scenery, wildlife, and recreation… what’s not to like? In addition to the purchase price, we have numerous expenses such as a survey, appraisal fees, legal fees, professional fees, and property stewardship. The total project budget exceeds $160,000! While we are applying to various grant sources, including the State Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), we need your assistance to complete this important purchase. Please consider making a donation to FLT for the Crotched Mountain West project. Thank you.

Scot Heath, Project Manager
Francestown Land Trust, Inc. (a 501 c 3 non-profit, charitable corporation)
Francestown, NH  03043

We are thankful for our Community.

You provide the warm sun, fertile soil and loving care that grows the garden of the Cornucopia Project.

We are grateful for your continued and enthusiastic support.

49 Vose Farm Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458
603-784-5069
cornucopiaproject.org
Dec 1 (Fri)  Easygoing Hike Around MacDowell Reservoir
Join Lee Baker and Rich Taylor for a moderately strenuous, 3-mile hike around MacDowell Reservoir. Plan for some icing underfoot. Bring lunch, and meet at 10 a.m. at the gas station at the intersection of Routes 101 and 137 in Dublin. Back by 3 p.m. For more info, contact Lee at (603) 525-5262 or snowman3137@gmail.com or Rich at (603) 827-4105 rltaylor@gerkensinc.com.

Dec 3 (Sun) Needle Felt a Chickadee: Wool Sculpture Inspired by Nature
Explore your creative side in this afternoon workshop on sculpting from wool, taught by artist Michelle Russell. We’ll observe chickadees at the Harris Center’s feeders and use field guides to help make our felt birds look just right. A perfect way to spend an early winter Sunday. 1 to 4 p.m. at the Harris Center. $30 materials cost per participant. For 12-year-olds and up. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information and to register, contact Sara LeFebvre at (603) 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Dec 13 (Wed) Nature on Tap: Santa’s Magic Mushroom
Mythology meets natural history in this holiday-themed Nature on Tap! You’ll look at Santa in a whole new light after Susie Spikol Faber reveals the fascinating link between the divine soma mushroom and the origins of Jolly Old Saint Nick. Drinks on you, conversation on us. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hancock Inn. Reservations are required, as space is limited. To reserve a seat, contact Sara LeFebvre at 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Dec 14 (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 flooding potential, mapped invasive species infestations, investigated post-wildfire tree regeneration and soil damage at the Burgess burn site, conducted water quality monitoring, surveyed recreational trail use, and studied the abundance and distribution of fisher (Martes pennanti) and moose (Alces alces) within the Super-Sanctuary. 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. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center with Keene State College. For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen at (603) 358-2065 or thelen@harriscenter.org or Renate Gebauer at (603) 358-2577 or rgebauer@keene.edu.

Dec 16 (Sat) 44th Annual Christmas Bird Count for Hancock, Peterborough, and Surrounding Towns
Begun locally in 1973, and complied by Dave Rowell for the 25th 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! Cosponsored by the Harris Center with NH Audubon. For more information and to sign up, contact Dave at (603) 924-8790.

Dec 17 (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. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center with NH Audubon. For more information or to sign up for this fun day of birding, contact Phil Brown at (603) 525-3499 or pbrown@nhaudubon.org.
HANCOCK FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT
and
CALLING ALL SINGERS, MEN AND WOMEN, FOR FIDDLER ON THE ROOF IN FEBRUARY

Mark your calendars – for the 7th annual Hancock Family Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 16th at 4 pm upstairs in the church. Co-sponsored with Hancock Church, the Junior Minstrels, Norway Pond Festival Singers and Village Ringers will be joined by the radiant mezzo soprano, Jazimina MacNeil. The doors will open at 3:30. There is no admission charge but your generous donations at the door are essential to the well-being of this tradition!

And in February, the Norway Pond Festival Singers will present a concert version of the beloved musical Fiddler on the Roof complete with a fiddler, not quite on the roof, and various soloists from Boston and our region. If you like to sing, please consider joining the chorus. Men generally rehearse on Sunday afternoons and women on Thursdays in the middle of the day although men often go to the Thursday rehearsals and women to the Sunday rehearsals. We are very flexible! Rehearsals start on January 3rd and 7th.

E-mail Jody Simpson jhspals@aol.com if you want to give it a try.
Thanks to all of you who donated and bid in our Annual Online Auction! This annual fundraiser has been a successful event for four years running. We truly value your support and ongoing feedback. Please email me at melissag@grapevinenh.org with your thoughts and ideas. And if you haven’t already, please consider supporting this holiday season with a financial contribution. Thank you for your continued support and Happy Holidays!

**Grapevine Special Programs and Events**

**Our Community Tool Shed** is complete and it’s time to start filling it up! We've developed a wish list of specific tools for the space. If you think you might have something to offer, contact our volunteer shed coordinators: Glenn Stan at glennstan24@gmail.com or 562-5545 or Rick Edmunds at athiker@tds.net or 588-6565. Please do not drop off any tools without speaking to Rick or Glenn first. Thank you for your support and stay tuned for further details on our Community Tool Shed opening!

**Snow Families Outdoor Play Day** - Saturday, February 3 from 10 to 12: Join us for a morning of fun for all ages on Saturday, February 3rd; 10am -12pm at The Grapevine, 4 Aiken Street. We will be hosting a fun gathering for families to create snow(man) families, bird feeders, do some snowshoeing, and enjoy warm treats. There is no fee to attend but if you would like to contribute to the gathering by way of cocoa, coffee, marshmallows, supplies or help planning, contact Lisa Hennessy at the Grapevine.

**Fall Season Youth Programs at Avenue A Teen + Community Center**

**Tabletop Game Club** – Mondays 5:30 - 8pm - Play new board games, strategy games, and chess with us...With over 75 games to choose from, there's something for everyone! Chess volunteer Steve is on hand from 6-7:30 for those who want to learn chess, play a game, or improve their strategy! Open to middle and high school students!

**High School Writing Club** – Tuesdays 6 - 8pm - Share your writing and get feedback from other writers in our friendly, fun environment! New writers (grades 9-12) always welcome!

**Middle School Writers' Society** - Tuesdays 2:15 - 4:15pm - Are you writing a novel? Poem? Song? Rap? A journal of your life as a top-secret juggling expert? Come share it with us! Meet local authors, and join us for fun creative writing activities, snacks, and the company of other writers and our cactus, Marvin!

**Avenue A Club** - Wednesdays 2:15 - 4:15pm - Open to grades 5-8! 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. Registration forms are available in the school office!

**Teen Open Hours** – Fridays from 6:30-9pm - Teens ages 13-18 are invited to join us for pool, foosball, Xbox games, snacks, karaoke, and all-around awesomeness!

**Special Event**

The Vine Story Hour - "Battle Scars" | Thursday, February 15th at 7pm
Based off the popular MOTH Story Hour that airs on NPR, The Vine Story Hour invites local storytellers to bring their story to the Avenue A “stage”. Come just to listen or seize the opportunity to share your story! This event is for adults and older teens. Admission is by donation. Refreshments provided. All proceeds benefit our programs for local youth.

Email avenuea@grapevinenh.org for more info about our programs. Or call The Grapevine at (603) 588-2620.

**Ongoing Programming**

**Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren**
If you are parenting your grandchildren, you are not alone. “Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren” meets monthly and is free. Call 588-2620 and ask for Carol for more info, and to let us know you’re coming and if you will need childcare.

**Strong Living Wellness and Exercise Group** –
Join seniors from your community in this twice weekly light weight exercise program held at the Grapevine. Meet and become part of a supportive, lively group who together strengthen mind and body! Held on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Grapevine from 1:30 – 2:30. Call the Grapevine for more information.
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.

2018 New Hampshire Wildlife Calendar
The all-new 2018 New Hampshire Wildlife Calendar is now available from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Dept. This award-winning calendar features close-up images of native wildlife and includes hunting and fishing season dates for the Granite State. It makes a great gift for anyone who enjoys the outdoor life.

Every calendar purchase helps support the N.H. Fish and Game Department’s work managing the state’s natural resources for all to enjoy.

Calendars are available for $9.95. Visit www.wildnh.com/shop/calendar.html to purchase calendars online through Amazon.com or by mail. Calendars can also be purchased in person at the N.H. Fish and Game Dept, 11 Hazen Drive in Concord, NH (open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

For the fifth year in a row, the Association for Conservation Information has honored New Hampshire’s calendar as one of the top wildlife calendars in the nation.
MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY OFFERRING HOLIDAY PET FAMILY PHOTO SESSIONS

Start the holidays off with a fun photo session, and a keepsake photo that captures the love you feel for your pet! Monadnock Humane Society will once again offer Holiday Pet Family Photo sessions. On Saturday, Dec. 2nd at the MHS Guinane Training Center from 10 am – 3 pm, professional photographers Beth Pelton and Chloe Giarraputo will be available to take a holiday portrait of your family (or, if you prefer, just your pet(s)). On Sunday, Dec. 3rd, a smaller session will be held at the MHS facility at the Offices in Depot Square for those who live in the Peterborough area, or who can’t make it to Swanzey.

For a $10 donation you will receive the professional photo shoot, a 4x6” glossy matted print out of your favorite photo (at least 8 photos will be taken during your photo session) and access to electronic downloadable versions that you can use for your holiday cards or reprints, to imprint on a gift item such as a coffee mug or a tee shirt, or to post on social media! Beautiful holiday-themed design sets will be the perfect backdrop for your family’s portrait. Volunteers who are experienced in handling pets will spend time with you and your family to capture the best moment. And, 100% of the proceeds go to the animals being cared for by MHS.

This year, waiting will be indoors in our spacious, comfortable Training Center (or in the lobby area of our Depot Square facility). Refreshments will be provided, and we’ll have a “Pet Gift Table” you can peruse for gifts and stocking stuffers! 2018 MHS “Home at Last” calendars will also be available.

INFORMATION;
Sat., Dec. 2nd                  Sun., Dec. 3rd
10:00 am – 3:00 pm                   11:00 am – 1:00 pm
MHS Training Center in Swanzey      MHS at the Offices in Depot Square
                           Peterborough

*Please make sure dogs are leashed and cats, rabbits, and other small pets are secured in carriers.

Brake for Moose -- It Could Save Your Life!

N.H. Fish and Game Department reminds motorists to be extra cautious while traveling Granite State roadways because moose are on the move.

Kristine Rines, Fish and Game's longtime Moose Project Leader, says that drivers should be prepared to see and react quickly to moose on or near the road. While moose/vehicle collisions can happen at all times of the year, fall is a time of increased activity and accidents. In 2016, 116 moose were killed by vehicles in New Hampshire.

Rines urges drivers to slow down and stay alert – and not just at "moose crossing" signs! To avoid a moose collision:
- Drive no faster than 55 miles per hour – especially at night, dusk and dawn.
- Use high beams when possible;
- Be able to stop within the zone of your headlights;

Scan the sides of the roads as you drive.

If you see a moose on the side of the road, expect it to run in front of you so SLOW down.

For more information on avoiding moose collisions, visit www.wildnh.com/wildlife/brake-for-moose.html
Get Rolling! Monadnock Roller Derby's first cookbook is hot off the press and just in time for the holiday cooking season. Proceeds enable the league to offer free junior roller derby to youth in our community. It features recipes like Raspberry Jammer Cookies and Assaulted Caramel Apple Cake, from local roller derby players and their families, along with fantastic photos and anecdotes. Find the cookbook at upcoming holiday fairs, local storefronts, online at www.monadnockrollerderby.com, or on our Facebook page. Cookbooks are $20 each and make a great gift.

Midweek Scrimmages: The public is welcome to watch our midweek scrimmages, where players from other teams join us to play the game of roller derby in the off-season. We also offer training for anyone who wants to learn the ropes of officiating, on or off skates. Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 PM at Great Brook School. Please email ahead to be sure we are still on: contact@monadnockrollerderby.com

Keep us rolling! Monadnock Roller Derby is a mission-driven non-profit organization. Our members are real local people who challenge themselves and one another and love giving back to our community. Consider becoming a skating or non-skating member, or an individual or business sponsor. Visit www.monadnockrollerderby.com for more information.

Down Year for Piping Plovers

It was a difficult summer for the state-endangered and federally threatened piping plovers on Hampton and Seabrook beaches this year. This summer, three pairs nested on Hampton Beach with two chicks fledged (25+ days old), while on Seabrook Beach four pairs of plovers fledged three chicks. Last year in New Hampshire, seven pairs of plovers nested and fledged fifteen chicks.

As soon as piping plovers return to the beaches in May, N.H. Fish and Game biologists fence off the nesting areas with exclosures, yellow rope and signs alerting people to stay clear. Once the chicks are 25-30 days old, they can fly and escape from danger and the fence comes down, opening that section of beach to recreational use once again.

Piping plover chicks are able to walk and feed on their own soon after hatching. The newborn chicks are small -- about the size of a cotton ball -- and nearly the color of sand, making them vulnerable to predation by gulls, crows, foxes, cats, and dogs, or being stepped on by humans. Raising awareness among beachgoers on how they can help protect the plovers is key to their nesting success.

This was a difficult summer for the plovers, mostly due to nest abandonment. "Territorial behavior and inclement weather caused the abandonment of two nests while two others were lost to high tides," said Samantha Morissette, Fish and Game's piping plover monitor. "One additional nest was lost on Seabrook Beach when the adult male was killed by a suspected feral cat, after which the female left."

In all, only nine chicks hatched, of which five survived to fledging. However, despite the low hatch rate, fledging more than half of the chicks that hatched can be considered a success, said Fish and Game Biologist Brendan Clifford.

Beachgoers can help protect plovers by leashing dogs, filling in holes in the sand where small chicks can get trapped, picking up trash and food on the beach that attracts gulls and crows, flying kites at least 200 yards away from plovers, and respecting signs and fencing near nesting plovers.

Conservation efforts by many partners and the cooperation of beachgoers have helped the piping plover population reach close to 2,000 pairs along the Atlantic Coast since the bird was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1986.

To learn more about New Hampshire’s Piping Plover Project visit: www.wildnh.com/nongame/project-plover.html.
Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC)

828 CVTC Trips Cancelled

Thank you CVTC Drivers for donating your time and taking your neighbors where they need to go. CVTC Drivers provide transportation for non-emergency medical and social services appointments, the grocery store, and pharmacy. Special thanks to Hancock drivers who not only drove their Hancock neighbors, but crossed town lines to drive neighbors in other towns.

At times, trip requests are cancelled by the rider because of illness or a change in plans. At other times, there may be bad weather or the doctor needs to reschedule. But, sometimes, there is simply not a driver available and the rider must look for someone to take them or cancel their appointment. For some, they have no one to call and CVTC is their only means of transportation.

Many towns in the Monadnock Region are covered by CVTC’s services but have no active drivers. These towns are Alstead, Bennington, Francestown, Greenville, Hinsdale, Marlborough, Stoddard, Surry, Temple, Troy and Winchester. From January - July, 2017 the following statistics apply:

Alstead had 8 ride requests. One was filled by a Swanzey driver; another from Hancock. Six rides were not filled.

Bennington requested 12 rides. Three each were taken by drivers from Hancock and Greenfield, two from Antrim and one each from Hillsborough and Peterborough.

Francestown had 55 ride requests. 14 were filled by Peterborough drivers, 11 from Hancock, two from Jaffrey and one from Greenfield. Five rides were not filled.

Greenville had 50 ride requests. 12 were taken by Peterborough drivers, nine from Jaffrey and seven from Fitzwilliam. Six rides were not filled.

Hinsdale had 27 requests for rides. 19 rides were taken by Fitzwilliam drivers. Six rides were not filled.

Marlborough requested 33 rides. 20 rides were taken by Nelson drivers, two each from Spofford and Dublin and one each from Swanzey and Keene.

Stoddard had 14 requests. Nine rides were taken by Peterborough drivers, two from Dublin and one from Hancock.

Surry had 35 ride requests. Walpole drivers took 19 of them, Keene, four, Rindge took three and Swanzey two.

Temple had 19 requests for rides. Four rides were taken by Peterborough drivers, three each from Jaffrey and Hancock and one each from Fitzwilliam and Lyndeborough. Two rides were not filled.

Troy had 10 requests. Three were taken by Jaffrey drivers and one from Swanzey. Four rides were not filled.

Winchester had 63 ride requests. 20 were taken by Fitzwilliam drivers, eight each were taken by Jaffrey and Swanzey, two each from Rindge and Walpole. Nine rides were not filled.

At CVTC, our drivers use their own vehicles and may choose to receive compensation for miles driven @ $.41 per mile. They select trips based on their availability. In 2016 - 2017 76 CVTC Volunteers drove 110,443 miles and donated 5,496 hours of service. The unmet need (no driver available) was 11.62% of 7,066 trip requests equaling 828 trips.

Do you have time now and again to give a neighbor a ride? Call 877-428-2882 ext. 5 to learn more about our Volunteer Driver Program. 375 Jaffrey Rd Suite 3, info@cvtc-nh.org, www.cvtc-nh.org

CVTC is a Monadnock United Way Partnership Agency.
Master Planning

The Hancock Planning Board is working on an update to our Master Plan. We need your help!

We are circulating a survey designed to learn how Hancock residents want the Town to evolve over the next decade. A copy is included in this Hancock Happenings. (Editor's Note: The survey is on this page and the back page so it can easily be torn off)

From 10 am to noon on January 13, 2018, we will hold a “visioning” session at the Meeting House. Please attend and give voice to your aspirations and concerns for the Town.

Stephen Froling, Chairman Hancock Planning Board

Residents' Survey for Vision of Hancock for 2030

By state statute the Hancock Master Plan (last officially adopted in 1997) should be updated every 10 years. In 2006 the Planning Board collected updated information including a survey of residents. That information was analyzed and recommendation formed that have influenced decisions over the last 10 years. The Planning Board is now in the process of updating the information contained in the Master Plan. They would like to collect information from Hancock residents in the form of a public meeting to be scheduled in the beginning of 2018 and also in the form of this survey. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and give the Planning Board a sense of your vision for Hancock in the next 10 years. Your opinion matters!

Please complete this form and drop it into one of the Hancock Survey return boxes before December 15, 2017. They are located at the Town Office, the Library, the Hancock Market, Fiddleheads and the Dump. You can find extra blank forms at these locations as well as online at the town website. Alternatively you can mail your completed survey to: Planning Board, c/o Town of Hancock, P.O. Box 6, Hancock, NH 03449.

1) Based on the information collected in 2006, we believe that the following statements encapsulate the desires and objects of the Hancock citizens with respect to the development of the town and region:

a) Preserve the cultural, historic and natural assets of Hancock.
   - strongly agree  - agree  - disagree  - strongly disagree  - no opinion

b) Encourage a participatory civic environment that induces sense of safety and well being.
   - strongly agree  - agree  - disagree  - strongly disagree  - no opinion

c) Encourage residential housing solutions commensurate with Hancock values.
   - strongly agree  - agree  - disagree  - strongly disagree  - no opinion

d) Encourage small scale economic development consistent with Hancock preservation values.
   - strongly agree  - agree  - disagree  - strongly disagree  - no opinion

e) Encourage land use policies which preserve open space, recreation and agricultural activities.
   - strongly agree  - agree  - disagree  - strongly disagree  - no opinion

---continued on next page---
2. Please list things that you would like to see introduced or changed in Hancock over the next 10 years.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Briefly describe your vision for the future of Hancock in the next 10 years.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Please rank your top 5 best reasons for living in Hancock. Please put a number 1 for your highest rated reason, 2 for your second rated reason and so on.

___ Natural beauty of the area
___ The character of Hancock residents
    (e.g. friendly, helpful, volunteerism, shared values)
___ Small town rural character of Hancock
___ Village center
___ Recreational opportunities
___ Good planning, housing or zoning regulations
___ Other______________________________

5. Please indicate whether you think the current zoning rules

☐ should be more restrictive  ☐ should be less restrictive  ☐ are just about right

6. Are you satisfied with the existing goods and services available in Hancock? ☐ yes  ☐ no, I would like
there to be _______________________________________________________________________________

7. The following is the approximate distribution of land use in Hancock.

Conservation Land – 8,666 acres 43%
Residential Land Use – 7,028 acres 35%
Town Owned Land – 787 acres 4%
Exempt Land (State & Fed.) – 900 acres 4.5%
Commercial Agriculture – 174 acres 1%
Commercial Land – 16 acres 0.1%
Other (roads & water bodies) – 2,432 acres 12%

Would you like to see any adjustments to these percentages? ☐ no  ☐ yes, I would like
there to be _______________________________________________________________________________

8. a) Would you ☐ favor or ☐ oppose additional residential development.

b) Would you ☐ favor or ☐ oppose additional commercial retail development.

c) Would you ☐ favor or ☐ oppose additional commercial office development.

9. How long have you lived in Hancock? ____________ Are you ☐ Male  ☐ Female?
   What is your age group? ☐ under 20  ☐ 20-40  ☐ 40-60  ☐ 60-80  ☐ over 80

10. Other comments: __________________________________________________________________________________