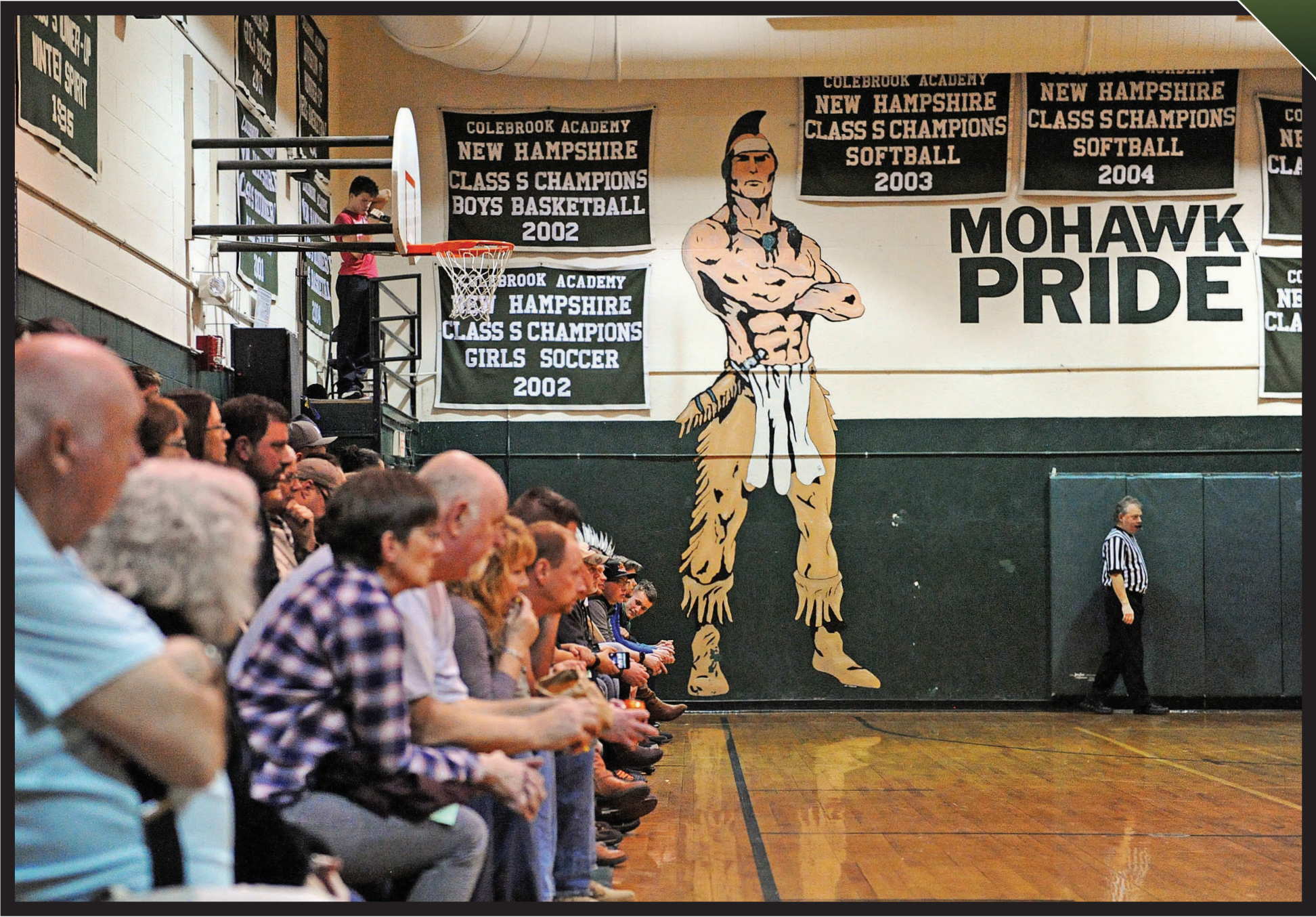


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Charged Debate. Opposition To Battery System Facility Grows Fiercer. Pages 2



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About 100 residents turned out to a public hearing on Tuesday for a proposed battery energy storage system at 370 Foster Hill Road. None spoke in favor, and many, citing safety concerns, were strongly opposed. (Photo by Robert Blechl)

LITTLETON

Opposition To Battery System Grows Fiercer

ZBA Split On Enlisting Expert, Continues Hearing Until March 24

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — Opposition to the proposed industrial-scale lithium-ion battery energy storage system (BESS) at the dead end of Foster Hill Road has grown fiercer.

On Tuesday, the roughly 100 residents turning out to the Littleton Opera House put both the applicant and the Zoning Board of Adjustment on the hot seat during a public hearing that was again continued, until March 24.

Most of those living along Foster Hill Road appeared and the majority of all residents speaking voiced concerns about safety and the possibility of an explosion or a fire that could leave some residents trapped with no way out.

They also charged the applicant, the Massachusetts-based Enel Green Power North America, with not being able to answer life-safety, public health risk, and other questions about the facility, the large size of which would be a

first for the company, not only in New Hampshire but on the continent.

None spoke in favor.

"How many of these battery storage systems do you have in the United States?" asked Foster Hill Road resident Deb Cobb.

"These particular batteries, the number is zero in North America," said James George, permitting specialist for Enel, which seeks a variance from the ZBA to build in a rural zone at 370 Foster Hill Road.

What makes the Littleton site attractive is its proximity to the Eversource Energy transfer station and that station's interconnection, he said.

"And with no regard you're putting potential lives in harm's way by a dead-end road, anybody beyond that, and you can't give us a 100-percent guarantee there will never be a problem?" asked Cobb, who added the proposal shouldn't even be considered.

Toward the end of a nearly three-hour hearing that saw outbursts by residents wanting the board to vote down the variance request, Jessica Daine, chair of the ZBA, made a motion to allow the board to enlist an expert consultant, paid for by the applicant, to gather the information, such as safety questions and impacts to property values the board needs

to help it make a decision.

That motion, though, while supported by ZBA member David Rochefort who said Littleton Fire Rescue Chief Joe Mercieri has already recommended an expert, was defeated 3-2.

ZBA members Ralph Hodgman and Jerry LeSage said the board already has enough information to take a vote and should listen to residents, and board member James McMahon said it would open a door to an ongoing conversation with experts on both sides possibly contesting each other's information.

The unmanned facility that would be monitored remotely from Andover, Mass. is being proposed by LITUS Energy Storage LLC, a subsidiary of Enel set up specifically for the Littleton project.

It would be a \$30 to \$50 million investment depending if it is 100 megawatts or down-sized to 50 megawatts.

The system would store electrical energy using specialized battery store containers and would go on 13 of the 27 wooded acres owned by Aaron Scott DeAngelis, who would lease the site to LITUS.

The utility-scale batteries, in 96 containers, each 40-feet-long and 8-feet-wide and spaced 15 feet apart, would be

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bill Seeks To Prohibit
Roadside Memorials

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

One piece of legislation for 2020 at the New Hampshire statehouse seeks to prohibit roadside memorials within the right-of-way of any primary or secondary highway.

If made law, it would impact the North Country, where several memorials have been erected through the years along highways following traffic fatalities.

House Bill 1255, sponsored by state Reps. Daniel Eaton, D-Stoddard; John Graham, R-Bedford; John Cloutier, D-Claremont; and Martin Jack, D-Nashua, would give the New Hampshire Department of Transportation or any town road agent the authority to remove them.

“If this is something the Legislature wants, we will follow whatever standard it is that they set for us,” Eileen Meaney, chief spokesperson for the DOT, said Monday. “We basically do as directed by the Legislature.”

Currently, the DOT does not have an official policy per se on roadside memorials, she said.

The department also doesn’t keep numbers of complaints or concerns that might come in regarding them or how many there might be



An estimated 3,000 riders participated in the Ride for the Fallen Seven in New Hampshire on Saturday, July 6, 2019. The 90 mile ride began in Laconia and ended in Randolph, at the site where a fiery crash claimed the lives of seven people riding with the Jarheads Motorcycle Club last month. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

across the state.

Calls placed Friday to Eaton, Cloutier, Jack, and Graham asking how the bill came about and if they have received complaints or concerns regarding safety in the vicinity of existing roadside memorials were not returned by press time Monday.

The bill seeks to amend RSA 236:29, the New Hampshire statute on removal of obstructions, to allow DOT to remove all obstructions on Class I, II, III and III-a highways and a town road agent to remove all obstructions on other highway and town-maintained portions of Class

II highways.

If not removed, the bill would allow the DOT to remove and dispose of any roadside memorial after 90 days beginning from the date of the event being memorialized.

Memorials can be at a site where people are beside the road installing or maintaining them and where cars can be parked in shoulders.

It can be a fine line between safety considerations and honoring someone who has died, said Meaney.

See **Memorials**, Page 5

LITTLETON

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January 19 – Meet & Join the Summertime Marching Band at their Pizza Party 6-7:30pm at the Littleton First Congregational Church, 189 Main Street

January 31, February 1-2 – EASTERSEALS RIDE-IN, TOWN & COUNTRY INN AND RESORT – 20 STATE RTE. 2, SHELBURNE/GORHAM, NH. For more information go to www.nhsa.com

Saturday, February 8, 10 AM – 3 PM – Lisbon Stump Jumper Vintage Snowmobile Race Vintage sled racing in many categories and youth races.

Saturday, February 8 ♥ VALENTINE SOCIAL – Fun for the whole family from 2-4 pm, Meetinghouse, Route 117, Sugar Hill, NH

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JAN. 20 - GESCHMOSEL NORDIC RACE This 15km classical style race is part of the ZAK Cup Series. brettonwoods.com/geschmossel. Subject to change; check website for updates.

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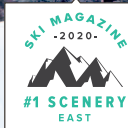
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Battery

Continued from Page 2

charged at night at a lower price, temporarily stored, and sold back to the electric grid as needed at higher price.

The system also entails 48 transformers and inverters and would connect to the nearby Eversource substation.

Each container has a fire-suppression unit, and fire protection involves a 24-hour monitoring system to monitor.

Residents Put Heat On Enel

There are five criteria for a variance that must be met, among them: is it contrary to the public interest, will it diminish surrounding property values, and does denying it create an unnecessary hardship, said former ZBA member Schuyler Sweet.

As for the public interest, the power would not be for residents of Littleton and maybe not even in New Hampshire, said Sweet, who said he believes the BESS does not meet any of the five criteria and no one knows much about the new technology.

“It does not belong in a rural zone,” he said. “It’s industrial.”

The process of developing a BESS in Littleton will be long and also involves state approvals, said George.

“It will be four or five years before we ever build this thing,” he said. “So a lot of the technical questions you have about safety and fire and monitoring and how this is going to be responded to, we seek experts to retain on our dime ... to answer these questions.”

He asked for their patience.

Most residents were not assured.

“I think your company is way ahead of itself,” said Bud Foster. “You should have a lot more of this data before you even ask these people to even consider this.”

Citing safety was Foster Hill resident George Morgan, who

said he has 34 years in the utility business as an electrical engineer working with protection systems and analyzing failures of all kinds.

“Regarding controls, I am sure that their equipment is going to be the best that money can buy,” said Morgan. “Nobody makes an investment like they’re planning without doing their due diligence and having good equipment and a great amount of confidence it will not fail. That being said, everything can fail. The one issue that faces us on Foster Hill Road is a catastrophic event. They cannot guarantee, nor can anyone guarantee, that it won’t occur ... No matter what kind of controls you put in for protection, it can fail.

The argument is we have to be prepared to deal with a catastrophic event,” said Morgan. “If we can’t, then this project should not go forward. Life and property are of the utmost concern.”

Enel Puts Heat On Fire Chief

At the first hearing session on Dec. 10, Mercieri presented photographs of what he said were firefighters battling a lithium-ion battery facility fire in Surprise, Ariz.

Early Duval, attorney for the applicant, said Enel’s primary point of discussion on Tuesday was to highlight what he said were inaccurate photographs Mercieri presented at the December hearing, none of which he said were from the Arizona fire.

After Tuesday’s hearing, Mercieri said he obtained the photographs from a web site documenting the L-I battery fires and said he stands by his conclusion that the facilities can be dangerous.

Several residents spoke in defense of Mercieri and thanked him for his focus on public safety.

In a letter submitted to the ZBA on Tuesday asking the board to enlist an expert, Mercieri and Littleton Zoning Officer Milton Bratz wrote that given how well-documented battery storage system accidents are they are concerned that a BESS in Littleton might pose a significant public health risk and public safety hazard to not only the residents of Foster Hill Road but to the larger community as well.

Currently, neither the state nor the town has adopted National Fire Protection Association 855, the standard for the installation of BESSs, and the lack of an enforceable code combined with technicalities and potential hazards make it a serious concern, they said.

And neither town officials nor ZBA members have the technical expertise to navigate the review process, wrote Mercieri and Bratz.

Citing a review of a Worcester Polytechnic Institute study, they said that once an L-I battery ignites, other cells have the potential to overheat and initiate “thermal runaway” reactions between adjacent batteries, making a hazard.

“To date, the applicants have not provided a comprehensive fire safety and emergency response plan to any of our town officials,” they wrote.

Enel Speaks

On Wednesday afternoon, Enel provided a statement on the Littleton project, saying the company’s first priority is ensuring the safety of communities, and its workers work closely with local officials and fire departments to meet safety requirements on its projects.

“At last night’s hearing we requested that the Zoning Board of Adjustment retain a third-party expert of its choosing to review the LITUS energy storage project and any fire safety concerns and we are disappointed that the board voted against allowing for additional education on this topic,” said spokesperson AJ Gosselin.

Failures of battery storage systems are very rare and Enel conducts its own safety tests with local authorities and develops an emergency response plan before putting a system into operation, said Gosselin.

The LITUS project was not presented to any other municipality beforehand, said Gosselin.

“In choosing the Littleton site among several options screened, Enel evaluated a number of factors including available land and proximity to transmission infrastructure,” said Gosselin.

Memorials

Continued from Page 3

A memorial that would not be impacted is one installed along Route 2 in Randolph that honors the seven people killed in June 2019, said Meaney and Linda DuPont, administrative assistant for the town of Randolph.

That memorial is on private property and not included in the right-of-way, DuPont said Friday.

It honors the seven people killed on motorcycles, most of them Marine veterans from the Massachusetts chapter of the JarHeads Motorcycle Club.

“U.S. Route 2 is a federal road maintained by the state and the state has a 40-foot right-of-way,” said DuPont. “The memorial is on the property owned by the Mt. Jefferson View Motel.”

A makeshift memorial that had been on town property has been removed for winter storage, she said.

That memorial’s future is uncertain.

The American Legion in Gorham has been working with the town of Randolph for a Granite Memorial on town property, near where the accident occurred, that would be installed in the spring or summer of 2020, said DuPont.

If it goes forward, the granite memorial would have off-road parking, she said.

ON THE COVER: Fans attend a Colebrook girls’ basketball game against visiting White Mountains on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020. The Mohawks won 67-40. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

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Obituaries

Paul Dennis Serino

Paul Dennis Serino, age 59, died on Jan. 9 on his beloved mountain top in East Corinth, Vt. He was born in October 1960 in Hollis, N.Y. to John and Betty Serino. Paul is survived by his wife and best friend Jean Roberts.

Paul loved being outdoors hiking, rock hounding, and exploring the great woods of NH and VT. He was a musician and artist at heart; playing hand drums, restoring furni-



Paul Serino

ture, and building his most personal gift – his log cabin home for his wife. Paul's love of nature and its healing ability for body and soul was something he generously shared with others and for which he will always be remembered. He had a lifelong love of learning – especially healing, gardening, and homeopathic remedies. He loved his dogs and constant companions with all his heart – Viva, Aleshanee, and Tahlow.

Paul is also survived by his brother John Serino of Franconia, N.H., sisters Susan Hight of Easton, N.H., and Ellen Serino-Etzel of Stroudsburg, Pa., his extended family of Luke Costa and Katie Hartford, and children Cody, Tasha, and Patina.

A celebration of life will be held in the summer. Sympathy and memorial donations

may be made to the American Cancer Society at <https://donate3.cancer.org/> in Paul's name. Many thanks to the doctors and nurses of Littleton Hospital Day Surgery and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

Finnian Thomas Rooney

Finnian Thomas Rooney, 17, of Walden, passed away Jan. 3, 2020. Finn was born July 31, 2002 to his Momma, Tara Reese and Dad, Alex Rooney. He leaves behind his loving parents, his beloved brother Lyle Rooney, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and so many friends from coast to coast.

Finn had a special way of touching the hearts of all who knew him and while he is gone too soon, he will never be forgotten.

A memorial service and community dinner will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020 at 2 p.m. at Hazen Union School and all are welcome. Memories and condolences may be conveyed at dgfunerals.com.

Everett Warren Clifford

Everett Warren Clifford, born December 12, 1960, died on Thursday, January 9, 2020.

Born and raised in St. Johnsbury, Vt., Everett enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, playing tennis, and swimming at the Kiwanis Pool. He graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy in 1979. He then enlisted in the Marine Corp and traveled the world. When he finished his career in the Marines he was involved in Culinary Arts, which brought him to his love of food. Everett also served in law enforcement in South Carolina. More recently, he has been involved in the Community Garden, growing vegetables to share with everyone.

Since 1970, Everett has been involved in three different churches in the community. He has held positions such as treasurer, trustee, and deacon. The last 20 years he devoted his life to caregiving. He spent the last 13 ½ years with the Waterford Group Home and NKHS where he helped many people and touched many lives. He will be remembered by many and missed deeply.

He is survived by his mother: Kay Clifford of St. Johnsbury, Vt.; 4 siblings: Susan Sweeny of Virginia, Chandler Clifford of St. Johnsbury, Stanley Clifford of Nevada, and Edie Clifford MacKay of Monroe, N.H.; a daughter: Samantha Clifford of Missouri; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is predeceased by his father: Richard Clifford in 2002.

There will be a Celebration of Life held

at the First Congregational Church, 1869 Breezy Hill Road in St. Johnsbury Center, Vt., in the Fellowship Hall from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 18, with light refreshments.

Burial will be in the spring, Saturday, May 16, 2020, at 12 p.m. at Grove Cemetery in East St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Donations may be made in Everett's memory to the First Congregational Church of St. Johnsbury Center, 1869 Breezy Hill Road, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

Memories and condolences can be shared with the family at www.saylesfh.com

Robert Edmund Fillion

Robert Edmund Fillion, 97, of Littleton, N.H., died peacefully December 31, 2019, at Grafton County Nursing Home.

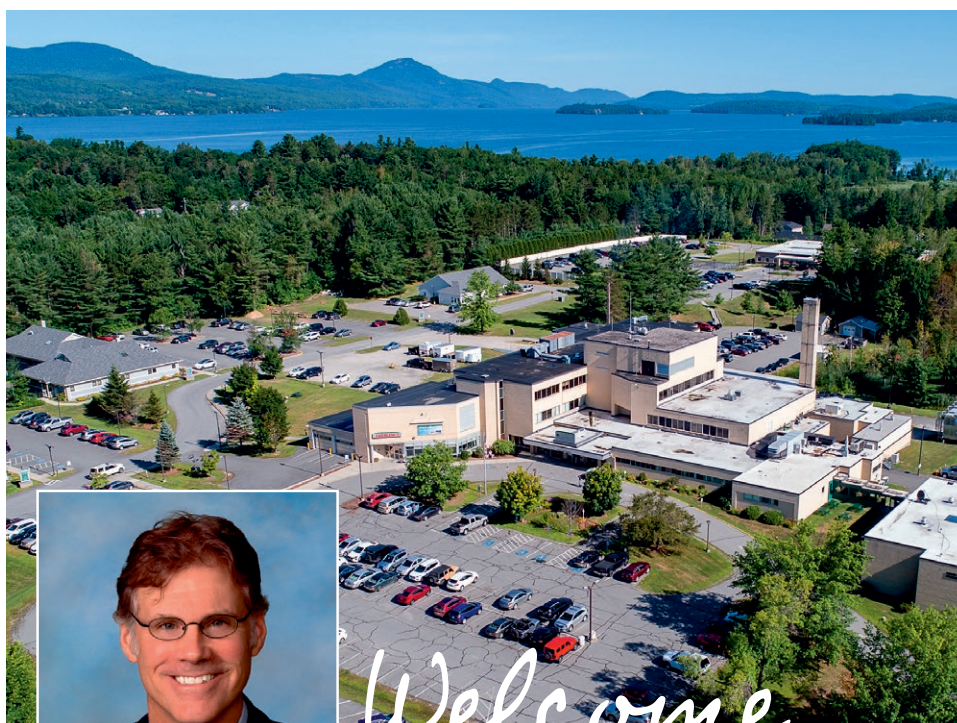
Robert, better known as Bob, was born December 16, 1922, son of the late Antoinette Lehoux Fillion and Cyrille Fillion. Robert was a World War 2 veteran, bravely serving in the Navy from 1942-1945 in the Pacific Theater as a belly turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator. For his valorous service during direct combat, Robert was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as several Air Medals for flying many successive combat sorties.

Bob married Eva Laflamme, his wife of 72 years, on July 4, 1947. When asked the secret for a happy marriage days before he died he said, "Obey and keep your eyes and your ears wide open!" Bob and Eva raised their 5 children in Littleton, N.H., where he ran his own business, Bob's Motor Service, from 1956 until his retirement in 1989. There's nothing Bob enjoyed more than his daily hike in the woods where he found peace and solace. He also enjoyed bowling, playing on a senior baseball league, building models of military airplanes, traveling to navy reunions and spending time at the family camp on Streeter Pond.

Bob left behind a beautiful legacy of many scrapbooks he made over the years filled with all of the family memories that meant the world to him. Although he was unable to do many of the things he loved as his health declined, he never once complained. Bob will be remembered by his family, friends and the community as a kind, loving and gentle man with an infectious smile who was always available for a great conversation.

Robert is survived by his beloved wife, Eva, and their five children: Elaine Guilmain and her husband Richard of Hollis, N.H., Sandra Bonefant her partner Daryl Conrad of Hudson, N.H., Patricia Gust and her husband Michael of Meredith, N.H., Thomas Fillion and Mike Fillion of Littleton, N.H.; 5 grandchildren: Deberah Lang and husband Thomas

See **Obituaries**, Page 7



Welcome

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Please join us in welcoming Dr. Michael Hayes, who started seeing cardiology patients here in December.

Dr. Hayes received all of his college education through UVM, including the College of Medicine. He completed his Internal Medicine Internship, Residency as well as a Cardiology Fellowship at Fletcher Allen Health Care (UVMHC) in Burlington.

Since that time Dr. Hayes has been a staff cardiologist for Central Vermont Cardiology, which has included work at University of Vermont Health Network, Central Vermont Hospital in Berlin and NVRH in St. Johnsbury.

His skills include inpatient consultation, outpatient clinic, stress testing, echocardiography and holter/event monitoring; covering coronary artery disease, atrial fibrillation and heart failure.

Thank you, Dr. Hayes, for becoming a member of our community and our new full-time Cardiologist here at North Country Hospital.



Obituaries

Continued from Page 6

of Temple, N.H., Jeffrey Guilmain and wife Tami of Shalimar, Florida, Brenda Kervin and husband Jonathan of Townsend, Massachusetts, Jonathan Bonenfant and wife, Jeni of Seattle, Washington, Kristina Coleman of Hudson, N.H.; as well as 9 great-grandchildren. Robert also leaves behind his brother, Francis. Robert was predeceased by his brothers Edward and Roger Fillion and his sister, Alice McFarland.

For those who wish, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to Meals on Wheels, c/o Littleton Senior Center, P.O. Box 98, Littleton, NH 03561. A spring Mass and burial is being planned and will be published at a future date.

Pillsbury Phaneuf Funeral Home and Crematorium, Littleton is in charge of arrangements. To view an On-Line Tribute, send condolences to the family, or for more information, please go to www.pillsburyphaneuf.com.

James Ramage Baker

James Ramage Baker passed away peacefully in Lady Lake, Florida on October 7, 2019, at the age of 87. James (Jim) was born on December 17, 1931 in Concord, Vermont where he grew up and graduated from Concord High School.

After graduation, Jim then went on to attend and graduate from Norwich University in 1953, at which time he also married his love and best friend, Marlene Wilson. Jim absolutely loved his time at Norwich, a military college, and he then proudly dedicated more than 20 years serving in the US Army where he was stationed in Germany during the Korean war in the Armored Division, he then chose to still serve in the Army Reserves earning the esteemed rank of Major.

Through his time in uniform and as a civilian, Jim used his abilities well which allowed him to have a successful career in the military and as an insurance adjuster, broker and eventually co-founded Kelly-Baker In-

surance in Littleton, N.H., where he made a home with Marlene and their 3 boys.

Jim embraced his life in the North Country of New Hampshire and Vermont where he was a very active member of his community. Throughout his life, Jim spent much of his time volunteering for causes that needed help such as Littleton Youth Hockey, the Bethlehem Country Club's 300 Club, the Rotary Club, Littleton Chamber of Commerce, Bethlehem's welcome to town garden and always lending a helping hand to veterans and their families in need.

Jim was an outdoor enthusiast and especially enjoyed brook trout fishing, his gardens, and he routinely found chores and tasks to stay busy outside. He was always competitive and loved playing and watching his sports, he was a walk-on at Norwich for basketball, and over the years he made a point of learning to play hockey, golf, and tennis. He also enjoyed his retirement years in Florida, playing and supporting the softball leagues, but most of all he loved watching his children and grandchildren grow and play all of their own sports over the years. Whether in sports, academics or the successes they made, Jim was tremendously proud of all of his children and grandchildren. Jim took every opportunity to teach his boys and grandkids about life's moments, using cribbage as his most successful tool to do so.

As many know, Jim enjoyed making conversation with everyone he met and he had a knack for getting to know people in just a few short minutes. Whether debating over a heated game of cribbage or discussing the local politics, Jim always held firm to his beliefs and opinions. Some might say that he could be overly opinionated at times, but Marlene said it best: "Jim is like a piece of French bread; crusty on the outside and soft on the inside." For those who knew him, Jim had an unforgettable spirit.



James Baker

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Cleona Ramage and Alban Baker; his brother Alban (Sonny) Baker Jr.; and his oldest son, Stacy James Baker. Jim is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marlene Wilson Baker; his brother, David Baker; his 3 boys, Robb Baker and his wife Angela of Largo, Fla., Glen Baker of Las Vegas, Nev., Jonathan Baker and his wife Cyndee of Bethlehem, N.H., his 6 grandchildren; and great-granddaughter, Lily.

Leatrice ("Lee") D. Blanchette

Dec. 17, 1926 - Dec. 21, 2019

Leatrice ("Lee") D. Blanchette, 93, of 29 Baldwin Street, Franklin, N.H., died on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, at The Golden Crest with family around her.

Leatrice was born on Dec. 17, 1926, in Lincoln, Vt., the daughter of Philip and Maude (Brooks) Derosia. She lived in Plymouth, N.H., before moving to Belmont, N.H., 70 years ago.

Leatrice was a manager at New England Telephone Company for 30 years. She enjoyed fishing, flower and vegetable gardening and farming with her husband, Roland, at their Landaff, N.H. farmhouse. They also rejuvenated one old house, which they received an award for. She also owned and managed Shady Oaks Apartments in Belmont.

Leatrice is survived by two sons and two daughters-in-law, Gene Blanchette and his

wife Valerie of Landaff and Paul Blanchette and his wife Claudette of Belmont. One granddaughter, Audra and her husband, Jeff Carson, of Belmont; two grandsons, Michael Blanchette and his wife Kristy of Laconia, N.H. and Jake Blanchette of Landaff. One great-grandson, Andre Blanchette of Laconia and one great-granddaughter Elizabeth Blanchette of Laconia, along with several nieces, nephews and many friends.

Leatrice Blanchette



In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her husband, Roland R. Blanchette, one sister, Phyllis Monahan and two half-brothers, Wyman and Prescott Blake.

A graveside service will be held in the spring at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Laconia.

For those who wish, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to Concord VNA - Hospice Care, 240 Pleasant St., Concord, N.H. 03301 or to St. Vincent DePaul, 1269 Union Avenue, Laconia, N.H. 03246.

Wilkinson-Beane-Simoneau-Paquette Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 164 Pleasant St., Laconia, N.H. is in charge of the arrangements. For more information and to view an online memorial, go to www.WilkinsonBeane.com.



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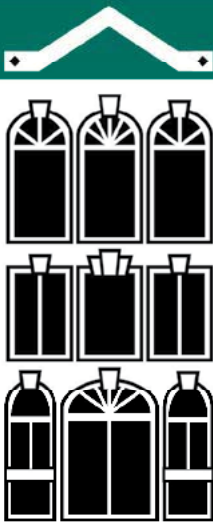
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News Briefs

New WREN Director Excited To Take Job

The new executive director for the Bethlehem-based Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN), moving forward after a brief hibernation and ongoing restructuring, is excited to take the job.

"WREN is very much alive," Pam Sullivan, owner of Sullivan Creative, said Tuesday. "We are about the community, we are a part of the community, and I look forward to getting out in the community."

New to Bethlehem, but not to WREN and to working in New Hampshire, Sullivan will be at a meet-and-greet and a formal WREN update that is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the WREN gallery.

It will also include the transitional changes and the announcement of new people.

And soon to be rolled out and discussed in more detail on Feb. 7 is the new HUB at WREN.

Sullivan replaces Mary Secor, who had been the organization's interim executive director and serves on its board of directors.

For Sullivan, a small business owner for 33 years who has been working in northern New Hampshire since 2011 and who served on WREN's board and was part of its reimagining session, becoming executive director was a natural progression.

"My husband and I moved to Bethlehem in June and I became really involved with them," said Sullivan, who also did jewelry work with WREN. "We work with a lot of nonprofit organizations."

At WREN, she said she can bring her 15 years of experience working with the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen as well as the experience of keeping a business alive for three decades, include during downturns, just like WREN has done.

Sullivan said the rural economy and economic development

part of WREN really grabbed her.

"I saw this as an amazing opportunity," she said. "It's what I like to do. I'm comfortable working with small budgets and working with boards."

WREN's roots came out of the changing North Country economy and the organization can continue its mission in the years to come, said Sullivan.

After experiencing budget challenges in 2018, the nonprofit WREN, founded 26 years ago to assist artists and small business owners with educational, networking and peer support programs, went into hibernation Jan. 1, 2019, for a restructuring.

It began emerging few months later, more streamlined and with a leaner budget, but maintaining its store and gallery that saw a strong holiday season in December, said Sullivan.

"It's nice to see the community support," she said.

It's a different picture a year later, though the organization must remain cautiously optimistic, said Sullivan.

Although it's a new day for WREN, the board, the staff members and volunteers are also looking at its mission and its beginnings when it was founded in 1994 and how that can be developed to meet needs now and in the future, she said.

"WREN is not going away, nor is the store, but it's so uniquely different," said Sullivan.

WREN is working with its existing gallery space and will open up some of that space to the new HUB, a place for members and non-members and for groups and nonprofits to work and collaborate during certain hours. The space will include Wi-Fi access and will also a place for talks and events.

It will be membership-based, but non-members, using it by the day, would pay a very small fee, she said.

The gallery will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week.

The membership that was shut down for a year will begin reopening Feb. 7, when new programs will also be announced, said Sullivan.

Littleton Regional Not Pursuing Case Against DHHS, ConvenientMD

According to a court check on Monday, Littleton Regional Healthcare is not pursuing its lawsuit against the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to prevent DHHS from issuing a license to the ConvenientMD urgent care clinic.

On Dec. 10, following a court hearing a week earlier, Grafton Superior Court Judge Lawrence MacLeod denied LRH's motion for preliminary injunction and granted a motion by DHHS, represented by the office of the New Hampshire Attorney General, to dismiss the case.

LRH's deadline for the 30-day window to request a rehearing with DHHS was Friday.

As LRH did not file a motion for reconsideration of MacLeod's Dec. 10 order and does not appear to have filed an appeal with the New Hampshire Supreme Court, the superior court order stands and became final upon the close of business day on Friday, Lawrence Edelman, assistant attorney general with the NHAG, said Monday.

LRH representatives could not be reached for comment Monday.

In his Dec. 10 order, MacLeod said the superior court has no jurisdiction over LRH's request for injunction against DHHS and the proper avenue is a request for a rehearing with DHHS followed by an appeal to New Hampshire Supreme Court if that request is denied.

An email placed Monday to DHHS spokesman Jake Leon to determine if LRH has reached out to DHHS regarding ConvenientMD and the clinic's health care facility license DHHS granted on Dec. 4 was not returned by press time.

ConvenientMD's non-emergency walk-in CMD at 551 Meadow St. held its grand opening Dec. 3 and began accepting patients the following day.

The license was granted after DHHS Commissioner Jeffrey Meyers concluded ConvenientMD would not have an adverse impact on the essential health care services provided by LRH, a designated critical access hospital by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and said no urgent care clinic in New Hampshire has negatively impacted health care services at any of the state's critical access hospitals.

In its request for injunction, LRH argued that New Hampshire statute is designed to protect critical access hospitals, DHHS erred under the law in concluding LRH would not be negatively impacted, and an opening of ConvenientMD just a few miles away from the hospital would lead to losses in LRH revenue and put in jeopardy health services like obstetrics and behavioral health that might have to shut down.

School District Searches For Permanent Superintendent

As the new year gets underway, Littleton School District SAU 84 is on the search for a permanent superintendent to take the reins beginning July 1, for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

The position was posted Wednesday.

Earlier this week, interim SAU 84 Superintendent Corinne Cascadden, who took the helm as interim superintendent on Nov. 4 with the intent to serve eight months until June 30, said the plan is to offer a contract by early spring.

"We have to get moving and will collect applications until Feb. 7," said Cascadden, who took over as interim SAU 84 superintendent after the resignation of former Superintendent Steven Nilhas.

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News Briefs

Continued from Page 8

The plan entails accepting resumes until the second week of February, conducting interviews beginning the last two weeks of February, and offer a contract by early April, she said.

"We are looking forward to seeing what kind of candidates we get," Kim Woodson, vice-chair of the Littleton School Board, said Thursday.

Cascadden is putting together a group of search committee members internally and the district has staff members who have volunteered, she said.

"We are working with PRIMEX [the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange] to do an orientation for all the staff participating in it," said Woodson.

Staff members will learn which questions they can and can't ask and their training is scheduled to start next week, she said.

Cascadden, who retired from the Berlin School District SAU 3 in June 2018 before taking the temporary superintendent job in Littleton, will stay in interim superintendent at SAU 84, where she works part-time, three days a week, until June 30, the last day of the 2019-2020 school year.

She said she has enjoyed her work in Littleton.

"It's a really good school district," said Cascadden.

Nilhas, who announced his resignation in August 2019, joined the Littleton School District in July 2016 and was its longest-serving superintendent.

SAU 84 was formed in 2007, after breaking off from White Mountains SAU 35.

Nilhas left SAU 84 to take a job at White Mountains Regional School District SAU 36, to become the new director of curriculum and instruction, a position he said will return him closer to the classroom.

At the time of his departure, the full-time superintendent position in Littleton came with an annual salary of \$109,585 for the 2019-2020 school year, according to figures with the New Hampshire Department of Education.

DIRECTV Lawsuit Costing Taxpayers More Than \$100K

A tax abatement lawsuit against the town of Littleton has just turned 10-years-old and to date has cost taxpayers more than \$100,000 in legal expenses.

In 2010, DIRECTV, a subsidiary of AT&T that currently pays an upward of \$200,000 annually in property taxes to Littleton, filed the case at Grafton Superior Court, arguing it has specialized equipment on its two Mt. Eustis Road parcels that includes assets that are not taxable real estate, and its tax assessment in Littleton is unfair and disproportionate.

The company, keeping its information sealed at the court and inaccessible to the public, asks the court to determine a fair assessment.

The town, however, argues DIRECTV has not provided complete discovery documents to support its claim for a reduced assessment and recently filed a motion asking the court to compel DIRECTV to provide complete answers to the town's requests for discovery.

That motion went to a hearing on Dec. 18.

As of Thursday, the judge had not issued a decision, and a trial date — several trial dates have been canceled through the years — is currently scheduled for April.

Meanwhile, legal costs for Littleton are racking up as DIRECTV — represented by attorney Margaret Nelson, of the Sulloway and Hollis law firm in Concord that is representing Eversource Energy, which is suing about half of New Hampshire's 234 municipalities to reduce its property taxes — has contested its assessment in Littleton for each year beginning in 2010 by submitting amended annual tax abatement petitions.

In 2010, Littleton paid \$561 in legal costs, \$14,656 in costs

for 2011, \$944 in 2012, \$1,091 in 2013, \$302 in 2014, \$504 in 2015, \$3,265 in 2016, and \$892 in 2017.

In recent years, costs began mounting, with expenses reaching \$25,660 in 2018 and \$55,903 in 2019, making for a current total of \$103,780.69 for the past 10 years.

On Sept. 6, DIRECTV filed an objection to the town's motion to compel that is under seal and non-public and stating that the matters discussed are under a court protective order.

In 2019, its two properties at 1085 and 1089 Mt. Eustis Rd. were assessed at \$140,900 and \$7.019 million, respectively.

For the 2019 tax year, the company paid a total of \$174,067 in property taxes to the town.

In its complaint, the company states it uses the 1089 Mt. Eustis Rd. property as a backup/diversity site as part of its direct-to-home satellite TV service and its 1085 Mt. Eustis Rd. property is a residential one next to the backup/diversity facility that was acquired for security purposes.

DIRECTV states it has a regional Northeast Uplink Link Facility in New Hampton, N.H., and the Littleton facility can be placed online if the NEUF becomes inoperable from equipment failure or severe weather conditions impacting the New Hampton site.

The company argues its assessment exceeds the market value of the taxable real estate and is "unlawful, excessive, and disproportional."

"As a backup/diversity facility, the Littleton plant contains specialized equipment and improvements to support the business operations which are not taxable as real estate under New Hampshire law, including, but not limited to, certain satellite antennas and equipment batteries associated with the Uninterruptable Power Supply System," DIRECTV argues in its complaint.

In its motion to compel the company to provide complete responses to requests, the town, represented by attorney Jae Whitelaw, argues it has sought information as to the identity and total original cost of the individual items at the satellite uplink facility, information it says is necessary to determine what taxable property exists and what its fair market value is, the two central issues before the court.

"The town also sought and continues to seek copies of all documents relating to the property and the total original costs of the property," wrote Whitelaw. "While DTV bears the burden of establishing the fair market value of the property, the town is entitled to and intends to both dispute DTV's evidence and present its own evidence of value and taxability ... DTV has an obligation to provide data and documents which are responsive to the town's request regarding the taxability and cost of property in Littleton."

An important question, she said, is if DIRECTV, which has also filed litigation against the town of New Hampton, transferred about \$5 million in individual line items out of New Hampton.

To date, it has not responded as to whether some or all of that property was actually based in Littleton, said Whitelaw.

DIRECTV has clearly stated it does not intend to provide further responses to documents and the town of Littleton is consequently unable to determine if any reported costs regarding assets are taxable or accurately reported, she said.

Littleton also seeks all discovery in the New Hampton litigation that DIRECTV believes is specifically related to the Littleton uplink facility.

According to the case file, one court ruling already favors the town.

In an order, Judge Lawrence MacLeod said the court finds and rules that DIRECTV has not provided full and complete responses to the town and has not produced the requested documents to Littleton, which he concluded is within the scope of discovery to which the town is entitled.

"We're truly hoping for a very positive outcome," Littleton Selectman Carrie Gendreau said Thursday.

In an email placed Thursday, AT&T spokesman Joe Chandler was asked if DIRECTV will be providing complete answers for discovery and if the company sees a resolution of the case in

sight.

Responding was spokesperson Karen Twomey, who, in a company statement on the case, said, "We provided extensive answers to the town's discovery requests in a timely manner."

New Program Tracks Truckers With Drug, Alcohol Violations

Six months after a Massachusetts man with a checkered past killed seven motorcyclists in Randolph, a new program aims to purge tainted drivers from the commercial trucking industry.

On Monday, a federal database began tracking commercial drivers' drug and alcohol testing violations, preventing those drivers from simply starting a clean sheet with a new employer.

Although the database only applies to those with a commercial drivers license (CDL), and won't cover non-CDL commercial drivers like the one in the Randolph crash, it represents a step in the right direction, said Barry Normandeau, owner of Normandeau Trucking in Groveton and past chairman of the New Hampshire Motor Transport Association.

"If you can't pass a [drug] test, we don't want you in this industry, get out," said Normandeau.

The new program, called the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, applies to CDL drivers of vehicles over 26,000 pounds, including tractor-trailer and school buses operators.

The new law closes a loophole, preventing job-hopping by drivers who fail their drug and alcohol tests.

"We all test, but [before] if a guy came up positive, they went

See **News Briefs**, Page 15

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Casella Wants Copy Of Draft Zoning Ordinance, Non-Public Minutes

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

As the town of Dalton develops a zoning ordinance, which came about in response to a 180-acre landfill proposed by Casella Waste Systems beside Forest Lake, the lead attorney for Casella has filed a right-to-know request for a copy of the draft ordinance.

During the Dec. 18 meeting of the Dalton Planning Board, which is drafting the language of the ordinance, members discussed the request by Bryan Gould, attorney for the Cleveland Waters and Bass law firm that represents Casella in New Hampshire and its subsidiary, North Country Environmental Services (NCES).

Gould also seeks copies of the minutes of non-public planning board meeting.

The ZBA began meeting in the latter half of last year after Dalton voters at a special town meeting in July approved emergency, temporary zoning for a town that until then never had zoning.

Gould's right-to-know request was forwarded to town legal counsel, the Mitchell Municipal Group, for review, according to the Dec. 18 planning board minutes.

In seeking a copy of the draft zoning ordinance, Casella has not been the only entity to file a right-to-know request.

On Nov. 6, Dalton planners discussed a right-to-know submission by Amy Manzelli, of BCM Environmental Land Law, who later rescinded her request.

A version of the draft ordinance was posted on the town web site on Dec. 19, when Planning Board Chairman Carl Lindquist sent it to the Board of Selectmen.

It was undetermined Friday if the ordinance will go to voters for approval at the March town meeting, the 2021 town meeting or at special town meeting, but selectmen said they will be reaching out to the public for input.

"The current draft version of a zoning ordinance has been developed by the Dalton Planning Board in open public meetings," Board of Selectmen Chairman Jo Beth Dudley said in response to an inquiry on its status. "However, it's a very preliminary draft ... The planning board encourages public comment, and will actively reach out to the citizens of Dalton when the zoning ordinance is in a more final form."

As they advance the ordinance, planners are looking at the zoning ordinances of other towns as a guide, including the New Hampshire town of Groton and the land use ordinance of Jefferson.

At the Dec. 18 meeting, Lindquist presented the latest electronic draft for Dalton zoning, and board members made edits as they reviewed sections.

Dudley, the selectmen's representative on the planning board, said the Mitchell Group has agreed to review overall content and to clean up the ordinance when planners are close on the needed content.

In November, planners discussed defining cottage industries and small businesses, both of which they said the town wants to encourage, as well as accessory dwelling units, construction in floodplains, permits only required in floodplains, communications towers, and the number of dwellings or dwelling units per parcel.

On Oct. 2, planners reviewed Jefferson's ordinance and agreed it is similar to Dalton's needs.

Draft Zoning Ordinance

In drafting the ordinance, planners said the key principles for the future development of Dalton are spelled out in the town's 2011 master plan, chiefly that Dalton "is a rural, residential community and should remain so in the future," "it's essential rural character and quality of life are defined by the town's natural environment," and "future development should be consistent with and seek to protect Dalton's natural environment."

The draft preamble also states, "Commercial and industrial development may be good for the town, in order to diversify the tax base and reduce taxes on homeowners. However, to protect Dalton's character, the town should identify specific, limited areas for future commercial or industrial development, so that the vast majority of the town remains rural."

The draft breaks the town into two districts, rural residential and floodplain and states "Dalton is largely a community of single-family homes and this should be the core of our future development pattern."

It also includes New Hampshire RSA 674:27, which states, "No business, commercial or industrial venture or use shall be permitted which can reasonably be foreseen to cause any undue hazard to health, safety or property values or which is offensive to the public because of noise, vibration, excessive traffic, undue effect on water quality, unsanitary conditions, noxious odor, smoke or other similar reason."

Under the general regulations section, no dwelling or man-made structure shall be taller than 35 feet, with the exception of churches, farm buildings, and chimneys.

No section in the posted 17-page draft refers to landfills specifically and it is currently undetermined if the final form will include a specific section for landfills.

Dudley said it is still too early in the process to answer questions about specific language.

With zoning in Dalton, Casella would need to come before the town for local approval.

How much authority a municipality has in regard to landfills has been decided, at least in part, by a 2004 New Hampshire Supreme Court case.

In NCES v. town of Bethlehem, the court ruled that New Hampshire's solid waste management statute, RSA 149-M, holds that state law preemption of local regulation of solid waste facilities must be the norm and the state can regulate a landfill's footprint and even height, although municipalities can influence the location and size of a landfill.

The court ruled that 149-M did not stop Bethlehem, which has zoning, and would not stop any other town from prohibiting the development or expansion of a landfill outside of a zoned landfill district.

Casella seeks a new privately owned, commercial landfill in Dalton after Bethlehem voters twice rejected a push by the company to add 100 acres to Bethlehem's current 61-acre landfill district.

Its landfill in Bethlehem is now nearing capacity and is projected to close in about 2023.

Dalton Resident: John Casella Wants To Give Town \$50K-\$100K

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

DALTON — As Casella Waste Systems seeks support for a new a landfill in Dalton that could face a challenge through current temporary zoning, a resident said company CEO John Casella wants to give the town a gift.

Casella is offering \$50,000 to \$100,000 directly to one or more town departments, said resident Don Mooney, who said he was contacted about the offer by Rebecca Metcalf, the company's new outreach manager for the North Country, about the offer.

The money from Casella's personal philanthropic fund would come with "no strings attached," said Mooney, who presented Casella's offer to the Dalton Board of Selectmen in a letter on Monday.

On Tuesday afternoon, John Casella said the offer of financial assistance resulted in confusion and the company does not communicate donations through individual residents.

Not all were convinced any offer by Casella would be entirely philanthropic.

"The first thing that comes to mind, with the proposed development possibly being on the table, is this certainly seems like a conflict of interest, and some could question it as almost being an improper payment to the town, in essence for a favor," said Dalton resident Jon Swan, founder of the landfill opposition group Save Forest Lake. "He can certainly say no strings attached, but if it was going to be no strings attached, why didn't he just do this anonymously if he's feeling so gracious?"

In his presentation, Mooney said he was made aware of Casella's offer a short while ago and said as a citizen of Dalton he feels the information could be of great benefit not only to one or more town departments, such as the fire, emergency services, and highway departments, but to taxpayers as well.

"It is my understanding that Mr. Casella has provided such an offer to other towns in order to help their various departments provide better and safer service," said Mooney.

Receiving the money would come with a process and questions for town legal counsel, said Dalton Board of Selectmen Chairman Jo Beth Dudley, who said she was previously made aware of the offer and conducted research.

"Dalton, back in 1994, did as a warrant article allow the select board to accept unanticipated revenue, so there is an RSA regarding unanticipated revenue," said Dudley. "If it's over \$10,000, we are required to have a public hearing. I put out a request to the New Hampshire Municipal Association asking for some clarification because I don't know the timing of that given that we are so close to town meeting."

Because of budgeting and the upcoming town meeting, the town wouldn't be able to hold a hearing before town meeting in March, she said.

On Tuesday, Swan filed a complaint against Casella with

See **Casella**, Page 11

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Winter Lights

It's mid-January, and our house has been officially "de-Christmased." We took down the tree shortly after the New Year began. Ornaments are packed away and back in the basement, along with the advent calendar and our stockings. I'm still finding random pine needles when I vacuum, but those will last for months, so I'd say we are pretty well picked up from the holidays.

Except for one thing. This year, we haven't taken down the white lights that are wrapped around the big lilac bush out in the front of our house. I've been meaning to, but each evening at dusk I plug them in and I think, every single evening, how beautiful they are. Coming back from my after-dinner walk with the pup, or pulling into the driveway after gymnastics or a basketball game, their warm, friendly light welcomes me home, and I smile. So on the tree they remain.

I find myself craving light this time of year.

It's primal, maybe - wanting to light up these dark days of winter. Early Norse people believed in the power of lighting fires to ward off evil spirits brought by the dark. In Iran, the Persian festival of Yalda, celebrated at the winter solstice, signifies the victory of light over dark. This year on the Solstice, the kids and I made paper bag lanterns and lined the driveway with them, then warned ourselves around a small campfire in the fire pit as we watched the lanterns flicker in the wind.

I love this idea of lighting up these dark win-ternights.

My reluctance to take down my white lights has got me thinking about the importance of finding - and hanging on to - something bright in times of darkness. My white lights on the lilac bush are a physical representation of this; those lights actually do brighten winter's long dark nights. But the concept is also true in an abstract way. In times of sadness, or struggle, it is important to have some "light" - something that brightens our emotional darkness.

This came up as I was talking with some friends at lunch the other day. One friend mentioned that after an emotional choir practice the



BY AMY LAWTON
MCKEEVER

previous night, where she had been learning a piece about the killing of Matthew Shepard, she was so drained that she had to go home and watch an episode of Queer Eye to smile a little bit before going to bed. Another friend chimed in, remembering that after she and her family had visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, they had been so emotionally wrecked that the only thing they could do was go to the Museum of Natural History and stand in the butterfly room, watching as the tiny, gentle butterflies fluttered softly around them.

We all go through times of darkness in our lives. That is pretty unavoidable. The question becomes, I guess, what do we do to help ourselves through them? What can we do to light our way? The answers will be as varied as we are. I dive into a good book, or get myself into the woods for some fresh air and solitude. Maybe for you, there's some healing in a good laugh with friends, or a trip to the gym (I wish going to the gym was on my list; my pants probably wouldn't be so snug). I guess the key is knowing where you can find that light, and being able to count on it.

It's been kind of a dark six weeks for me. The anniversary of Sandy Hook, sandwiched right between the holidays, always makes for a difficult December, and this year, for some reason, it was particularly hard. Maybe that's why I've been hanging on to my white lights so dearly. I'm happy to have them send their cheerful light out into the dark night sky, and seeing them out my window has brought me some peace and comfort. So I'll be keeping them up, until winter loosens its grip and the days start to lengthen. When I look at the electric bill and shudder a bit, I'll consider that extra money an investment in my mental health.

Here's hoping that you, too, can find some light when times are dark.

Amy Lawton McKeever is a teacher/librarian over at the Monroe Consolidated School. More of her writing can be found in the New York Times Motherlode blog and on her home computer under "future book." She lives in Easton with her family.

Casella

Continued from Page 10

the office of the New Hampshire Attorney General for "improper gifting" and "influence peddling."

On Tuesday afternoon, John Casella, who last year told Dalton selectmen a landfill could not go through without town support, was asked specifically by The Caledonian-Record why the money is being offered at a time when he seeks a new landfill in Dalton and why it was not offered before and how he responds to those residents saying a money offer constitutes a conflict of interest.

In a response statement Tuesday afternoon, Casella said, "I became aware today of Don Mooney's statement to the Dalton select board last night. While we very much appreciate Mr. Mooney's enthusiasm, we do not communicate donations or other offers of financial assistance to communities through individual citizens because it can result in confusion as it did here.

"It is true that when we learned that Dalton needs to replace some of its life and safety equipment (in this case, the fire department's self-contained breathing apparatus) we discussed within the company how we can help Dalton to acquire it," said Casella. "I now understand that some of our employees had discussions with Mr. Mooney about the possibility of more general financial assistance to the town. That is not typically how we provide assistance."

The company is active philanthropically and regularly contributes toward the specific needs of the communities in which it does business, he said.

"We consider ourselves to be part of those communities and welcome the opportunity to help when we can," said Casella. "We remain willing to help Dalton to insure that its health and safety equipment is as current and functional as possible. We expect nothing in return. If the town wants to explore this further I am just a phone call away."

In Dalton, the company got off to a shaky start in early

to the town from \$430,762 to \$200,000.

Casella contested its tipping fee per ton of waste disposed, saying it was \$44.68 and not the \$89.15 figure on its equalized valuation summary in Bethlehem.

In its settlement with Bethlehem, the company agreed the fee will be higher, at \$67 a ton, and if the state approves the last phase of landfill expansion in Bethlehem, agreed to \$85.

"He can certainly say no strings attached, but if it was going to be no strings attached, why didn't he just do this anonymously if he's feeling so gracious?"

— Jon Swan

2019, when it publicly announced its plans for a 180-acre landfill beside Forest Lake, after the Dalton Planning Board denied a lot line adjustment to create a 300-acre lot with no abutters and concluded the request is essentially seeking a subdivision under state law.

John Casella did not respond to a question Tuesday asking if his company will be filing for tax abatements, as it has done multiple times in Bethlehem, in Dalton if a landfill is approved there.

In 2018, the company and town of Bethlehem settled a 2017 tax year abatement that cost Bethlehem \$28,545 in legal fees and accountant costs.

That abatement cut Casella's assessment in Bethlehem from \$14.6 million to \$7 million and reduced property tax revenue

Based on those figures, and what Casella representatives said would be 360,000 tons of waste disposed annually in Dalton during a period of more than 30 years, the company stands to gain an upward of \$1 billion in revenue from a landfill in Dalton.

Landfill opponents cite noise, truck traffic, pollution and odors, the latter of which John Casella, in a Nov. 1 third-quarter 2019 earnings call for investors, said is the most common issue stemming from landfill activities.

"One of the things that, I think everyone is doing is, pushing the responsibility from an odor control standpoint back to municipalities," he said, according to the transcript. "Because it's an issue that's problematic for everyone at the disposal facilities."

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NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF THE LITTLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT ABSENTEE VOTING AS PROVIDED UNDER RSA 671:21

Any voter who expects to be absent from the place where he/she is qualified to vote on the day of an annual election of officers, or who, by reason of physical disability, is unable to vote in person, must apply in writing for an absentee ballot using either the printed form prepared by the school district clerk or a written statement declaring an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

No application shall be issued after 5:00 p.m. on the day immediately prior to election.

No absentee ballot shall be accepted by the clerk after 5:00 p.m. on the day immediately prior to election.

NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF LITTLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS

The Littleton School District operates under the non-partisan ballot system for the election of school officials: Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer for terms of one year; two School Board Members for a term of three years, and one School Board Member for a term of two years.

The School District Clerk will prepare the ballots and all candidates for office shall file their declarations of candidacy or petitions of nomination with the School District Clerk between Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and Friday, January 31, 2020.

The SAU #84 hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The School District Clerk will also be present from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2020 at the SAU office to receive candidacy forms. The forms will be furnished upon request by the School District Clerk or at the School Administrative Unit #84, 65 Maple Street, Littleton, NH 03561.

Submit events to www.caledonianrecord.com/calendar/

Friday, Jan 17

COMMUNITY

Acorn Club Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, St. Johnsbury. <http://www.stjathenaeum.org>.

Oscar-nominated movies at the Library: 5-7 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Documentary film, Words of My Perfect Teacher, Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche and 3 hapless students: 6-8:15 p.m., Shambhala Meditation Center of St. Johnsbury, 17 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury. <https://st-johnsbury.shambhala.org>.

Growing Up in Apthorp: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Littleton Opera House/Tower Room, 2 Union Street, LITTLETON. <http://littletonnhmuseum.com>.

Saturday, Jan 18

COMMUNITY

Readers Cafe book discussion: 9-10 a.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Oscar-nominated movies at the Library: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

www.bethlehemlibrary.org.

Group Ski Lessons: 12-3 p.m., NorthWoods Stewardship Center, 154 Leadership Drive, East Charleston. <http://www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress/event/group-ski-lessons/>.

The History of North Country Weather - Do You Remember When: 1 p.m., The Shared Ministry's White Church, South Main Street, Lisbon. <http://www.lisbonareahistory.org>.

Spaghetti Dinner by Donation - Includes many desserts, salads and beverages: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Lyndonville United Methodist Church, 100 Church Street, Lyndonville.

An Evening of Song with Sara Lewis: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Burke Mountain Club, 368 Vermont Route 114 (in the center of East Burke Village), East Burke.

ENTERTAINMENT

Opening Reception and Artist Talk For Mark Barry's Snow Daze: 5 p.m., Highland Center For The Arts, 2875 Hardwick St, Greensboro. <http://highlandartsvt.org>.

MUSIC

East Coast Inspirational Singers: 7 p.m., Highland Center For The Arts, 2875 Hardwick St, Greensboro. <http://highlandartsvt.org>.

Sunday, Jan 19

CALENDAR

Waterford School 8th

Get Out

Arts & Entertainment In The North Country

PATRICK ROSS IN CABOT

Cabot Arts will present musician Patrick Ross with special guests the Kowal Family Bluegrass Band on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Willey Building Auditorium, 3084 Main Street in Cabot. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Music starts at 4 p.m. To reserve your seat visit: <http://www.cabotarts.org>. For more info see facing page.

Grade Quarter Auction: 1-4 p.m., Waterford School 8th Grade Class, 276 Duck Pond Road, Waterford.

COMMUNITY

Worship Service: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Sutton Freewill Baptist Church, 36 Church Street, Sutton.

Kingdom Chess Club: 2-4 p.m., Cafe Lotti, 603 Vt Route 114, West Burke.

Patrick Ross in Concert with the Kowal Family Bluegrass Band: 4-6 p.m., The Willey Building Auditorium, 3084 Main St, Cabot. <https://www.cabotarts.org>.

Now is the Time to Join The Summertime Marching Band: 6-7:30 p.m., Littleton First Congregational Church, 189 Main Street, Littleton. <http://www.facebook.com/TheSummertimeMarchingBand>.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Telling Project: The Same Moon: 7 p.m., Highland

Center For The Arts, 2875 Hardwick St, Greensboro. <http://highlandartsvt.org>.

Monday, Jan 20

COMMUNITY

Martin Luther King Jr. Day at the Cobleigh Public Library: 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Danville Community Dinner: 6 p.m., Danville Congregational Church, 87 Hill Street, Danville.

Join the St. Johnsbury Band: 6:30-8:15 p.m., Caledonia County Court House, 1126 Main St., St. Johnsbury. <http://stjohnsburyband.org>.

Tuesday, Jan 21

COMMUNITY

Gentle Yoga: 8:30-9:30 a.m., Iyengar Yoga North, 23 Ammonoosuc Street Fourth Floor, Littleton.

<http://www.reveal-yoga.com>.

Alzheimer Support Group: 9:30-11 a.m., Littleton Community Center, 120 Main Street, Littleton. <http://LittletonCommunityCenter.org>.

Storytime: 10-11 a.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Preschool Story Time: 10:30-11 a.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Free Fall Prevention Tai Chi: 1:30-2:30 p.m., Karen Budde, 481 Summer Street Suite 101, St. Johnsbury. <http://Nekcouncil.org>.

FCA "Secret Lives" slide lecture series: "Bird Conservation: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" with Steve Hagenbuch and Margaret Fowle of Audubon Vermont: 6:30-8 p.m., Fairlee Town Hall Auditorium, Town Common Rd., Fairlee. <https://www.fairleearts.org>.

ENTERTAINMENT

FOE 2629 BINGO: 6-8:30 p.m., FOE 2629, 793 Main St, Bethlehem.

Wednesday, Jan 22

COMMUNITY

Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Whatever Wednesdays: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Meditation Open House: 6-8 p.m., St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury. <http://st-johnsbury.shambhala.org>.

Oscar-nominated movies at the Library: 6:30-8:15 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Movie: The Cave: 6:30-8:15 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Thursday, Jan 23

COMMUNITY

Beginning Computer Class: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

Handwork Circle and Crafts: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Littleton Community Center, 120 Main Street, Littleton. <http://LittletonCommunityCenter.org>.

Creative Kids: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Bethlehem Public Library, 2245 Main St, Bethlehem. <http://www.bethlehemlibrary.org>.

Car Smarts: Awareness Through Movement for Drivers and Passengers: 3-4 p.m., Summit by Morrison, 56 Summit Drive, Whitefield. <http://www.movementmentor.me>.

Origami Group: 3:30-4:30 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library, 14 Depot St., Lyndonville. <http://www.cobleighlibrary.org>.

ENTERTAINMENT

Learn and Play Mah-Jong: 1-4 p.m., The Littleton Community Center, 120 Main Street, Littleton. <http://LittletonCommunityCenter.org>.

Friday, Jan 24

COMMUNITY

Acorn Club Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m., St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, 1171 Main Street, St. Johnsbury. <http://www.stjathenaeum.org>.

Saturday, Jan 25

COMMUNITY

Winter craft and vendor fair to support OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Moose lodge, St Johnsbury.

"Souper" Saturday in Peacham: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Peacham Congregational Church, Church Street, Peacham. <http://www.peachamchurch.org>.

LEGOS (Lego Engineer's Group on Saturdays): 1:30-2:30 p.m., Littleton Public Library, 92 Main St., Littleton. <https://littletonpubliclibrary.org/children/>.

7th Annual Chowder & Chili Supper: 5:30-8:30 p.m., Landaff Town Hall, 12 Center Hill Road, Landaff.

Join the St. Johnsbury Band: 6:30-8:15 p.m., Caledonia County Court House, 1126 Main St., St. Johnsbury. <http://stjohnsburyband.org>.

Sunday, Jan 26

COMMUNITY

Worship Service: 10:15-11:15 a.m., Sutton Freewill Baptist Church, 36 Church Street, Sutton.

Kingdom Chess Club: 2-4 p.m., Cafe Lotti, 603 Vt Route 114, West Burke.

MUSIC

Shai Wosner, Piano: 3-4:30 p.m., South Church Hall, 1052 Main Street, St. Johnsbury. <http://www.neiclassicalseries.org>.



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Patrick Ross To Perform In Cabot

Cabot Arts will present musician Patrick Ross with special guests the Kowal Family Bluegrass Band on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. at the Willey Building Auditorium, 3084 Main Street in Cabot.

From the borderlands of Quebec in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom where Ross learned traditional folk tunes from his father and began his journey as a fifth-generation fiddle player. He won the Vermont-State Fiddle Championship at age 14. He has performed at the Grand Ole Opry and shared stages with Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and Paul McCartney. He now lives in Newbury, Vermont, with his wife and daughter.

His solo concerts include a worldwide range of fiddle styles as well as songs he has penned with guitar, banjo, mandolin and cello.

Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Music starts at 4 p.m. To reserve your seat visit: <http://www.cabotarts.org>.

Lisbon Hosting Program On History Of NoCo Weather

The Lisbon Area Historical Society invites the public to its annual meeting and a free public pro-

gram by Mark Breen, "The History of North Country Weather - Do You Remember When" on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Shared Ministry's White Church, South Main Street, Lisbon, N.H. The program is free and will follow a brief business meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Breen is the Senior Meteorologist and Planetarium Director at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, the author of The Kids' Book of Weather Forecasting, and for over 30 years the voice heard each morning on Vermont Public Radio's "Eye on the Sky."

The Fairbanks Museum has weather records dating back 125 years. In this presentation, Breen will describe the history of this area's ever-changing weather as well as some of its memorable weather events. His vast knowledge is supplemented by references found in the books written by LAHS member and local history author Andrea Fitzgerald.

Do you have stories about the flood of 1927, the hurricane of 1938 or other big winds, the ice storm of 1969, or big snowfalls and floods? Breen invites those attending to bring along their own memories and family tales about living with North Country weather.

Lisbon Area Historical Society preserves and shares the history of Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff,

N.H.

Upstage Players To Hold Auditions For Urinetown

Upstage Players is excited to announce that it will be holding auditions for its May production of the Tony award winning Urinetown the Musical. Auditions will be held at the Littleton Opera House on Thursday, January 30 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. Callbacks to follow on the 1st as necessary.

In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards, Urinetown is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theatre itself! Hilariously funny and touchingly honest, Urine-

town provides a fresh perspective on one of America's greatest art forms.

Interested actors are asked to prepare a short song they know well, preferably from musical theatre repertoire. Please bring sheet music. Singing with accompaniment preferred. An accompanist will be provided. Actors may be asked to do some movement and/or read from the script. Come prepared to move.

Urinetown, the Musical will be directed by Andrew Lidestri, Artistic Director for Upstage Players, choreographed by Madalyn Sheehy & Lidestri, with music direction by Marie Snyder. All roles are open and people of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to audition. Full character breakdown is available on our website. The show will rehearse and perform at the Littleton Opera House. Rehearsals begin February 13 and will take place most Wednesday and Thursday evenings as well as Sunday afternoons. Performance dates are May 8,9,10,15,16,17

Any theater lovers not interested in being on stage but interested in working with set crews, prop and tech production or costuming are encouraged to email us at upartistic@gmail.com. Upstage Players is a welcoming community theatre excited to work

See Arts, Page 15

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