News from the Selectboard  
Submitted by John Jordan, Chairperson

As I write this, we are finally getting a break from the weather. It is still cold, but it is sunny with no snow or rain. Our Public Works crew certainly needs this opportunity to get some rest and do some maintenance on the equipment. They have done an excellent job of dealing with the weather events and we appreciate their efforts. This is the first Winter for this crew and they have come together very well, performing beyond normal expectations. Keeping ahead of the weather conditions involves some very long days as well as getting up in the middle of the night and is hard on the crew. They certainly deserve a break.

The Selectboard is continuing our work on the budget and is making progress. It is a balancing act of trying to keep costs down while keeping current with the needs of the Town. It does not benefit the Town to delay actions that could result in even greater costs in the future. All decisions must be made with a long-term perspective.

On December 20th, we had our Town employees pot luck lunch which was very well attended. There was the Town Office, Department of Public Works, Library, Police, and Recycling Center all represented. We have a really good group of personnel. It is an occasion to meet or reacquaint with each other.

This is my last year as Selectman. Filing for the position will be open this month. It will have been 12 years for me, more than I intended when I first ran. Now, I believe, it is time for the next generation to step up and provide the leadership that is necessary. I have enjoyed my experience as a Selectman. Often, I have heard of it as being a thankless task. I have not found that to be true and have found it to be very interesting and rewarding. It is an incredible learning process and a wonderful opportunity to interact with the members of our community. Please consider this chance to serve our community.

Please see page 6 for important information from the Town Clerk’s Office
I’m not sure if anyone told you but it’s cold outside. Many of us live for the recreational opportunities that the cold weather brings but it is still refreshing to come back to a warm home. Even though a furnace is the heating source most used there are many families that heat with wood or pellets. And many more use some additional heating source. Heating is the second leading cause of home fires. The Hancock Fire Department does not want any of our citizens to experience such a horrific event and so I have some words of wisdom you should all follow.

Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month. Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year. In wood stoves, burn only DRY, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets. Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters. Plug only one heat-producing appliance (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time. Never use an oven to heat your home. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

Remember, with a little common sense you can avoid a big problem. And please, reach out to any older adults within your family, and any others within Hancock that may need some assistance, to make sure their homes are being kept as safe as possible. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season be fire smart!

Time to talk about burn permits

Burn permits are required except when the ground is covered with snow. “Ground Covered with Snow” means the area within a 100’ radius from the fire edge is covered with snow. We still need to know when you want to burn, so please contact one of the Fire Wardens when you are burning. This also helps us when someone reports seeing a fire and we already know what’s going on. Seasonal Burn Permits expired 12/31/19. It is time to contact us to get a new 2020 Seasonal Burn Permits for your small controlled fire, such as a camp or cooking fire, no greater than 4’ in diameter contained within a ring of fire resistive material or in a portable fireplace.

The HFD family has had its share of excitement this last month. The best news is that Molly and TJ Webster welcomed a healthy bouncing baby boy on December 7th. He already has his first fire truck toy (thanks to yours truly). Molly is our fire department treasurer and TJ is one of our Captains.

On the EMS side of the fire department, Bill Gnade is now a National and State-Certified EMT. Bill put in many hours of training and testing to accomplish this. The men and women of the Hancock Fire Department are proud to provide a tradition of excellent public safety service to our residents.

Thanks to everyone that sent back their raffle tickets. Remember, you can send those in anytime throughout the year.

Raffle winners for the month:

$40.00 – Nancy Kanner
$20.00 – Richard Warner
$10.00 – Owen & Kathleen Mathewson, Ron Kurz, Abigail Lent
What’s Happening in the Woods at Hancock Elementary School
Amy Janoch, Principal
Kingsley Cummings, Second Grader
Milo Ferrisi, Second Grader

Our fall has been quite adventurous. Between activities in the woods and classrooms, the children have explored and learned so much.

Julie Brown and Susie Faber joined the Huskies twice a month to take the children on a recess adventure. Students explored the swamps and woods finding bees’ nests, tracks, birds, and signs of bear. The children and staff loved learning how to look at our environment through a naturalists’ lens. With the snow, the students will strap on the school snow shoes to continue their adventures. The woods have offered additional fun during recess.

Milo Ferrisi and Kingsley Cummings, second graders at HES, are excited to share their recess experience:

This story is about HES woods. HES has two woods but we are writing about the one that opened up for kids to play in during recess.

There is a lot of fun stuff you could do like climbing trees and building forts. It is fun but dangerous. Here is an example: If you were climbing a tree, you could fall. After school kids play in the woods. We are writing about HES woods because it is fun. At recess, kids have to choose to go in woods or playground and field. There has to be at least two teachers before kids can go in the woods. I think HES woods are a fun place to go and play.

Our indoor adventures at HES included a talent show, all school craft day, and many integrated art projects. The talent show revealed a range of talents including tap and hip hop dancing, lip syncing, magic making, and piano playing. We also had gymnasts, acrobats, jump ropers, hula hoopers and cartwheelers. During craft day as well as art integration days, students made stained glass windows, snow globes, gingerbread puppets, and winter murals. Each of these extension activities have offered opportunities for children to learn and grow in and out of the classroom.

As always, the children could not have these wonderful experiences without the efforts of teachers and community members. We thank you and look forward to future events.

Speaking of which, check out some of our upcoming volunteer opportunities that will give you a chance to get involved and see what HES is all about!

January 13 – 17
Jeanine from New Hampshire Dance Institute will join us for a week long residency. Friday at 5:30 pm students will perform their dances. Please join us for this favorite event.

January 20
MLK video/audio presentations at the MLK celebration. Prior to the 20th we will need volunteers to assist the students in creating videos/audios based on the theme, “Words that Help, Words that Hurt.”

January 23
Hancock Elementary School will host the community supper at the Vestry. Join us for chili, corn bread, salad and dessert.

If you are interested in volunteering at HES or helping out with one of these events, please contact Lindsay Carter at lcarter@conval.edu or call the HES office 525-3303.
HANCOCK HAPPENINGS

January 2020

HANCOCK HAPPENINGS

Hancock Historical Society
News and Upcoming Events

Happy New Year!

We hope to have the Neal Clark exhibit open over the next few months. For more information about when it will be open, please call Bobbie Nylander at 525-6649.

If you aren’t currently a member of the Hancock Historical Society, please consider joining. Your membership supports programs and events – everything from unique exhibits like the current one celebrating the life of Neal Clark to movies and speakers throughout the year.

It’s easy and affordable to join. Family memberships are just $25 and individual memberships are $15. You can send your check to: Hancock Historical Society, PO Box 138, Hancock.

You’re Invited!
Friends of the Hancock Town Library will hold their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 8th, at 5:30pm in the Daniels Room and we hope you can attend.

Say “Farewell” and “Thanks” to outgoing Officers and Board Members; Say “Welcome” and “Good luck” to new Officers and Board Members; Hear what the Board has done this past year to support the Library; Hear what the budget will be next year and what we hope to accomplish; Join us for conversation and refreshments after the meeting.

Your membership supports the Library! Please feel welcome.
News from the
Hancock Congregational Church
Rev. Judy Copeland, Pastor

It’s complicated...that’s what the group I traveled with heard over and over again when we visited Israel last fall. Several people have asked me to share more about what I saw and experienced in the Holy Land. I will do that in the Vestry on Sunday, January 12th, toward the end of coffee hour (a little after 11:00 am). All are welcome.

Many thanks to the Hancock Women’s Guild which has recently given the church a generous gift of $500 to replace some of the broken tables in the Vestry. Many groups use these tables and we ask you to be gentle with them and not drop them to the floor when you take them off the racks. If you are hosting an event in the Vestry, please make sure that you have enough people to set up and take down the tables without damaging them. Also, these tables are for use in the Vestry only and cannot be borrowed for events outside the building.

The Annual Meeting of the Hancock Congregational Church will be held following worship on Sunday, January 26th. Committee and Ministry chairs are reminded that written reports are due now.

We continue to collect cereal for End 68 Hours of Hunger. As of December 18th, we had delivered 872 boxes of cereal in 2019, up from 817 in 2018. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program which provides weekend nourishment for food-insecure children in our school district.
Community Supper

The next Community Supper will be Thursday, January 23rd hosted by the Hancock Elementary School.

Another "Tale From Home"

at www.herb-gardner.com

Everybody hates Monday mornings. Most people because they have to go back to work; musicians, because they don’t get to.

From the Town Clerk’s Office:

There are 4 elections coming up in 2020. The first one, the presidential primary will be held on February 11, 2020.

- Sample ballots are posted on the bulletin board in the Town Hall, at the Post Office, and in the library.
- Our voting site is in the lower level of the Town Hall, and the polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- Please bring your photo ID.
- In a Primary Election, persons registered as a Democrat must use a Democratic ballot. If you are registered as a Republican, you must use a Republican ballot. Only someone registered as undeclared may choose which ballot they wish to receive. You may not change your party affiliation between now and the election.
- If you aren’t yet registered to vote in Hancock, you can register at the polls on election day. Be sure to bring something showing that you live in Hancock, along with your photo ID.
- If you can’t make it to the polls on election day, you may request an absentee ballot.

We hope to see all of you at the polls on Tuesday, February 11, 2020!

Carolyn and Alisha
Welcome our new Children’s Librarian! Karen Dunham, formerly the Head of Children’s Services at the Groton, MA Public Library will be joining us beginning January 13th. Karen was born and raised in Worcester MA and has always loved books and reading. Her father used to read stories to her and her brothers using silly, exaggerated voices so she learned early on that reading was fun! She has two grown sons and a cat and loves nature, animals, and of course, reading. She and her fiancée Peter enjoy visiting Maine, going to fall festivals, and spending time with family.

Karen has been a children’s librarian since 1986 so has experienced first-hand how libraries have evolved over the years. She is excited to meet the families in our community and looks forward to providing wonderful programs for children and teens here. Stop by to say hello and give her a warm, Hancock welcome!

Yoga at the HTL (there is a fee for these classes)

Mondays 9:00–10:30am with Chris Justice
Fridays 9:00–10:30am with Betsy DiPrima

Tuesdays at 1:00pm – 3:00pm Mah Jongg
Join us as we learn and play Mah Jongg on Tuesdays afternoons. Newcomers welcome but do let us know if you’ll be joining us so that we make sure we have a teacher on hand!

Monday January 7th at 5:30pm
Learn About Becoming a Census-taker for 2020
Come to this information session about becoming a census-taker in 2020. Temporary census positions offer an opportunity to earn extra income, while at the same time, helping your community. Did you know that the results of the 2020 Census help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding are spent locally for schools, hospitals, roads, and more? So it’s important that everyone is counted! Census takers will interview household residents and update address lists using electronic devices (such as smartphones and tablets) issued by the Census Bureau. Applicants who are hired will attend paid training before beginning work. Prior to the census, census takers will use maps and address lists to determine if the addresses are correct. Later, they will visit households that haven't responded to the census, speaking with residents and using electronic devices to collect census data. Join Seven Atli as she explains how it all works!

Wednesday January 8th at 5:30pm
The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Hancock Town Library
All are welcome!

Wednesday January 8th at 7:00pm
Game Night for Grownups!
The days are getting longer bit by bit 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 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00pm.

Fourth Annual Winter Ping Pong Tournament! It’s that time of year again. Please contact us here at Ping Pong HQ by January 15th if you’d like to participate in the 2020 tournament (call 525-4411 or stop by). We will begin the tournament towards the end of January. We will again have folks self-identify as beginner, intermediate, or advanced and will have separate competitions for children and adults.

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

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!

To place an ad, email is the best way
happenings@hancocknh.org or call 603.903.0190
Thursday January 16th at 12:30pm  
**Books Sandwiched In Book Group**

We’re reading *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* by Annette Gordon-Reed this month. Books are available at the front desk (you must have a Hancock Town Library card to borrow a book). Feel free to join us anytime (no commitment required!) – we meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month.

**Saturday January 18th 1:00-3:00pm**  
**Third Saturday Crafternoon – Felting!**

Join Melody Russell as she teaches us the basics of felting over three monthly sessions on the third Saturday of the month. Other dates will be February 15th at March 21st. (This class is geared toward adults but older children accompanied by an adult are welcome.) Every week you’ll go home with a gift! Melody Russell has been teaching art to children and adults for many years. She lives in Hancock and is beloved by all her students. Don’t miss this chance to work with her! Please sign up by January 11th at the front desk or by calling the library at 525-4411. (please do not sign up via social media). There is a suggested donation of $5 per person per class to help cover the cost of materials.

**Tuesday January 21st 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!”

**From the Children’s Room…**  
**Karen Dunham, Children’s Librarian**

**Thursdays at 10:30am*  
**Family Storytime**

Every Thursday we will gather in the children’s room for stories, songs, and movement!  

*There will be no Storytime on January 2nd.

**Winter Reading Challenge**

During the month of January for each book you check out you will get a raffle ticket. Place your ticket in the bucket for the prize you want. At the end of the month we will pull names of the lucky readers.

Jan 7th 3:30-4:30pm Lego Club

Join us for our regular free build session. Build your own creation and then put it out on display for everyone to see.

**Exploring Watercolor Painting! With Melody Zahn Russell, M Ed.**

**Tuesdays January 14th, 21st and 28th 3:30-4:30pm – Sign up is required for this class**

Have fun with watercolor and create a different painting each week.

Week 1: create a landscape in winter using blue tones.

Week 2: paint a still life inspired by shapes from nature.

Week 3: use the human face to make a portrait.

We will do the wet on wet technique. Even in 3 sessions you will learn the basics about materials and how to handle them. Best of all, surprise yourself with the beauty and magic of watercolors! This is a 3 week program and is limited to 12 children, 1st thru 8th grade. **Sign up is required by January 10th! Please stop by or call the library at 525-4411. Please do not sign up via social media.**

**Monday January 27th 3:30pm-4:30pm**  
**Read with Coffee**

Come by the library and practice your reading with Coffee the Chihuahua! Coffee, a registered reading therapy dog, loves when kids practice their reading with him or tell him stories. Also, if you bring 3 non-perishable items for the Food Pantry, you get to choose a free stuffed animal graciously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys!
“Great Decisions - 2020”
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: Climate Change and the Global Order, India and Pakistan, Red Sea Security, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle, China’s Road into Latin America, The Philippines and the U.S., Artificial Intelligence and Data. The discussions are always interesting and informative, even when the topics are a challenge for us! Don’t worry if you know nothing about these topics…the purpose of the discussion is for us to learn. And we have snacks!

We will be meeting at the Hancock Town Library for eight Monday afternoons beginning on January 6th from 1:45-4:00pm. Please call to register and for information about ordering your book: Jane Richard-Jones at 525.4485. New participants are most welcome!

Submitted by Jane Richards-Jones

Payoff
It’s not only the winner of the Hancock Congregational Church’s IceOut contest who benefits – the entire community does. While the winner collects 50 percent of the proceeds, collectively all the rest of us “win” as well.

Case in point: Please note the splendid new rug shown below, gracing the Meetinghouse/Congregational Church entranceway as the afternoon sun streams in through an open front door. The money brought in from the IceOut contests was pooled with town funds to purchase this rug.

Like the Meetinghouse building, the IceOut Contest is a joint effort, supported and run by both church members and people in the wider Hancock community.

Tickets for this year’s contest are available for sale at the Hancock Market, Fiddleheads, and IceOut Committee members, both the town and the church representatives. $2 will buy one chance; $5 will buy three.

Thank you for supporting a worthy local cause and good luck guessing when the Ice will go out this spring.

Breaking News: Something strange is happening as the ice is forming this season. Further information will be published as soon as our resident scientists figure out what is going on. Check February’s edition of the Hancock Happenings.

Ice Out Committee for 2020
**Support Hancock Happenings advertisers!**
They allow you to enjoy the newsletter at no cost to you!

**New-Life Massage and Bodywork**
*Dottie Cullinane, LMT*
Therapeutic Body Massage * Reiki
Relax ~ Refresh ~ Renew

Appointments available:
Monday • Tuesday • Thursday • Friday • Saturday

Hancock Professional Center
15 Forest Rd., Suite B, Hancock, NH 03449
(603)525-4765

---

**Haleys Service Center**
Your Car Care Specialists Call us at 525-8024

**Its cold out there!**
Cold temps can cause a weak battery to fail. We test your battery at every oil change or you can make an appointment to have it tested

**Battery, Alternator, Starter Test**
$15.00

Interstate Batteries In Stock
For most makes and models

---

**Nevan Cassidy Woodworking**
Hancock, NH
*All Aspects of Residential Construction*
25 years experience • Fully Insured
nevan.cassidy@comcast.net
525-4786

---

**Our Town Landscaping, Inc.**
Our 50th Year

Landscaping
603-525-3794

Carpentry
OurTownLandscaping.com

---

**Sean Kerwin - REALTOR®**
Direct: 603-831-3269
Email: sean.kerwin@beangroup.com
Office: (800) 450-7784

Thinking of listing your home?
With my deep connections with the area and Bean Group's expert marketing and reach, we are here to make your real estate dreams a possibility.

---

**Cait Murphy MS LCMHC**
Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Hancock Professional Center
15 Forest Road
Hancock, NH 03449
603-831-1686 www.edulvg.com

---

To place an ad, email is the best way
happenings@hancocknh.org or call 603.903.0190
Seven Maples General Store will be filling LP tanks through the winter.  
Stop by or call ahead... 525.3321  
Thank you!  
24 Longview Rd.  
Hancock, NH 03449  
www.sevenmaples.com

Established 2010  
NH Pioneer  
Chimney & Home Repair  
COMPLETE CHIMNEY SERVICE:  
Sweeping, Inspections, Relining, Repointing,  
Waterproofing, Caper Removal, Caps Installed,  
Leaks Stopped, Dryer Vent Cleaning  
Roofing • Veterans & Seniors Discount  
Credit & Debit Cards accepted through Paypal  
Insured • 20 Years’ Experience • Free Estimates  
Prompt, Courteous Service Marcel J. Couture  
Route 9 • Antrim, NH • 603-588-3908

Top 10 Reasons To Shop The Market

1. Always a front row parking spot.  
5. You want to go where everybody knows your name.  
6. Frequent weather updates.  
7. Special orders don’t upset us.  
8. Available seating.  
9. Fine artisan foodstuffs to delight the particular.  
10. Because, it takes a village.

Open 7 Days a Week  
603 525 4433  
30 Main Street, Hancock, NH  |  hancockmarketnh.com
A dump sticker is required on your vehicle in order to use the recycling center and visit the Swap Shop. Recycling Center Hours:
Wednesdays: 3pm - 7 pm Saturdays: 8 am - 5 pm
Swap Shop Winter Hours:
Wednesdays: 3 pm - 5 pm Saturdays: 8:30 am - 4 pm
Please, remember there is a 5 item limit in the Swap Shop. Disposal of metal into the “metal container” is free of charge.
See Ricky or Chester before disposing anything into the “bulky container” to determine the fee.
Only clear clean food-grade glass bottles and jars can be recycled in the “glass container” all lids, caps and corks removed to keep the load uncontaminated; if we do not abide by this the cost of removal goes up more than 4x!

Please, separate newsprint and magazines from mixed paper. The effort to separate this way results in considerable savings to the taxpayer in the course of the year.

NOT recyclable are:
Wrapping paper; tissue paper; pizza boxes; waxed food-containers both for liquids and frozen food; beer cartons. These cannot be recycled and should be disposed of into the “trash-compactor”.

All fees to the Town for hauling away trash and recyclables go up per January 1st 2020.

Please, be mindful and cautious driving and parking.

Please, see attendants for questions.
ART EXHIBITS AT THE LIBRARY

_A Closer Look: Photographs & Sculpture of Life in the Garden_

Artist Stacy Hannings will lead off the new year with an exhibit of her work at the Hancock Town Library January 4th through February 12th. An opening reception will be held Monday, January 6th, 6-8 p.m. in the Daniels Room of the library.

Photography of the natural world and its constant motion has been Hannings’ primary means of expression; however, she also creates sculpture from natural and manmade materials. Growing up in an artistic family and spending much time outdoors nurtured her creative talents and connection to nature.

“In my art I have focused on transience, the idea that everything is constantly changing and in motion”

A native of Greenfield, Hannings received a BFA from Colby-Sawyer College. In addition to pursuing a career in art, she has been the farm stand manager at Rosaly’s Garden, which has also provided a bounty of inspiring subject matter for her artwork. She is currently employed with the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript.

You can learn more about her work at www.stacyhannings.com

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

Hancock Woman’s Club

❄ Winter has descended upon us and the Holidays are in the past so now we look forward to welcoming in the New Year! Happy New Year to all ~

Our January meeting will be held on Wednesday the 8th at 2:00pm in the Vestry. Our guest speaker is Kathy Birkebat from Birch Creek Flowers. She will delight us with current trends in flowers “Flower Therapy” and create a simple arrangement. Kathy has been in the flower business for most of her life working as a flower designer and with landscape architects. What a wonderful way to spend a winter’s afternoon learning about flowers and such!

We welcome all to attend and please stay to sample some goodies and have a cup of tea or coffee after the presentation.

The Hancock Woman’s Club is a Charitable Organization giving much needed help to many throughout the year. This year we have donated funds to the following:

- Avenue “A” Teen & Community Center
- First Congregational Church (Vestry)
- Grapevine
- Hancock Helping Hands
- Hancock Town Library
- Monadnock Transitional Shelter
- Monadnock Work Source
- Peterborough Food Pantry
- River Center
- Three Scholarships to local Hancock Women

We also lovingly adorn the entryway to Hancock Village with a beautiful garden and window boxes at the Post Office along with the trough on the green and garland around the Gazebo. Many of the women in the Club help with this beautification of the town and we would like to thank them for their hard work!

Respectfully submitted by
Sara LeFebvre
On Saturday, January 4, we're kicking off the new year by hosting an ALL OPEN-MIC night – so, no feature performer. Instead, all open mic performers will have a four-song/15-minute spot!

The show begins at 8:00, and the doors open at 7:30 for sign-up, so if you want a spot, come early and put your John Hancock on the list!

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. In addition to the music at the Cabaret, visitors also will enjoy snacks, veggies, and drinks (BYOB!).

If you're 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 1: Singer-Songwriter Circle featuring Ethan McBrien, Allison Rose, Caleb Wetherbee, and Wendy Keith
• March 7: Three for the Taking – Local rockers performing awesome covers!
• April 4: Green Heron -- Old-time, folk, bluegrass, country, Irish, and blues music ... you don't want to miss this dynamic duo!

MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS
Interested in joining the Hancock Depot Association? If you’d like to help out with planning, events, cleanup days, etc., feel free to join us! We meet up at the Depot on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. For information about our next meeting, give David Young a call at 603-525-3085 or send him a note via Facebook.

RENT THE DEPOT!
Have a birthday party or other significant event coming up? Consider hosting your event at the Hancock Depot! The venue is available for parties, meetings, celebrations, concerts, and other special events. To learn more, call David Young at 603-525-3085 or Sean Sweeney at 603-381-1351.
Jan 3 (Fri) Easygoing Hike on Pack Monadnock
Join Lee Baker and Rich Taylor for a moderately strenuous 1-mile roundtrip hike to the halfway house site on Pack Monadnock. Expect an elevation gain of approximately 400 feet. Bring water, lunch, and snowshoes (if necessary), and enjoy views stretching all the way to Boston. MEET at 10am at the Ocean State Job Lot parking lot at the intersection of Routes 101 and 202 in Peterborough to carpool. Back by 2pm. For more info, contact Lee at 525-5262, snowman3137@gmail.com or Rich at (603) 827-4105, kayaks100@msn.com.

Jan 11 (Sat) Harris Center Big Year of Birding: Winter Finch Hike
What better way to celebrate 50 years of land protection and environmental education than by spending the year cataloguing all the birds that now make the Super-Sanctuary their home? Join Eric Masterson for this next installment in our “Big Year” series of seasonal birding outings to Harris Center protected lands – a moderately strenuous, 5-mile roundtrip hike or snowshoe through the spruce country of Stoddard and/or Windsor in search of winter finches. Bring your binoculars and snowshoes or creepers, and expect a 600-foot elevation gain. MEET at 8am at the Harris Center to carpool. Back by noon. For more info, contact Eric masterson@harriscenter.org or 525-3394.

Jan 11 (Sat) Cross-Country Ski Around Dublin's Dark Pond
Join Tom Warren for a 3-mile roundtrip ski around Dark Pond. Meet at 10am at 91 Charcoal Road in Dublin, where we’ll return at noon for hot chocolate. RSVP to Tom Warren at 563-7190 or ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net.

Jan 12 (Sun) Evening Snowshoe Around Howe Reservoir
Join Tom Warren for a 2-mile snowshoe around Howe Reservoir, where we’ll listen for owls and look for winter-bright stars. Bring your own snowshoes and a headlamp or flashlight, and meet at 7pm at the pulloff on the south side of Route 101 in Dublin, opposite the Monadnock Rotary sign. Back by 9pm RSVP to Tom Warren at ttwassociates@myfairpoint.net or 563-7190.

Jan 16 (Thu) Trees and Tracks
Join forest ecologist Jeremy Wilson and naturalist Susie Spikol for an afternoon of looking at winter trees and the animal tracks found around them. Learn to tell the trees from the forest and read the stories told by tracks. Bring snowshoes and dress for winter weather. 2 to 3:30pm at the Hiroshi Land. Meet at the Hiroshi trailhead on Route 137, 2.1 miles north of the gas station at the intersection of Routes 101 and 137 in Dublin. For more info or to reserve a pair of snowshoes, contact Susie at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 17(Fri) Forest Bathing by Moonlight: Reconnect to Nature
It’s a beautiful night for a moon bath, with the stars up above in your eyes! Join Susie Spikol and Marilyn Wyzga for the first of three moonlit rambles 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. Join us for one, two, or all three. Cost: $5 per class for Harris Center supporters; $10 per class for all others. 7 to 8pm at the Harris Center. For more info or to reserve a pair of snowshoes, contact Susie at spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 18 (Sat) Utterly Otters
Join naturalist Susie Spikol for a lively talk on the largest member of the weasel family in New England: the bounding, sliding, swimming, charismatic otter! We’ll spend some time getting to know this charming mammal, including learning how to recognize its tracks and sign so you can see if there are otters living near you. 11am to noon at the Olivia Rodham Memorial Library in Nelson. For more info, contact Susie at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 18 (Sat) Rainbow Hike
Join naturalist Dee Deney (she, her) and daughter Lily Deney (she, her) for a 2-mile exploration of the Harris Center’s Boul-der Train Trail. This family-friendly hike is an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with others in a LGBTQ+ safe space. If conditions look good for snowshoeing, bring your own or borrow a pair of ours. 1 to 3pm at the Harris Center. For more info or to reserve snowshoes, contact Susie Spikol at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 24 (Fri) Stories in the Stars
The winter night sky is filled with brilliant stars and legendary constellations. Get to know some of them during an evening of stargazing and storytelling with astronomy buff Victory Novotny and constellation mythology fan Susie Spikol. Dress for winter weather, and bring a thermos of your favorite hot beverage to keep you warm. Since this program depends on clear skies, check our website to make sure we’re still on before heading out. Cloudy weather date: January 25. 8 to 9 pm at the Harris Center. For more info, contact Susie at 525-3394 or spikol@harriscenter.org.

Jan 30 (Thu) Film: The Lost Forests of New England
This homegrown documentary tells the story of central New England’s old-growth forests through drone and wildlife camera footage, as well as field interviews with Tom Wessels, David Foster, and other renowned ecologists. Learn how our forests have changed over time, and how to recognize remnant old-growth stands today. After the film, Tom Wessels, filmmaker Ray Asselin, and Bob Leverett of the Native Tree Society will be on hand for questions. 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Putnam Thea-ter at Keene State College. Co-sponsored with the Monadnock Conservancy and the KSC Film Society. For more info, contact Brett Amy Thelen at 358-2065 or thelen@harriscenter.org.
MUSIC ON NORWAY POND

presents

The Labyrinth Choir

in an

Extravaganza of Solo and Ensemble Songs

from Broadway and Hollywood

Sunday, January 12th at 4 p.m. at the Hancock Meeting House

The award-winning Labyrinth Choir comes to Hancock for an unforgettable performance, perfect for curing any traces of the January post-holiday blues. The concert will feature songs from Les Misérables, Dear Evan Hansen, Hamilton, Sister Act, and A Star Is Born. Solos from West Side Story, The Music Man, Hairspray, Sweeney Todd, and so much more. Conducted by Dr. Anita Kupriss (a treasured colleague of Jody Simpson), the professional singers of Labyrinth Choir will take you on a musical journey through Broadway and Hollywood hits that influenced pop culture for decades. This is a musical potpourri that will get your feet tapping and make your heart sing.

Tickets are $25, available at the door or on-line at musiconnorwaypond.org. Students are admitted free of charge.
To our families and supporters in Hancock,

A special thanks to donors of items and bidding participants in our 2019 Online Auction - in Hancock there were many! Thanks to your support we have nearly reached our fundraising goal of $8,000. To all of you who responded to our 2019 Annual Appeal letter with your donation – Thank You! Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2020!

**Special Winter Programs**

**Beginning January 20th: 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 20th - April 13th. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now to schedule your appointment - slots fill quickly!

Saturday, February 8th: 3rd 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(many) families, crafts, 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.

**Ongoing Programs and Resources**

**Love Embraces All Families (LEAF): a Group for Grandfamilies & Relative Caregivers**

For over four years, The Grapevine and The River Center have been hosting a group for grandparents and relative caregivers who are parenting their grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. There are thousands of relative caregivers parenting at this time in New Hampshire. The challenges are significant! It can be helpful to talk to people in similar circumstances, facing similar challenges. The group meets monthly and offers the opportunity to have someone to listen and offer information about available resources. We offer childcare. If you would like more information, call 588-2620 and ask for Carol.

**Strong Living Wellness and Exercise Group**

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

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

**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 5:30-8:30pm

High School Creative Writing Club - Tuesdays 6-8pm

Ave A Club for Middle School Students: For grades 5-8, Wednesdays 2:15-4:15 pm

For our full Schedule visit us at Facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter

**Other Programs and Services at The Grapevine:**

- Home Visiting: One to one support for families. Call us for more information.
- Information & Referral: Information and assistance accessing area resources for housing, financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.
- Community Wood Bank: An emergency resource for those who use wood to heat their home. Call if you need wood, if you have wood to donate, or to volunteer for the 2019 season.
- Community Tool Lending Shed: Borrow tools and light equipment. Email: toolshed@grapevinenh.org

The Grapevine is a nonprofit service organization located behind the Tuttle Library and serving residents in Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, Francestown, Hillsborough, Deering and nearby towns. The Grapevine exists because of charitable contributions from people like you. Tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at PO Box 637, Antrim, or drop by our center at 4 Aiken Street. Visit us online at www.grapevine.org. LIKE us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org and on Instagram: @thegrapevinefrc
Report from the Norway Pond Commission  
*Submitted by Tom Shevenell, Chair*

Norway Pond is slowly releasing its environmental secrets as we completed our third year of studies to understand the pond ecology. The 2019 research program started with the collection of a sediment core from the pond’s deep spot in February. This 4.5m core was collected by Dr. Lisa Doner and her graduate student Will Smith from Plymouth State University. The purpose of this core, in contrast to the 0.5m historic core previously collected, is to document how natural lake conditions changed without European settler influence. This fall Tom Shevenell and Lisa Doner presented a talk entitled “Norway Pond Sediments: A Historical Resource in Understanding the Pond’s Evolving Ecosystem” at the Monadnock Region Natural History Conference, based upon the data collected from the 0.5m core.

In the spring the Commission collaborated with the Harris Center to initiate a cyanobacteria monitoring program designed by EPA. Using equipment purchased by the Harris Center, a working group of the Commission conducted water sampling every two weeks from June through September. The goal of the sampling program is to identify cyanobacteria and associated pigments present in the pond water and test if the data could be used as a tool to predict possible cyanobacteria blooms. This year the working group of H. Marie Lawrence, Jean Polovchik, Brett Thelen, Beth Corwin and Tom Shevenell tested the field and lab procedures described by EPA. Although we are considering 2019 a trial year, the good news is Norway Pond has no cyanobacteria blooms.

Dick Warner conducted his 14th year of water quality monitoring through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). This program was initiated in 1994 under the auspices of the Norway Pond Commission active at that time. VLAP has provided a long-term record of water quality of the pond and Moose Brook.

Dr. Steve Arcone (Dartmouth College) and Dr. Mike Prentice (Geoscy, LLC) continued with more ground penetrating radar surveys, both on the pond and on the terrain surrounding the pond. Their goal is to understand how Norway Pond and the adjoining plateau were formed as a glacier receded 14,500 years ago.

The 3rd Annual Norway Pond Symposium has been scheduled for Saturday February 29, 2020 at the Harris Center (snow date: Saturday March 7th). Join us for a day of talks (or come for just one of your choosing) highlighting recent research and plans for further studies on the ecology of Norway pond. Topics will include: (1) what we are learning about the formation of the pond and surrounding terrain; (2) how the pond sediments can help us understand the pond’s evolving ecosystem and historic past; (3) what we learned from our first season of cyanobacteria monitoring; and (4) how we can systematically monitor the health of the ecosystem into the future. Registration (which is free) will begin at 8:30am with talks from 9:00am through noon for the general public. After lunch (Please bring a bag lunch if you are planning to stay) to 3:00pm will be a workshop where technical presentations will review research in progress and recommendations for future work. For a program listing each talk, and to RSVP, contact Tom Shevenell (tcshevenell@gmail.com). This symposium is co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education.
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 3:00pm; 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 – as noticed
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, 10:00am, 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
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
2020 Ice Out

Chili Supper!

With corn bread and homemade desserts

Saturday, February 1 @ 5:00 PM
in the Vestry
$5.00/one or maximum $20.00/family

Honored guests to be announced in January!

Sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Hancock
to raise funds for the maintenance of the Meetinghouse and Vestry