News from the Selectboard
Submitted by Erik Spitzbarth, Chairperson

IF MY HOME’S REASSESSTED VALUATION INCREASES, DOES THAT MEAN MY PROPERTY TAX BILL AUTOMATICALLY INCREASES? – NO

There is a misunderstanding at times on what really drives your tax bill. In simple terms, it’s all about government spending. Your property tax bill is based on two factors:

A. The Total $$$ Authorized to be Raised (sum of Education, Local, and County Budgets)
B. The Total Assessed Valuations for the Town

\[ \frac{A}{B} \times 1,000 = \text{the “Tax Rate” for the community} \]

Your Tax Bill = Your Home’s Assessed Value per / 1,000 x The Tax Rate.

If Approved Spending increases and the pool of Assessed Valuations stays the same, the Tax Rate will increase. Your Tax Bill will increase.

If Approved Spending stays unchanged, and the pool of Assessed Valuations uniformly increases, the Tax Rate will decrease. Your Tax Bill will be unchanged.

Your Tax Bill is based on individual changes in your assessment. These changes become part of the Total Pool of Assessed Evaluations (up or down).

In general terms, holding spending and increasing the pool of evaluations through improvements and growth, reduce the Individual Tax Burden. Reducing spending has even a greater effect. Spend More, Pay More

CALL TO DUTY: Our town is blessed to be called home to almost a 100 US military veterans. There are a number of events through out the year where your participation is acknowledged and appreciated. We are also looking to organize a social get-together in 2019. To learn more, please contact Jon Coyne at Town Hall (525-4441).

CALL FOR PICTURES: We are looking for photos for the 2018 Town Report cover. Share your “Kodak moment” (old timer joke / LOL) Photos should be sent to the town office by January 18th and can be emailed to Office@hancocknh.org

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE: The group has issued their Interim Status Report for 2018. This excellent read can be found on the Town Website: http://www.hancocknh.org/

APPOINTMENTS & RECOGNITIONS:
Emily Daniels – Recreation Committee
Sean Kerwin – Old Home Days Committee
Sean Kerwin – Fireworks Committee
Henry Sanders – Forest Management Committee

Kudos to our new members. There are still positions open for committees. Check in with Linda and Jon at Town Hall for more information.

DPW New Hire: Ricky PlanKey has joined the department as the Building & Grounds Supervisor. When you see Ricky working on Main Street, give him a wave.

Happy New Year
The Hancock Fire Department and Fire Department Auxiliary and especially the Family of Bill Eva would like to thank all who attended the memorial celebration for Bill Eva. It was a sad time but also a joyous time as we all came together, told stories, and remembered the life of a man who touched us all. To see so many people from near and far was an honor in itself. We would also like to express our gratitude to Peterborough Fire & Rescue for providing emergency coverage and an amazing tribute with the American Flag suspended from the aerial ladder truck. For me, that day was a very humbling experience that I will never forget.

On a lighter note let’s talk about fires in the home and carbon monoxide poisoning. This is the time of year when I find it necessary to remind our good citizens about safe heating with space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. When the weather outside is frightful, it may seem like the perfect time to light a warm, crackling fire in an indoor fireplace. But when cold weather hits, fire risk increases. Severe storms can knock out power intermittently throughout the winter and cause homeowners to use alternative heating methods that may be unreliable or unsafe.

Even though a winter house fire may seem like a scenario where “it couldn’t happen to you,” it’s critical to always be prepared.

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires after cooking. Most home heating fires occur in the early evening hours between 5 and 9 p.m. While most of the confined fires — fires confined to chimneys, flues or fuel burners — accounted for 75 percent of home heating fires, many of the nonconfined home heating fires — fires that spread past the object of origin — happened because the heat source (like a space heater or fire place) was too close to things that can burn. Now is the time to put a freeze on winter fires.

You also should be aware of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels such as gasoline, wood, coal, propane, etc. do not burn completely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. Carbon monoxide incidents are more common during the winter months, and in residential properties. Please make sure you have a CO alarm in your house. Portable generators are useful during power outages however, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. The most common dangers associated with portable generators are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire hazards. And don’t let a car idle in the garage so it is warm when you get in to leave. CO in the garage can permeate into the house and cause all kinds of problems – like death.

One of my all-time favorite quotes is from the movie Backdraft. Ronald, the arsonist played by Donald Sutherland, says, “The funny thing about firemen is … night and day, they are always firemen.” And for the most part, that is very true. Ask any of your friends or family, and they will give you plenty of humorous examples. We are firefighters all the time. We wear the shirts and hats, our cars have the stickers, we have the attitude and, most importantly, we take care of people 24/7/365 with little that would stop us, especially being “off-duty.”

Raffle winners for the month:
$40.00 - Brad Geer
$20.00 - Dana Cole
$10.00 – Karen McWhorter, Marilyn Littman,
Rick Weyerhauser
Recycling in the Town of Hancock is Mandatory

Recently recycling is going through many changes; it is becoming more difficult and more expensive. The Town must pay for the removal of some recyclables which are removed at less cost per ton than regular trash.

It is important to keep recyclables clean and not contaminated: no caps on bottles & jugs; only correct numbers on plastic can be recycled.

Did you know that:
* hauling away the 2 trash-dumpsters costs the Town $ 95 per ton?
* hauling away the glass-container costs the Town $ 30 per ton?
  if contaminated with non-acceptable glass, ceramics, etc.: $ 150 per ton.
* many towns in the region charge fees for disposing all trash at their recycling centers.

Questions? Please ask the attendants.
Respectfully submitted by the Dump Committee

Survey from the Road Committee
The back pages of this month’s Happenings (pages 19 & 20) is a survey from the Road Committee, which can be ripped or cut off. The Road Committee requests that residents please complete the survey and place it in one of three survey boxes located at the Hancock Market, Post Office and Library. Or mail to the Town at PO Box 6.
News from the Hancock Congregational Church

A Mini-Retreat to Start Off the New Year
January is the perfect time of year for looking ahead, for spiritual reflection, and for spending a winter’s afternoon in the company of others. We invite you to join us for such experience on Sunday afternoon, January 20 in the Vestry from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Local artist Melody Russell will bring us some paints and lead us in an exploration of the color blue, with Pastor Judy Copeland offering thoughts for reflection along the way. Refreshments will be served and all are invited. There is no charge for this event, but we ask you to sign-up ahead of time at Hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com or 525-4626.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon
The First Congregational Church of Hancock, UCC will hold its Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. A simple luncheon of soup and sandwiches will be served, before we proceed with reports and a vote on the 2019 budget. Committee chairs are reminded that written reports are due by January 6 and should be emailed to Judy Copeland at Hancockcongregationalchurch@gmail.com. It is expected that copies of the Annual Report will be available one week before the Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Judy Copeland

“Great Decisions - 2019”
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: Refugees and Global Migration, The Middle East Regional Disorder, Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?, The rise of Populism in Europe, Decoding US-China Trade, Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics, The US and Mexico: Partnership Tested, and State of the State Department and Diplomacy. 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 14th from 1:45-4:00pm. Please call to register and for information about ordering your book: Jane Richards-Jones at 525-4485. New participants are most welcome!

Submitted by Jane Richards-Jones

From the Hancock Historical Society!

As 2019 begins, we invite you to become a member of the Hancock Historical Society.
As a member, you have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping preserve Hancock’s history as part of this all-volunteer organization. You also get invitations to events throughout the year, some for members only.

In 2018, the historical society hosted speakers on a wide-ranging variety of historical topics, parties for members and friends, a special museum exhibit on World War I in Hancock, and an Armistice Day celebration honoring the one hundred years since the armistice was signed.

Topics for the year ranged from the forgotten women of World War I and trains in Hancock to local author Haydn Pearson and New Hampshire’s covered bridges.

It’s easy and affordable to become a member. Family memberships are just $25 and individual memberships are $15.
You can send your check to HHS, PO Box 138, Hancock, NH 03449. Or simply stop in and join us for an upcoming event – keep an eye on this space to see what we have planned for 2019.

Submitted by Judy Copeland
Hancock Woman’s Club

The Holidays are now behind us and winter has set in for the next few months. The Hancock Woman’s Club invites you to our January gathering on Wednesday, the 9th at 2:00pm in the Vestry. A panel of women that were awarded scholarships in the past will share with us how they furthered their education with the help from funds they received from the Woman’s Club. It will be interesting to hear about their successes in their careers and we look forward to welcoming each of them. As always tea, coffee, and homemade delights will be served and all are welcome to join in.

The Hancock Woman’s Club will once again be offering a scholarship to an adult woman who is a resident of Hancock and enrolled in or accepted to an accredited school. Information on the procedure for applying for this assistance will be available in January. Please watch for posters and news articles with details about the application process in the next few weeks.
Community Supper

Happy New Year

Let’s all please Welcome Maggie Wright as the new Committee Chairperson.

Our next supper will be hosted by Hancock Elementary School and will be held on Thursday, January 24th. We still have a few months in 2019 that are in need of sponsorship (including February) and we are always looking for volunteers to help with set up and clean up. If you are interested in supporting this effort please contact Maggie Wright at maggie21@tds.net

Thank you from the,
Hancock Community Supper Committee

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Friends of the Hancock Town Library Annual Meeting

We invite our "Friends" for "Tea on Tuesday." Please join us for tea and treats on Tuesday, January 8th at 3:30 in the Daniels Room following our Annual Meeting. Bring a friend. Submitted by Megan Dodge

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Banner Tours and Travel LLC

A sample of our 2019 Tours

- Boston Flower Show March 14 $99pp
- An Irish Celebration Show March 16 $137pp
- Springtime in NYC May 4-5 $409pp DBL
- Ottawa Canada Aug. 15 – 18 $799pp DBL

Your Dream Vacation

- Wonders of Newfoundland Aug. 15-26
- Venice, Florence, Rome Sept. 19-26
- Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Oct. 4-9
- Iceland’s Magical Northern Lights Nov. 4-10

More destinations coming soon!

For information or reservations call Banner Tours in Hancock 603-785-2088 Email: banner@bannertoursandtravel.com

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The Hancock Area Watercolor Group will be starting a new session on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 for six weeks. Class is held in the Vestry next to the Church from 9:30am to nearly 12 noon. All levels of experience are welcome. Cost is low. For more information, call Sue Francis at 525-3313.

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Come join Kindred Spirits in a Celebration of The 1st Annual Hancock Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 21, 2019 10 am to 12 noon

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

MLK, Jr. 1963

We invite all to reaffirm their desires and hopes for our communities to embrace peace and goodwill for all. Join in this 1st Annual Hancock celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Weather permitting, we will first gather at the Hancock Town gazebo to listen to a reading of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech from 1963. (In the case of inclement weather, we will meet in the Vestry Building.)

Following the speech, we hope to have the Monadnock Area Justice Choir lead participants in song.

Beverages and an assortment of delicious treats will be served in the Vestry Building. The Hancock Elementary School students will share their own interpretations of this extraordinary man and his vision for our country and world.

Donations of non-perishable food items are appreciated and will be taken to the Peterborough Food Pantry.

This event is sponsored by the ongoing Hancock group meeting to discuss issues of race in our lives and our communities. The group is open to all.
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

Kanopy ~ Free streaming movies! Thanks to the Friends of the Hancock Town Library, we are very pleased to announce that the popular on-demand film streaming service Kanopy is now available for free to library patrons at the Hancock Town Library. Library card holders can access Kanopy and sign up to start streaming films instantly by visiting http://hancocknh.kanopy.com. Films can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by downloading the Kanopy app for iOS, Android, Apple TV, Chromecast or Roku.

Offering what the New York Times calls “a garden of cinematic delights,” Kanopy showcases more than 30,000 of the world’s best films, including award-winning documentaries, rare and hard-to-find titles, film festival favorites, indie and classic films, and world cinema with collections from Kino Lorber, Music Box Films, Samuel Goldwyn, The Orchard, The Great Courses, PBS and thousands of independent filmmakers.

Here’s how it works:
1) Go to https://hancocknh.kanopy.com/
2) Create your own free Kanopy account
3) Verify your email address
4) Add your library card. This part is the same as signing into our catalog or OverDrive. If you've never done either of those things before, stop by or give us a call so we can let you know how to do this. There is a trick to it!
5) Browse for movies and watch!
You get five movie plays each month. Each movie is checked out to you for 72 hours and you can watch the movie as many times as you like in those 72 hours. For more info, feel free to stop by or call the library at 525-4411 to speak with Amy or Jenn. Also know that the Kanopy support section (scroll all the way to the bottom to find SUPPORT) is excellent and should answer most, if not all, of your questions. Please enjoy this wonderful addition to all the great offerings here at the Hancock Town Library. Thank you, Friends of the Library!

Holiday Schedule: The library will be closed for the holiday on Monday December 31st. Wishing you a festive holiday season from all of us at the Hancock Town Library!

PING PONG TOURNAMENT It’s that time of year again. Please sign up for the Hancock Town Library’s Third Annual Ping Pong Tournament! Sign up by January 15th. We’ll start Round Robin play the week of January 21st and continue regular play for four weeks or so. Children 15 and under will be in their own group again this year. Adult and Children’s groups will still divided into Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

Here’s the criteria we use:
Beginner ~ You spend more time bending over picking up balls than hitting them
Intermediate ~ You can keep a volley going for at least half a Beatles song and can put some spin on the ball
Advanced ~ You’re quick, consistently put spin on the ball, can place the ball on inconvenient corners of the table, and can smash it good

If you won in your division last year then congratulations! You move up to the next level.

Once you sign up we’ll assign matches. You will schedule yourselves again this year but please try to play once a week so that we don’t drag this out too long. We’d like to be sticklers and say you will forfeit if you don’t play in the week you’re supposed to but the Ping Pong Brain Trust has a soft heart so will just strongly urge you to keep up. We are sticking to singles play again this year. Feel free to play doubles anytime for fun but that won’t be a category in the tournament. All are welcome to play. Please help us spread the word!

There’s a yoga class for everyone at the Hancock Town Library now…

Fridays Beginning January 4th 9:00-10:15am
Yoga for Everyone!
Join Betsy DiPrima for a gentle flow yoga class on Friday mornings, all levels welcome. Bring a yoga mat & blanket, wear comfortable clothing, blocks & straps available. Drop in $12; or $60 for 6 classes, please email: betsy.diprima@gmail.com if you have any questions. Please come early to fill out a registration form at your first class.
Mondays Beginning January 7th 9:00-10:15am
Yoga with Chris Justice
Our long-standing Monday morning yoga class with Chris Justice continues in 2019! Bring a mat, a blanket, and any other yoga accoutrements you want, though blocks & straps are available. $15/class or $60 for 6 classes.

Wednesday January 9th at 7:00pm
Game Night for Grownups!
The days are getting longer but the nights are still long so come spend time scoring at Scrabble or getting confounded by Cranium. Come relax, have fun, meet new friends and neighbors with an old fave or challenging new-in-the-box board game. Bring a game if you’ve got one, and a snack or drink to share if you like. Every second Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00pm. RSVP to the library: 525-4411 or hancocklibrary@comcast.net just so we have an idea of numbers.

Thursday January 10th at 6:30pm
What’s Cooking? The HTL Cookbook Book Club
Join us as we begin a new and delicious book club for cooks of all abilities. We’ll meet in January to choose the cookbook we’d like to peruse for recipes. Then we’ll get multiple copies of the cookbooks so that each person can take one home and choose a recipe to make for the next monthly meeting. Bring your cookbook ideas! Limited to 15 people please. Sign up by stopping by, calling (525-4411), or emailing us at hancocklibrary@comcast.net.

Tuesday January 15th 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 hosts a French language conversation group and you’re invited! The setting is very informal and is open from 5:30 to 7:00 on the third Tuesday of the month. Arrive and leave at your leisure. All levels welcome. Modeled on the Manchester Franco-American Centre’s “Prêt-à-Parler,” the sessions are free flowing and with your help, fun. Hélène Laliberté Bickford, French first-language speaker (“mais tres rouillé”) will help to keep the conversations going. “Venez tous!” Free and open to all.

Thursday January 17th at 12:30pm
Books Sandwiched In!
Join us anytime (drop in, drop out) for our monthly book club! January’s book is I Heard the Owl Call My Name by Margaret Craven. Copies are available at the front desk.

Wednesday January 16th at 7:00pm
Documentary Film: Through a Lens Darkly
The first documentary to explore the role of photography in shaping the identity, aspirations and social emergence of African Americans from slavery to the present, THROUGH A LENS DARKLY probes the recesses of American history by discovering images that have been suppressed, forgotten and lost. Bringing to light the hidden and unknown photos shot by both professional and vernacular African American photographers, the film opens a window into lives, experiences and perspectives of black families that is absent from the traditional historical canon. These images show a much more complex and nuanced view of American culture and society and its founding ideals. Inspired by Deborah Willis’s book, Reflections in Black and featuring the works of Carrie Mae Weems, Lorna Simpson, Anthony Barboza, Hank Willis Thomas, Coco Fusco, Clarissa Sligh and many others, THROUGH A LENS DARKLY introduces the viewer to a diverse yet focused community of storytellers who transform singular experiences into a communal journey of discovery - and a call to action.

A Message from Miss Jenn
Welcome to the New Year here at the Hancock Town Library! There were many generous donations made to the Children’s Room from our giving tree, and I thank you all for your continued support of our programs and services. I look forward to incorporating these new additions into our offerings in the Children’s Room.

Tuesday January 8th 3:30-4:30 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.

Monday January 14th & 28th 3:30pm-4:30pm
Coffee and Crafts with Coffee the reading dog
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!

Wednesday January 16th 3pm-5pm
Snow Forts with Marshmallows
What type of structure can you build? Come use your creativity to create and snow fort masterpiece! Marshmallows and toothpicks will be provided. Free and open to all. Registration required.

Thursdays at 10:30am Family Story time
Every Thursday morning, we will gather in the children’s room for stories, songs, and movement! All ages are welcome.
Ice Out Contest 2019 Begins

Sexton, Dick Warner, (right) instructs the Ice Out Team’s newest member, Jim Mason, (left) on details of the little church following installation on Norway Pond on Saturday, December 15, 2018 (on ice that measured five and a half inches). All systems have passed their shake-down tests including the up-dated web site at http://iceout.us. Please consult the web site for a full description of the rules, history, mechanics, technology and most everything else pertaining to the contest.

A quick summary: The Ice Out contest will run from January 1, 2019 to March 15, 2019. Contestants purchase tickets ($2 for one; $5 for three) at the Hancock Market, the Hancock Inn, Fiddleheads, or from any member of the Ice Out 2019 committee or member of the Hancock Congregational Church. On the tickets, contestants predict the date, hour, and minute the ice will go out in the spring. The prediction closest to the actual moment the ice goes out as recorded by the little church, wins one half of the money collected from all the ticket sales. The other half goes to the Meeting House/Vestry Maintenance Fund – a right worthy, thoroughly local, common cause.

Good Luck!

2019 Ice Out Committee
Submitted by Phil Jones
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We have accomplished so much in the first half of the school year. The HES community has come together as a team to work and play side by side. In addition to creating engaging and challenging academic lessons, the staff at HES hosted a Parent Literacy Learning Night, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) day for students, and our first Talent Show. There is so much to look forward to for the second half of the school year.

Here are some of our January events.

The HES after school ski club starts up on Wednesday, January 2nd. For six weeks, parents will transport participating children to Crotched Mountain for lessons and an afternoon ski.

January 11th is our Art Day. Our Art teachers, Andy Shultz and Carol Storro, along with Jeannie Connolly, Art Integration teacher, have put together a full day of art projects based on the theme “Crafts Around the World.” One of the four stations will include African Drumming with Michael Wingfield.

HES will host the January Community Supper at the Vestry on January 24th. During the week of January 21st, the children will work to make salad, corn bread, and chili. On Thursday evening, the third and fourth graders will welcome Hancock residents and serve up the chili. We look forward to giving back to a community that is supportive of Hancock Elementary School.

We are working with the Hancock “Let’s Talk about Race” group to put together a project day in celebration of Martin Luther King’s Birthday. The project will focus on celebrating our unique qualities in our HES community.

Budget voting season is upon us! Please be sure to attend the informational meetings as well as the two deliberative sessions.

Public Hearing on the proposed 2019 - 2020 school budget is scheduled for January 8th at 7:00pm in the SAU Board Room (snow date will be January 9th). The proposed budget includes an additional teacher at HES in order to maintain classes at each grade level k - 4. The regular school board meeting will follow the public hearing.

The Deliberative Meeting Part I will be held on Wednesday, February 6th from 6 - 8pm in the CVHS gym. The snow date is Thursday, February 7th.

We look forward to welcoming the Hancock Community to any and all events.
ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

Dogs in Space Exhibit to land at the Hancock Town Library

Hancock artist Janet Hulings Bleicken will exhibit a group of humorous paintings titled ‘The Contribution Made by Dogs for the Advancement of Human Flight and Space Exploration’ at the Hancock Town Library, from January 5th to February 13th.

These small (by Bleicken’s standard) paintings highlight a few moments in the glorious history of flight that might have been influenced by man’s best friend.

An opening party will be held Saturday, January 5th, from 4 to 6pm in The Daniels Room of the Hancock Town Library.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2-6pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-7pm; and Saturday 10 am-4 pm. Please call the library (525-4411) before your visit to ensure no special events are scheduled at that time.

Strelka & Belka by Janet Hulings Bleicken
News from the Depot

This month, we are honored to be featuring FOUR super-talented, seasoned singer-songwriters:

· Lisa Bastoni. Following a ten year break from music, a career change, and two children, Massachusetts songwriter Lisa Bastoni has returned with The Wishing Hour (2017). Produced by Grammy-nominated songwriter and producer Felix McTeigue and recorded mainly in the wee hours of the night in the kids' play room, the album debuted as #1 most played on Boston's WUMB. In the past year, Lisa has been selected to showcase at the New England Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) conference, as well as the Falcon Ridge and New Song Music/LEAF Festivals. Her song "Rabbit Hole" was grand prize winner of the Great American Song Contest. She has opened for artists such as Lori McKenna, The Low Anthem, Regina Spektor, and Arlo Guthrie. "Americana of the highest order...along the lines of Gretchen Peters or Patty Griffin" (Maverick-UK). Learn more about Lisa and listen to her music at http://www.lisabastoni.com/.

· Tom Smith. Tom Smith’s songs are in turns humorous, touching, thought provoking, and inspiring. Deeply rooted in the old-school folk tradition, his timeless stories are told with a voice that is honest and sincere with melodies that you will remember forever. In the words of noted WUMB-FM Boston radio DJ, Dave Palmeter, “Contrary to what a lot of people think, folk music is still a living tradition. It’s a living tradition that feeds on new songs that speak of people’s wants, people’s needs, people’s struggles and people’s triumphs. Tom Smith is more out of the tradition of say Pete Seeger and Tom Paxton than Jackson Browne or Connor Oberst. He’s a man who writes songs that seem like they’ve always been there. There are very few songwriters working today that I would call folksingers, but I would call Tom Smith a true folksinger.” Learn more about Tom and listen to his music at https://www.tomsmithmusic.com/.

· Allysen Callery. Allysen Callery is an American folksinger from RI whose delicate, austere sound has been compared to classic British folk artists like Sandy Denny and Nick Drake. Original Folk influenced by the British Isles folk revival played on a finger-picked guitar, billed in Europe as “Ghost Folk,” Allysen has been invited to play the SXSW Festival twice and tours regularly in Europe. Her music has been on labels Woodland Recordings (DE), the vinyl only labels Jellyfant Records & Cosirecords Schallplatten (DE), Reverbworship (UK) & 75 or Less Records & Mystra Records (USA). She was the winner of The Providence Phoenix Best Music Poll -Best Acoustic/Singer-Songwriter Act. As a member of the folk group Haunt The House, Allysen sang at The Newport Folk Festival in 2015. Learn more about Allysen and listen to her music at http://allysencallerymusic.com/.

· Doug Farrell. Southern New Hampshire songwriter Doug Farrell has been a mainstay on the southern New Hampshire singer song writer ecosystem and finalist in the New England Songwriting competition at the Ossipee Music Festival, receiving an honorable mention for his song "Spirit Man." He also has won first place in the New England songwriting competition at Dreamsicle studio and has been featured on various radio shows including NHPR’s "The Folk Show." You also can hear Doug in the group Decatur Creek. While Doug works on his next CD, you can hear some of his newer music on his web site. Learn more about Doug and listen to his music at https://www.dougfarrellmusic.com/.

We’ll only have a handful of open mic spots at this event, so if you want to sign up you’ll want to come early!

About the Venue
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.

All shows begin 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!).

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

February 2: Off the Cuff
March 2: The Clavis Brudon Band & Sweet Wednesday
Jan 4 (Fri)  Easygoing Hike at the Indian Arrowhead Forest Preserve
Join Rich Taylor and Lee Baker for a moderately strenuous, 3-mile roundtrip hike through the Forest Society’s Indian Arrowhead Forest Preserve in Surry, continuing on to the Cheshire Rail Trail in Westmoreland. Bring lunch and snowshoes, and meet at 10am at the southern end of Walmart parking lot on Winchester Street in Keene to carpool. Back by 2:30pm. For more info, contact Rich at (603) 827-4105, kayaks100@msn.com or Lee at 525-5262, snowman3137@gmail.com.

Jan 22 (Tue)  Forest Bathing by Moonlight
It’s a marvelous night for a moon bath, with the stars up above in your eyes! Join Susie Spikol and Marilyn Wyzga for a moonlit ramble across fields, along edges, and into the woods. Taking our cue from the Japanese Shinrin-yoku (“Forest Bathing”) practice, we’ll open our senses through gentle yoga poses, deep breathing, “coyote walking,” and quiet reflection. Come experience the moonlight. Bring snowshoes, and dress for winter weather. 7 to 8pm at the Harris Center. For more information or to reserve a pair of snowshoes, contact Susie at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 23 (Wed)  The Life and Times of New Hampshire’s Fishers
If you have a soft spot for the underdog, or just want to learn more about New Hampshire’s most misunderstood mustelid, join Harris Center naturalist and fisher aficionado Susie Spikol for this lively lunchtime talk. Noon to 1pm at the Peterborough Town Library. Bring your own lunch, and leave your cats inside at home! Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Peterborough Town Library. For more info, contact Susie at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 27 (Sun)  Family Program: Tracking Basics
Sunday, January 27 10 to 11am at the Harris Center  Free of charge
Have you ever wondered what mammals walk through your yard or leave scat on your stone wall? If you have, join us for this beginning workshop on mammal tracking! We’ll learn some basic tracking skills inside, then take our newfound knowledge out into the field in search of tracks and sign – a perfect learning opportunity for families with children in elementary school. Bring snowshoes, or reserve a pair of ours when you register. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, contact Sara LeFebvre at 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org. For more info, contact Susie Spikol at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 31 (Thu)  Charlie and the Curious Otters Film
This playful documentary follows wildlife filmmaker Charlie Hamilton James as he chronicles the rehabilitation of three orphaned river otters and travels across the globe in search of other otter species — revealing the secrets of their survival through never-before-seen footage. Following the film, Harris Center naturalist and otter aficionado Susie Spikol will be on hand for questions, along with an assortment of otter-related artifacts from the Harris Center’s natural history collection. 7 to 8:30pm in the Putnam Theater at Keene State College. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Monadnock Conservancy and the KSC Film Society. For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen at (603) 358-2065 or thelen@harriscenter.org.

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.
NORWAY POND FESTIVAL SINGERS
WELCOME NEW SINGERS
FOR THEIR FEBRUARY PERFORMANCE OF

PIPPIN

On February 10th, the Norway Pond Festival Singers will present a concert performance of the musical *PIPPIN*. Soloists from New York and Boston will join forces with our chorus, in a performance similar to the way *Fiddler on the Roof* was presented last year. This might be the perfect way for people who love to sing, to stave off winter doldrums and to reveal your hidden Broadway persona!

*PIPPIN* was a Broadway hit first in 1972 and the revival won several Tony awards three years ago.

It is the story of Pippin, a young prince who longs to find passion, adventure and meaning in his life. He is the son of Charlemagne. The music is far from “classical” and extremely contagious and fun to sing.

Rehearsal are either Thursdays at noon or Sunday afternoons.

If you are interested in joining the troupe or have any questions about the commitment, contact me, Jody Simpson at jhs085@aol.com or at 525-9303.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is looking for caring individuals to join their team of local volunteers this upcoming tax season to offer free tax-filing help to those who need it most. There is no experience necessary to volunteer; training and continued support will be provided in a welcoming environment.

**Good with the fine print?** Help prepare taxes, we provide IRS certification!

**Have a knack for running things?** Manage volunteers and help operations run smoothly.

**Skilled in all things digital?** Ensure taxpayer data security and provide technical assistance.

**Love working with people?** Welcome taxpayers and help organize their paperwork.

**Want to help get the word out?** Be a communications coordinator in your community.

**Speak a second language?** You're urgently needed!

Get that great feeling from helping your neighbors in need by joining your local volunteer team today!

A quick call or email is all it takes to get the process started. To find out more about AARP Tax-Aide, contact the Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center at 603-357-6893 or send an email to rsvo@mfs.org. Monadnock RSVP is a program of Monadnock Family Services, a Monadnock United Way Agency.

*AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS.*
Upcoming Programs
Saturday, January 26th: Sharing Winter's Nature with Children from 9:00am - 12:00. Join the Grapevine's Carol Lunan and The Harris Center's Susie Spikol for a morning of discovery! Learn how to keep winter's natural world alive in your classroom. Make a beeswax model of a fox, or needle felt an owl, or plant a winter garden and find out all the ways this season can make your classroom feel alive...and more fun activities!! Certificate of attendance available. Geared toward educators and those working with children. Program will take place at the Harris Center in Hancock. Cost: $40, includes materials fee. Call the Grapevine to register.

Saturday, February 9th: 2nd Annual Snow Families Outdoor Play Day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00: Join us for a morning of fun for all ages at The Grapevine, 4 Aiken Street. A free, fun morning for kids and families to create snow(man) families, bird feeders, do some snowshoeing and sledding and enjoy warm treats. Bring your sled and stay for the Chili Cookoff next door at the Tuttle Library! This event is FREE but if you would like to contribute supplies or help plan, contact the Grapevine.

Thursday, January 31st: The Vine Story Hour – Misadventures! @ 7 p.m. at 42 Main Street, Antrim. Based off the popular MOTH Story Hour that airs on NPR, The Vine Story Hour invites storytellers to bring their story to the Avenue A “stage”. This event is for adults and older teens. Admission is by donation. Refreshments provided. Join us for an evening of captivating stories! Proceeds benefit our programs for local youth! Our theme for this event is "Misadventures". If you have a story to share, please email Jacqueline at avenuea@grapevinenh.org.

Beginning January 21st: Free Tax Preparation with Larry Schwartz of PCH Financial
IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Monday afternoons by appointment from January 21 - April 15. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now to schedule your appointment - slots fill quickly!

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Youth Programs at Avenue A Teen + Community Center, 42 Main Street, Antrim
Friday Night Open Hours for Teens 13-18; 6:30-9pm
Tabletop Game Club for teens in 7th grade and up - Mondays 5:30-8pm
Middle School Creative Writing Club for grades 7 & 8 Tuesday 2:15 to 4:15
High School Creative Writing Club - Tuesdays 6-8pm
Ave A Club for GBS Students: For grades 5-8, Wednesdays 2:15-4:15 pm; starting in October.
Pick Up Basketball: For Boys Grades 8 and Up, Wednesdays 7:15 – 8:15 pm; at the Antrim Town Gym at Antrim Elementary School.
For our full Winter Schedule visit us at Facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter!

Ongoing Programs & Resources
Rolling Registrations for our weekly Children’s Programs! Please call Carol at 588-2620 to register for programs, or for more information.

The Grapevine is a nonprofit service organization located behind the Tuttle Library and serving residents in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Franconita, Hillsborough, Deerfield 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 our center at 4 Aiken Street. Visit us online at www.grapevinenh.org. LIKE us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org/ and on Instagram: @thegrapevinefrc

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603.371.1910 - Direct
603.924.8373 - Office
email: glendalewis@masiello.com
Hancock Hours and Meetings

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

Tax Collector - Thursday 9:00am to 4:30pm
Town Clerk – Monday 5:00 to 8:00pm
   Wednesday 3:00 to 6:00pm
   Closed on Federal Holidays

Town Dump and Demolition Hours – Wednesday 3:00 to 7:00pm; Saturday 8:00am to 5:00pm
Selectboard – First three Mondays at 1:00pm; 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, meetings will be noticed; Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room

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 – 1st Wednesday of the month 11am, 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.
Distribution—Hope Pettegrew, Sandy Brooks, Josephine & Richard Warner, Marcia Coffin and Rod Perry (and we will always be grateful for Edna Drasba)
Printing by Gem Graphics, Keene, NH
Monthly issues are placed at the Hancock Market, Post Office, Fiddleheads, Library, Dump and distributed to the students at Hancock Elementary School during the school year. Current and past issues can be found online on the Town website hancocknh.org and at the Hancock Historical Society

Nameplate by Eleanor Amidon
HANCOCK ROAD COMMITTEE SURVEY

The Hancock Road Committee was recently appointed by the Select Board in order to “preserve the tranquility and beauty that our rural roads provide, not only as a way of life, but as cultural icons that have disappeared in many rural parts of our state.”

There are fifty eight roads in the town of Hancock. Twenty five miles of Hancock’s roads are paved/asphalt and twenty three are dirt/gravel. Eight of Hancock’s roads are designated “scenic” by the NH Scenic Roads Act (RSA 231, 1971).** The town maintains and plows all the Class V roads except for the state roads: Rt 123 (including Main Street), Rt 137 and Forrest Road. The state roads are maintained and plowed by the state of NH and are outside the purview of the Road Committee.

The committee will “identify features and qualities that contribute to the rural character of Hancock’s roads, gather input from residents and non-resident property owners throughout the town, assess traffic volume and recreational uses of the roads, and recommend guidelines for maintenance that balances the preservation of rural character with effective road maintenance.”***

We greatly appreciate your feedback as we develop the road maintenance guidelines. Please complete the survey by January 11, 2019 and put it in a survey box at the Hancock Market, Library or Post Office. You can also mail it to Road Committee, Town Office, 50 Main Street, Hancock, NH 03449.

FOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, PLEASE CIRCLE ALL ANSWERS THAT APPLY:

1. What road do you live on, and is it dirt/gravel or paved/asphalt?

| __________________________ | dirt/gravel | paved/asphalt |

2. Estimate how many cars a day drive by your house.

| less than 50 | 50-150 | 150-350 | more than 350 |

3. How many times a day, in total, do the occupants of your household drive on your road? __________

4. How satisfied are you with the present condition of your road?

| very unsatisfied | not very satisfied | satisfied | Very satisfied |

5. What changes to your road, if any, would you like to see (other than speed)?
6. Do you use any roads recreationally, including your own, for (check as many as apply):

- Walking or jogging
- dog walking
- horseback riding
- Biking
- driving for pleasure
- other ________________________

Which roads? ____________________________________________________________

7. How important is it to you to maintain the scenic beauty and rural characteristics of Hancock’s roads?

- not important
- somewhat important
- Important
- very important

8. What do you consider to be the most important rural characteristics of our roads to preserve and maintain? (put two circles around your first choice)

- boulders
- dirt/gravel
- indigenous flora & fauna
- minimum signage
- narrowness
- stone walls
- tranquility
- tree canopy
- tree lined
- winding
- Others? ________________________

9. Are there any dirt/gravel roads you would like to see paved? Yes  No

   If yes, which ones?

   ______________________________________________________________

10. Are there any paved/asphalt roads you would like to see returned to dirt/gravel? Yes  No

    If yes, which ones? ____________________________________________

11. What are your favorite roads in Hancock (in order of preference)? __________

   ______________________________________________________________

12. Any other thoughts or comments? _______________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________

* (from the committee’s vision statement)
** Depot Rd (dirt part only), Eaton Rd, Jacquith Rd, Kings Hwy, Middle Hancock Rd, Old Dublin Rd, Pickering Farm Rd, Willard Pond Rd.
*** (from the committee’s mission statement). Full statements can be found on the town’s website.