First, I would like to remind everyone that voting day is March 14th and Town Meeting is March 18th. Please vote. At Town Meeting, we will have the operating budget and eighteen warrant articles to consider. The operating budget is Article 1. The costs related to the warrant articles will be offset by using the unassigned fund balance. This allows the Town tax to be reduced slightly from last year. If an article does not pass, the proposed amount would remain in the unassigned fund balance for use in the future. The potential impact on the tax rate per thousand is shown for informational purposes.

Article 2 is for a lease on a new dump truck to replace the 2001 International which has developed numerous problems. The Board with our Public Works Director have looked at both repairing the existing truck and replacing it. Our conclusion was that it would take a considerable amount to correct all of the problems on the existing truck with no assurance that it would extend its use enough to justify the expense. The cost of the new truck is $156,900 and would be leased for 5 years at $34,505 per year. At the end of the lease, the truck will be the property of the Town. If the truck develops serious problems during the five years, we can return it with no penalty. This is the same process that was used with our last truck. The potential tax impact is $0.138.

Article 3 is for the replacement of the docks and raft at Norway Pond. The cost is $19,000 and the potential tax impact is $0.076.

Article 4 is a police radar sign. The cost is $5,000 and the potential tax impact is $0.020.

Article 5 is to create a Cemetery Capital Reserve of $10,000. The purpose is for the expansion of Hillside Cemetery for cremation lots which is expected to cost $50,000. This will be requested for an additional four years. The potential tax impact is $0.040.

Article 6 is $5,000 for the Meetinghouse Capital Reserve which is requested every year. The potential tax impact is $0.020.

Article 7 is $20,000 for the Bridge Capital Reserve. This is an increase of $10,000 over previous years’ requests. The replacement of the Longview Road bridge is expected in 2020 and this will allow the work to begin on the engineering design and construction documents. The potential tax impact is $0.080.

Article 8 is $5,000 annual request for the Grapevine. The potential tax impact is $0.020.

Article 9 is a new request of $1,000 for the Grapevine Avenue A teen program. The potential tax impact is $0.004.

Article 10 is $2,500 for July 4th Fireworks. The potential tax impact is $0.010.

Article 11 is $500 for Contoocook Valley Transportation. The potential tax impact is $0.002.

Articles 12 through 16 are the usual Special Revenue appropriations.

Articles 17 and 18 are petition warrant articles and are available at the Town Office.

Article 19 is for any further business.

I hope to see many of you at Town Meeting.
Now that I have assumed the role of Fire Chief, I also get to let everyone know what has been happening for the last month. I probably don’t have the wit and wisdom of Nevan, however I hope to make the monthly article educational and enjoyable reading for all. Looking back to when I first joined the department I can see so many changes in the fifteen years I have been a member of the department. We moved here from Nebraska and I knew I would have to seek out the fire department. It was in my blood, In the Midwest I had already served as a Rescue Captain, Assistant Chief, and Fire Chief. I figured that nobody here knew what I had done before and so I could just be a plain old firefighter and run the pump. Needless to say that didn’t pan out and in those fifteen years I have served you as Captain, Assistant Chief, and now Fire Chief. I feel that Hancock has one of the best departments and some of the best Firefighters and EMT’s around. In the last few years we have moved forward by great leaps and bounds with improved training and improved skills to provide what you expect of us – top notch quality service and care.

During this last month we seemed to have more automatic fire alarms than normal. That is when we are called because of an alarm activation. Sometimes this is because of a faulty detector, cooking (dinners ready), steam from a shower, or a young child just being inquisitive. Even if we are told it is a false alarm we still send at least one officer to check this out. So don’t be alarmed when we still show up. Better safe than sorry.

With the winter winding down (hopefully) we need to remind everyone of the dangers than are just around the corner. Half of all home fire deaths happen at night, when people are sleeping. Make sure your home is protected by working **SMOKE ALARMS ON EVERY FLOOR and IN EVERY BEDROOM. TEST your smoke alarms** every month. It is a FACT that if your smoke alarms are over 10 years old, THEY NEED to be **REPLACED**. Keep loved ones safe with clean smoke alarms. **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS** should be properly placed throughout the home and working according to manufacturer’s directions. Make sure you have an **ESCAPE PLAN** with **TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM**. And last, but not least, **STAY OFF OF THIN ICE**.

I would like thank the members of the Hancock Fire Department and the Selectboard for their confidence in my abilities, and more importantly, for giving me this opportunity to serve the community. Hancock has a great volunteer fire department. All volunteers ask for is proper clothing and gear, good equipment and insurance in case they don’t come home from a fire. They receive no salary, no 401k, no vacation, no pension...and still they show up whenever they are called, day or night. There’s no better people in the world than volunteer firefighters.

The winners of the February raffle are:
George Lohmiller, $40.00; Jeff Brown, $20.00, Sandy Taylor, $10.00, Elaine Paquette, $10.00, Eliza Harris, $10.00.
Town Meeting Ballot on Planning Board Issues
The Planning Board has put forward two proposals to amend the Zoning Ordinance which will be decided by ballot on the Tuesday before Town Meeting:

Amendment 1 brings our Zoning Ordinance into conformity with 2016 legislation which requires all towns to allow accessory apartments in all districts which allow housing. For Hancock, this is a modest change since it would expressly allow such apartments in the commercial district as well as the residential and rural & agricultural districts. The apartment must be within or attached to the principal dwelling. Up to two bedrooms would be allowed but the apartment may not exceed 768 square feet. Historic District regulations are not changed and still apply.

Amendment 2 seeks to regulate animal husbandry and certain other agricultural activities on small (less than five acre) lots in the Residential District. Owners who propose to keep more than four quadrupeds or 12 fowl or a rooster would be required to apply for a conditional use permit and to show compliance with state best practices for, among other things, shelter and waste handling.

Details of these proposals are available in Town Hall. Both proposals have the support of the Planning Board.

Hancock Planning Board
Stephen Froling, Chairman

HANCOCK CANDIDATES FOR TOWN ELECTION 2017
Selectman: John Jordan
Town Clerk: Sarah Tracy
  Carolyn Boland
Water Commissioner: Jeffrey Wilder
Common Commissioner: Sonja Mucha
Library Trustee: Alison Rossiter
Trustee of the Trust Funds: David Huntington
Cemetery Trustee: Mary Teal Garland

TOWN ELECTION:
Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 8:00am to 7:00pm
To be held at the Town Meeting Room
(Lower Level of the Town Hall)

TOWN MEETING:
Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:00am
To be held at the Meetinghouse

PROPERTY, LANDSCAPING & TREE SERVICES
CARETAKING & FARM SERVICES
It's the right time of year for an annual pruning of your fruit trees, fruiting ornaments and many other shrubs and trees. Pruning increases fruit quality, tree strength, accessibility, health and aesthetics. Contact us for a free estimate.

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broadforkaco@gmail.com
HANCOCK HAPPENINGS
March 2017

HANCOCK MARKET

SAME AS IT EVER WAS…

Same hours, same people behind the counters - now with a few new, yet familiar, faces from across the street sprinkled in to give Nancy & Ed a well-deserved break. But, fear not! They’ll still be around teaching us the ropes and keeping up with the goings on around town for a while.

The current market has benefited from local ownership and the Adams clearly understood the importance of well-stocked shelves and a sociable environment. We hope to carry on those traditions and, using our relationships and resources at The Hancock Inn & Fox Tavern, continue to grow the market into the village country store our neighbors want and need.

From us, and on behalf of all the customers who’ve expressed the same, thank you Nancy and Ed for bringing a vibrant local market back to Hancock and for a great five years.

Sincerely,
Marcia & Jarvis Coffin

Hancock Historical Society

Thanks to Ellena Weston for presenting an interesting and informative program at the Daniels Room on February 19th titled Ice Harvesting in Hancock. Ellena explained the process and tools used in the labor intensive process involved in cutting and storing ice that was once harvested from Nubanusit Lake as well as Norway and Willard Ponds in the days before electrical refrigeration. She drew upon facts she gathered from a review of Peterborough Transcript articles and Weston family lore, particularly the memories of her father, William Weston Jr., who was one of the last(and youngest) Hancock residents to participate in the ice harvests. Ellena also included information on larger operations outside of Hancock, particularly those of “Ice King” Frederick Tudor, father of former Hancock resident Elsa Tudor dePierrefeu. Audience members shared memories and experiences of their own, and the program ended with a DVD showing larger scale harvesting operations outside Hancock.

The Society Museum Committee is in the early stages of planning an exhibit to commemorate the participation of 28 of Hancock’s young men in the Great War (WW I) which involved Americans from 1917 until the Armistice on November 11, 1918. We request information from family members or anyone who has a connection to the men whose names are included on the monument on our Common. Those men are:

We are hoping to locate information about any part, however large or small, of the stories of these veterans. We also welcome the assistance of volunteers willing to help research their stories. If you can help, please contact Bobbie Nylander at 525-6649. We will welcome any kind of contribution to this important project.
Submitted by Roberta D. Nylander

The Hancock Inn
INNKEEPERS’ SUNDAY SUPPER

We’re taking a brief hiatus...

SUNDAY SUPPER RETURNS
APRIL 30TH

Please rejoin us then.
5:30 – 7:00PM

RESERVATIONS Encouraged
603-525-3318  www.hancockinn.com
Ice Out Contest Ends March 15, 2017 5:00 PM

Ticket sales and collections end on March 15, 2017 assuming there is still ice in Norway Pond. As of February 21, 2017 there were 194 tickets on record at Ice Out Central and receipts totaled $739.00.

For up to the second information on the status of the ice, check out the web site

Hancock.iceout.us

Tickets may also be purchased and submitted on this site until the deadline March 15, 2017.

The winning guess (closest to the actual Ice Out Date and Time) will receive half of the total funds collected. The other half will be used to maintain the Meeting House and Vestry.

Thank you all who participate, and good luck.

Ice Out Committee 2017

Private Chef, Cooking lessons, Personal Assistant, & Elderly Care/Companionship
Liliana Musteata is highly experienced and is seeking new clients in the Monadnock region. Please contact her to learn more: 603-313-4762

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Serving Hancock homes since 1969
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Blue Skies Roofing
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John Norton
Hancock, NH 03449
(603) 525-4777

OurTownLandscaping.com
Tony Tedesco had just finished playing an extremely demanding show that required every bit of his advanced training as a percussionist. As he was wheeling his drums through the lobby after the performance, an elderly Jewish lady smiled appreciatively at him and remarked, “Nice banging!”

We would like to thank the Divine Mercy Parish Woman’s Guild for hosting our February Community Supper. The turkey dinner they served was fabulous, both delicious and nutritious!

Our next community supper will be held of March 23rd and is hosted by Seven Maples Campground.

Submitted by: Mike and Carol Domingue

Halvorson New Media of Hancock offers Facebook for Business classes in March

Chris Halvorson of Halvorson New Media, will present a beginning class in "Facebook for Business" March 24th, 11:30am at the Hancock Town Library. Cost of the 2-hour class is $35. Participants can register online, or by calling Chris at 603-203-0593 or emailing Chris@HalvorsonNewMedia.com.

Learn more and register here: https://facebookhancock.eventbrite.com

This workshop will get you started in using Facebook by showing you how to create a Page for your business and how to use it effectively to get noticed. The material is perfect for small businesses, sole proprietors, artists, writers, and crafters, as well as nonprofits—or any organization that has yet to launch a Facebook Page or has struggled with ones they are managing.

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To place an ad, call 903-0190 or email happenings@hancocknh.org
Hancock Town Library Events
Amy Markus, Hancock Library Director
http://hancocktownlibrary.blogspot.com
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 to 6:00pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am to 7:00pm
Saturdays 10:00am to 4:00pm

SO MUCH GOING ON!!!

Get out your calendars, you’re going to need to write these down! First of all,

the First Annual HTL Ping Pong Tournament is still going on well into March as we begin our Elimination Round after several weeks of Round Robin play. Now this gets serious. The players with the winningest records in each category (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) will be playing each other until we get to a winner for each category. Many thanks to artist Kim Cunningham for making fabulous prizes from her finds at the Swap Shack. Play hard my friends, you will want one of these trophies on your mantel. Watch our Facebook page or the website for information on how the tournament is going!

Peeps Dioramas
Get creative and save those shoeboxes! We will be hosting Literary Peeps Dioramas (*War & Peeps anyone?*) in our display case for the month of April. Bring in your diorama by April 6th. Please include a title and the names for everyone who worked on your diorama. Open to all ages (c’mon you grown-ups, let’s have some fun)!

Learning Japanese
As some of you know our Children’s Librarian Jenn Wood is working on learning Japanese. For the month of March we invite the community of Hancock to join in the fun! We will be putting up labels and signs in Japanese and practicing basic greetings in Japanese. If any of you know Japanese, please come help us out! We will even be mixing in a few fun Japanese flairs to our storytimes this month!

Thursday March 2nd at 7:00pm
*Walking from Here to There: Finding My Way on El Camino with Christy Day*

*Walking from Here to There: Finding My Way on El Camino* is about Christy Day’s experience during her 500-mile Pilgrimage across northern Spain. The book is equal parts reflection, a factual account of the challenges and joys of the Pilgrimage, and practical advice for preparing for it and making it the best experience possible. Read it if you are planning to walk El Camino de Santiago de Compostela. Read it if you know you never will and want to know what it is like. Christy Day is a Wyoming ranch girl who migrated to the East Coast and is now firmly rooted in New Hampshire. At the age of 66 she walked El Camino de Santiago de Compostela and found it to be a transformative experience. Free and open to all.

Thursday March 9th
3:30-5:00pm for Kids (age 12 & up, younger if accompanied by an adult) & 7:00pm for Adults
*Funktion Junktion with Johnny Bolster*

*Make It So* (Monadnock Makerspace) will be hosting fun and invention as we play Funktion Junktion. This is a game about creating functional contraptions using tools and post-consumer products. Perfect for all ages! Discover the inventor in you. Participants are encouraged to bring a few clean, recyclable objects for this lively and entertaining game. Examples include milk jugs, salad containers, cardboard tubes, old keys, bits of wire - anything you can find around the house! Tools will be provided. Johnny Bolster is the coordinator of *Make It So*, the Monadnock Makerspace and founder of The Portal to Art, Innovation and Culture. He has a degree in Product Design from Keene State College and lives in Keene with his girlfriend and 7 chickens. Free and open to all.

Tuesday March 14th from 6:00-7:00pm
*Representative Jon Manley*

Join State Representative Jon Manley (representing Bennington, Greenfield, Hancock) for his regularly scheduled (the second Tuesday of every month) public update on what’s happening at the state house in Concord. Bring your questions! Snacks provided so stop by on your way home from work. -continued to page 8
Thursday March 23rd at 12:30pm
Books Sandwiched In
Just for this month our book club will be meeting the fourth Thursday of the month instead of the third. Join us as we discuss David Mitchell’s book The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet. Copies of the book are available at the front desk thanks to the wonders of interlibrary loan!

Thursday March 23rd at 7:00pm
Ask A Muslim Anything with Robert Azzi
Have you ever wanted to talk to a Muslim? Someone who could be your co-worker or neighbor? Ask A Muslim Anything is an opportunity for conversation on aspects of belief, identity, and practice -- or whatever comes up. Nothing is off-limits as long as it is respectfully presented. Robert Azzi is a photojournalist, columnist and public speaker who lives in Exeter NH. An Arab American Muslim, he writes on issues of Identity, Conflict, and Islam, particularly as they apply in the Middle East and the Global South. Born in New Hampshire, he’s lived in Beirut, Cairo, Athens, Jeddah and New York. Although he returned to the Granite State in the late 1980s, he continues to travel to work with Middle East clients and friends on a regular basis. Azzi has been Nieman Fellow in Journalism at Harvard University, a member of the Leadership Council of the Harvard Divinity School, an advisor to Tufts University’s Fletcher School committee on Islam and South-West Asia and recently became a board member of ACLU-NH. As a photojournalist his work appeared frequently in such publications as Time, Newsweek and National Geographic, Fortune, Epoca, Paris Match, and other domestic and international publications. Today, Azzi is a columnist whose work appears (almost) weekly in four New Hampshire newspapers – The Concord Monitor, Foster’s Daily Democrat (Dover), The Keene Sentinel and The Portsmouth Herald – where he attempts to contextualize, for an “Outside-the-Beltway” audience, Islam and the Middle East by speaking in the voice of The Other. “People don’t know what they don’t know,” Azzi tells his audience. “I want to open up new perspectives for my readers – especially for those who don’t often agree with me – and expose them to points-of-view I believe are important and which they might not have previously considered.” This program is free and open to all.

Thursday March 30th at 7:00pm
True Times & Tales of the Fisher w/ Susie Spikol Faber
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 Faber for this lively talk. Leave your cats inside at home! Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and the Hancock Town Library. Free and open to all.

From the Children’s Room
Jenn Wood, Children’s Librarian

Spring into Reading Contest! March 1st - March 31st @ The Hancock Town Library
The Hancock Town Library and the Altemont Masonic Lodge of Peterborough, NH have joined together to present a spring reading challenge to the children and teens of Hancock, NH.

Starting March 1st for every hour you spend reading you can earn one raffle ticket for the prizes. Simply fill out your ticket and place it into the bucket for the prize you want to win. Prizes will be awarded on April 3rd at 3:30pm in a celebration with snacks!

The Masonic Lodge is graciously donating bicycles for some of the prizes as part of their Books for Bikes program. Some lucky winners will read their way to a new bike just in time for Spring!

Wednesday March 1st 3:00pm-4:00pm Robots!
The library has three robots which we use to practice coding and problem solving skills. We will be testing out Dash the robot’s puzzle mode and see how many puzzles we can solve! The coding mice will be out for the younger coders to play with. Open to all ages, younger children should be accompanied by a parent.

Thursday March 2nd Read-A-Thon
We will be holding the Read-A-Thon from 10am-7pm. Sign up at the front desk and see how long you can read! Prizes will be given for 2hrs, 4hrs, and 6+ hours read. All hours read can also count towards the Spring Into Reading Contest.

Monday March 6th 3:30pm-4:30pm
Read to Coffee the Chihuahua
Coffee will be here for children of all ages to practice their reading skills with.

Tuesday March 7th 3:30pm-4:30pm LEGO Club
Come and build your own LEGO creation to put on display. Open to ALL ages.

Wednesday March 8th 4:30pm-5:30pm
Teen Advisory Board
The Teen Advisory Board will be beginning to talk about Summer Reading ideas! Do you want a say in what your prizes are and what events or performers we have? Join us! Ages 10 and up.

———continued to page 9
Thursday March 9th
3:30-5:00pm for Kids (age 12 & up, younger if accompanied by an adult) & 7:00pm for Adults
Funktion Junktion with Johnny Bolster
Make It So (Monadnock Makerspace) will be hosting fun and invention as we play Funktion Junktion. This is a game about creating functional contraptions using tools and post-consumer products. Perfect for all ages! Discover the inventor in you. Participants are encouraged to bring a few clean, recyclable objects for this lively and entertaining game. Examples include milk jugs, salad containers, cardboard tubes, old keys, bits of wire - anything you can find around the house! Tools will be provided. Johnny Bolster is the coordinator of Make It So, the Monadnock Makerspace and founder of The Portal to Art, Innovation and Culture. He has a degree in Product Design from Keene State College and lives in Keene with his girlfriend and 7 chickens. Free and open to all.

Saturday March 18th 11am Read to Toven
Toven will be here from 11am to Noon. Come read or share stories with this gentle giant.

Monday March 20th 3:30-4:30pm
Read to Coffee the Chihuahua
Coffee will be here for children of all ages to practice their reading skills with.

Tuesday March 21st 3:30pm-4:30pm Robots!
Join in the fun as we see how far we can get in Dash’s problem solving app. How many coding puzzles will be able to solve? Dash the Robot uses a coding interface similar to Scratch.

Wednesday 3:30pm-4:30pm “Stained Glass” Craft
We will be using black paper cutouts and filling them in with colored tissue paper. We will then be using clear plastic to seal them to create colorful window hangings. Sign up at the front desk. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Thursdays at 10:30am Storytime
Every Tuesday morning we have a family storytime where we read some stories and sing some songs together. Join us for a fun morning of activities and make some friends.

HANCOCK GUILD
After a two month hiatus, The Guild will be resuming activities in March. We haven’t been very active since Christmas when we filled and delivered our yearly baskets of goodies to local shut-ins. With unpredictable weather and some “snow bird” members, we take a few months to hibernate.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:30pm in The Vestry. Our guest speaker will be Allison Kerwin of “Enchanted Gardens” here in Hancock. She’ll be sharing knowledge on how to get your gardens ready for spring. It’s never too early to start thinking about and planning your spring planting. This program is free and open to the public.

Upcoming events to look for are the Semi-Annual clothing sale, and a presentation from James Mangok Wol and His Story as One of the Surviving Lost Boys of Sudan, which will be open to the public. These events will be posted in the “Happenings”.

The Guild is always open to welcoming new members. Drop in for one of meetings and see what we are doing for your community. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:00 in The Vestry.

Submitted by Darlene Tarr
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Greenfield
HANCOCK WOMAN’S CLUB

There are important days this month that I am looking forward to and it is March 12th when Daylight Savings time begins, and March 20th the first day of spring! Not to be left out is our club’s meeting on Wednesday, March 8th at 2pm in the Vestry.

Our guest speakers are Bo Hannon and Siri Pelligrino from “Peace and Paws” located in Hillsboro, a family owned and operated New Hampshire based dog rescue. They are a non-profit, all volunteer, foster-based rescue committed to saving our treasured friends from high-kill shelters. The Peace and Paws family is a team of many who all share two very specific goals: To help as many homeless dogs as possible and give adopters a positive rescue experience. Come! Meet one of their rescue dogs who might just steal your heart!

Tea committee Sue Koziell, Gail Fath, and Gertie Kanner will offer members special treats after the program presentation.

REMINDER: Scholarship applications are due by March 31st

The Hancock Woman’s Club is offering scholarships for adult women in mid-career; an adult woman who plans to either begin, change or return to a career after years of family rearing or other responsibilities; also must be a current resident residing in the ConVal School District for at least 2 years. Applicant must provide official confirmation of acceptance or enrollment in an educational program such as, a college, university, technical or other training school or professional organization. An essay of no more than 2 pages is required along with the application. Please direct questions to Joyce Perry at 525.3304, or request an application by writing to the Hancock Woman’s Club, PO Box 366, Hancock, NH 03449. Notification of Scholarship Committee’s choice will be in early May. The scholarship award will be sent directly to the academic institution.

I am planning to step down as Publicity Chairperson for the Club at the end of this year. I’ve enjoyed my four years letting everyone know what our club’s plans are each month via Hancock Happenings. It isn’t a difficult position, so if anyone feels that they would like to take this over I would be happy to explain what I do! I will be at the March and April meetings, so please feel free to inquire.

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

Submitted by Gertie Kanner

Hancock Woman’s Club
2017 Scholarship for Adult Women

The Hancock Woman’s Club annual scholarship is once again being offered.

This year’s scholarship will be in the amount of $1,000.

To qualify, an applicant must be:

- An adult woman in mid-career.
- An adult woman who plans to either begin, change or return to a career after years of family rearing or other responsibilities.
- A current resident within the ConVal School District and has lived there at least 2 years.
- Applicant must provide official confirmation of acceptance or enrollment in an educational program, such as a college, university, technical or other training school or professional organization.

To Obtain an Application:

Write to the
Hancock Woman’s Club
PO Box 366
Hancock, NH 03449
or
Call Joyce Perry 525-3304

Deadlines

Applications must be received no later than March 31, 2017.

Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee’s choice in early May.

This is not a school-sponsored event.

The Mollers, Inc.

27 Main Street
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Hancock, NH 03449

Office: (603) 525-4211
Fax: (603) 525-4213

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Jean Mann & Friends 525-4334 or 831-0200

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health

A safe and gentle exercise program for adults with arthritis and others interested in a beginning level of Tai Chi movements from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Library - Daniels Room. Ten-week session with Instructor Howard (Howie) Eng will start on Wednesday, March 15th, 2017. Cost is $70; $50 for Seniors. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and shoes with flat soles, e.g. sneakers. The Arthritis Foundation of USA, UK and Australia support this program. To register or for more info, please call 603.716.0798, or just show up.
Submitted by Howard Eng

Nancy’s Sewing
Wed & Fri 9:00-6:00
Thurs 9:30-6:00
Sat 9:00-3:00
140 Montalack, Hwy #3
Swanzey, NH 03446
Nancy Driscoll
(603)355-1133

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ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

Mystery and Magic of the Natural World
A Watercolor Exhibit

Watercolor artist Alicia Cubbage is exhibiting her work in the Daniels Room at the Hancock Town Library through March 30th. Showcasing the magic and mystery of the natural world, her vibrant and joyful paintings focus on trees, plants, animals, and sea life.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00–6:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 am–7:00 pm; and Saturday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm. The library is closed on Friday and Sunday. Because the Daniels Room is sometimes reserved for community events, please call the library (525-4411) to make sure it will be available at the time of your visit.

Alicia has other shows coming up: On March 24th from 6:00–9:00 pm, The Production House in Keene will host “Night of Art” at 47 Main Street, Suite #4. This new project is a creative expression of meditation. Her paintings will show the visions and feelings that can arise from a meditation practice and the different forms of meditation that can be practiced. Alicia hopes her work will inspire others to try practicing meditation and experience the benefits first hand.

Then from June 2nd through June 11th, Alicia will participate in Keene’s annual “Art Walk.” You may see her art in a window on Main Street.

To stay updated on all of her exhibits, she invites you to visit her Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/watercolorbyalicia/ or her website at http://www.aliciacubbage.com/exhibits/.

Submitted by Sandy Taylor

CVTC WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Volunteer Drivers are the life-blood of CVTC. Without them, the organization would not exist. They give their time to take people to medical and social service appointments, grocery shopping, banking, and to the pharmacy. In 2016, the drivers will clock in over 84,000 miles. The new drivers join our team of 61 active drivers.

Michelle Burnham, Keene
Judy Gilmore, Swanzey
Sara Lybbert, Francetown
John McNealy, Rindge
Harry Megens, Stoddard
Barbara Plumley, Walpole
Susan Stover, Dublin
Jim Vander Wiel, Swanzey
Dave Whatley, Keene

Higher volumes of trip requests are coming in from Keene, Swanzey, Troy, Hinsdale, Winchester, & Fitzwilliam. Consider becoming a Volunteer Driver and give us a call.

CVTC is a not-for-profit organization. Through Volunteer Drivers we serve those living in the Monadnock region that have no access to transportation for non-emergency medical appointments. Please visit our website at www.cvtc-nh.org and “like” us on Facebook. For more information call 1-877-428-2882, ext. 5 or email to info@cvtc-nh.org. We are a Monadnock United Way Partner Agency.
March 4 Depot Cabaret

This month, our feature will be The Lied To’s! The Lied To’s are Susan Levine and Doug Kwartler, two Massachusetts-based singer-songwriters with countless individual awards, performances, tours, song placements, and writing accolades between them. They joined musical forces in 2014, released their debut CD in February 2015, and have been playing together ever since, performing a formidable blend of urgent, gritty, folk-rock and country tinged music about negotiating relationships in the wake of difficult times and burdensome pasts.

Here's what the press is saying about The Lied To’s:

· Singer-songwriter-guitarist Susan Levine and singer-songwriter-multi-instrumentalist Doug Kwartler have teamed up to create one of the finest contemporary guy/gal duos on the scene today. - Metronome Magazine

· Susan Levine has a voice somewhere between Dolly Parton and Maria Muldaur – it carries an edgy passion with a wailing “want my man” quality. - Boston Globe

· "Doug Kwartler has one of those John Mellencamp-ish, longing, honky-tonk voices that make women weak in the knees." - The Noise

· "...lyrically and musically a gentle masterpiece..." - Americana-UK

For more information, and to listen to some of their music, visit http://www.liedtomusic.com/index/

About the Venue

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

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

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

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
April 1: Justin Cohn
May 6: AA Ron Shadwell

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

Rent the Depot for Your Special Event
Did you know you can rent the Depot? It’s true – the Depot is available for parties, meetings, celebrations, concerts, and other special events. To learn more, call David Young at 525-3085 or Nancy Adams at 525-4433.
Quote for March: "What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?" Vincent Van Gogh

On going during March our practitioners are available by appointment:

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

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

Sunday, March 19th  A Crystal Tea Ceremony from 1:00 - 4:00pm - Beautiful display of crystals, stones and jewelry. Angel and Tarot readers will be available for readings. Refreshments Tea, scones, biscuit and truffles.
Location: 123 Prospect Hill Road, Hancock, NH  Event limited to 12. Reservations required.  RSVP: 603-933-3294 Arlene Smith
Anne Marie Will be doing Angel Card Readings $30.00 for 30 minutes. Susi Marrotte will be doing Soul Aura Painting and Readings $35.00 for 30 minutes. The paintings are abbreviated because of time. However, you may make an appointment with Susi for a complete Soul Aura Painting.

SPECIAL EVENT - Gaia's Blessing, 1 Summer Street, Peterborough, NH  603-567-7155
Beginning March 2nd - 6th Gaia's Blessing is hosting a spectacular crystal and gemstone event. Authentic Crystal spheres in assorted sizes consisting of quartz crystal, amethyst, etc. Scanner crystals, abundance crystals, rainbow crystals, amethyst phantom crystal, and many, many specimens that us collectors dream about! And, while you are getting your beading and jewelry supplies check out the dazzling display of jewelry. Prepare yourself for a wonderful treat and feast for the eyes.

March Gardening - Yes it is time!
Seeds should be started indoors by now. For those of us who can, here in Hancock, flower beds, garden beds and yard cleanup; get going. On Prospect Hill Road we are going to have to wait a little longer.
Respectfully submitted, Arlene Smith
Lent 2017 at the Hancock Congregational Church

This is an invitation. Maybe you left religion behind a long time ago. Maybe church is something you have never explored. You can jump in and join us at any time during the year, but the season of Lent is a particularly good time to begin.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1). It is a period of preparation for Easter that lasts for six weeks. The word Lent means “Spring” or “to lengthen” and is a reference to the season when Lent occurs. Traditionally, Lent is a time when Christians focus on Jesus and prepare for Easter, engage in special reflection and prayer, and perform acts of service and giving. In some traditions, people “give things up” for Lent (usually desirable foods or activities). The idea is that making such a sacrifice helps them remember the sacrifice made by Jesus.

Ash Wednesday Supper and Service—March 1, 2017, 6:30pm
Join us in the Vestry for a simple supper (soup and bread) and candlelight prayer service to mark the beginning of Lent. Ashes, a symbol of the dust from we are made, will be offered for those who wish to receive them.

Tell Me The Stories of Jesus
Join us for Sunday morning worship at 9:45 am as we take up some of the most beloved stories and parables of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke:

March 5 (Communion)—The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-42)
March 12—The Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 13:1-9, 31-35)
March 19—Parables of the Lost (Luke 15:1-32)
March 26—Guest Preacher
April 2 (Communion)—Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 18:31-19:10)
April 9 (Palm Sunday)—The Entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:29-44)
April 16 (Easter)—Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12)

Holy Week Opportunities

Late Afternoon Reflections—Monday through Friday, April 10-14, 2017, 4:30pm
Join us in the sanctuary for a time of guided reflection led by Rev. Copeland. Our theme during Holy Week 2017 is The Journey Into The Wilderness. We will look at the images of the wilderness presented in the Bible, the ancient tradition of desert spirituality, as well as reflections on the wilderness experience offered by contemporary poets, naturalists, and musicians. These sessions are more informal than our Sunday Morning Worship and last approximately 30 minutes.

Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae, April 13, 2017, 7:00pm
Many experience this as the most sacred service of the entire year. On this night, we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. Tenebrae, also known as the Service of the Shadows, refers to the falling darkness that occurred at Jesus’ crucifixion. This is represented by the gradual extinguishing of lights and candles.

Good Friday, April 14, 2017, Noon until 3:00pm
The Church will be open for those who wish to drop in for prayer and quiet reflection. A handout of readings and prayers appropriate to the day will be provided.

Easter Service
Sunday, April 16, 2017 at 9:45am
We all love colored eggs and chocolate bunnies, but the real meaning of Easter goes much deeper. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and is the most important holiday of the Christian year. We hope you will join us for a joyful celebration on Easter morning. For those new to Christianity and for children who attend, we will be distributing a coloring book that teaches about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

If you would like to contribute flowers for our Easter morning display, please contact Sandy Jackson at sandjacks@comcast.net. The deadline for ordering is April 1.
This month The Grapevine will once again ask for your support as part of the Town Warrant Article request. And for the first time, we are asking Hancock for support through warrant article for our Avenue A Teen and Community Center, which welcomes Hancock teens and adults to its events and programs. In the past year, we’ve seen a marked increase in the number of Hancock residents to Avenue A. Our goal for the near future is to increase our offerings and continue providing a safe and fun space for youth to be with friends and even try out new skills such as writing, singing, musical instruments, art and drawing and so much more. We appreciate the continued support from all of you and I welcome your ongoing feedback. You can reach me at melissag@grapevinenh.org

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

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

- Rick and Diane’s—All day Friday, March 10
- The Common Place Eatery—Sunday Breakfast 7-11am, March 12
- The Hancock Inn—Sunday Dinner, March 19
- Fiddlehead’s Café and Catering—All day Tuesday, March 28

Please support The Grapevine by enjoying a meal!

**Free Tax Preparation**
IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Mondays from 2 - 6pm through April 17th. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now for your appointment.

**Guiding Good Choices in March - Begins Wednesday, March 8th for five Wednesday evening sessions.**
This nationally-recognized workshop, teaches parents of children ages 9-14 the effective family management and communication skills needed to help reduce their children’s risk for using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Says one parent, “Guiding Good Choices gave our family the skills to help our son deal with peer pressure. Now that he’s in high school, we’re thankful we took the course when he was nine.” Offered in partnership with Great Brook and Antrim Elementary Schools, and generously sponsored by Bank of New Hampshire. Pizza dinner is provided and childcare is available. Call 588-2620 to register.

**Spring Cleaning?** Grapevine parents are collecting new and gently-used items for the annual Learning Vineyard sale in June. All proceeds support the Learning Vine preschool and make it possible to provide financial assistance. Call Carol at The Grapevine if you have a donation.

**NEW FOR THIS COMING YEAR! EXPANDED TO THREE DAYS…**The Learning Vine preschool for children 3 to 5 years old. Thinking about preschool next fall? We are now registering for the 2017-18 school year! This hands-on program focuses on social interaction and problem solving skills in a small group setting, in a fun, engaging environment. Now scheduling visits for interested families. Family scholarships may be available – please inquire.

**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 information, and to let us know you’re coming and if you will need childcare.
Thank you to Harris Center members whose support makes these programs possible.

The Harris Center for Conservation Education, a member-supported nonprofit organization, is dedicated to promoting understanding and respect for our natural environment. If you’d like to join or donate to the Harris Center, we invite you to visit us online at harriscen.org; call our office at (603) 525-3394; email Diana at jacobs@harriscen.org; or visit us in person at 83 King’s Highway in Hancock.

You can help ensure a grand future for the Monadnock Region by naming the Harris Center as a beneficiary in your will or estate plan. Anyone can make a bequest, and no amount is too small. For more information, contact Jeremy Wilson at wilson@harriscen.org.

Mar 2 (Thur) Muerte Es Vida (Death is Life) Film Showing
In this award-winning documentary about the connection between nature and grief, seven people are each given a touch of hope by a visit from a Monarch Butterfly at a time of loss. Every year, Monarchs undertake an epic journey from Canada to Mexico, where they arrive in time for Day of the Dead. In Mexico, they’re thought to be the souls of loved ones coming home to visit. **7 to 8:30pm in the Putnam Theater at Keene State College.** Following the film, stay if you’d like to hear others’ stories of being moved by Monarchs, or share your own. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Monadnock Conservancy and the Keene State College Film Society. For more info, contact Brett Amy Thelen at (603) 358-2065 or thelen@harriscen.org.

Mar 8 (Wed) First Session of Celebrate Women’s History Month with Women Scientists
Dr. Pamela Hunt on “Effects of Climate Change on New Hampshire’s Birds” We’re already seeing some of the effects of climate change in New Hampshire, with a trend toward warmer winters, more extreme weather, and drier summers. How will our birds be affected by these changes over the next several decades? We don’t know all the answers, but there’s enough information to allow some informed speculation. In this talk, we’ll explore subjects as diverse as range shifts, declining food supplies, and changes in migration patterns as they apply to the birds of New Hampshire. What will birders in the 22nd century encounter in the Granite State’s forests, fields, and wetlands? Come learn a little about the possibilities. Please bring your own lunch. **Noon to 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library. In her current position as Avian Conservation Biologist, Dr. Hunt works closely with NH Fish and Game to coordinate and prioritize bird research and monitoring in the state. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Peterborough Town Library.**

Mar 15 (Wed) Second Session of Celebrate Women’s History Month with Women Scientists
Dr. Nora Traviss on “Is Burning Biofuels a Healthier Alternative?” Renewable fuels like biodiesel and wood are often considered better for the environment because of their immediate displacement of fossil fuels. While there are many benefits to biofuels, less is known about their impact on human health. At Keene State College, Dr. Traviss has conducted research into the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of biodiesel particulate matter, as well as the impacts of wood smoke on public health. Her talk will explore her research, reflect on the results to date, and offer ideas for future actions that individuals and communities can take to support both community and environmental health. Please bring your own lunch. **Noon to 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library. Dr. Traviss is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at KSC, with research and teaching interests in environmental health, exposure assessment, and environmental policy. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Peterborough Town Library.**

Mar 16 (Thur) Salamander Crossing Brigades Volunteer Training in Nelson
As the earth thaws and spring rains drench New Hampshire, thousands of salamanders, frogs, and toads make their way to vernal pools to breed. Many are killed when their journeys take them across busy roads. Every year, we train volunteers to serve on Salamander Crossing Brigades at amphibian road crossings throughout the Monadnock Region. These heroic volunteers move migrating amphibians across roads by hand during one or more "Big Nights" each spring, keeping count as they go. To join the ranks – or simply to learn more about the remarkable spring amphibian migration – attend this volunteer training in Nelson, the one at Keene State College on March 24th, or the one at the Harris Center on April 1st. (One training will do!) **7 to 9 p.m. at the Nelson Town Hall.** Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Nelson Conservation Commission. For more info, contact Brett Amy Thelen at (603) 358-2065 or thelen@harriscen.org.
Mar 22 (Wed)  Third Session of Celebrate Women’s History Month with Women Scientists
Dr. Denise Burchsted on “Weaving is Women’s Work: Weaving Science and Engineering Together to Restore Rivers” Many of us envision rivers as systems that are naturally free-flowing, and river restoration projects often focus on removing dams to restore this natural flow. However, many rivers without direct human influence are dramatically altered by natural forces. These “natural dams” – especially beaver dams – create ponds. And those ponds subsequently fill in, resulting in wet meadows. The animals of the Northeast have evolved within this patchwork of free-flowing, ponded, and meadow habitats; different life stages of many species depend on the different components of the patchwork. In this talk, Dr. Burchsted will describe that patchiness and present case studies of rivers in the process of “rewilding” without human intervention, demonstrating the need to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the complexity of rivers. Please bring your own lunch.  **Noon to 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library.**  Dr. Burchsted is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at KSC, and a licensed Professional Engineer. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Peterborough Town Library.

Mar 25 (Sat)  Third Session of Hiking through Grief
Hiking in the healing presence of nature provides a unique and meaningful way to work through grief. This group offers a way to connect with others in a safe, supportive setting. All the hikes are free of charge and open to anyone in the community who is grieving from the loss of a loved one, the end of a relationship, life transitions, or earth-centered grief. Sandy Morgan will facilitate these easy-to-moderately strenuous hikes, which will all take place on Harris Center trails. Meet in the Harris Center parking lot at 10 a.m. Back by noon. Bring water and snowshoes, or reserve a pair of ours when you register. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Sara LeFebvre.  **Meet in the Harris Center parking lot at 10 a.m.** Back by noon. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Sara LeFebvre at (603) 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Mar 26 (Sun)  An Inside Look at Southeast Alaska
Harris Center Naturalist Emeritus Meade Cadot and his brother Andy took an “un-cruise” this year in Alaska – from the inside passage along the shores of the Tongass National Forest to Glacier Bay National Park. Join Meade as he recounts their weeklong voyage with tales of the trip and images of mountains, glaciers, waterways, and wildlife.  **2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Harris Center.** For more information, contact Meade at (603) 525-3394 or cadot@harriscenter.org.

Mar 29 Fourth Session of Celebrate Women’s History Month with Women Scientists Brett Amy Thelen on “Why Did the Salamander Cross the Road?”

SalamanderCitizen Science in the Monadnock Region
As the earth thaws and spring rains drench New Hampshire, thousands of salamanders, frogs, and toads make their way to vernal pools to breed. Many are killed when their journeys take them across busy roads. Studies have shown that this road mortality can have a significant impact on local amphibian populations, and that efforts to protect migrating amphibians can reverse the negative trend. Before towns can consider solutions like focused land protection efforts, amphibian tunnels, or temporary detours they must first locate the amphibian road crossing hotspots in their communities and gain public support for amphibian conservation. Enter the Salamander Crossing Brigades, in which trained volunteers move migrating amphibians across roads by hand during one or more “Big Nights” each spring, keeping count as they go. Join Brett Amy Thelen for an introduction to the Salamander Brigades, and to learn how you too can participate in this celebrated citizen science initiative. Please bring your own lunch.  **Noon to 1 p.m. at the Peterborough Town Library.**  Brett Amy Thelen is the Science Director of the Harris Center for Conservation Education. She’s been coordinating citizen science efforts in the Monadnock Region – including the Salamander Crossing Brigades – since 2007. Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Peterborough Town Library.

Mar 29 Nature on Tap  Masters of Maple Syrup
Join Hancock’s own maple syrup man, Bill Eva, and UNH Cooperative Ext’s Steve Roberge for our sweetest Nature on Tap yet. Bill and Steve will explain the history of maple sugaring during this happy hour celebration of one of New Hampshire’s proudest springtime traditions. Drinks on you, conversation on us!  **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hancock Inn.** Seating is limited and registration is required. To register, contact Sara LeFebvre at 525-3394 or lefebvre@harriscenter.org.

Mar 30 (Thur)  The Life and Times of New Hampshire 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 Faber for this lively talk.  **7 to 8 p.m. at the Hancock Town Library.** Leave your cats inside at home! Cosponsored by the Harris Center with the Hancock Town Library. For more information, contact Susie at (603) 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

See page 22 for an announcement by the Harris Center concerning Robb Reservoir.
It has been a busy couple of months at Hancock Elementary School. In January, we hosted the Hancock Community Supper. Using donated supplies from families, the children cooked and served chili, corn bread, and salad. The fourth graders were so proud to serve meals to 95 community members!

In February, our Art Integration Specialist, Jeanie Connolly, organized and facilitated Art Day. The students were placed into mixed age groups and moved through four different activities throughout the day. Children created aliens and space landscapes to be displayed at Children and the Arts Day. Janet Archer led a yoga center and two HES teachers introduced the children to improvisation. It was a day full of creating and imagining. In between our special activities, we have worked to meet our goals for the year. Teachers have been working with children to meet our math goal of ensuring all Hancock students are proficient in math. Through effectively assessing students’ strengths and areas of need, teachers have been able to provide targeted instruction that builds students’ foundation skills in math. At this point, we have increased the number of students who are meeting grade level expectations by ten percent.

Outside of the classroom, staff and parent representatives have been working together to update the HES behavior management system. Our goal is to create a clear system that aligns with our vision and mission of providing our students with the skills to be contributing members of their communities. To date, the team has revised behavior expectations as well as determined how we will align our response to students who follow expectations or those who need guidance when misbehaving.

While we always have more work to do, we are proud of the progress that we are making!

Maggie Baribault, Willow Baribault, Sarah Holdredge and Sabrina Leahigh are reporting once again about school news, what is going on in the music program, and a few Unified Arts (specials) classes at Great Brook School. This month we will also be bringing exclusive information about upcoming events, and grade level happenings.

Lindsay Caputo, a fifth grade teacher says, “Everyone in this grade is very supportive and are very fun to work with.” They are excited learners with lots of energy and are continuing to grow and to learn Bobcat expectations. “It’s an excellent community,” she told GBS reporters. “I am looking forward to the next two quarters of the year.”

In Sixth grade, the writing team is working to teach the students poetry and figurative language, such as onomatopoeia, metaphors, and similes. For math they are dividing decimals by decimals in math. In Social Studies they are learning where food comes from and different food cultures from around the world. For the upcoming Science Fair, the students will grow plants and come up with questions around the soil and water needs of their plants.

Jeannette Regis, one of the 7th grade Language Arts and Social Studies teachers, says, “The seventh graders are spirited, enjoy challenges, and are learning how to work as a team.” In Language Arts the seventh graders just finished
writing an informative essay about the sinking of the Titanic and are now learning the art of argumentative writing. In Social Studies, they are ending a unit on maps, geography and ancient civilizations, and starting Ancient Mesopotamia. Ms. Regis says, “The seventh grade teaching team has a strong bond and are very supportive of each other and the students. We want the students to feel the same way too.”

“I love the Civil War.” Kathryn Doherty says. Ever since I read Little House on the Prairie as a child and then Gone with the Wind, “I think the decisions in American history are really interesting.” Some of the simplest stories, made her the Social Studies teacher that she is today. In the eighth grade, students will continue to be going on many Harris Center trips. Some of these include their pond work in the fall and the snowshoeing in a Harris Center tour. One student commented, “It (Cemetery Tour) was fun.” In classes, the students are working on the Holocaust books and then they are going to be reading the play. In social studies, they will be studying the Constitution. The Civil War, Harris Center, and the Constitution, sums up eighth grade for the start of this quarter. Their DC trip will take place the week of April 17 to the 21st.

The GBS Choir is performing New York, New York for the spring concert that’s coming up. The choir will also be performing Best Day of My Life, Some Nights, and many more. There are about 13 students in the Select Choir. Different students are chosen for each concert. Mr. Cogan is looking forward to meeting the new students this quarter in his general music class too! So far every grade is starting to learn rhythms and writing beats.

Joanna Moncrieff’s band selection will be performing Don’t Fence Me In, a jazz selection, Banana Slug Blues, for the string ensemble, and Celebratory March. They will also be playing Stand By Me, with the choir. Joanna is looking forward to going to the May music festival, in Ra. East, and the new students in guitar classes. She will be providing ukulele instruction along with the guitar. It looks like the music department is off to a splendid start to the quarter!

In the Family, and Consumer, Sciences class, or FACS, a war has started in seventh grade. It’s the Cookie Wars! The winner was kitchen three, and their apple pie cookies brought smiles to the judges table. The fifth grade is learning to measure with cups, tablespoons, and teaspoons. The sixth grade class is working on knife skills and making vegetable soup. The grand finally, was eighth grade’s 25 person banquet. It was on Thursday, January 26, and was a huge success. That wraps up the second quarter of the school year in FACS.

Ms. Gourlay is Great Brook’s school counselor. She loves working with middle school students. She has been working at GBS for six years. Ms. Gourlay says, “It’s important to feel successful in an academic, social, and emotional way.” Mrs. Gourlay has small groups during different blocks, each day. “Groups help people be more successful,” she said. Mrs. Gourlay helps the eighth graders with their transition to the high school as well. She would love to see any eighth graders who are worried about next year at any time!

Mrs. Cullinan is the teacher of the Extended Learning Program, more commonly known as ELP. This program has many different classes you can choose from. Such as, Griffins Nest and Improvisation (Improv). During these classes, students learn about science, communication, acting, and many other topics. This program is optional, but definitely encouraged at Great Brook. Mrs. Cullinan also writes and produces a play with Mrs. Doherty, an eighth grade teacher. The play this year is based off of the tale, the Hairy Man. The play has a cast of about 50 and also has many other people helping with the production. There are lights and sounds, costume design, and stage managers. The play performances are in March. More play information is to come in the next newspaper.

The academic classes, the music program, and the Unified Arts classes are off to a dazzling start, grades have settled into an “excellent GBS community.” The Spring concert, Science fair, and eighth grade banquet are making a splash in the next quarter. Students and staff look forward to the February break to spend time with family and friends.
THE NORWAY POND JUNIOR MINTS WILL PERFORM
ONCE UPON A MATTRESS
IN MAY
IS THERE A FUTURE JUNIOR MINTS MEMBER LIVING WITH YOU OR NEAR YOU?

It is not too soon to start thinking about joining the Junior Mints this spring! This group of 25 young singers between ages 6 and 14 is one of the most unique children’s ensembles in New England.

Under the direction of their conductor, Jody Hill Simpson and one of the region's top pianists, Mary Ann Fleming, and Well School teacher Sarah Dube, they will rehearse starting March 7 for a production of Once Upon A Mattress on May 6.

Rehearsals are on Tuesday afternoons from 4:15-6:00 in Hancock in the lower floor of the Meeting House. Additional rehearsals are scheduled as the performance approaches.

The first 25 kids to sign up are admitted with priority first given to returning members. The wide age range makes the overall effect refreshingly captivating. This past season, many of the Junior Mints performed with the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood which attests to their excellence as well as their charm. There are no auditions but parents are asked to pre-screen their children to make sure they can match pitch fairly well and also have good attention spans. A serious commitment to the rehearsal/performance schedule is the most important requirement when signing up.

Tuition is $120 per session. Scholarships are available.

If you think you know a future Junior Minstrel, give Jody Simpson a call (525-9303) or send her an email (jhspals@aol.com). She will give you more details, answer any questions and also add your child to our waiting list. We should know how many spaces we have by the end of February.

A Great Addition to Robb Reservoir

Thanks to support from Friends of the SuperSanctuary, the Harris Center for Conservation Education is pleased to announce the protection of 88 acres in Stoddard. The newly conserved property ensures the full protection of the Robb Reservoir shoreline and includes a half-mile of river frontage along the North Branch of the Contoocook. For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution in support of the Harris Center’s important land conservation work, please contact Jeremy Wilson at wilson@harrisceneter.org or (603) 525-3394.

Photo of Robb Reservoir by Jeremy Wilson
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. The Planning Board may hold working sessions for planning purposes the first Wednesday of every month; Barbara E Caverly Meeting Room

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

Advisory Committee – as noticed, Town Office;

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

HEAT Committee – Meets on an as needed basis

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

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

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

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

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

Dump Committee – 3rd Tuesday at 4:00pm, DPW

Trustees of Trust Funds – as needed, Town Office

Cemetery Trustees – as needed, Town Office

Common Commission – every other 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, Town Office.

Meetinghouse Restoration Committee – as noticed, Meetinghouse

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


Publishing Information

Editor and Publisher: Jaime Donovan
Submit articles to Editor at happenings@hancocknh.org or call 903.0190 for information and rates.
For advertisement sizes and rates please go to: www.hancocknh.org/hancock-happenings/pages/block-advertising-rates All submissions must be in text or PDF format; PDF or JPG of scanned text will not be accepted unless for ad copy. Call if you do not have access to a computer.
Deadline for submissions, advertising and payment for advertising: 5pm on the 22nd of each month. Checks should be payable to Town of Hancock (memo line “Hancock Happenings”) and mailed to the Town at PO Box 6, Hancock, NH 03449. Inserts are not accepted.
Refer to the Hancock Happenings Mission Statement below for the newsletter’s editorial policy. Distribution–Hope Pettegrew, Edna Drasba, Sandy Brooks, Josephine Warner, and Marcia Coffin. (Sorry if I missed anyone)
Printing by Gem Graphics; Nameplate by Eleanor Amidon

Hancock Happenings Mission Statement
Hancock Happenings is the monthly newsletter of the Town of Hancock, established in 1999 for the purpose of publishing news articles by Town Departments and local organizations. The publication is self-supported through the sale of block and classified advertising. Hancock Happenings is not a forum for opinion pieces of any nature, political advertising and political columns; any such submissions will be edited or rejected.
Tony Yike Yang is a young pianist who appears to be heading into a huge career and his performance here in Hancock should not be missed! (In a few years we can all say “we knew him when!”) Featured as one of Canada’s 25 hot musicians under age 25, he already has won multiple honors and prizes, including fifth prize at the 17th International Chopin Piano Competition in 2015 at the age of 16 as the competition's youngest ever laureate.

He has performed extensively in Canada and the USA, while also making appearances in Europe and Asia. He has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, and The Royal Conservatory of Music's Academy Symphony Orchestra.

And he just turned 19. He is currently studying at the New England Conservatory and Harvard University in a joint-degree program, where he is studying with Wha Kyung Byun.

This would be a great concert for all ages, including your children. His passionate artistry will be mesmerizing and inspirational.

REPERTOIRE?????

Tickets are $20, available at the door. Students are admitted free of charge. The concert is one hour with no intermission.

Happening right here in Hancock on Saturday, April 8th, including the showing of the inspiring film, Talent Has Hunger, about the power of music to consume, enhance and propel lives, including three cellists who have played here in Hancock. Followed by dinner and a performance by Emileigh Vandiver, one of the featured cellists.

Contact Nina Pollock for more information. Nina.pollock@gmail.com