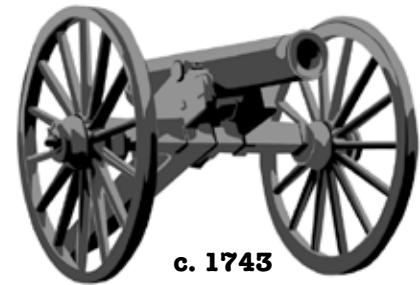


THE NEW BOSTON BEACON

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Complimentary • February 2026



The new home of the New Boston Fire Department officially opened on January 24.

Fire station opens

By Mary C. Constance
Beacon staff writer

The new fire station opened on Saturday, January 24, despite freezing temperatures and a predicted snowstorm for the following day.

"We are all moved in and operating out of the new station," says Fire Chief Brian Dubreuil. "We accomplished a lot thanks to 20 volunteers with trucks and trailers helping with the move."

Construction began after a groundbreaking ceremony was held in August of 2024. It was attended by many residents and town employees despite a thunderstorm and high winds. The project finished last month with record low temperatures on the eve of a snowstorm that dumped nearly two feet of snow.

Inside the fire station, the showcase area displays New Boston's oldest piece of firefighting equipment, a Hunneman pumper named Constitution II. According to the New Boston Historical Society, the town's residents raised the money to purchase the pumper in May of 1872. Constitution II is often displayed during the Fourth of July celebration and parade.

The Emergency Operating Center is

a large multipurpose room that will be used by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), New Boston's Emergency Management Team, and as a community room. All four walls have independent 75-inch displays that are hooked to computer systems. Meetings may be streamed from units in the ceiling.

"We can take different town departments, split them up, police, fire, highway, select board, and get them in their areas to work through problems in the community together," says Dubreuil. "It is a decent size room where public hearings can be held."

The living quarters include a full kitchen, storage, day room, and bunk rooms, as well as a fitness room and office for staff on duty to write reports after events.

"The old station did not have showers. The new station has bathrooms and three showers," says Dubreuil.

There is also a decontamination room with a specialized washer and dryer to clean clothing, and a large walk-in decon shower available.

Included in the design is a large office area for the planning, building, zoning, and health departments. Those departments moved to their new office late last month.

See FIRE STATION, Page 10

NEW BOSTON HISTORY



PINBALL WIZARDS
The men behind
New Boston's ski tow.

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Countdown to 100
Principal Report
Faith
Calendar

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OUTDOORS



ICE FISHING 101
Get hooked
on pure winter
family fun.
PAGE 21

Full-day K on the ballot

By Jen O'Brien
Beacon staff writer

Full-day kindergarten will be on the ballot on March 10 after the New Boston School Board voted to pose the idea to taxpayers rather than pass it through itself last April.

"We've got to do what's right for kids," says SAU#19 Superintendent Brian Balke. "And I believe that this is right for kids and this is right for families."

The school board asked for community input prior to its vote a year ago and received overwhelming messages of support

for full-day programming.

"We did solicit feedback from the public and we got something like 50 different emails about it," says school board member Kelly Socia. "The overwhelming majority said, 'Please do this.' Of the 50, maybe two or three people had concerns, and the rest of them all said, 'Please pass this, we need it. It would help my family; it would help other families.' So, the public feedback that we got on this specific issue was so overwhelmingly in favor of it."

At that time, however, the majority of board members felt that the community

See FULL-DAY K, Page 10

Congresswoman Goodlander speaks at Community Church

By Leslie Nixon
Special to The Beacon

The Community Church of New Boston was honored to welcome Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander to the service on Sunday, January 18, to speak about Martin Luther King Jr. Goodlander and the Rev. Woody Woodland have known each other since she was growing up in Nashua, and, as she put it, Woody was "the voice of Nashua."

Goodlander, a Navy veteran who served in military intelligence and a lawyer who worked in the U.S. Department of Justice, thanked Woody and those in attendance for the invitation "to gather in fellowship, reflection, and service to honor a pastor, patriot, and, I think, one of the greatest teachers that our nation has ever known."

While her talk was not political in the traditional sense, she did not refrain from comparing the ideals for which Dr. King worked to the realities of the present moment.

"I come to this work as someone who wants to find common ground wherever I can, but also is prepared and must stand our ground wherever we must," she said. "And Dr. King reminded us that our ultimate measure is not where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy ... Dr. King reminded us peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, and that the fight for justice, for love, for the promise of our more perfect union is not ever without conflict

or tension."

Goodlander reminded residents that in Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, he called for freedom to ring "from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire."

She said she believes New Boston citizens live "the rings of freedom" of which Dr. King spoke "in the quiet, steady, and courageous work you do, to be a neighbor in this moment, which is the fierce urgency of now, and to build a beloved community."

Goodlander expressed her belief that no one embodies this ring of freedom more than Rev. Woodland, stating, "Your patriotic side is as important as your pastoral side."

See GOODLANDER, Page 22



Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander honored Martin Luther King Jr. at the CCNB service on Sunday, January 18.



Looking back at 2024, and people doing great things

By David Litwinovich
Beacon staff writer

Editor's Note: This month, The Beacon continues its "Countdown to 100" issues by exploring our seventh year, 2024. The plan is to flip through yesterday's pages spotlighting the people, places, and events that made news to help build a better tomorrow.

As the seventh year of *The New Boston Beacon* began, the New Boston Select Board reinstated the Highway Safety Committee allowing the town to apply for federal and state grants to address road safety issues.

Hailey Hansen was awarded her Eagle Scout rank after completing a children's storybook trail alongside the trail behind the Whipple Free Library. Hailey's brother, Logan, started building a community information kiosk for his project. Isaac Segien completed his Eagle Scout project constructing a bog bridge in the Saunders Pasture Conservation Area.

Dick Moody and the New Boston Fire Department celebrated his retirement after 53 years of service to the department. Moody was also honored as the Joe English Grange #53 Community Citizen of the Year.

January 27 was proclaimed Don Chapman Day honoring him for his years of service to the library, the Community Church, and the town.

Glenn Dodge completed the large treehouse behind NBCS that can also serve as an outdoor classroom.

The town mourned the passing of Betty Poltrack who lived to the age of 102. Betty volunteered at the library, the historical society, and the school for many years.

Cathy Widener retired and was honored for her 33 years of service to the New Boston Police Department.

At the elections in March, Joe Constance and Bill McFadden were elected to the select board.

COUNTDOWN TO 100



In June 2024, the New Boston Recreation Department named Ryan Tewksbury its Volunteer of the Year for all his work improving the town's baseball/tee-ball programs. He is pictured here with his family.

In the same month, Frances Towne was the 29th recipient of the Boston Post Cane as the town's oldest citizen.

In 2024, Tony Eberhardt and Kim Messa of New Boston Physical Therapy began contributing a column on health and wellness.

Dodge Farms celebrated 100 years in operation. The family owns 725 acres in New Boston.

New Boston Rail Trail Committee Chair Louise Robie was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution Society's Community Service Award for her tireless work on the rail trail.

US Army veteran Greg Gualtieri flew to Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight for veterans to visit the memorials there.

In June, the 501 PowerKnights Robotics Team went undefeated in the BattleCry@WPI Robotics Competition.

August saw the inaugural Live Free Fest music festival at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds. The festival was organized by Dylan Williams who was born and raised in New Boston.

New Boston Dental's very own Dr. Audrey Elliott and Dr. Lauren Johnson were named Top Dentists by New Hampshire Magazine.

In the summer of that year, brothers Lazarus and Lochlan Lavoie accepted the 50-Yard Challenge (for boys and girls 8-17) through Raising Men and Women Lawn Care Service to mow 50 lawns at no charge to the elderly, disabled, single parents, veterans, active-duty military, and first responders that could use the assistance.

On August 21 ground was broken on the town's new fire station.

At age 13, New Boston resident Adele Dubowski completed her quest to summit all of New Hampshire's 48 4,000 footers. New Boston resident and NBCS fourth-grade teacher Kelly Howe also completed all 4,000 footers in NH, summiting Mount Carrigain on October 20.

All Howls Eve, a fundraiser to support the wolfdogs at The Farm at Sakari's Place, was held on October 5.

Barb Ballou was named the New Hampshire Library Association's Teen Librarian of the Year.

On October 27, the town bid a sad adieu to Guy Tino and the closing of the Northeast Café after 15 years of business in the village center. In December, the town was excited to learn that New Boston resident Rachel Ormond would be opening The Cure Café early in 2025 at the location vacated by the Northeast Café.

The November 5 election broke records as more than 4,000 New Boston residents came to the NBCS gym to exercise their right to vote.

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For a uniquely local Valentine's Day, consider the New Boston Recreation Department's Fire & Ice event as well as a frosted cookie bouquet or a custom cookie box from The Cookie Cart (check their Facebook page for menus and ordering).

A New Boston Valentine

By Jane Byam
Beacon staff writer

Valentine's Day is traditionally celebrated as a day of romantic gestures of love, but it is also a wonderful time to simply honor the connections that matter most, whether as a couple or family. While some may envision driving into the city for the occasion, there is a special kind of magic found right here in New Boston that highlights the quaint beauty of small-town New Hampshire life.

With Valentine's Day falling on a Saturday this year, the weekend offers an ideal opportunity to spread the celebration out. From first light to sunset, here is a sampling of ways to spend a heartfelt day close to home.

The morning might begin with the simple pleasure of a slow start. A visit to The Cure Café offers the chance for a specialty coffee or tea, cozy breakfast or leisurely lunch while taking in the natural beauty of the river as it winds through the village.

For those who find peace outdoors, a midday hike or snowshoe trek is perfect for disconnecting from busy schedules and a beautiful way to enjoy the snow-blanketed landscape. Options include a walk on the four-mile New Boston Rail Trail along the Piscataquog River, an exploration of the Mill Pond Conservation Area just off Mill Street which includes a flat stretch of riverbank and an option for an upland loop with views of the village, back down to meet a footbridge across the river.

The Saunders Pasture Conservation Area off Saunders Hill Road offers a variety of trails meandering through Buxton Brook and views over the Great Meadow and surrounding hillside. Or enjoy the two-mile loop around Bailey Pond that provides a short uphill walk to westerly mountain views.

Shopping for a gift is easy with unique, handcrafted pieces at Tate's Gallery or a visit to Grasshoppers Garden Center for date-night essentials, including fresh flower bouquets, chocolate, ready-to-cook meals, wines and celebratory pints of ice cream.

FIRE & ICE

- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 14, 4-6pm.
- **WHERE:** New Boston Skating Rink
- **WARM UP:** Fire pits will be blazing for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. Hot chocolate will be served.
- **VISIT:** A chili table will be set up to benefit a local Eagle Scout community project.
- **QUESTIONS:** New Boston Recreation, recreation@newbostonnh.gov, or (603) 487-2880.
- **FOLLOW:** New Boston Ice Skating Rink on Facebook for updates.

To satisfy a sweet tooth, options are plentiful locally. Specialty desserts can be pre-ordered from The Cupcake 'Porium or decadent brownies will be available from Two Shepherds Microbakery (see the Street Treats ad on page 18).

For a family event to cap off the afternoon, join friends and neighbors at the New Boston Recreation Department's Fire and Ice event from 4-6pm at the skating rink. Enjoy skating and sledding under the winter sky, then warm up by the fire.

As the afternoon light fades, there is no better vantage point in town for the golden hour than the top of Hooper Hill Road. The peaceful silhouettes of the rolling hills and Crotched Mountain provide a picturesque backdrop for a winter sunset.

For dinner, enjoy the historic charm and try a Valentine's special at Molly's Tavern, head down the road to the Riverside Grill, or opt for a cozy evening with takeout from New Boston Pizza. Top the evening off with an easy-to-prepare white chocolate panna cotta dessert recipe by food columnist, Shepard Bassett (see page 15); a heartfelt way to conclude a truly home-sweet-home kind of day.



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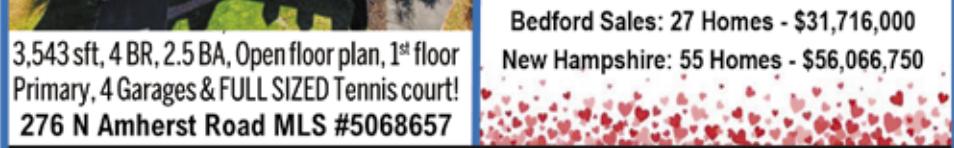


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CANNON FODDER

By Keith Gentili

Let's go bowling



There were seven seconds remaining in Super Bowl 36 with the score tied 17-17. Just a 48-yard field goal stood between the New England Patriots and the franchise's first championship. I was looking

straight down on the play from section 644, Row 37 in the Louisiana Superdome as Adam Vinatieri's kick officially completed the "Silence of the Rams."

It was February 3, 2002, and as confetti fell, Patriots fans howled. I raised a single index finger signifying No. 1. It was my first championship witnessed live and it got emotional. I had been in New Orleans for nearly two weeks working the NFL Experience—taking constant heat from St. Louis fans who felt their team was a lock to win. Yep, the tears were a pure championship catharsis.

Just five years earlier, I was in the same building for Super Bowl 31 as the Drew Bledsoe-led Patriots were beaten by the Green Bay Packers. Although that game was close for a moment in the third quarter, everything about that experience was different from 2002. Super Bowl 36 was held in the wake of 9/11. Just entering the building was unlike anything fans had ever experienced due to increased security and metal detectors. The U2 halftime show reminded us of all the folks lost and to never forget. Plus, I became a father for the first time in October that year; this was my first business trip as a dad. Of course, the Patriots winning was different, and it marked the first Boston sports title of my adult life.

Not since Larry Bird's Celtics won the NBA title in 1986 had a Boston sports team captured a championship. In fact, in 1986, the Patriots played in their first Super Bowl. After successfully going to Miami to "Squish the Fish," the Patriots advanced to Super Bowl 20 to "Berry the Bears." I was a college freshman, and, well, the Pats got destroyed by the Super Bowl shuffling Chicago Bears. For the record, the Red Sox lost the 1986 World Series dramatically that fall. Ugh. Tough bookends.

My memories of Super Bowl Sunday go back as far as fifth grade and Super Bowl 12 (1978) as my mom threw a party that day. I still remember her chili. That triggered a middle-school run of my house being the place for the big game.

On February 5, 2017, on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday, Patrick Dunne, a childhood friend of mine, posted on Facebook his first Super Bowl memory was being at my house in 1979 for Super Bowl 13 (my brother Steven wore his Lynn Swann Steelers #88 jersey). Later that night, Tom Brady led the greatest comeback in the game's history as the Patriots beat the Falcons in overtime to win Super Bowl 51.

I'm traveling to Santa Clara on February 3 for a Make-A-Wish event during Super Bowl week. It marks my 10th work trip for the game. Super Bowl 30 was my first, and I remember being on a pay phone in an empty parking lot just outside Sun Devil Stadium. It was the day before the game, and I was talking to my wife when a practice "flyover" took place. It was an unmistakable noise and scene, something I had never experienced, and Carrie heard it through the receiver.

Super Bowl Sunday is special. Here's to your memories, may they include a bowl of mom's chili. Enjoy #60.



At Super Bowl 38, the Patriots beat the Carolina Panthers but it was Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction that made headlines.

THE NEW BOSTON BEACON



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THE CAPITOL REPORT

By Lisa Post

State Representative District 42



I hope you enjoyed the holiday season with loved ones and the start of a blessed New Year. Our children and grands spent Christmas with their in-laws, which usually means my husband and

I hit the slopes, but the dreaded flu kept us home. The tree went up, the snow fell, and the presents were opened; it was a quiet but lovely end to the year. Then, it was time to head back to the State House.

House committees began hearings the week of January 12. All House committees and public hearings are held at One Granite Place in Concord. For House meetings, hearing schedules and House sessions, you can subscribe to the House Calendar or use our digital House Meeting Schedule found on the General Court website at gencourt.state.nh.us.

The 2025-2026 term has been an interesting one so far. We toured the state to see how we can help small and large businesses and schools. The "New Hampshire Emerging Technology" group was formed to foster innovation, collaboration, and progress. Our group has been meeting with businesses in our state, as well as in Massachusetts, to determine what they need to thrive and how to attract more tech to New Hampshire. It has been a fascinating journey to see the innovative technology expanding here alongside our traditional businesses. New Hampshire continues to experience strong business growth and jobs for our citizens.

I recently had the privilege of attending the New Hampshire Bar Foundation's "College for Legislators" regarding family law and the Circuit Court Family Division. This provided an overview of New Hampshire courts and an in-depth view of the Circuit Court Family Division.

Chief Justice Gordon J. MacDonald opened an informative discussion. Family law cases involve minors who

have experienced abuse and neglect, guardianships, and Family Treatment Court. New Hampshire law emphasizes shared parental rights and responsibilities by prioritizing the best interest in the child to ensure frequent and continuing contact with both families when parents aren't together.

In June of 2025, Governor Ayotte signed HB 10 and SB 25 establishing a comprehensive Parents' Bill of Rights, which expands education opportunities for our students. Parental rights include the right to be with your child(ren) and make decisions about their upbringing, education, and religion.

There are 891 House bills and 275 Senate bills currently filed. The Commerce Committee has 54 bills to be heard. Several bills held over the summer were retained to work out the kinks. Some of these may be controversial or of particular interest to you:

- **HB 1568.** Relative to mandatory minimum insurance coverage requirements for motor vehicles. This bill makes it mandatory to have liability insurance; currently New Hampshire does not mandate that motorists have insurance. Many people do not have the means to afford insurance but still need to have a vehicle to drive to their place of business.

- **HB 1558.** Requiring proof of insurance or adequate financial responsibility for vehicle registration.

- **HB 1703.** Establishing a registration fee for bicycles and electric bicycles using state or municipally funded bike paths, rails, or roadways.

- **HB 1761.** Expanding the New Hampshire paid family and medical leave insurance (FMLI) program.

- **HB 1481.** Enabling on-premises licensees to sell drinks made with distilled alcohol for take-out.

- **HB 1499.** Relative to additional grounds for eviction under the landlord and tenant statute.

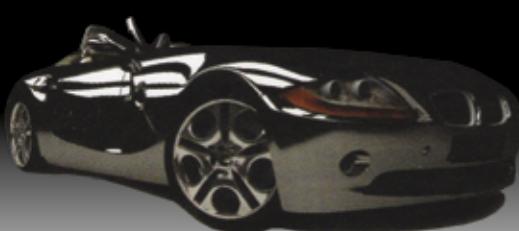
- **HB 1626.** Relative to the effectiveness of tourism expenditures.

As the Commerce Committee gears up to work on the bills before us, I look forward to hearing from you on issues that are important to you, our towns, and our state. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Lyndeborough, Mont Vernon, and New Boston and I thank you for your support. I am happy to live free in New Hampshire. God Bless America.

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OUR TOWN: YESTERDAY

From the Diaries of Bill Fiske: Pinball Ski Tow

By Dick Jardine

New Boston Historical Society

February in New Boston can be very wintry. The 1947-1948 State of New Hampshire Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission reported more than 87 inches of snow fell that winter. Resident Bill Fiske noted in his diaries that it was particularly snowy in New Boston that year, as on February 15, 1948, he wrote,

"Starting to Snow 3 P.M. this is our 20th Snow Storm and no Thaw so far this Winter."

It was the consistent snowfall that year that prompted Walter (Walt) Kirsch, Ted Fiske, and Lawson Smith to develop the Pinball Ski Tow in 1948, located on Pinball Hill which rises above what is now the Hillsborough County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Bill Fiske mentioned the Ski Tow in at least 19 entries in diaries from 1948 through 1954. He was a retired Boston and Maine Railroad engineer who operated locomotives from 1892 until 1927, driving the train housed in New Boston from 1909 until B&M removed it in 1924. He continued with B&M until retirement in 1929. He maintained a daily diary, with atrocious spelling, from 1892 until 1954 depicting examples of daily life in the early-to-mid-20th century. The first entries mentioning the ski tow that first year happened in November:



Skiers on the Pinball Ski Tow at Pinball Hill in 1948, located near the current site of the Hillsborough County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Friday, November 26, 1948: "Elliotte up at 6.45 A.M. he is helping Lawson on Ski Towe."

Sunday, November 28, 1948: "A nice Clear Morning. Elliott and I road down to Lawsons Ski Towe."

Walter Kirsch and Lawson Smith were key players in the planning and operation

of the Pinball Ski Tow. Walt provided the managerial resources, and one of his mill employees, Ted Fiske, operated heavy equipment and helped with the construction of the slope and the ski slope's two buildings. Ted's brother-in-law Lawson worked constructing, operating, and maintaining the facilities.

Ted Fiske was the younger son of Bill Fiske, and Bill was Lawson Smith's father-in-law. That might explain why Bill attributed more importance to Lawson's role in calling it "Lawsons Ski Towe." The "Elliott" mentioned in the diary is Elliott Fiske, the son of George Fiske, Bill's older son, and Mabel (Holt) Fiske.

The first entry of 1949 mentioning the ski area was on Saturday, January 22:

"A Dark Cloudy Morning. Pinball Ski Tow opens to Day and Evening. A Warming House and Hot Dogs. About 7" of Snow the first Snow this Winter."

A warming house, built by Walt and his crew in 1948 prior to the first snowfall, was complete with a Coca Cola cooler and Pinball Ski Tow signage.

Subsequent entries in the diaries indicate the ski slope remained active in February of 1949:

Saturday, February 12, 1949: "Charlotte took me down to the Ski Tow 3.45 P.M. ...A big Crowd at Ski Tow some from New York State. Also Tow open this Evening."

Sunday, February 13, 1949: "Elliot ate Breakfast left at 8.30 for Ski Tow...Ski Tow pretty Soft."

Remarkably, the ski area had night skiing and attracted skiers from as far away as New York. The slopes were open on weekends, but the diary entry for Wednesday, March 2 stated:

"Ski Towing at Pin Ball last Evening."

Bill recorded that seven inches of snow had fallen overnight on March 1, making conditions favorable for a weekday opening. However, they would not be favorable for much longer, as one-week later Bill wrote,

"School Boys Bating Ball so it must be first Day of Spring."

The following February was favorable, reflected in the following entries:

Saturday, February 18, 1950: "Kirsches Pin Ball Ski Towe Working Today."

Saturday, February 25, 1950: "Ski Tow Runing all Day."

Sunday, February 26, 1950: "Ski Tow doing a big job Today."

Saturday, March 4, 1950: "Pin Ball Ski Tow Working This P.M."

Operation continued in 1951, as indicated by the Sunday, January 13 entry,

"Pin Ball Ski Tow doing a lot of Business Today."

Over a foot of snow had fallen the previous week and temperatures remained cold. After this date, the weekend temperatures warmed. There was no mention of the ski tow in February or March of 1951. Conditions may have not been good for ski slope operation in 1952 or 1953, as there was no mention of the ski area during those years either.

Bill notes that the slopes were operating in 1954, however, as he wrote:

Saturday, January 16, 1954: "Ted Fiske at Ski Tow."

Sunday, January 17, 1954: "Ted Fiske working at Pin Ball Ski Tow."

Sunday, January 31, 1954: "Ted road down to Ski Tow."

Those were the last entries in the diaries about the Pinball Ski Tow, as Bill stopped writing in February, a month before his 91st birthday. He died February 23, 1955.



Inside the warming hut, where hot dogs were 15¢ and coffee was a dime. Pictured are Walter Kirsch (far left) and Lawson Smith (center), who were key players in the planning and operation of the tow and can also be seen on Page 1.

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OUR TOWN: TODAY



Edie Jennings delivered dictionaries as part of the Joe English Grange #53 dictionary project to all third-grade students at New Boston Central School.

Joe English Grange #53 Update

By Marie MacDonald
Beacon staff writer

January's program was given by Lecturer Gail Stout, who reviewed a brief history of the grange. Members voted to make a donation to the New Boston food bins at the library. Community Service Chairwoman Arlene Dodge compiled a list of items that were needed. Members will follow up each month and purchase items.

Dictionary Chairwoman Edie Jennings

reported she distributed 48 dictionaries to New Boston third-grade students and 36 dictionaries to Mont Vernon third graders. She said students were excited to receive their own dictionary and that they were impressed by the longest word in their new books, which is 1,909 letters.

Members will be writing out 300-plus valentines which will be distributed to three nursing homes in the area as well as the three Rose Meadow facilities in New Boston. Members are honored to welcome two new members to the Joe English Grange #53, Kathy Twist and Deb Stanley.

NOTES FROM THE VILLAGE

Supervisors of the Checklist. The Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a session on Saturday, February 28 at 10am at the New Boston Town Clerk's office to accept any voter registrations, changes, additions, or corrections to the voter checklist (RSA 669:5, 654:28). No additions or corrections shall be made to the checklist after this session until the March 10 Election Day, except as provided in RSA 659:12, 354:8, II.

Absentee Ballots for March 10 Election. To obtain a ballot, please use one of the following three options:

1. Mail a photocopy of your ID and a completed absentee ballot application (available online) to the Town Clerk.

2. Show the clerk your ID to receive your ballot in person.

3. Mail or show the clerk a notarized absentee ballot application.

Register OHV/ATVs. Registering your OHV/ATVs is now available at the Town Clerk's office.

Employment Anniversaries. In February, the town hall thanks Assistant Town Administrator Maralyn Segien (21) and Police Lieutenant Tim Loveless (6) for their dedication and service.

2026 Dog Licenses. To register online, the system is set to remind owners to register only if the dog(s)'s rabies is current. Otherwise, you will not be notified. The deadline to register is April 30.

SELECT BOARD NOTES

By Maralyn Segien
Beacon staff writer

The New Boston Select Board met four times in January. Most meetings are available to view anytime over townhallstreams.com/towns/newboston.

Staffing. Shawn Enos was welcomed as town clerk assistant. A detective and afterschool counselors are sought.

2026 Budget Planning Season Update. Budget and warrant article documents are available on the town website and in the library, New Boston Central School (NBCS) and town hall lobby for viewing. In January, the board and finance committee voted on the 2026 proposed budget and each warrant article and moved them on to the Deliberative Session February 2 at 6pm at the NBCS Thomas Mansfield gym with a snow date of February 4. These meetings will be livestreamed and available to view anytime.

Fire Station Update. The New Boston Fire Department is pleased to announce it began operating out of the new fire station at 63 Mont Vernon Road on January 25. The Community Development Department including planning, zoning, and building began operating out of the new station January 26.

The Bunting Station is now retired after 53 years of service to the community. The

trail near the site of the new fire station is temporarily closed during construction but access remains open to the library trails.

New Town Website Launched. The town is excited to announce citizens can now access its new website at newbostonnh.gov.

Public Hearing. A public hearing has been scheduled to take place February 9 at the Whipple Free Library (6:35pm) for public input regarding acceptance of a donation for the New Boston Fire Department. This hearing will also pertain to reducing the speed limit to 30mph on Bedford and McCurdy Roads.

Committees. Kristin Cray resigned from the Zoning Board. Kristi Zimmerman-Lundt was appointed, and Scott Chouinard was reappointed to the Conservation Commission. Aron Duquette was appointed to the Highway Safety Committee. There are still several committee openings including building committee members, conservation commission member, finance committee member, open space committee member, finance committee member, economic development committee members, solid waste advisory committee members, and alternates to the planning and zoning boards.

Interested candidates for any of these openings can submit the appointment application found on the town website at newbostonnh.gov.

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ROBOTS IN THE LIBRARY

The NBCS PTA purchased a set of programmable Ozobot Evos in the fall. Housed in the library with Mrs. Charles, they are used to teach students about basic coding. These mini bots can be programmed with multi-colored lines or block programming, making them great for all ages. Younger grades are learning about colors and patterns. Older students will learn to color code and then be able to use block coding to do many of these same actions and more. This introduction to block coding is a transferable skill since many advanced coding courses now use block coding.

THE PRINCIPAL REPORT

By Tori Underwood
NBCS principal

The New Boston Central School Spelling Bee took place on January 15. Preliminaries were held in the classrooms in December. The top three spellers in each of the fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms advanced to the finals.

Congratulations to the top two spellers, sixth-grader Graham Beaudry and fifth-grader Quinn Santos. Graham will take an online test to see if he moves on to the next level. The top 20–25 student scores from the online test will represent their schools at the regional competition. Best of luck to Graham.

Deliberative Session. The school deliberative session will be held on Tuesday, February 3 at 7pm in the Thomas Mansfield Gym. The New Boston School Board and school administration will be presenting the warrant articles associated with the 2026–2027 proposed budget. Warrant articles include the school budget, full-day kindergarten, and a deposit to the Capital Reserve Fund.

The school board and district administration will be available to answer questions to help residents better understand the budget that supports the education of all New Boston students at New Boston Central School, Mountain View Middle School, and Goffstown High School. More detailed information is located on the school website and posted in the gym lobby. The

snow date is February 5.

Registration. Registration for incoming kindergarten and first grade students for the 2026–2027 school year is now open. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children using our online registration system, located on the school website, nbcs.k12.nh.us.

We will be sponsoring Parent Information Nights this spring. Information will be mailed home to families by the end of March. It will be helpful if we have your child's information to assure you will receive the parent letter.

Depending on the year, we can typically have between two to four kindergarten sessions, which could equate to three or four full-time classrooms depending on the outcome of the kindergarten warrant article vote, and three or four first-grade classrooms. Registering early helps us get a head count for number of sessions and staffing.

Your child must be five years old by September 30, 2026, to be eligible for kindergarten and six years old by September 30, 2026, to be eligible for first grade. To help you prepare to register you will need to provide the following documents during the registration process:

A copy of your child's **birth certificate**, a copy of your child's **immunization record**, and a **physical examination** within one year prior to entering school. In addition, you will need to provide **two proofs of residency** (utility bill or deposit receipt indicating address, purchase and sales agreement, lease agreement, voter registration, social service papers/Social Security, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, rent receipt including verification of landlord's address and phone number, and/or welfare card). In the unusual case that these are not available, a signed and notarized statement of residence must be submitted.

Kindergarten Pre-Registration. New Boston Central School is proposing to offer a full-day kindergarten program starting in September 2026. This proposal will be on the town ballot at the March 10 election. To help us prepare the budget and staffing for both a full-day or half-day program, we need to know how many children will be joining us for kindergarten in September.

Please complete the pre-registration form located on the school's website and let us know your interest:

- Full-Day Only. My child will attend only if it's a full-day program.
- Half-Day Only. My child will attend only if it's a half-day program.
- Either. My child will attend whether it's full-day or a half-day program.

Full registration will open after the March election. You will then receive a notification asking you to proceed with the rest of the registration and upload your supporting documentation.

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EDUCATION



After months of planning and fundraising, the GHS Alpine Ski Team stands together at the finish line in their new race suits. The team made its first official appearance in the custom suits on January 23.

GHS Alpine Ski Team debuts new look, suits

By Emily Byam
Beacon student reporter



This winter, members of Goffstown High School (GHS) Alpine Ski Team, originally established by New Boston's Betsy Moody, are hitting the slopes in official, custom-designed race suits.

In years past, families organized jackets and apparel featuring the GHS logo. However, these specialized suits are unique; they enhance team spirit while providing aerodynamic performance and protection.

"Having these suits makes us look so professional on the mountain," says GHS senior Hailey Hansen.

This team's new appearance is a significant turning point for the program.

"To our knowledge, this marks the first time in GHS alpine history that the team will compete in an official suit. It's a milestone the athletes can proudly celebrate," says New Boston parent Buffy Bingham.

It all began last February when four girls on the team, Emma Bingham, Reeva Kopacz, Hailey Hansen, and Maddie Jenness competed in the Girls State Alpine Race at Cranmore Mountain Resort. Surrounded by high schoolers who all had matching ski suits, they imagined what it would be like if they had the same. Inspired, the girls decided to elevate their presence with a more competitive, unified look that proudly represented GHS.

By summer, that vision turned into a mission when Hansen reached out to a small group of parents to see if forming a booster club might make the idea possible. Parent Robyn Perry took charge of gathering the paperwork to form the GHS Alpine Booster Club.

"We needed to raise a lot of money in a short window with a relatively small team," Perry says. "Our goal was to raise \$10,000 to secure approximately 22 suits to accommodate for following years."

The financial commitment was ambitious, but the athletes stepped up.

"Several athletes began attending meetings alongside booster club members, who helped guide conversations around sponsorships, fundraising, and future planning," says Bingham.

The team launched a 28-day online fundraiser and managed all aspects of a bake sale at Goffstown's Ace Hardware. Pats Peak Ski Area generously donated three lift tickets for a raffle.

Freshman and first-time racer Natalie Small remembers the weekend well.

"I helped by making the sign for the table," she says of the Ace Hardware fundraiser. "I did my best in welcoming everyone when they walked by, thinking of ideas to get people to come over and ways they could use the tickets if they won. I learned a lot and had a ton of fun hanging out with the team in the freezing cold."

Within six weeks, the team met their financial goal. The next step was choosing a suit. Bingham researched and connected with Borah Teamwear out of Wisconsin. Borah designed five suits within a day, using the GHS logo as well as the maroon and white colors. Members then voted on which one they liked the most.

Due to fundraising and production timelines, the suits were not ready for the first few races. They made their official debut during the Giant Slalom race at Crotched Mountain on January 23.

For Hansen, seeing the suits arrive was the perfect way to end her time as a GHS racer.

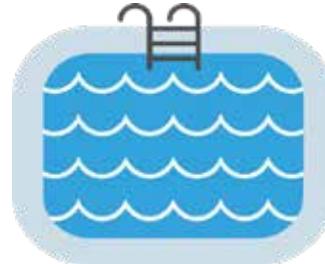
"I am so grateful we were able to make it happen this year," she says. "It would not have been possible without all the help from our wonderful parents in the booster club and athletes who dedicated their time and effort into fundraising."



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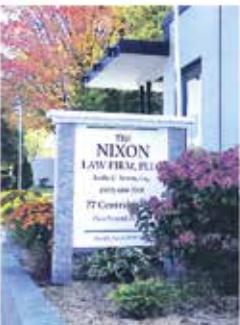
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

February 5, 2026 at 6:00PM
Meeting Room
New Boston Town Hall

The Conservation Commission wishes to fund a purchase of real properties at Tax Map 1/1 that will be held by the Piscataquog Land Conservancy.

*In accordance with RSA36-A:4-a, I(b), Prior to the use of funds for the purchase of any interest in real property or for a contribution to a qualified organization for the purchase of property interests under RSA36-A:4-a, I(b), the conservation commission shall hold a public hearing with notice in accordance with RSA 675:7.

FIRE STATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The Town of New Boston is excited for the fire department, planning and building departments as they moved into their new facility," says Town Administrator Kathie Vieira. "The building was done with much thought, preparation, and foresight and should provide a state-of-the-art facility for many years to come."

The bay area of the station is large and will accommodate future town breakfasts that so many have missed these last few years.

Asked about large yellow hoses suspended from above, Dubreuil explains, "There are hoses that will suction and pull all the exhaust gases out of the building. In the gear room, where fire coats, boots, helmets, and

other equipment are stored, and despite cleaning, puts off cancer causing agents, the air is constantly moving and pulled out of the room."

These new measures and equipment in the fire station will aid the health and safety of New Boston's firefighters, a longtime concern.

"We have been waiting for this day since the town received the grant. Thank you to Chief Dubreuil, Rick Riendeau, and all the fire department staff for their efforts in making this a reality," says Select Board Chair Bill McFadden. "I am looking forward to this next chapter with the New Boston Fire Department."

The work is not yet complete as the landscaping will wait until spring and there is a punch list of things to complete, such as touching up paint on walls and laying of flooring in some areas. An open house is planned for this spring.

FULL-DAY K

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

should vote on the topic, and the decision was put off for the 2025-26 school year in favor of putting it on the warrant next month.

For many taxpayers, the first question is that of cost. The school board has proposed a budget that will also be on the ballot next month whose line items do not represent those of full-day kindergarten. Namely, it includes mid-day busing for half-day students, and state aid at half of the full-day rate.

If full-day kindergarten is passed, the cost of midday busing will go away, and state aid will double, but other costs will be incurred for furniture, educational materials, and additional paraprofessionals. This would result in no overall change to the school budget for the 2026-27 school year.

"We have the space and we have underutilized classrooms," says school board member and elementary school teacher Kate Merva.

New Boston Central School (NBCS) has been on an enrollment decline since before Covid, as have most districts in New Hampshire. At its peak, enrollment neared 600 students and overcrowding was a problem. However, current numbers are much more comfortable at closer to 450 students. But school board chair Bill Schmidt is concerned about what will happen if enrollment increases in the future.

"For most of my tenure on the board there's been no space [at NBCS]," says Schmidt, who has held a board seat since 2015. "Now we have a little bit of space. But I'm still concerned that if we add full-day kindergarten, the reality is we can't then go take it away if we have space constraints later on."

Current predictions are that three full-time kindergarten classrooms would be adequate, but plans have been considered for a fourth, should it be needed.

FUTURE OF READINESS

"I've proposed to the board to eliminate the readiness program," says Balke. "If you have full-day kindergarten, you don't need readiness anymore because in New Hampshire, there's a state law that if you're six by September 30th, you need to be enrolled full time in school, which disallows

anyone to repeat half-day kindergarten. Whereas if you had full-day kindergarten, you could repeat it. If a parent and the child's teacher felt that a kid should repeat kindergarten, you could do that, whereas we can't legally do that now."

But the decision to remove readiness would be voted upon by the board and is not predicated on the full-day kindergarten warrant article passing.

"Our school system is a complex system, and I would be hesitant to make multiple changes to a complex system all at the same time," says Schmidt.

Merva agrees, saying "I'm a firm believer in the readiness program. I see equal merit and value in both readiness and full-day kindergarten, but it may get tricky and come down to the number of students whether we have adequate space for both programs."

In preparation for the transition to full-day kindergarten, NBCS formed the Kindergarten Committee in 2023, a group of teachers and staff tasked with planning logistics and anticipating challenges of the move.

"We've been working on all of the logistics in the background," says Balke. "We've had visits to other school districts that went from half-day programming to full-day programming, and asked, what are the things that they didn't think about?"

A full plan is already in place should the town pass full-day kindergarten including adjusting daily schedules to allow for kindergarteners to attend classes like gym and music, and use the cafeteria for lunch.

"Whether they're sitting and learning, having playtime with friends, or just learning how to be a kid in school, I don't see how having more experience early on in kindergarten would be a bad thing," says Socia. "And even if there's no increase in academic outcomes from going to full day, logically, it's easier on families. Plus, for the most disadvantaged kids in our community, they might have their best meal at school, which they don't get in a half-day program."

But Schmidt disagrees, saying, "There was a study that showed that any difference between students in a half-day versus full-day kindergarten just kind of goes away by third grade. Testing score differences go away by then. And I don't think that the school's mission is to provide free daycare for people. We should be focused on academics and not free daycare, feeding everybody, things like that."

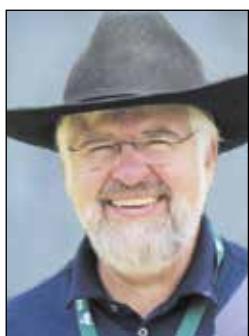


FAITH

FROM THE PEWS

By Kevin Hobi

New Boston Baptist Church



Cancellations due to snowfall can be difficult interruptions. Thus far this year, our church has not missed any of our Sunday meeting times due to snow, although there have been some close calls. Some of our older

members told me about the year long ago, when our church canceled Sunday services seven weeks in a row due to snow. We follow in the footsteps of some faithful forefathers.

Some of our snowstorms have a snow-globe feel. The big, light, fluffy snowflakes are always prettier than the sleety downpour we sometimes get. In either case, the Bible tells us that snow is one of the beautiful creations of God, through which He teaches us about Himself. Bible students call this practice God's general revelation, meaning that everyone sees what He reveals, even if they do not read a Bible. It would be a shame to have so much snow around us and still miss the truths about God's creative design and loving forgiveness, which He intends to show us through snow.

Like the honeycomb of a beehive, snowflakes all follow a basic hexagonal structure when they crystallize, although no two are alike. The creation scientist, Johann Kepler, who discovered much of what we know today about celestial

dynamics, attributed this amazing feature of snow to a nondescript "formative principle" in his essay "Six-Cornered Snowflake" (1611).

Kepler was inspired to write the essay as a gift for a friend after a snowflake had landed on the sleeve of his coat. Jon Nelson has shown how a snow crystal has fast-growing faces and slow-growing faces, ultimately causing the faces of a snow crystal to be six ("Branch Growth and Side-branching in Snow Crystals," Crystal Growth & Design, vol. 5, 2005, pp 1509-1525).

The Bible gives the Lord credit for this unique design. He asked Job, who had questioned God's dealings with him: "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail?" (Job 38:22). Job had not, and God's point was that the powerful Creator of the snowflake was also Job's Creator. Snowflakes are beautiful and orderly because the Creator made them so. Job needed to learn to trust that the Creator would do what is beautiful and orderly for him too.

Snow speaks not only about our Creator's design capabilities, but also of His loving care: "Come now and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18). We can trust this promise.

Newly fallen snow is beautiful. The whitened rolling hills of our New Hampshire town after a snowy day form a pristine landscape. Through the promise of forgiven sin, the God who created the flakes that beautify our scenery also invites us to trust Him to do the same work for our hearts. The death and resurrection of His Son made this possible.

WORSHIP NOTES

Messiah Lutheran Church. Ash Wednesday service will be February 18 at 7pm, all are welcome. Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season that culminates in Easter week, with Easter on Sunday, April 5. Messiah holds Wednesday evening services at 7pm throughout Lent.

New Boston Baptist Church. Pastor Kevin Hobi continues to preach and teach on Sunday mornings from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah and the New Testament Gospel of John. After worship there is a fellowship meal together, followed by one another times. All are welcome.



MAKING THE ROUNDS

U.S. Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander visited New Boston last month and made stops at the Community Church as well as the new fire station. She is pictured here with (from left) Fire Chief Brian Dubreuil, Lieutenant Rick Riendeau, Marie MacDonald, and Retired Fire Chief Dan MacDonald.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Chestnut Hill Chapel

219 Chestnut Hill Rd, New Boston • 472-2709
ChestnutHillChapel.com
Sun. in person at 10:30am

Community Church of New Boston

Central Square, New Boston • 487-2160
Sun. in person and live stream at 10am

Congregational Church of Goffstown

10 Main St, Goffstown • 497-2365
Sun. in person at 10:30am

Hillside United Methodist Church

82 Center St, Goffstown • 497-4163
Sun. at 9am

Mont Vernon Congregational Church

4 S. Main St, Mont Vernon • 673-3500
Sun. in person at 10:30am

New Boston Baptist Church

184 Mont Vernon Rd, New Boston • 769-9999
Sun. in person at 10:30am

Restore Church

2 Church St., Stark Hall, Goffstown
restorechurchnh.com Sun. in person at 11am.

St Lawrence Parish

1 E. Union Street, Goffstown • 497-2651
Saturdays: Confessions 3-3:45pm, Mass 4pm
Sundays: Masses 8:30am & 10:30am
Weekdays: Masses Wed. at 6pm,
Thurs. & Fri. at 8:30am.
Pray the Rosary: Sat. 3:30pm.
Adoration: Fridays 3-6pm.

St Matthew's Episcopal Church

7 N. Mast St, Goffstown • 497-2003
stmatteepiscopal.org
Sundays 8am & 10am

Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA

303 St. Route 101, Amherst
673-2011 messiahnh.org
Sun. in person and streaming at 9:30am

316 Church

1 Kittredge Road, Mont Vernon
(Mont Vernon Elementary School)
603-867-5146 • Sun. at 10:30am

Weare Bible Baptist Church

82 N. Stark Hwy (Rt. 114), Weare
212-1600 • wearebiblebaptist.com
Sun. in person at 11am

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David R. Craig & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

5 River Road • New Boston, NH 03070
t. 603.487.3915 • f. 603.487.3916
info@craiglawoffice.com
www.craiglawoffice.com



OUT-OF-TOWN EVENTS

Sweets on Snow, complimentary apple cider donuts, Saturdays and Sundays, February 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, and 28, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford.

Community Night, Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 3pm, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

Women in Powder Weekend, February 7 and 8, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

Live Music at the Onset Pub, Saturdays, February 7, 14, 21, and 28, 5pm-8pm, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

Ski and Sport On-Snow Demo, Sundays, February 8, 15, and 22, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford.

Newport Winter Carnival, February 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, Newport.

F.I.S. National Junior Race, February 12 and 13, Pats Peak, Henniker.

Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus presents the Greatest Show on Earth, February 26, 27, 28, and March 1, SNHU Arena, Manchester.

Scout Weekend, February 28 and March 1, Pats Peak, Henniker.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Ski and Sport DemoFest, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford. **9:30am**, The Really Big Cookie Race, Pats Peak, Henniker.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:30pm, Gibson's Book Club reads *North: A Novel* by Brad Kessler, Gibson's Book Store, Concord.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

11am, Storytime Event: Rumpelstiltskin, Gibson's Book Store, Concord.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:30pm, *Identifying the Pathogen* with author Jennifer Militello, Gibson's Book Store, Concord.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7pm, Trivia Night, The Bridge Bar and Grill, Stonebridge Country Club, Goffstown.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

8am, MacConnell College Division Race, Pats Peak, Henniker. **11am**, Keene Ice and Snow Festival, Central Square, Keene. **2pm**, Saturday Aprés with Garrett Smith, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford. **5pm**, College Night, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Valentine's Paintball Biathlon Race, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford. **7am**, Vertical Challenge, Pats Peak, Henniker. **9am**, Ice Day 2026, Horse Beach, Kezar Lake and Muster Field Farm, North Sutton, admission is free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

2:30pm, USASA Night Rail Jam, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford. **6:30pm**, *The Metal Storm (Yther Chronicles #5)* with author Ellwyn Hayslip IV, Gibson's Book Store, Concord. **7pm**, Comedy Night, The Bridge Bar and Grill, Stonebridge Country Club, Goffstown.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

12pm, Squam Lakes Winterfest, Squam Lakes Association, Holderness. **2pm**, Saturday Aprés with Lauren Smoken, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford. **3pm-8pm**, 3-course Valentine's Day Dinner, free wine tasting 6-7:30pm, live music 5-8pm, The Bridge Bar and Grill, Stonebridge Country Club, Goffstown, reservations@stonebridgeccnh.com. **8pm**, Midnight Madness, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Vertical Challenge, McIntyre Ski Area, Manchester. **10am**, Alton Bay Winter Carnival, Alton.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

4:30pm, Poetry Society of New Hampshire presents Liane St. Laurent followed by an open mic, Gibson's Book Store, Concord.

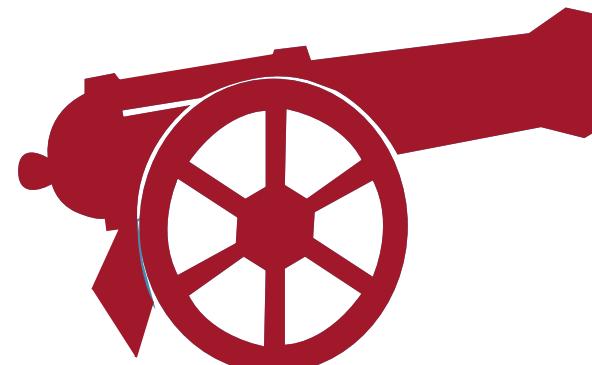
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7pm, Trivia Night, The Bridge Bar and Grill, Stonebridge Country Club, Goffstown.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

2pm, Saturday Aprés with Gary Gadoury, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford.

Editor's note: All information is up to date as the Beacon went to print. Please check websites or call organizations for the latest event information as changes occur daily.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



NEW BOSTON FEBRUARY

3pm-8pm, Fire and Ice Festival, special appearances by Elsa and Anna 4-6pm, fireworks at 6:30pm, The Bridge Bar and Grill, Stonebridge Country Club, Goffstown, reservations@stonebridgeccnh.com.

4pm, Combat Zone 91 MMA, SNHU Arena, Manchester.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

4pm, LaFoley Spring Series Night Race, Pats Peak, Henniker.

7pm, Comedy Night, The Bridge Bar and Grill, Stonebridge Country Club, Goffstown.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Thirty Two Rail Jam, McIntyre Ski Area, Manchester.

4:30am, 6th Annual Ice Fishing Derby for Autism and the Community, Goffstown Fish and Game Association, Melvin Valley Road, Weare, adult tickets \$10, kids tickets \$5, pre-registration will be February 26 and 27, tickets also available day of derby starting.

2pm, Saturday Aprés with Arlene Wow, Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford.

5pm, College Night, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

8pm, Midnight Madness, Crotched Mountain, Bennington.

CONCERTS AND THEATRE

Rock of Ages, February 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

Guys and Dolls, performed by the Silver Stars, a 55+ senior performance group, February 6 and 7, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

Shake It Off, A (Taylor's Version) Live Concert, February 13, 14, and 15, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

Footloose the musical, Palace Youth Theatre edition, February 18 and 19, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

Who's Bad, the ultimate Michael Jackson experience, February 21, 22, and 23, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

Cabaret, February 27 and 28, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

7pm, Kathy Griffin: New face, New tour, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7pm, Gile Series: Sing-A-Long Broadway, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:30pm, Dueling Pianos, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:30pm, Moe, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7pm, Hope NH Recovery Concert, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7:30pm, Tusk: Fleetwood Mac Tribute, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

7:30pm, Story Songs of the 70s, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7:30pm, Young Dubliners, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:30pm, Dirty Blond, the pure Blondie experience, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

2pm, Mardi Gras in Manchester with the Soggy Po' Boys, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:30pm, A Tribute to Amy Winehouse with The Winehouse Project, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

6pm, Candlelight: Featuring Vivaldi's Four Seasons and More, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

8pm, Get the Led Out: A Celebration of the Mighty Zep, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

8:30pm, Candlelight: Featuring Coldplay and Imagine Dragons, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6pm, Candlelight: Featuring 90s Hip-Hop on Strings, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

8:30pm, Candlelight: Featuring Coldplay and Imagine Dragons, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7pm, 16th Annual New England Winter Blues Festival, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

7:30pm, Dirty Dancing in Concert, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7pm, Justin Willman – One for the Ages Tour, Chubb Theatre, Capitol Center for the Arts, Concord.

7:30pm, An Evening with Sister Sadie, Rex Theatre, Manchester.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

11am, How I Became a Pirate, performed by Palace Youth Theatre, Palace Theatre, Manchester.

7:30pm, Heartless, a tribute to Ann Wilson of Heart, Rex Theatre, Manchester.



TOWN & SCHOOLS

Men's ages 18+ Pickup Basketball, Sundays, February 1, 8, and 15, 7pm, NBCS gym.

Puzzle Swap, February 1 and 2, Whipple Free Library.

Monday Morning Quilters, Mondays, February 2, 9, and 23, 10am, Whipple Free Library.

Tai Chi/Qigong Foundations, Wednesdays, February 4, 11, and 18, 10am, White Building #2. Register online or call the recreation office. Max of 10 participants.

Lego Club (grades 1-6), Wednesdays, February 4 and 18, 2:30pm, Whipple Free Library.

Cribbage, Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25, 6pm, Whipple Free Library.

Walk in the Woods, Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26, meet at New Boston Town Hall parking lot at 8:55am.

Senior Lunch and Bingo, Thursdays, February 5, 12, and 19, Lunch at the NBCS gym at 10:50am. Cost \$3. Nickel ante Bingo at the recreation office from noon-3pm.

Yoga with the recreation department, Thursdays, February 5, 12, and 19, 6pm, Whipple Free Library.

Knitters, Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 10am, Whipple Free Library.

The Next Chapter Book Club (emerging readers), Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 10am, Whipple Free Library.

Friday Fusion Yoga, Fridays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6 and 13, Hope Creative, Allison Hope Photography Studio, drop-in rate \$15.

Pre-K and Under Playgroup, Fridays, February 6, 13, and 20, 9-10am White Building #2.

Mahjong, Fridays, February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 1pm, Whipple Free Library.

Little Listeners Storytime (ages 3-6), Mondays, February 9 and 23, 10:15am, Whipple Free Library.

Pickleball for Adults (18+), Tuesdays, February 10 and 17, 7pm, NBCS gym.

Bubbly Babies (babies and toddlers), Fridays, February 13, 20, and 27, 10:15am, Whipple Free Library.

Winter Recess, February 23-27, NBCS, MVMS, and GHS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

2:30pm, Page Turners Book Group (grades 4-6), Whipple Free Library.

5pm, Solid Waste Committee meeting, Town Hall.

6pm, Town Deliberative session, NBCS gym.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7pm, School Deliberative session followed by New Boston School Board meeting, NBCS gym.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10am, Who Dunnit? Mystery Book club, Whipple Free Library.

6pm, Town Deliberative session (snow date), NBCS gym.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6pm, Conservation Commission meeting, Town Hall.

7pm, School Deliberative session (snow date), NBCS gym.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7pm, Howl with the Yellowstone Wolves, Whipple Free Library.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9

2:30pm, Kids Talk Books (kids in grades 3-6), Whipple Free Library.

5:30pm, Forestry Committee meeting, Town Hall.

6:30pm, Public Hearing to discuss a proposal to reduce the speed limit on Bedford and McCurdy Roads, Whipple Free Library.

6:30pm, Fire Wards meeting, Town Hall.

6:30pm, Select Board meeting, Whipple Free Library.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:30pm, Planning Board meeting, Town Hall.

6:30pm, Joe English Grange #53 meeting, 2nd floor, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

7pm, Wednesday Night Book Club, Whipple Free Library.

LOCAL NIGHTLIFE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7pm, Andrea Paquin, Copper Door, Bedford.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

6pm, Jodee Frawlee, Molly's Tavern.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

5:30pm, Stephen Decuire, Après live music at the Lodge, McIntyre Ski Area, Manchester.

6pm, Travis Rollo, Molly's Tavern.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

7pm, Lou Antonucci, Copper Door, Bedford.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

6pm, Clint LaPointe, Molly's Tavern.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

5:30pm, Eddie Sands, Après live music at the Lodge, McIntyre Ski Area, Manchester.

6pm, Justin Rigoli, Molly's Tavern.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7pm, Bella Perrotta, Copper Door, Bedford.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6pm, Bob Pratte, Molly's Tavern.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

5:30pm, Dalton Sayball, Après live music at the Lodge, McIntyre Ski Area, Manchester.

6pm, Andrea Paquin, Molly's Tavern.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7pm, Clinton LaPointe, Copper Door, Bedford.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6pm, Mikey Hutchinson, Molly's Tavern.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

5:30pm, Justin Bethune, Après live music at the Lodge, McIntyre Ski Area, Manchester.

6pm, The Incidentals, Molly's Tavern.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7pm, Foreign Film Friday, Whipple Free Library.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

4pm, Fire and Ice Event by the New Boston Recreation Department, skating rink on the ball field behind Town Hall.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Town Offices Closed, President's Day.

7:30pm, Open Space Committee meeting, Town Hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7pm, Library Trustees meeting, Whipple Free Library.

7pm, Piscataquog Quilters, Whipple Free Library.

7pm, Life Drawing Open Studio, Hope Creative, Allison Hope Photography Studio.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6pm, Cookbook Club, Whipple Free Library.

6:30pm, Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting, Town Hall.

6:30pm, New Boston School Board meeting, NBCS library.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6pm, Fantasy Book Club, Whipple Free Library.

7:30pm, Energy Commission meeting, Town Hall.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6pm, Open Art / Open Mic, Hope Creative, Allison Hope Photography Studio.

7pm, Teen Night (grades 7-12), Whipple Free Library.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

2:30pm, Craft A Story Book club (grades 1-3), Whipple Free Library.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6:30pm, Planning Board meeting, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

2:30pm, Little Lego club (grades preschool-3), Whipple Free Library.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6pm, Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote in New England, Whipple Free Library.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

10am, Chess Club, Whipple Free Library.

10am, Supervisors of the Checklist session, Town Hall.

NB Rec Skating Rink behind NB Town Hall

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February Calendar

VALENTINE'S 3 COURSE MEAL
February 14 • 3-8pm • \$60
3-8pm

FIRE & ICE FEST
February 21
3-8pm

COMEDY NIGHTS
February 13 & 27
March 13
7pm

TRIVIA NIGHTS
February 6 & 20
March 6 & 20
7pm

603-497-8633 X 3
reservations@stonebridgeccnh.com
See website for more details!

161 Gorham Pond Road, Goffstown
golfstonebridgecc.com
(603) 497-8633



FOOD

No reservations: a chef's Valentine's Day at home

By Shepard Bassett
Shepard's Pie Baking Co.



There is an unwritten rule, much like a knight's code of honor, among people who have worked in restaurants. There are certain days you simply do not go out to eat if you can help it. Valentine's Day and Mother's Day are notoriously busy days for the average restaurant kitchen. Death by Twos, we called Valentine's Day, as ticket after ticket rolled in for two appetizers, two entrees, and two desserts.

I recall one year I made more than 100 dainty, heart-shaped chocolate cakes, only to be sold out within the first half of service. I spent the rest of the frantic night whittling shortbread cookies into hearts and dipping them into ganache just to have a dessert special to put on the plate. So, it should come as no surprise that my husband and I do not generally venture out to eat on Valentine's Day proper.

WHITE CHOCOLATE PANNA COTTA WITH NUTELLA SAUCE

For the panna cotta:

1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1 ½ cups whole milk
1 cup heavy cream
¾ cup white chocolate morsels
1 tsp vanilla extract
¼ cup sugar

For the Nutella sauce:

¾ cup Nutella
¼ cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels
¾ cup heavy cream

1. Bloom the gelatin. Warm ¼ cup of the milk in the microwave for 5-10 seconds, just until it is warm to the touch. Sprinkle gelatin over the warm milk and whisk it, allowing it to bloom. It might look a bit thick or chunky, and that's okay.

2. Melt the base. In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, warm up the heavy cream and combine the white chocolate, vanilla, and sugar. Whisk constantly until the chocolate is silk-smooth and melted.

3. Combine. Remove from heat and whisk in the gelatin mixture, stirring until smooth. Stir in the remaining 1 ¼ cups of cold milk.

4. Set. Pour the white chocolate panna cotta mixture into wine glasses or ramekins. Place the glasses in the fridge to chill and set for at least 4 to 6 hours.

5. The Sauce. Gently heat the cream in a small pot, then whisk in the Nutella and chocolate morsels. Stir until glossy and smooth.

6. Serve. Top the panna cottas with the sauce before serving. Pour any extra into a small pitcher so it can be added for extra chocolate lovers at the table.

IN THE KITCHEN

Valentine's Day is one of the biggest dessert holidays for restaurants, and it's not hard to see why. New Year's resolutions have softened; the babysitter is already paid for and that second drink midway through the entree has convinced you that the night shouldn't end just yet. Most other date nights, it is easy to skip the last course, save the money, and the calories, but the siren's call of Valentine's Day always makes the extra inning worthwhile.

If you are like us and planning on staying in for the holiday, you can still make the ending of the meal special. This simple panna cotta recipe will be the perfect final note for your Valentine's Day celebration. Panna cotta is a traditional Italian dessert, like flan, but set with gelatin instead of eggs. This makes it much more stable and forgiving in the cooking process; nothing is less romantic than, let's face it, chocolatey scrambled eggs.

This dessert can be made a day ahead of time and kept chilled in the fridge. To prevent a "skin" from forming, press a piece of plastic wrap directly onto the surface of the cream. Just pull it out at the midway point of your meal so it can loosen up a bit when you are ready for it.

Do you have questions for Shepard or the Sous Chef?

Do you have baking needs?

*Contact them at
sheardspiebakingco@gmail.com.*



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sheardspiebakingco@gmail.com
156 Joe English Rd • New Boston • NH

Town of New Boston, NH

Notice of Public Hearing

The New Boston Select Board will hold a Public Hearing at 6:35 PM on Monday, February 9, 2026, at the Whipple Free Library, 67 Mont Vernon Road, New Boston, NH, regarding acceptance of a donation for the Fire Department and relating to reducing the speed limit to 30mph on Bedford and McCurdy Roads.

The public is invited to provide comments and input to the Board.

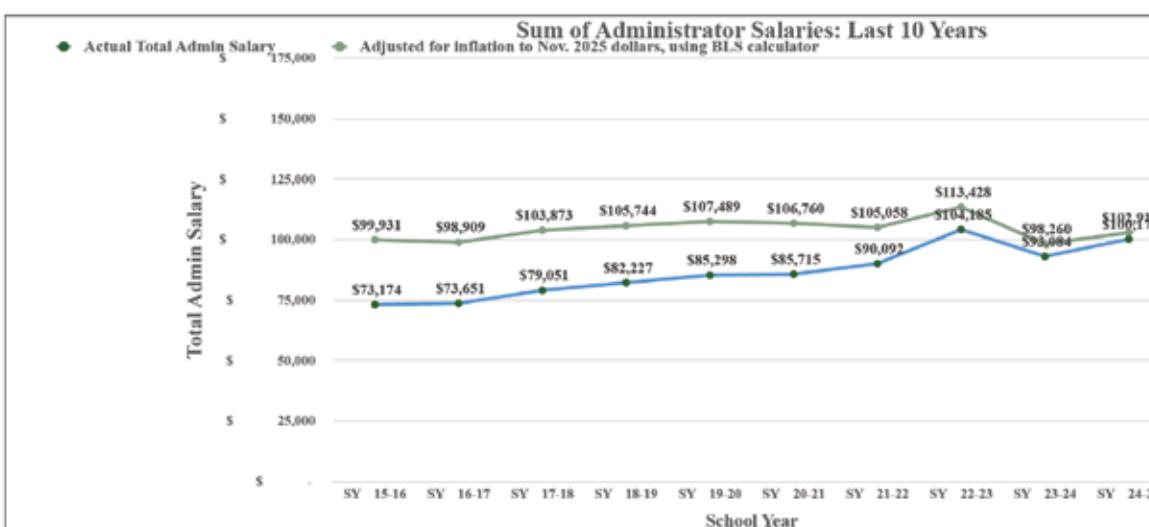
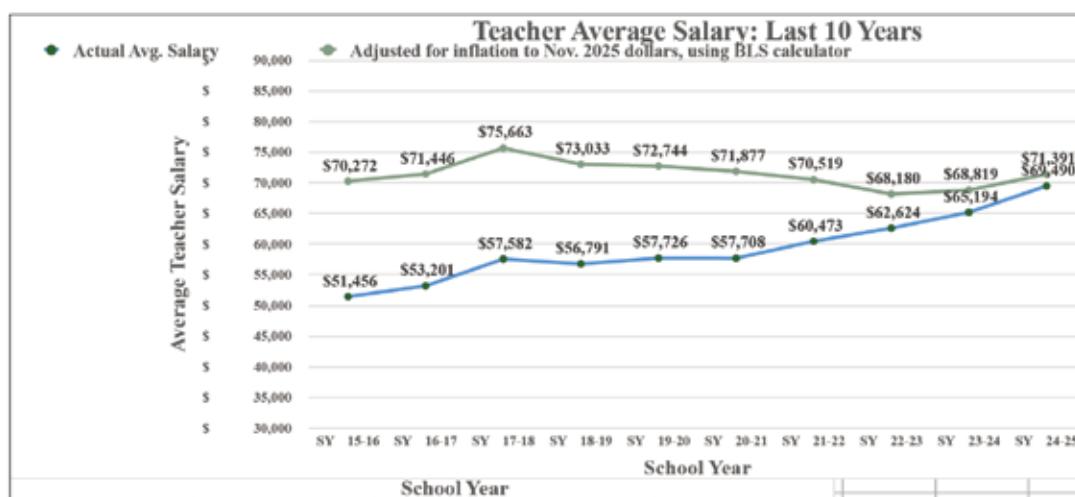
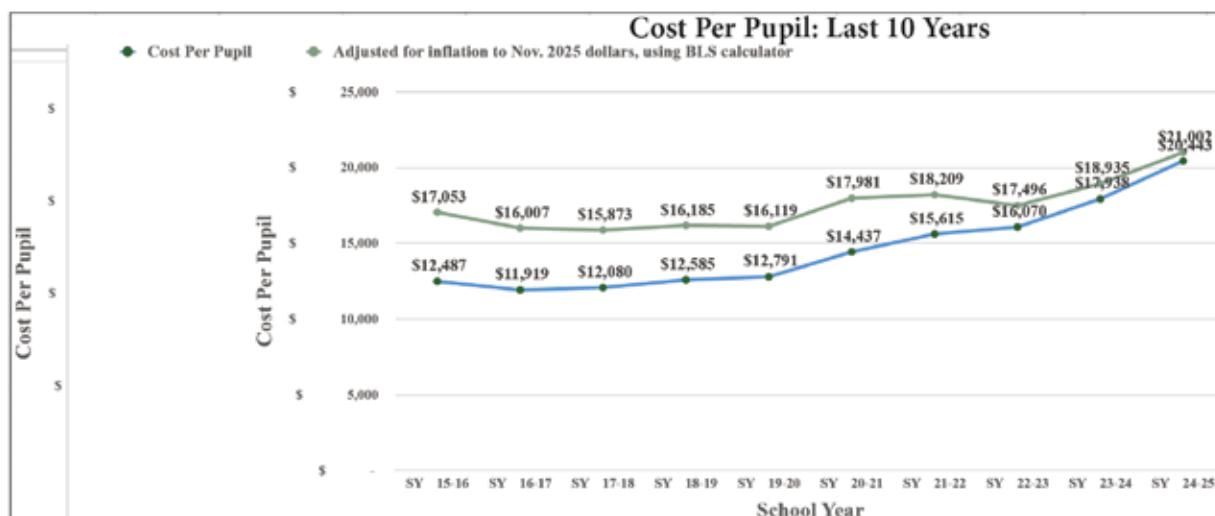
This public hearing is conducted under the provisions of NH RSA RSA 31:95-b (Unanticipated Funds), RSA 41:11 and RSA 47:17 VIII (Use of Public Ways).

The public is invited to provide comments and input to the Select Board.

Signed:
The New Boston Select Board



New Boston School District Mandatory Report to Voters on School Expenses



Top Administrator Salaries for FY26	
New Boston's Share of Total Salary	
Superintendent	\$42,573
Assistant Superintendent	\$31,992
Business Administrator	\$29,349

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
New Boston	22.20%	21.99%	22.51%	22.83%	22.84%	22.15%	22.24%	25.02%	21.64%	21.79%	21.74%
Goffstown	77.80%	78.01%	77.49%	77.17%	77.16%	77.85%	77.76%	74.98%	78.36%	78.21%	78.26%



**New Boston
Central School**



LIBRARY

A month of many loves and new programs

By Sue Pellerin

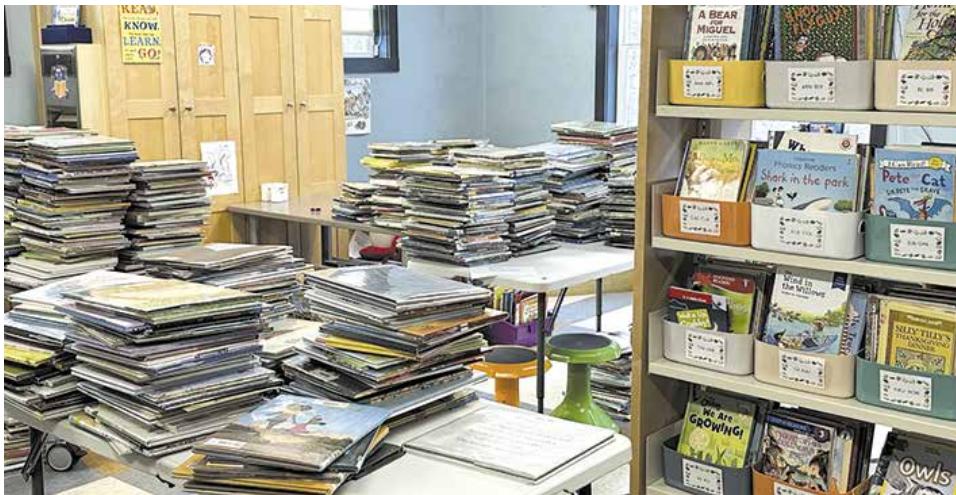
Adult Services and Outreach Librarian

Welcome to February, the month of love. Thanks to Valentine's Day, we tend to focus on romantic love to the exclusion of all else. If you are looking to get heart-eyed, we can certainly help with shelves full of rom-coms in both book and movie form. But we here at the library believe in sharing all kinds of love. You will find staff members who are passionate about Rick and Morty, elephants, and Stardew Valley (to name a few).

As for me, I am always happy to wax rhapsodic about owls, Shakespeare, Dragon Age, and of course, reading. I love sharing books with patrons. It has been fun providing recommendations for everyone participating in the Winter Bingo challenge; remember that you cannot complete the Bingo board without reading a book recommended by a staff member. The Winter Bingo challenge runs through February 27 so there is still time to join in.

Given my love of reading, it will come as no surprise that I loved to read as a kid as well. In fact, I convinced all my babysitters that I was afraid of the dark so that they would leave the hall light on for me. Then, I would sprawl at the foot of my bed, angling my book to catch the light and read long past my bedtime. So, I am thrilled that we are launching two new children's

BEYOND THE BOOKS



A behind-the-scenes glimpse into the recent genrefication project in the Children's Room, which closed for a week so staff could reclassify and categorize books into easy-to-slip through bins.

book clubs: one for kids who are voracious readers, and one for emerging readers who are building their confidence.

Kids Talk Books is a book group for kids who want to discuss the books they have been reading, but do not want to have to read a specific book each month. They can read what they want, then come and rave (or rant) about it to others. Kids Talk Books

meets on Monday, February 9 at 2:30pm.

The Next Chapter book group is for kids just learning to read or kids who may find reading a struggle. The group works together to read, providing a supportive space to practice skills and strengthen reading comprehension. The Next Chapter meets on Thursday, February 5 at 2:30pm.

You can register for all four of our

children's book groups by visiting the Event Calendar on our website.

The most exciting kids' news, however, is the launch of our Reading Dragons program, a reading tracker and collectible card game in one. We are die-hard dragon fans here at the library, whether it is Fourth Wing, Priory of the Orange Tree, or the Dragonriders of Pern. Quite frankly, I think we are all a little bitter that Reading Dragons does not have an adult component; the collectible cards are that cool. If your child wants a way to track their reading, loves collecting Pokémon cards, or simply is obsessed with dragons the way we are, be sure to sign them up. Check out all the details on the Reading Dragons page of our website.

Lastly, we are leaning into our love of travel and nature with February's adult programming. Up first on Friday, February 6 at 7pm is "Howl with the Yellowstone Wolves," the next installment in our armchair travel series. After her fascinating presentations on Madagascar and the polar bears of Churchill, Heather Knaub returns to tell us all about her trip to Yellowstone National Park.

I am also excited for "Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote in New England" on Friday, February 27 at 6pm. Chris Schadler is a Wild Canid Ecologist who has been educating people about coyotes for nearly 40 years. She has spoken all over New Hampshire to rave reviews.

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7X10	10X27
10X10	10X30
10X15	10X32
10X20	10X42

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LETTERS

Write to The New Boston Beacon at P.O. Box 162, New Boston, NH 03070 or send via email to NewBostonBeacon@gmail.com. Letters are due by the 10th of each month and should not exceed 200 words. Letters are subject to editing for publication.

VOUCHER ACCOUNTABILITY AT DELIBERATIVE SESSION

To the editor:

New Hampshire communities value strong public schools and responsible use of public funds for education. But despite New Boston's strong stand at the polls last year against the expansion of the Education Freedom Account program (school vouchers), our statewide representatives ignored the voters' wishes and doubled its size, now estimated to cost more than \$110 million this budget cycle, doling out more public funds for private education without regard to financial need or guardrails to evaluate fiscal responsibility or educational performance.

New Hampshire's Education Trust Fund was created to pay for adequate education grants to public school districts. These grants fund public schools, money that does not come from local property taxpayers. Because vouchers are being distributed from that same fund, every dollar paid for vouchers is a dollar that cannot be used to ease New Boston's escalating property tax burden. Additionally, the legislature and governor refuse to follow New Hampshire Supreme Court rulings ordering the state to increase adequacy funding to cities and towns.

In early February, New Boston's voters will have another opportunity to speak up in opposition to this wasteful diversion of taxpayer dollars. Please attend the deliberative

session for the school ballot and support my petitioned warrant article to repeal universal school vouchers and place financial limits and accountability on the program.

—TERI HARKINS

VOUCHERS, TAXES, AND OUR FUTURE

To the editor:

Republicans control our state legislature, the governorship, and our local government. Have you seen our taxes go down under this leadership? In fact, the school voucher program increased in cost from \$8.1 million to \$51.6 million. The increase is due to an increase in eligibility to all families regardless of wealth; Republicans solely supported it. Moreover, business taxes have been reduced and dividend and interest taxes, largely paid by the well-to-do, have been removed starting in 2026 (a loss of \$37 million compared to last year, which will grow in the future). Republicans also generated these policies.

There needs to be sources of money other than our property taxes for schools and government. More than 50 state fees increased January 1, including vehicle registration. But higher fees are a punitive answer for many.

Perhaps if the voucher program were reduced to its original limits, and dividend taxes were reinstated on those in upper-income brackets, things could improve. We need practical, realistic solutions to affordability in New Hampshire. Support

and learned from Dr. Ron Brenner, a highly esteemed and well-respected dentist and my former family dentist, and to have practiced closely with Dr. Lauren Johnson, whose energy, positivity, and compassion have enriched our practice. Their mentorship, camaraderie, and friendship have added so much to my years in dentistry and made my time here especially rewarding.

As Dr. Elliott begins this well-earned next chapter, her patients will continue their care with Dr. Mejia and our experienced clinical team. We are fully committed to ensuring a seamless transition and maintaining the high standard of care you have come to expect from our practice.

While Dr. Elliott will be greatly missed, we wholeheartedly support her decision to retire and wish her every happiness in this next phase of her life.

If you have any questions or would like assistance scheduling future appointments, our office staff is always happy to help. Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in our practice.

—NEW BOSTON
DENTAL CARE, PLLC

DR. ELLIOTT'S 20+ YEARS OF CARE

To the editor:

We are writing to share an important update regarding our dental team. After many years of dedicated service to the New Boston community, Dr. Audrey Elliott has made the personal decision to retire from dentistry and relocate out of state with her husband. Her final day in the practice will be February 25.

Dr. Elliott has shared the following message with her patients, "As I prepare for this transition, I want you to know how deeply I will miss the New Boston community, my patients, and the team members I have had the privilege of working with for more than 20 years. New Boston is truly a unique and special place, and the relationships built here have been deeply meaningful to me both professionally and personally.

"While this move is bittersweet, I take great comfort in knowing that I have worked closely with Dr. Daniel Mejia over the past year, and I am confident that his kind nature and dedication to excellence will serve my patients extremely well moving forward.

"I am also especially grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside

new, thoughtful leadership in our coming November election. We need government that works for us.

—ELLEN ANDERSON

STOP THE DOWNSHIFT, PROTECT TAXPAYERS

To the editor:

Our New Hampshire legislature has repeatedly chosen to "downshift" responsibility for state obligations. They have done this by reducing revenue sources such as the business enterprise and business profits taxes and interest and dividends taxes, while mandating local funding of state obligations. Examples include education, county services and public safety, roads and infrastructure maintenance.

When revenues are reduced, the money must come from somewhere. So, what happens? Our property taxes grow at an unsustainable rate. We are all reaching into our pockets twice a year for an ever-increasing tax bill.

It doesn't have to be this way. The state legislature must fund state obligations from state revenue sources. Our representatives haven't gotten the message. HB 155 is only the most recent example, passing with votes from all three of our representatives, sending another \$24 million up in smoke.

New Boston town administration does a fabulous job of delivering excellent service on a modest budget. Property tax increases have been minimized by their efforts, at the expense of local priorities. The solution is in Concord. Demand that our representatives vote in our interest. Send Concord this message by supporting the voter-proposed warrant article to protect local taxpayers.

—PETE RYDER

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON TAXES

To the editor:

Your recent issue had so-called New Hampshire myth busting letters that in fact were myths themselves. Now for the facts: New Hampshire's overall tax burden is the third lowest in the nation. The cost of state government per capita is the lowest in the nation. It is true our property taxes are near the highest in the nation, surpassed only by Vermont.

Our neighbors Vermont, Maine, and New York have among the five highest overall tax burdens in the country, and their property taxes are almost as high as ours—or in the case of Vermont, higher. All these states have sales and income taxes, neither of which New Hampshire has.

The next thing we will hear from these so-called "myth busters" is, "We need an income tax so we can lower property taxes." We need only look at Connecticut and New Jersey to see how that worked out. Both passed an income tax on the promise of lower property taxes, and each state now finds itself in the top 10 in both overall tax burden and property tax burden. There is a solution: Get out and vote at your local elections; property taxes are in your hands. I will address the school voucher program in a future issue.

—GERRY GRIFFIN

KINDERGARTEN WARRANT ARTICLE

To the editor:

The warrant article for full-day kindergarten states the program is "budget neutral" and will not raise taxes. While technically true, that claim deserves closer examination. If a new program can be added at no cost, where is the funding coming from?

Supporters point to increased state aid and operational adjustments. That explanation is accurate—but incomplete. Staffing needs are being addressed by shifting teachers from other grades, with assurances that class sizes will remain acceptable. If current staffing levels can absorb this change, why is broader staffing right-sizing not being discussed outside the context of full-day kindergarten?

Most concerning is that this article commits the district to full-day kindergarten permanently. Experience from other districts shows that initial "budget neutral" years are often followed by significant cost increases as enrollment grows and staffing and program demands expand. Bedford, for example, is now facing roughly a \$1 million budget increase tied to the program.

Finally, only seven additional students are projected to enroll under full-day kindergarten. With \$2.7 to \$5 million in facility needs ahead, voters must decide where limited tax dollars are best invested. That is the real choice in this vote.

—NANCY BIEDERMAN

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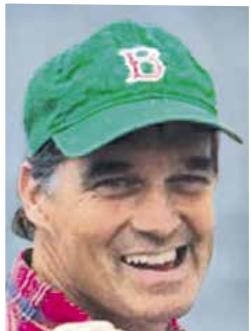
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SKIING

Finding that unmistakable 'bond on the pond'

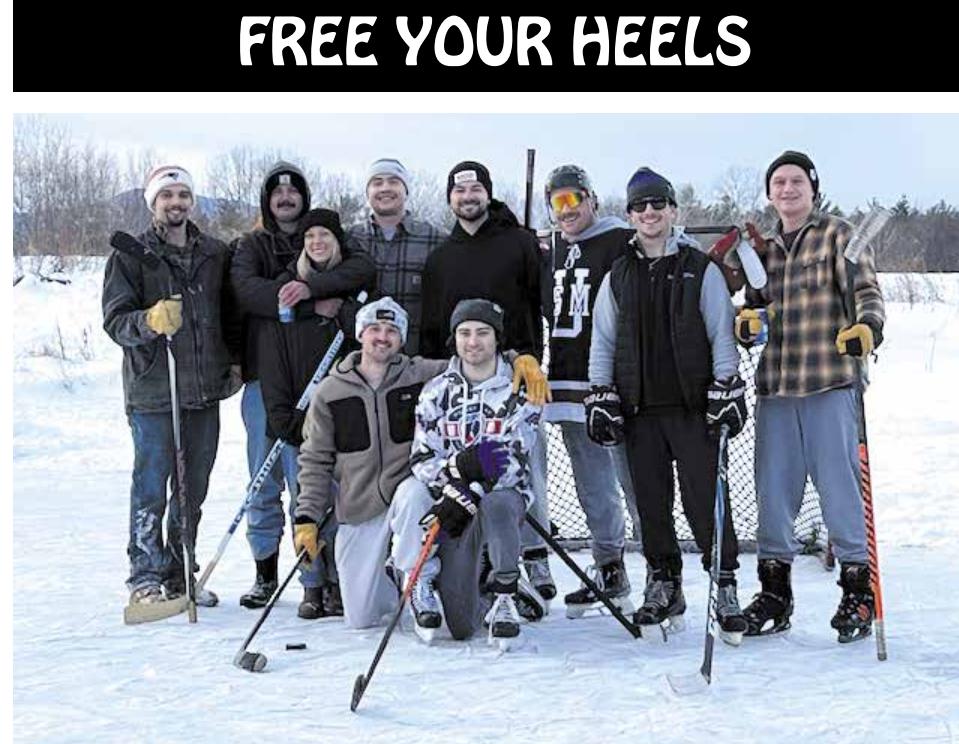
By Erik Fey
Fey's Ski Shop



December of 2025 will go down as a blockbuster month for mountain snow in the northeast. While we saw decent snow here in southern New Hampshire (NH), northern Vermont, NH, and Maine got hit with a lot.

Jay Peak was the epicenter with more than 100 inches. Skiers sent out early season videos of backcountry that looked like Utah, while Utah resorts had grass on the slopes. Ullr, the Norse god of snow, took a rare December shine to us.

While I'm unable to ski much in December due to the demands of the shop, I did manage to get a glimpse of another winter scene that brought incredible joy. I grew up in a central-Connecticut town called Farmington, which sits squarely on the battle line for Red Sox/Yankees. However, the Whalers were the dominant favorite in our hockey world and the song "Brass Bonanza" played after every Whalers goal.



Hooper Hill's Wellswood Farm was the recent site of a special winter day spent playing pond hockey.

It was also our victory anthem on ponds across the state.

We grew up skiing at Sundown or Mount

Southington. Although it wasn't cheap, skiing was affordable. But pond hockey was free and we took full advantage of it.

I probably didn't put on a pair of hockey skates until I was 11. Around the same time, my buddies thought it was time we went up to the pond where the "big kids" and older brothers played.

I remember that first time and seeing some high-school kids ripping slapshots into a homemade goal with chicken wire. I was small, not a great skater, and not suited to be on the ice with these big kids, nor were my friends, but we suited up anyway and got schooled.

This was pond hockey. You connected with kids you might never otherwise, to simply play this game. We got better, bigger, and started to run the pond ourselves in a few years. When it snowed, we were the ones who got there early with shovels to begin the laborious task of clearing the ice. If someone said they'd be there to help and they weren't, you had carte blanche to give them hell.

I lived in a pretty big neighborhood with a lot of boys, so there were many players on weekends. On a Saturday, we'd meet around 9am, play for a few hours and head home for lunch, sweaty and exhausted. Looking back, I remember playing with close friends, but I fondly remember the kids who I had little in common with off the ice. However, we had a solid bond on the pond. We'd typically play into March

See POND BOND, Page 21

THE PROOF IS IN THE ROOF!

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See PATHWAYS, Page 22

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When is it negligence? Understanding the law

By Leslie Nixon

The Nixon Law Firm, PLLC



Negligence is such a commonly used term in personal injury law that I was surprised, while serving in the New Hampshire Legislature, to hear a non-lawyer colleague's reaction during a debate on an immunity bill. Hearing certain conduct described, he exclaimed, "But that's gross negligence!"

It was not; it was simple negligence. But that moment made me realize a common public misconception, many believe you should be compensated simply because you were hurt. This mistaken belief is often what drives well-meaning bills that grant immunity for certain activities while making exceptions for "gross negligence." To clear up the confusion, it is worth reviewing how the law categorizes injury-causing conduct.

Legal negligence is simply the failure to use "reasonable care," the care that a reasonable person would use under the circumstances. In plain language, it means a "mistake" or "carelessness." Unlike criminal conduct, it does not imply bad intent

NEW BOSTON LEGAL

or a flawed character. Thus, when we say a professional has committed "malpractice," we are not necessarily attacking their reputation; we are simply saying they were negligent and made an error.

There are, however, degrees of negligence that do require bad intent. These are commonly used as exceptions in laws that otherwise protect people from lawsuits. Interestingly, while states like Massachusetts recognize "gross negligence" as being different from ordinary negligence, New Hampshire currently does not. Instead, our laws and courts use terms such as "bad faith," "fraud," "willful," "malicious," "wanton and reckless" or "intentional."

For example, government officials are immune from liability unless their conduct is "wanton and reckless." The members of many boards and agencies are immune from liability for actions taken "in good faith." In other words, they have no immunity for actions taken in bad faith. Similarly, landowners who open their land for recreational use are immune from liability unless there is a "willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity."

The secondary consequence to this type of conduct is the potential for increased financial awards. In New Hampshire, although the law does not allow recovery of punitive damages, we can ask for "enhanced compensatory damages" if that type of con-

duct is involved.

The difference is that, while punitive damages are intended to "punish" conduct and the amount is determined in part by how bad the conduct was, "enhanced compensatory" damages are measured by how bad the injury was. As explained in an 1860 decision, it includes compensation for injury to the "wounded feelings from the insult, degradation and other aggravating circumstances attending the act."

The problem is none of these is black and white; ultimately, they require the interpretation of a judge or jury. However, our Supreme Court has given guidance, and a plaintiff must meet a certain threshold before a jury can be asked to consider such conduct. It has held that the conduct must be "wanton, oppressive, or malicious."

In the notorious case of lawyer Seth Bader, who murdered his wife after trying to force her into giving up custody of their child, the court defined the conduct necessary to justify such damages: "The mere fact that an intentional tort is involved is not sufficient; there must be 'ill will, hatred, hostility or evil motive on the part of the defendant.'" In that case, the judge awarded \$2,690,000 in enhanced damages.

That case is unusual, however; in most

instances where a plaintiff seeks enhanced compensatory damages the harm claimed is not physical injury but economic injury. In fact, our Supreme Court has held that even conduct as dangerous as drunk driving does not necessarily meet the "bad intent" threshold required for these extra damages.

Apart from the Bader case, awards of "enhanced compensatory damages" for physical injuries are rare, if they exist at all. This does not mean that juries are not influenced by a defendant's bad behavior.

I once tried a wrongful discharge case for a Goodwill employee who was fired for refusing to apologize to a customer. The customer was a regular visitor to the store who rarely bought anything but made repeated demands to the staff and sent complaints about them to management. I am certain that when her demeanor in court corroborated my client's description of her conduct at the store it motivated the jury to award a significant verdict.

The recent record-setting verdicts in the Youth Development Center (YDC) abuse cases serve as another powerful illustration of how a defendant's conduct, far beyond simple negligence, can ultimately drive the scale of a jury's award.

REC. DEPARTMENT NOTES

Here's a roundup of the New Boston Recreation Department's events and programs. For more information visit NewBostonNH.gov/Recreation.

Fire & Ice at the Ice Rink. February 14 from 4-6pm. Bring your family and friends down to skate and sled. Have a cup of hot chocolate and toast a marshmallow or hot dog over one of the roaring fire pits. There will be a chili table this year to fundraise for an Eagle Scout Project. Check out the New Boston Recreation Facebook page and join the *New Boston Ice Skating Rink* group for updates. Please call or email the recreation department to volunteer to help.

Pre-K and Younger Playgroup. Fridays, from 9-10am. White Buildings. You will meet new parents in town with a chance to form lifelong friendships for your children. No playgroup on February 27.

Online Registrations. Chess Wizards, Lego Camp, Brazilian Soccer and Camp Coolio Summer Program registration will start Monday, March 2 at 12pm. Baseball/Tee-ball Registration ends March 1. Register for softball at goffstownsoftball.com by March 31.

Yoga. Current session ends Thursday, March 19, 6-7pm at the Whipple Free Library. Drop in for \$15 a class.

Pickleball Ages 18+. Tuesdays at NBCS gym from 7-8:30pm. No program on February 3 (School Deliberative Session)

or February 24 (school vacation). There is no fee or sign up. All levels are welcome.

Tai Chi/Qigong Foundations. Wednesdays 10-11am at the White Buildings. Next session starts in March.

Men's Ages 30+ Pickup Basketball. Sunday nights at NBCS gym, 7-8:30pm. No registration or fee required, just show up and play.

A Walk in the Woods. Join the weekly casual hiking group every Thursday, 9-11:30am. Meet at 8:55am in the New Boston Town Hall parking lot. Explore a new trail in the area each week. All ages are welcome (children must be accompanied by an adult), and leashed/well-behaved dogs are invited too.

Senior Lunch and Bingo. Doors open at the NBCS gym at 10:50am and lunch costs \$3. After lunch, join in for nickel-ante Bingo at the recreation office from noon-3pm. No lunch on February 26.

Senior Reading Program. Sign-up to listen to NBCS students on Thursdays from 10:30am-10:50am. NBCS gym (closed on February 26). Take 20 minutes from your day to help younger readers practice these skills.

Free Notary and Justice of the Peace Services. Services free of charge. Call 603-487-2880 to make an appointment.

Save the Date: Easter Bunny Visit and Egg Hunt. Saturday, April 4 at 11am.

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OUTDOORS

Local ice fishing for the whole family

By Scott Gaillard
Beacon staff writer



We are having a real winter this year, complete with good snow and solid ice on most local bodies of water. Fishermen refer to that as "hard water," and that means ice fishing. You might have noticed the activity out on the ice, whether it's people on foot, ATVs and snowmobiles, popup tents, or even ice shacks. Ice fishing can be a great family activity for people of all ages. Sometimes you just need to know where to start.

The great thing about ice fishing is the literal solid boundary between what's going on in the water and the party up on top of the ice. For many who enjoy ice fishing, myself included, it's more about the social activity and fun times topside. The actual fishing is secondary.

I'm sure the diehard fishermen will caution against excessive vibrations on the ice that spook fish, but I can say from personal experience that you can still catch fish under a game of pond hockey. That's great news if you have kids to entertain. You can cross-country ski, snowshoe, ice skate, throw a football, drag a sled around, or do whatever the kids want. You can even have a campfire with good thick ice like we have now. Campfires beg for s'mores, which is a universal favorite. Keep the food and hot cocoa or adult beverages flowing and everyone is guaranteed a good time, whether or not the fish are biting.

So let that advice guide your packing list, and then you can sprinkle some actual fishing gear on top just so you can still call it fishing. You'll need an ice fishing rod with ice line and lures. You might also want a tip-up trap or two. To drill



All you really need to ice fish is an auger, ice rod or tip-up, and a ladle. A sonar unit keeps the kids interested in fishing but plan other fun activities on the ice to make a memorable day of it.

the holes, you'll need an ice auger, which can be manually cranked or attached to a power drill or motor head. An ice fishing ladle will allow you to scoop the slush out of the hole and keep it open. Live bait in the form of shiners and waxworms will give you the best chance at enticing a lethargic cold-water fish to break out of its torpor and bite the hook. But glow-in-the-dark tungsten ice lures work too when you can bob and pop them up and down through the water column with your ice rod. These basics of ice fishing gear can be had for a couple hundred dollars. Carry them in a five-gallon bucket that doubles as a fishing stool and use a sled to drag your gear and the kids out on the ice.

Years ago, I took the plunge and spent

Hooper Hill did a lot of brush clearing around the property and by their barn, giving the pond new life. This opened the pond for much better viewing, and for hockey.

On December 28, 2025, the shovels and snowblower came out. College hockey player Nick Nault and Miles got up, cleared the pond of snow, and brought out two official hockey goals on a rink big enough for a 4-on-4 game. Quality ex-college and high school players showed up along with a few pond hockey guys and the game was on.

These guys went full throttle all afternoon. On the edge of the rink (in the snow), the lawn chairs lined up with coolers, moms, girlfriends, and a grill. The guys smiled, talked trash, and laughed—all with a picturesque New Boston backdrop.

I'm certain they will remember that perfect winter day for the rest of their days. It brought me back to what almost every cold winter weekend looked like for me as a kid. Hockey is elegant, sometimes violent, and is best played on a pond with friends.

POND BOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

until one of us fell through the ice and the season ended.

Pond hockey was beautiful and a huge part of being a kid in those days. After discovering an aptitude for hockey in high school, my oldest son Miles asked me, "Dad, why didn't you sign me up for hockey?" My answer was, "Because I like to ski." I then explained that the pond hockey culture we had in the 1970s and 80s doesn't exist now.

You could play hockey, but you didn't need to be a hockey player. Parents who signed their kids up for hockey had to wake them up at 4:30am and go to practice before school because that's when they can get ice time. Hockey takes over life and leaves little time for anything else.

During Christmas break, something organically beautiful happened. Our neighbors who own Wellswood Farm on

NEW BOSTON HUNTER



a few hundred more dollars on a sonar fish-finding unit, and that has been a game changer. It's quite an investment, but worth looking into if you want to focus more on fishing. The beauty of these units is they graphically display what's going on under the ice and let you interact with fish that you otherwise wouldn't even know were there. Kids love it because of the light-up display, and it helps keep them engaged between bites. It's worth looking into.

Don't forget to buy your fishing license online and keep the PDF on your phone. While you're there, check the regulations for any special rules on the specific body of water you intend to visit. If you don't know where to go, just look for where people are already ice fishing and join them. In the regulations booklet, there is also a section detailing what to bring ice fishing, and you can review bag limits and fish identification guides. You can download the regulations onto your phone to peruse while you're on the ice, should any questions arise.

As a final consideration, pick a day with nice weather, ideally a sunny one, with as little wind as possible. Try to go when there isn't too much snow on the ice and bring a shovel to carve out an area that's easy to walk or skate on. Dress warm and have heat packs on hand. If you're well packed, your crew will be ready to have all kinds of fun on the ice and, who knows, you might even catch a fish.



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25-EJ-00126 (01/25)



ANIMALS

Winter pause and the ultimate power of “Free”

By Ashley Clark, CPDT-KA
You and Your Dog Training



February in New Hampshire often means cold temperatures, icy footing, and less time outdoors. Cabin fever builds quickly, especially for young dogs, active breeds, and households used to daily walks and adventures. Winter also tends to overlap with recovery periods, dogs healing from surgery, people recovering from injury or situations where movement needs to be temporarily limited.

When physical activity slows down, the challenge becomes how to meet a dog's needs without creating frustration. One of the most useful skills during these periods is often overlooked because it appears uneventful on the surface: “Stay.”

From a dog's point of view, staying still has no built-in value. Dogs move. They follow people, investigate smells, chase toys, and enjoy the great outdoors. Asking a dog to pause only makes sense if that pause leads to something meaningful.

Instead of thinking of “Stay” as something dogs should already understand, it helps to view it as a brief pause that opens the door to what comes next. “Stay” simply means *hold this position until I say you are free*. The release word, “Free,” is where the value lives. “Free” tells the dog the waiting is over and access begins.

During physical recovery or winter restrictions, “Free”

YOU & YOUR DOG



A calm “Stay” is not just about stillness; it is the anticipation of the “Free” that makes it rewarding.

may initially earn dogs a portion of their daily food through a kibble scatter. As conditions improve and restrictions ease, that same release can open the door to other valued activities such as going outside, chasing a ball, or greeting a friend. Over time, dogs learn that the pause itself is part of a predictable pattern. Pause briefly, then good things happen.

Using kibble scatters after the release offers an added benefit, especially when physical movement is limited. Searching for scattered food encourages sniffing, which is one of the most mentally engaging activities available to dogs. Sniffing and problem-solving provide a meaningful

brain outlet and often help dogs settle more easily afterward.

While we cannot measure exactly how many mental calories are burned through this process, the calming effect is something many households notice quickly. The following is a quick introduction to get the game started:

- Ask for a sit or down in a comfortable, familiar space.
- Say “Stay” and remain nearby rather than walking away.
- Pause briefly, just long enough for your dog to register the stillness.
- Say “Free,” step away and give a kibble scatter.
- As your dog begins to understand the pattern, gradually increase the duration by a few seconds at a time.
- Vary the length of the stay: short, then slightly longer, then short again, to prevent boredom.
- If your dog gets up before you say “Free,” no big deal. Reset, shorten the duration, and try again so your dog can get the win.

As conditions improve, the release can lead to many types of dog-valued rewards, not just food. “Free” becomes a bridge to activity, play, exploration, and connection, making the “Stay” itself part of a larger, meaningful routine.

For dogs on physical restriction, this approach supports calm behavior without requiring exercise. For people managing winter conditions or recovery, it provides structure without added effort. For energetic dogs and working breeds, it offers mental engagement even when outdoor options are limited.

In the middle of winter, or during recovery, helping a dog understand that waiting leads to good things can turn slow days into calmer routines and make the season feel a bit saner for everyone involved.

Ashley Clark is the owner of You and Your Dog Training & Services located here in New Boston. You can visit her company website at youandyourdogtraining.com.

GOODLANDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And you combine the two in the way that Dr. King did, because I think you understand, as Dr. King taught us, that faith without work is dead. Your life is truly a master class in how to be a drum major for justice and love."

Goodlander said her visits to New Boston remind her of its history of commitment to freedom, which is "etched with the courage of those who understood that liberty is a collective responsibility."

She lauded "New Boston citizens who have stood up for the dignity of each and every human being from the American Revolution to the Civil War and now to the modern fight for civil rights and for our republic."

Chief among the principles Dr. King espoused, she said, was "to be clear about the facts and what we see, and what we see in our country today is a crackdown from the highest levels of government targeting the most vulnerable among us."

She thanked New Boston citizens who have raised their voices in peaceful protest, saying "the message you deliver is that we say to one another, 'We see you, we value you, you are not alone.'"

She added, "You help to make the case that New Hampshire is not going to be a place of fear, but a place where what Dr. King called the promissory note of the Declaration in our Constitution of life and liberty applies to every human being."

Goodlander concluded by reminding those in attendance that "love is not passive or naive; it is truly an act of courage. This is the work that works. This is the work that is going to save our country."

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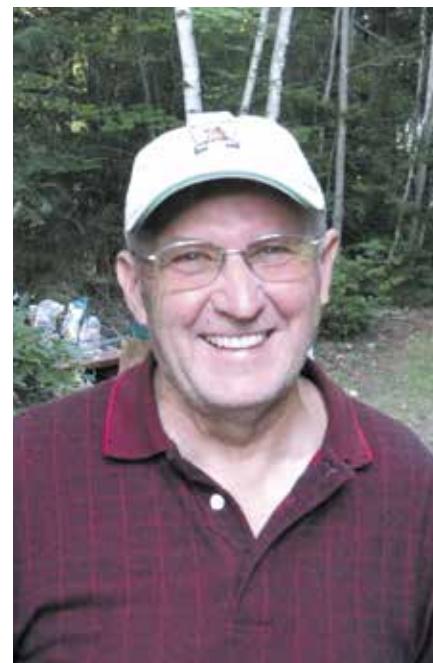
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OBITUARIES

**Floyd Guyette
1941-2025**



Helen Wells Guyette.

Floyd graduated from Westport High School in Westport, Massachusetts, before proudly serving his country in the United States Coast Guard. Among his many duties, he was honored to serve as a Lighthouse Keeper at Rose Island Lighthouse in Newport, Rhode Island—a role that reflected his steady character and dedication. Floyd happily served as a custodian at the Community Church of New Boston and sang in the choir for many years. He also served on the town's Solid Waste Committee.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary Koon, and his children: Dana Haven (Martha) of Millinocket, ME; Susanne Guyette of Rumney, NH; Christopher Guyette (Dawn Linnel) of Hyannis, MA; Jennifer Guyette of Charlestown, NH; and Julie Lewis (Brian) of Sandy Creek, NY. Floyd was a devoted grandfather to 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Floyd's life was defined by a love for his family, hard and honest work, service to his country, skilled pursuit of fish, and a gentle strength that touched all that knew him. He will be remembered for his storytelling, his kindness, and the legacy of family he leaves behind.

Floyd Edward Guyette, affectionately known to many as "Sonny," passed away peacefully on November 22, 2025, at the age of 84. A longtime resident of New Boston, Floyd was born on April 5, 1941, in Winchendon, Massachusetts, to Terrill Guyette and



Winter propagation in the greenhouse: purple plectranthus in the back, with angel wing begonias and geraniums rooting in the front. To the right, plectranthus cuttings are being tested in both water and soil. Inset: Replicating a favorite scented geranium through layering to give a "scraggly" older plant a fresh start.

The art of propagation

By Maddy Perron
Master Gardener



Whether by starting seeds, taking cuttings, or using the layering method, propagating plants is simply the art of helping them multiply. During these frigid winter months, propagating can be a great hobby. I recently came across an old seed packet dated 2022 with hollyhock mallow seeds and figured it would be fun to see if those seeds would germinate. I thought to myself, "Why not make more?"

It is easy to check the germination rate of old seeds by placing them between wet paper towels and wrapping them in plastic wrap. I placed mine in a warm, sunny location in the greenhouse. Within just a couple of weeks, most of the seeds turned into little sprouts. Next, I moved them into a clear egg carton with some wet Pro-Mix and closed the cover. This created a mini greenhouse.

Once the seedlings showed steady growth, the cover came off. Until they outgrow the egg carton, I will be misting them daily and have placed them under lights to ensure the plants grow short and sturdy.

Tomatoes need a head start if you plan to grow them from seed, and mid-March is usually ideal. I have used egg cartons for those, too, before transplanting them into small peat pots that can go right into the garden at planting time.

A second method of propagating is through cuttings rooted in water or soil. When placing cuttings in soil, it helps to dip them in water and then a rooting hormone such as Take Root. Tap off the extra powder and place them in containers of wet soil. Some of the cuttings I took from my angel wing begonia were planted that way and are now showing new growth. This winter, I

IN THE GARDEN

am experimenting by placing some in water and some in soil. The ones in water will be transferred to pots as soon as they have a good root system.

According to Logee's Greenhouses in Danielson, Connecticut, a legendary destination nursery featuring six historic greenhouses, the key factor to this method is humidity. If the cuttings are in a dry atmosphere, it is essential to mist them regularly.

Lastly, layering is a method in which the new plant remains partially attached to the mother plant while forming new roots. You may have more success with this method than with cuttings. Your favorite vines, shrubs, and houseplants can be duplicated without too much effort. The new plants root rather quickly because they are drawing strength from the mother plant.

In tip layering, a flexible stem from the mother plant is bent to the soil surface and buried, with just the shoot tip poking up. Making a small cut in the bark on the buried branch can help roots form. Ensuring there are growth nodes in the buried section will also help the rooting process. Some plants that do well with this method are raspberries, blackberries, and loganberries. I have some great thornless raspberries that I would like to propagate this year using this technique and pass them on to friends in the New Boston Garden Club.

If winter is getting to you, consider the two-hour drive to Logee's as it may just get you out of your slump. Our local garden club visited a while ago, and it was well worth the trip. If you do not want to drive, you can sit back in your recliner and explore by watching on YouTube, "Greenhouse Walkthrough at Logee's Tropical Plants."

Whether you visit in person or online, it is the perfect way to spark a little green inspiration before the spring thaw and planting season begins.

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WELLNESS

Choosing movement, self-love, and heart health

By Tony Eberhardt & Kim Messa
New Boston Physical Therapy

In honor of Valentine's Day and celebrating love and hearts, let us make a commitment to ourselves this year and embrace self-love. Valentine's Day is traditionally a celebration of romantic love, chocolate, and flowers. While expressing love for others is important, this is a meaningful reminder to nurture another essential relationship—the one you have with yourself. From a health care perspective, self-love is not simply an emotional idea, it contributes to our overall well-being.

Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of illness and death, and many of its risk factors are tied to daily habits, stress levels, and emotional health. Practicing self-love means making intentional choices that protect both your physical and emotional well-being.

One of the strongest connections between self-love and heart health is stress management. Chronic stress increases inflammation, elevates blood pressure, and places ongoing strain on the cardiovascular system. Many people feel pressure to constantly give, perform, and stay busy, often at the expense of rest. Self-love encourages awareness of personal limits and the willingness to slow down. Simple practices such as deep breathing, mindfulness, journaling, or spending time outdoors can calm the nervous system and reduce cardiac strain.

Movement and exercise provide further opportunities to show your heart some love. Regular physical activity strengthens the heart muscle, improves circulation, and helps manage cholesterol and blood sugar levels. Self-love does not require intense workouts or unrealistic fitness goals. Instead, it means choosing movement that is enjoyable and sustainable. Walking, gentle stretching, dancing, or exercising with friends can all support heart health while also improving mood and

HEALTH MATTERS



Do your heart some good by making time for yourself, moving your body, and connecting with those you love (Tony & Kim in Davos, Switzerland).

energy levels.

Nutrition also plays a key role. Enjoying treats (especially those from your Valentine) in moderation is part of a healthy balance. Self-love is not about restriction or guilt, but about

nourishment. Choosing heart-healthy foods, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats, while allowing room for enjoyment helps create a positive relationship with food.

Sleep is another essential, yet overlooked, aspect of care. Poor sleep is associated with higher blood pressure, increased inflammation, and a greater risk of cardiovascular disease. Prioritizing rest is an act of self-care, not a demonstration of weakness. Creating consistent sleep routines and allowing your body time to recover supports both emotional regulation and heart health.

There is a heartfelt connection between our emotions and our physical health. Feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and depression can negatively affect the heart over time. Self-love involves acknowledging emotions rather than ignoring them and seeking support when needed. Connecting with family and friends and reaching out to health care professionals can reduce emotional stress and offer healthier coping strategies.

Learning to set healthy boundaries, saying no, asking for help, and protecting personal time can prevent chronic stress and burnout. From a health care standpoint, boundaries are an important form of prevention, helping to maintain both mental health and cardiovascular resilience.

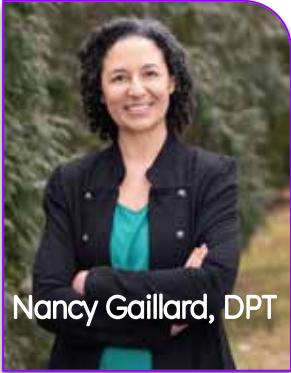
On Valentine's Day, consider expanding the meaning of love. Choose actions that support your heart, physically and emotionally. Self-love is not selfish; it is preventative care. By managing stress, staying active, nourishing your body, and prioritizing rest, you invest in the health of your heart and the quality of your life.

After all, the most important heart you will ever care for is your own.

New Boston Physical Therapy is located at 26 River Road and is open Monday through Friday by appointment 603-487-3933. It specializes in injuries and disorders of the bones, joints, and muscles.



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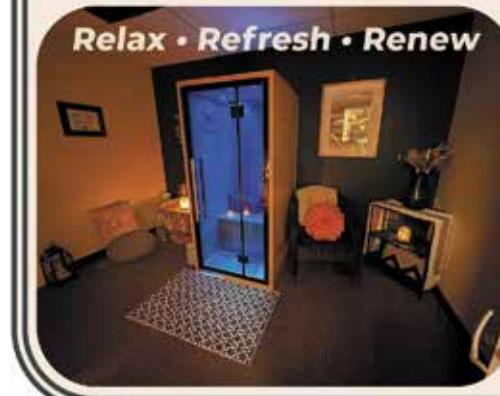
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