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Major Development. Hitchiner Plan To Be Residential, Then Commercial. **Page 2**



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Littleton: COVID Exposure Sends 45 Into Quarantine

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — A high school student-athlete testing positive for the coronavirus has sent dozens of students and four coaches into quarantine.

“Over the last couple of days, we did have a student-athlete who tested positive, and because of all the exposure issues, that meant we had about 45 people who needed to end up being quarantined, mostly students and four coaches,” Littleton School District SAU 84 Superintendent William Hart said Monday afternoon.

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There was also an SAU central office staff member who tested positive, which led to the SAU office being closed until next Monday, Feb. 1, said Hart.

“Then, hopefully, we can reopen,” he said. “Until then, all of us continue work remotely.”

Most teachers and staff members returned to the classrooms with the traditional learning model on Jan. 14, after nearly two months of all-remote instruction.

Unless there a big jump in positive cases at the school district, Hart said the traditional model with students and teachers in classrooms (all

masked and safely spaced and with surfaces undergoing regular disinfecting) will continue.

“There continues to be an increase of cases in our area,” said Hart. “Obviously, the school system is getting some of those. But we have a lot of people and it impacts them residually as an exposure. At this point, it’s one student-athlete and one central office person who tested positive. We don’t have anybody else who tested positive. At this point, there is no discussion around changing our [learning model] approach yet. Right now, it’s only one student and one staff member and that is not yet enough for us to be changing our model.”

The situation is a dynamic one and the school board would weigh in if a shift in learning model is warranted, he said.

“We’re going to keep monitoring our learning models,” said Hart. “I think we have a good solid plan in place if it gets to point where it’s too dangerous.”

As case levels remain high in the community, the annual school budget and warrant deliberative session for voters is scheduled for Wed. Feb. 3 in the high school cafeteria.

Although there will be a remote option on the Zoom teleconferencing platform, those residents wishing to vote need to attend in person, said Hart.

The session will be set up in the cafeteria, but there will be breakout rooms available in the

Littleton Manufacturer Reports Multiple Cases

COVID-19 has impacted one of Littleton’s largest employers.

Multiple workers at Burndy LLC have tested positive for the virus over the past week, according to a company spokesperson on Monday.

The spokesperson did not specify if the cases were connected, or how many workers were infected. The manufacturer employs approximately 180 according to New Hampshire Employment Security.

Burndy is taking measures to address the positive cases, the spokesperson said.

“In line with our established protocols, we are taking steps to mitigate additional cases, including contact tracing, testing and quarantining, while following all local, state and federal guidelines. The health and safety of our employees and their families is our top priority and we take each COVID-19 case very seriously,” said Alicia DiGennaro of parent company Hubbell Inc.

Littleton had 28 positive COVID cases as of Monday, down from a record 33 over the weekend, according to the state department of health and human services.

It comes during a COVID surge across the region.

As of Monday there were 62 active cases in Berlin, 29 in Lancaster, 16 in Woodstock, 15 in Bethlehem and Gorham, 10 in Haverhill, 7 in Franconia and Lincoln, 6 in Warren, 5 in Milan, and at least one in Benton, Carroll, Colebrook, Dalton, Dummer, Jefferson, Lisbon, Monroe, Northumberland, Pittsburg, Randolph, Stark, Stratford, Sugar Hill, and Whitefield.

event a large number of residents turn out and more safe space is needed, he said.

In the last week, cases were the highest they’d been at any one time in the towns of Littleton, Bethlehem, and Franconia.

They’ve come down a bit since then in some towns, and the New Hampshire Department of

Health and Human Services on Monday evening reported 28 cases in Littleton (down from the mid-30s), 15 in Bethlehem (still near or at the highest), and seven in Franconia.

Under state guidelines, those exposed are to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days, down from 14 days last year.

Hitchiner Plan To Begin As Residential, Then Commercial

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — The redevelopment of the former Hitchiner Manufacturing property at 24 Beacon St. will be done in phases, and the first phase is to transform a portion of the property into residential housing with more than 100 units.

On Thursday, Allen Croteau, of Derry, who owns and manages 50 housing units in southern New Hampshire, submitted a variance to the Littleton Zoning Board of Adjustment.

He is currently negotiating a purchase and sale agreement with Bob Chapman, the current owner of the 15-acre property that includes several buildings, among them the prominent five-story structure.

An ultimate purchase depends on the approval of the variance, which would allow multi-family residential use in an industrial zone.

“It’s been a lot of work over the last six weeks trying to cram it all in,” said Croteau, who was one of a half dozen developers placing a bid on the property, and who won the bid after the Dec. 18 deadline. “I’ve never taken on anything this

large. I’m not a big-time developer.”

About eight years ago, Croteau, retired from the hospital industry, decided to start some housing related businesses, which include Sunshine Properties LLC, to buy and develop some smaller properties.

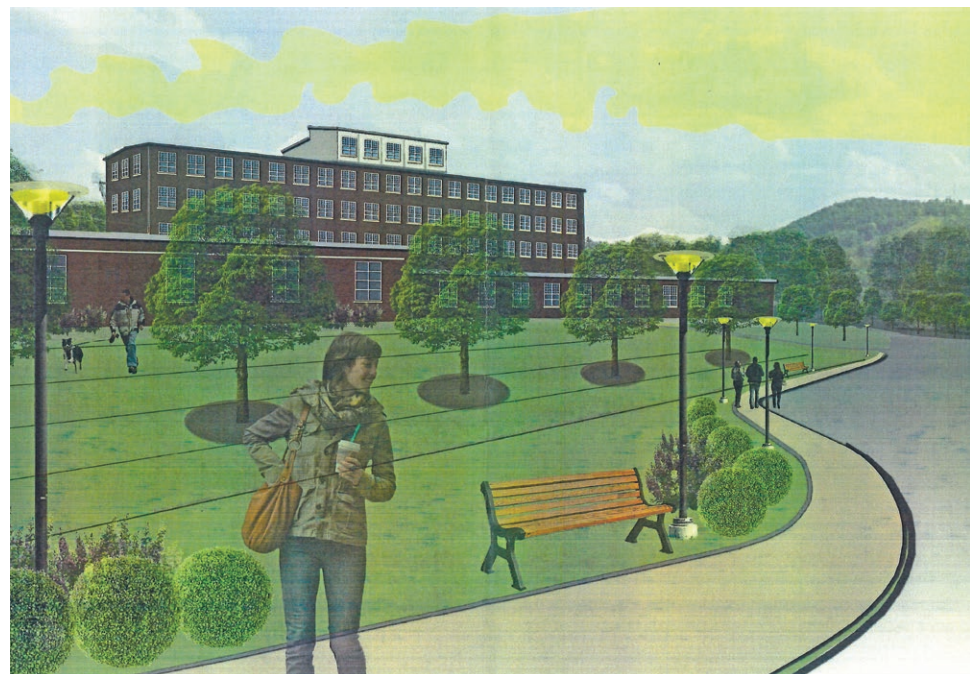
In the project narrative for Littleton, he said his latest endeavor included a 41-unit apartment building in dire need of rehabilitation.

For the Beacon Street effort, he formed a new company called Rail Trail Properties LLC.

His proposal called the Beacon Street Apartments “is to transform the empty Hitchiner Manufacturing building into beautiful, upscale housing units including studio and one-bedroom apartments.”

The plan includes additional amenities for occupants, such as a laundry room, storage area and gym, as well as environmental technology, such as the use of solar, all on a 13-acre lot that features eight interconnected buildings broken out by zones and two smaller stand-alone buildings.

The total square footage is 140,000 square feet, and 37,000 of it will be reserved for future potential commercial development and the re-



This is an image of what the former Hitchiner Manufacturing property in Littleton could look like after the plan to convert it into what developer Allen Croteau is calling the Beacon Street Apartments, a residential housing site with more than 100 housing units. (Courtesy image)

See **Hitchiner**, Page 13

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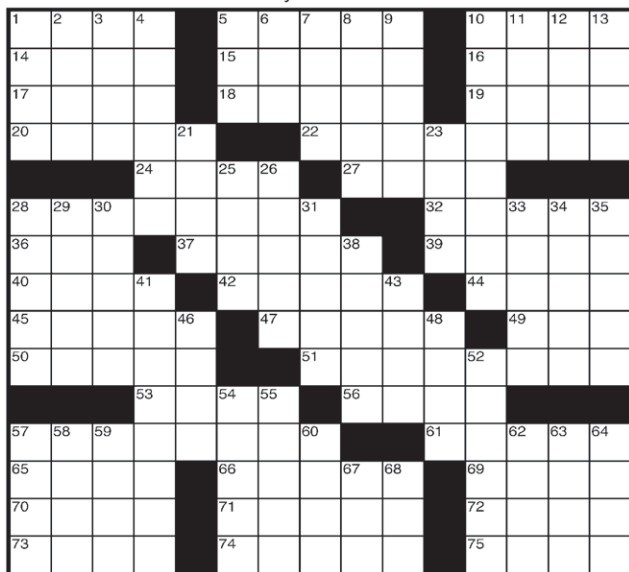


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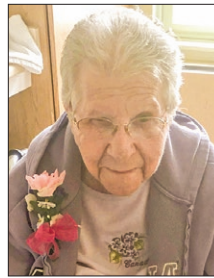


www.northcountryhealth.org

Obituaries

Annabelle I. Sullivan

Annabelle passed away in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 24 in her sleep at Country Village Center in Lancaster, N.H. another victim of Covid-19 where she resided the last 4-plus years. Although she was 93 she would always tell you she was 39 and going to live to be 100.



Annabelle I. Sullivan

Annabelle was born May 11, 1927 to Wilbur and Emma (Vancour) Morse in East Concord, Vermont. She was the youngest daughter of nine children and the last of her siblings. Annabelle attended grade school in East Concord.

She worked a number of places including Gilman Kraft Bag (where she met her husband, Clement Sullivan). They married Nov. 19, 1947. Area shoe shops and lastly Burndy in Littleton.

She and "Clemmie" had three children. Barbara (Neil) Sweet, Brenda (Ken Westover, Don) Sebestyen and Francis Sullivan. She spent most of her time raising her children after the death of her husband in 1965.

Annabelle was a loving mom, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great grandmother as well as aunt, great-aunt, great-great aunt and great-great-great Aunt. Her family was her life.

She is survived by her three children; two grandchildren: Kenneth (Stephanie) Westover of Bethlehem and Heather (Jared) Peters of Ft Dix, N.J.; five great-grandchildren: Samuel and Rachel Westover of Bethlehem, Clinton (Skylar) Ness of Penacook, N.H., Destiny Esposito (Angelo) of Littleton and Ayla Presley of Bethlehem; three great-great grandchildren and one due in June: Harper Ness, Brayden, Caiden and Eli Esposito of Littleton; and by many nieces and nephews.

Annabelle was predeceased by her parents (Wilbur and Emma) and her eight siblings and spouses. Leon (Fannie), Vernard (Mugs) (Helen, Jane, Anna), Burleigh (Vera), Katherine (Connie) Pixley, Joseph (Doris, Hilda), Mary (James) Grant, Maidene (Robert Morton, Harold) Whitney and Robert (Irene). She was also predeceased by two nephews that were raised like brothers, Vernon (Timer) and Stanley (Tinker) Morse. She was also predeceased by several nieces and nephews.

She loved going to yard sales with Brenda and Francis and family reunions.

We would like to thank everyone at Country Village for their excellent care of our mom. Thanks also to Bailey Funeral Home. And, also for the outpouring of love and support from friends and family. She will be missed by many.

There will be no services.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Lancaster. To send an online condolence please go to www.baileyfh.net.

Matthew (Matt) Verne Cross

Matthew (Matt) Verne Cross, 68, of Fuquay Varina, N.C., died on January 21, 2021. He was born on August 15, 1952, in Burlington, Vt., to Irene Lillian (Cochran) Cross and Anthony Verne Cross. He was the oldest of six children. He attended Colchester elementary school, and graduated from Essex Junction High School in 1970. He received a facility grant to St. Michael's College and graduated in 1974 with a degree in Business Administration. He spent his Junior year abroad in Madrid Spain – 1972-1973.



Matthew Verne Cross,

He started his working career at the Quality Supperette in Colchester and went on to hold various store management positions with Willard Street Market, P&C, Butson's, and Hannaford's.

On September 30, 1989, he married Alice Chase Hanehan in Littleton, N.H. They moved to North Carolina in 1996, and settled in Fuquay-Varina where he began a career in assisted living. He held various management positions For Rose Vista Village; Alterra/Brookdale; Southern Assisted Living; Seasons at Southpoint; and most recently Spring Arbor of Cary, N.C.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Abbey Beth Cross, father Anthony Verne Cross and brother-in-law, Gordon "Butch" Burditt.

He is survived by wife, Alice Cross; daughters: Katrina Hanehan and Jim Lemery of Erwin, N.C.; Christine and Neil Blodgett of Wells River, Vt.; son Austin and Rebecca Cross of Fuquay-Varina, N.C.; grandchildren: Katie Streeter of Hancock, N.H., Zackery Flurey of Allenstown, N.H., Nichole Martin of Morrisville, N.C., Neil Blodgett Jr. of Newport Center, Vt., and Emma Cross of Fuquay Varina, N.C.; and 10 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his Mother, Irene Cross of Colches-

ter, Vt.; sisters: Dayle Burditt of Rutland, Vt., Martha and Clay Anderson of Cincinnati, Ohio; Lillian Cross and Debra Leslie of Crescent, Ore.; brothers: Stephen Cross of Buxton, Maine; Shawn and Carol Cross of Berlin, Md.; brother-in-law Clifton and Linda Chase of Orange, Mass. Several aunts; uncles; nieces; nephews; and cousins. Lastly a few close friends.

Service will be at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Colchester, Vt., with interment in Richmond, Vt., being held in August 2021.

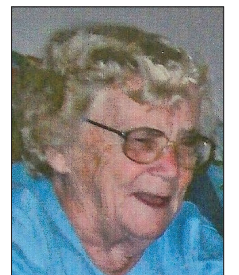
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be made at www.wakefuneral.com.

Eunice M. Stuart

On January 20, 2021, Eunice M. Stuart, 4 days before her 90th birthday, passed away as a result of her struggle with Lewey Body Dementia at the home of her son, Jay and Trudy Stuart in Groveton, N.H.

She was born January 24, 1931, to parents Lester and Pearl Gochey of Cabot, Vt. On December 24, 1950, Eunice and Claude Stuart were married.



Eunice M. Stuart,

Eunice was predeceased by her parents, brothers: Lester Gochey Jr. and Frederick Gochey, and sister Thelma Ewen. Also a son Jefferey Alden Stuart. Her husband Claude passed away in 1983.

Eunice is survived by her 5 children: Irene Webb, Dine Olsen, Sharon Lee, James Stuart, and Jay Stuart. Eunice left behind 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

If you knew our Mom, you knew that she was very fond of cats! When she was a younger woman, she was very fond of speedy cars. As she got older the love of cars was still there, just not as fast.

Eunice loved to go to dances where her son Jay played in the bands.

In later years there were three things she loved doing. Did you guess correctly? Auctions, Yard Sales and Flea Markets.

There will not be calling hours and a graveside service will be held in the spring.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.sayles-fh.com.

Obituaries

Continued from Page 4

Susan Kilby

Susan Kilby (nee Erb, Herzog), beloved wife, mother, sister, teacher and friend passed away peacefully at Golden View nursing home following a valiant battle with Alzheimer's. She was born in Haverhill, N.H., to Frederick (Doc) and Ellen Erb.

Being their daughter was a source of pride to Sue as her parents were fixtures in their North Country community of Landaff, N.H., where she grew up with her siblings Doug, Mary and Tom. Sue graduated from Lisbon Regional High School and went on to receive her Bachelors in Education from the University of New Hampshire.

A lifelong teacher, she never stopped pursuing her own education, eventually receiving a Masters in Education from Plymouth State University and continuing on to study administration. She married Eric Herzog in 1988 and they raised her daughters, Elizabeth (Betsy) Kimball (nee Giguere) and Lori Giguere together. Both local teachers, some of Eric and Sue's best times were spent with their colleagues from Bethlehem Elementary School and Profile High School. When Eric became ill, Sue devoted her life to caring for him until his passing and taught her daughters strength and compassion through that process.

Sue was a prolific member of the Upstage Players and loved to perform. There was very little she wouldn't do for a laugh. She always knew the right thing to say. She gave the very best hugs. She had a laugh that seemed to come all the way up from her toes. She loved to sing, and family gatherings usually ended with her mother on the organ and Sue, Mary and her sister-in-law, Pat, gathered around singing. She loved her girls immeasurably and was so proud of the women they became. She loved being a grandmother and gushed over her four grandchildren, Owen, Jack, Lucy & Tripp.

Sue was fortunate enough to meet Robert Kilby and the two were married in 2010. They moved to Loudon, N.H., where Sue found new purpose as an active member and deaconess at Family Bible Church. Robert was her constant companion and doting caretaker as her memory failed and Alzheimer's pulled her away from us.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made to the Alzheimer's Association in Sue's name. A Celebration of Life will be planned for the summer when it is safe to do so.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Phaneuf Funeral Home. To view an online tribute, leave a message of condolence or for more information please visit www.phaneuf.net.

Betty "Buffi" Christie Smith

Betty "Buffi" Christie Smith died peacefully, yet unexpectedly on the morning of Jan. 12, 2021 at the age of 80. Buffi was born on Dec. 20, 1940 in Quincy, Mass. to Donald and Betty Christie. She was raised in North Quincy and graduated from North Quincy HS in 1958. She went on to graduate from the Mass General Hospital School of Nursing. Upon graduation she accepted a position working with a surgeon at Mass General Hospital.

While living on Beacon Street in Boston, she met many lifelong friends and the love of her life, the late and Honorable Peter W. Smith. In 1962 they were married and relocated to New Hampshire where they raised three daughters. Buffi worked for her



Susan Kilby



Betty Christie Smith

colleague and friend, David E. Bishop M.D. in his office on Cottage Street, in Littleton. Over the next 29 years you knew when greeted by her sparkling eyes and warm smile you were in the right place and that everything would be OK.

With tireless energy she cared for her family, friends, and community. She could be found teaching catechism, hosting Bethlehem Elementary School Christmas tree gatherings, working as a girl scout leader, or painting the Bethlehem Pool. You name it, she would help. It was clear to see that she put her heart and soul in all that she did.

Buffi was also an accomplished artist. She studied painting under Ralph Stone Jacobs. Her paintings were shown at the WREN Art Gallery in Bethlehem. Many years earlier, she used her artistic nature while studying under Chef Noel Lacan at the Weathervane where she quickly earned his trust as a sous chef.

Buffi was a wonderful Mother and Gigi to all her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Buffi was very proud of their accomplishments, many of them following in

See **Obituaries**, Page 14



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White Mountains Community College To Expand In Littleton

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — There's a plan in the works to expand the existing Littleton site of the White Mountains Community College with a 10,000-square-foot addition that would accommodate in-demand trades programs and about 100 more students.

During their two-day virtual retreat last week, the board of trustees of the Community College System of New Hampshire voted unanimously to move forward with the project, which also involves the college system assuming ownership of the property at 646 Union St., at the Littleton Area Learning Center.

"The fact that they are going to expand it is wonderful," Greg Eastman, president of the Littleton Industrial Development Corp. (LIDC), said Monday. "They are investing a lot into it. They are investing in our future, our youth, and our future economy."

Since 1999, WMCC has been leasing the property from LIDC and the St. Johnsbury-based Northern Community Investment Corp. (NCIC), both of which have a joint governing board.

"We recently reached an agreement to purchase that property," WMCC President Chuck Lloyd said Friday. "We have big plans for that property. This goes back almost a year. We've been doing a feasibility study on the facility, just checking all the infrastructure there from the HVAC, utilities, etc. We have also been working with the state of New Hampshire, and they've put in a \$5 million capital request to do some construction. Our goal is to build a 10,000-square-foot advanced technology building on the back of the property, which would include our diesel heavy equipment program, welding, industrial mechanics, and some IT [information technology] and manufacturing. We're really trying to bring the trades to Littleton."

The goal is to close on the property by the end of April.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still ongoing, though, there is no guarantee on funding, at least right now, said Lloyd.

"Should that money become available, we would start out with the planning phase, design phase, and engineering," he said.

That process will take some time, but the ideal timeline would see ground broken in the spring of 2022 followed by a 10-month construction schedule, which would result in a completed expansion in two years, by early 2023, or perhaps a few months sooner.

"We're counting on the state of New Hampshire to do their best, however, we know there's a pandemic so we're also hedging our bets by working on some grants with North Country Council," said Lloyd. "We're going to apply for grants and we're



also keeping our eyes on some stimulus bills."

There are some stimulus funds that could be available for a one-time workforce development initiative and that could fit right into the Littleton project, he said.

"We see some opportunity there," said Lloyd. "We have a shovel-ready project to really increase training for workforce and also for what I'll call a realigning of the workforce. A lot of folks who are out of work could come back for some short-term credentialing and be able to get right back into the workforce."

That would benefit the area manufacturers and the trades programs in general that have been seeking more employees, he said.

Between its general education and health care programs, WMCC's Littleton site is already serving hundreds of students.

"We see this expanding an additional 100 students between diesel, IT, manufacturing," said Lloyd. "We also see an opportunity for high school students. There's an early college program, where high school students take college courses."

For a number of years, the WMCC has worked closely with Littleton High School, whose career and technical education director, Al Smith, serves on the advisory committee for the college.

The expansion also has a workforce development component in that WMCC already partners with many area manufacturers, among them Rotobec, Genfoot, Burndy, and others, who have visited the current Littleton site for one-time training.

"Now, we'll have a real facility to be able to do some of those things," said Lloyd.

The location for expansion is also ideal, as it has access from interstates 93 and 91 and routes 302 and 117, he said.

"It brings that heavy diesel equipment program closer to accessible roads," said Lloyd. "That is something the industry has been asking for quite some time."

The goal is to create new partnerships and strengthen existing ones.

Several years ago, there was a plan to expand the WMCC at the former Hitchiner Manufacturing Co. site at 24 Beacon St., but the state funding did not come through at that time.

For expansion at the Littleton Area Learning Center, named after Paul McGoldrick, a longtime LIDC president who was instrumental in launching the Littleton Industrial Park some 45 years ago, Eastman said there are many people to thank who helped moved the effort to this point.

"This is like a dream come true for the folks who put this together," he said.

McGoldrick and former NCIC President Paul Denton were visionaries in seeing how a learning center would benefit the community, and the Sundman family of Littleton, who founded and ran Littleton Coin Co., was invaluable in their passion to do something for the community, said Eastman.

"They recognized that an educational facility was vital to any community, especially Littleton," said Eastman. "One of the real impetuses was vocational training and having an educational facility for all industries."

He also thanked Ed Hennessey, who has served on the LIDC board of directors for decades, former NCIC President Jon Freeman, and NCIC Senior Project Manager Mike Welch for their work in getting the Littleton Area Learning Center to a point where it can expand.

"Chuck Lloyd has done a wonderful job bringing this to fruition," said Eastman. "He reached out to all kinds of industry to see what they need for training."

When NCIC and LIDC partnered for what was a unique and equal ownership of the LACC, a partnership that was and still is unheard of, the goal was to promote higher education and vocational education in Littleton, he said.

"This is a great example of organizations partnering with each other for the community good," said Eastman.

The state community college system is excited about the WMCC plan and believes Littleton is a great place to expand, said Lloyd.

"We love the community," said Lloyd. "The civic leadership, the community leaders, have just been extremely supportive. We're excited to expand our offerings and find better ways to partner, to be part of the expansion and growth of the Littleton community, and serve the entire North Country."

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Littleton: Town Manager Departs To Become Grafton County Administrator

BY ROBERT BLECHL
Staff Writer

LITTLETON — After 5 1/2 years as town manager, Andrew Dorsett has announced his resignation.

Dorsett, one of the longest-serving town managers in Littleton, which has had a town manager form of government since 1976, will become the administrator for Grafton County in North Haverhill in February.

His last day in Littleton is Feb. 16.

On Wednesday, Dorsett publicly announced his departure during a meeting with the budget committee.

Committee members expressed their gratitude in working with him and said his departure will be a loss.

“Thank you,” said Diane Cummings, chair of the budget committee. “We have appreciated all your help and direction. I’m really going to miss you. Good luck in your new

position and come back and visit.”

Dorsett said a few factors went into his decision to depart for Grafton County, where he will replace Julie Libby, the longtime county administrator who will become county finance director.

“I wasn’t really looking for anything,” he said. “I love Littleton, I love the people, the businesses, and there’s a great energy and a great spirit here ... It’s been a pleasure working with all of you. Thank you so much for all that you do.”

From a professional standpoint, there are numerous existing projects in Littleton and the pace of the job can be fast, said Dorsett, who lives with his family in Lyman.

“Part of it is there’s just too much to do here,” he said. “I think you need somebody a little bit younger and with little more energy ... We did do a staffing analysis, which I provided the board, and [the analysis is] really saying you have to get a deputy town manager, you’ve got to get a community develop-

ment planning director ... I gave them a plan to come up where they need to be in the next three or four years.”

In the meantime, Dorsett has offered to help Littleton selectmen in any way he can as they commence the search for a new town manager.

On Monday, Dorsett spoke with The Caledonian-Record about his time in Littleton and what he enjoyed about being town manager, pleasures that include working with all the community and volunteer groups and being part of the effort to move the town in a positive direction, including tax rate stabilization, which he is proud of.

“There is a community spirit that exists in Littleton and I’m excited to see what lies ahead,” he said. “I’ll miss being a part of the community and being as good of a steward as I can of the community’s assets.”

Dorsett, who lived in Vermont, is a former town administrator for Bradford and a former Groton selectman.

He assumed town manager duties in Littleton, replacing Moody, in September 2015 after being the assistant town manager for Barre, Vt.

In New Hampshire, Dorsett, who holds a master’s degree in public administration, was also a town administrator for Warren and a former New Hampshire state representative.

In his half decade as Littleton’s town manager, which included grant writing, Dorsett brought his passion for economic development and introduced prospective developers to opportunities in Littleton, helped steer the river district redevelopment project that began a decade ago, was a key player in advancing the plan to upgrade the town’s water and sewer infrastructure, and more recently helped establish a citizens commission to revitalize the Apthorp area of town and a new cultural arts commission.

“Whoever steps in has big shoes to fill,”

See **Departs**, Page 12

COVID-19 Vaccination Sites for **PHASE 1B** Recipients

PHASE 1B

- People ≥ 65 years old
- Medically vulnerable at *significantly* higher risk with 2 or more conditions
 - Family caregivers of those medically vulnerable persons, ≤16 years old not eligible for vaccine
- Residents and staff of residential facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Corrections officers and staff working in correctional facilities
- First responders and health workers not already vaccinated

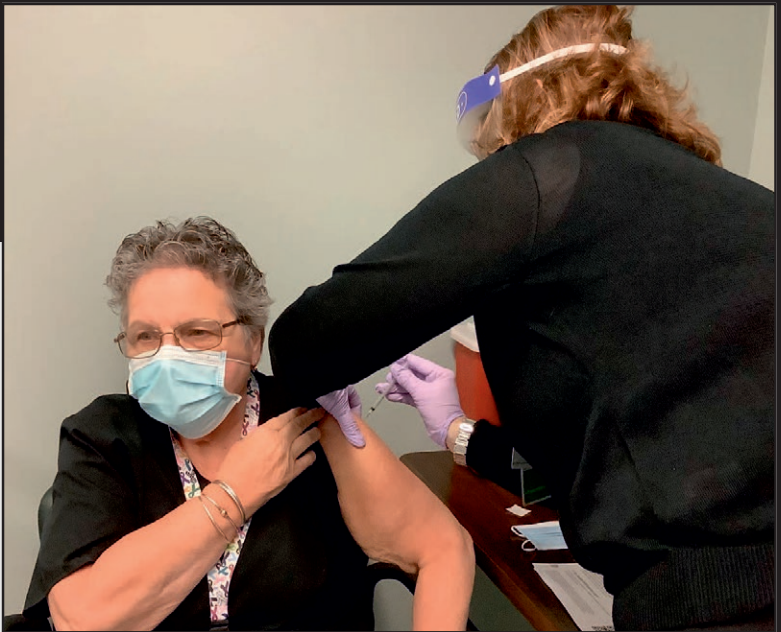
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Androscoggin Valley Hospital
North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency
Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital
Weeks Medical Center

NCH
north country healthcare

News Briefs

Scheduling Error Causes Bumps In 1B Vaccinations

As coronavirus vaccinations roll out this week for Tier 1b residents across the state, some in the North Country are expressing frustrations and confusion about the appointment process so far.

State officials on Tuesday said they were aware of sudden appointment cancellations, which occurred statewide, but predominantly in the North Country and owing to a website glitch.

Last week, vaccine-eligible local residents in Tier 1b became aware they could schedule an appointment to receive their vaccine. They did just that.

Within days, though, they were told those appointments were canceled because of a scheduling error.

"I was angry," Bethlehem resident Cheryl Jensen said of the appointments for her and her husband, Chris, at Littleton Regional Healthcare. "The email came out on Friday and we received the information and set up an appointment for Feb. 1 at LRH. Yesterday, I get this email that said your appointment's canceled."

The email provided a link, which itself was confusing, she said.

Jensen said she called LRH and spoke with a representative who said the appointments were canceled because the hospital hasn't yet vaccinated all of its own staff members, and the appointment cancellations affected 1,500 1b residents.

"It's frustrating because we jumped on this right away," she said. "I know a lot of other people signed up."

One was Bob DiMatties, of Monroe, who expressed similar frustrations.

"My wife called up to get appointments for her and I the first thing on Friday morning, because we are both over 65 and I have medical conditions," he said. "She got an email back saying we had appointments confirmed for Cottage Hospital."

Soon, they learned those appointments were canceled because Cottage Hospital, in Woodsville, was still only vaccinating employees, he said.

They set up appointments at LRH for early February, only to soon learn that those bookings, too, were canceled for the same reason, said DiMatties.

"Now, we have one set up at Feb. 11 at Weeks Medical Center [in Lancaster]," he said.

Both DiMatties and Jensen said they hope their appointments will still proceed as scheduled.

"The big mass confusion is do we or do we not have one," said DiMatties.

On Tuesday, LRH spokesperson Gail Clark said the issue has been resolved.

"It was really a snafu on the part of the state," she said. "The state is doing the best they can. They are coordinating 1.38 million vaccinations with many hospitals. People can reschedule. We are starting Friday to vaccinate the patients of LRH."

State officials, during the governor's press conference on Tuesday afternoon, said they are aware of the cancellations in the North Country.

"We do know the situation happened, more on the federal aspect of the system in terms of making sure that sites that could be open, what we call open pods, are truly open pods," said Gov. Chris Sununu.

Perry Plummer, the former assistant commissioner of the state Department of Safety who is overseeing the state's vaccine distribution, said the hospital in Littleton was the one that had the most patients with suddenly canceled appointments.

"We had a scattering of patients who were able to book into [hospital] employee-only sites and ... they don't have vaccines for those people who are not their employees," he said. "What happened is on the federal site they showed up and they weren't able to be hidden and we didn't know they were there because it's a federal site. They went in and they booked the appointment. Obviously, that creates a hardship because you go in and you think you have

an appointment at a certain location."

When the state discovered the glitch, the hospitals were called and asked to close that registration site, he said.

"When they closed the site, it automatically canceled the patients, which is unfortunate," said Plummer. "We reached out last night, we got those lists from the hospitals, and reached out to all those patients and said we will reschedule that appointment. A good percentage were able to go right back in and reschedule. A small percentage were not able to, or they were at the end of the line, so we're calling them back right now to try to work with them to get them back in line where they would have been to try to make it right. We're working through that process right now."

The state is working with the hospitals that experienced the abrupt cancellations to get those lists and get people notified and try to get them back in line and contact them in the next 24 to 48 hours, he said.

Jensen said the state on Tuesday presented all of the information that should have been given to people at last week's press conference, and by doing so then, it would have prevented needless confusion.

"We followed the link we were sent by the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control]," said Nancy Martland, of Sugar Hill, who scheduled an appointment for herself and her husband, Carl. "The correct sites were not offered the first time around. Any implication that this was a mistake made by the public is false. The second time I made an appointment, the public sites were correctly listed on the CDC site."

And not everyone was notified of their canceled appointments, she said.

Vaccine Tiers And Progress

In an update to residents and patients on Tuesday morning, LRH representatives thanked everyone for their patience and understanding as they establish their vaccination clinic.

"We are working very closely with the state of New Hampshire to provide vaccines to those eligible in Phase 1B," they said.

What is being LRH's Public Clinic will open Friday by appointment only. Those seeking vaccines must pre-schedule an appointment in advance (at sonh-community.force.com/providers/s/).

The public clinic is behind the LRH campus at the hospital's drive-up site.

A valid New Hampshire photo identification for each person receiving a vaccine is required.

According to the state vaccination allocation plan summary as of Jan. 16, vaccinations for Phase 1a, which includes long-term care home residents and staff members, high-risk health care workers, and first responders, are expected to last through March.

Also scheduled to last through March is Phase 1b, which includes those 65 and older, those with two or more medical conditions that put them at severe risk, corrections officers, and adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

Currently scheduled from March through May will be Phase 2a, which includes childcare workers, K-12 teachers, and school staff.

Also running from March through May is Phase 2b, which includes those ages 50 to 64.

Beginning in May and beyond will be Phase 3a, which includes vulnerable residents age 50 and younger at moderate health risk because of medical conditions and vulnerability.

Phase 3b is also scheduled to begin in May or beyond and will include everyone else who hasn't been vaccinated.

Estimated time frames depend on vaccine doses allocated to the state from the federal government as well as vaccine uptake, said state officials.

The initial goal set by the state was to have all Tier 1 residents vaccinated by the end of January.

"We're not quite there, but are getting close," Clark said of the vaccinations for all LRH staff members.

North Country Healthcare

Also getting close are the hospitals under North Country Healthcare, which includes Weeks Medical Center, Upper Connecticut

Valley Hospital in Colebrook, and Androscoggin Valley Hospital in Berlin.

"In terms of Phase 1A, we are nearly complete across the system in terms of vaccinating our healthcare employees who have requested the vaccine," NCH spokesman James Patry said Tuesday.

The Phase 1B clinics of NCH will begin this week.

"We are trying to stagger days of the week for the convenience of the public," said Patry.

Locations at UCVH are at the drive-through structure behind the hospital and locations for Weeks are at the physician's office at 8 Clover Lane in Whitefield at the Weeks hospital in Lancaster.

Those wanting to register can do so at vaccines.nh.gov.

"In terms of appointment cancellations, I have heard that some individuals who didn't qualify under Phase 1B were notified that they could register at this time," said Patry. "I don't know if any such individuals registered and then had their appointments canceled, as the state, via vaccines.nh.gov, is handling the registration. No NCH facility actually takes appointment requests or fulfills them."

State's COVID-19 Response

"Today is a big day," Sununu said, noting the rollout of the Tier 1b vaccines.

More than 200,000 people in 1b are now able to register for vaccines, and most already have, he said.

The state does anticipate an increase in the number of vaccines in the coming weeks, with about a 15 to 16-percent increase in availability, said Sununu.

"We are anticipating that and will build that capacity into our system," he said. "We have the ability to open up more sites and can do that very easily."

In phases 1a and 1b are about 400,000 New Hampshire residents, the most at risk, and the goal is to have sufficient vaccination for that population by mid-May, after which the state could have more flexibility as it rolls vaccines to those at less risk, said Sununu.

Benjamin Chan, the state epidemiologist noted what he said are recent positive trends.

The 5,430 confirmed active cases on Tuesday are below the 6,000 last week, the test positive rate has been trending downward the last seven days, hospitalizations are down, and deaths are down, said Chan.

"The data continues to show promising trends, but overall community transmission appears to be high statewide," he said.

Wearing masks and keeping social distance remains critical, he said.

Despite high rates of community transmission, K-12 schools have been able to operate safely with full classroom learning, and there has been very limited transmission in structured school settings, and students in K-12 are at low risk for spreading the virus, said Chan.

"We've had clusters in schools, but they have been small and limited and there were no large outbreaks of COVID-19 in school settings," he said.

Water And Light Fight May Result In Special Town Meeting

LITTLETON — As the deadline to post the final budget and

See **News Briefs**, Page 9

ON THE COVER: Littleton Fire responded to a fire in an unoccupied, under renovation apartment at 46 Cottage St in Littleton on Jan. 21. The damage was contained between floors, extending into a second floor bathroom at the rear of the structure. Residents of the multi-unit building were safely evacuated and no injuries were reported. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

News Briefs

Continued from Page 8

warrant nears on Monday, town officials said they likely won't have the budget numbers and financials from Littleton Water and Light in time to put them in the town meeting warrant for voters.

That means that LWL's budget, which the town seeks to put before voters for the first time in nearly 30 years, could end up going to a special town meeting later this year, if the state allows it.

During Wednesday's budget committee meeting, Town Manager Andrew Dorsett said the town — which is arguing in a recent court filing that LWL is not a separate entity, but a department of the town and therefore must comply with the Municipal Budget Act by presenting its budget to voters — has asked LWL for its operating budget amount for the creation of a special municipal revolving fund, and also for the calculations they use for their employee union contracts.

Both have been written into warrant articles that were presented at Monday's budget hearing, though with the dollar amounts to be determined, it was hoped for by the Feb. 1 town deliberative session.

"I do have a copy of the labor agreement, but it would be labor intensive to develop a calculation within the short period of time we have," Dorsett told budget committee members. "Water and Light's response was basically no, and we've submitted a 91-a [right-to-know] request for that, which gives them five days to respond. I've also put in a request to DRA [the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration] to see if there's another way. It's going to be down to the wire to try to get those articles ready."

Diane Cummings, chair of the budget committee, said if the articles with the numbers do come forward before the town's tight deadline the committee won't have sufficient time to review them to make a recommendation to voters, as the committee does with each warrant article when it votes to either recommend or not recommend.

"Which is why we've been pushing since last year to get information, for a solution that would resolve both parties, that would satisfy the DRA and allow Water and Light to continue to operate as a separate entity underneath the town as a department of the town," said Dorsett. "What we did since Water and Light refuses to provide information and work with us, and in order to met the Department of Revenue requirements, was to file with the court for [the court] to make a judgment and direct us as how best to proceed."

Ultimately, the DRA will hold the town responsible for not complying with the Municipal Budget Act (New Hampshire RSA 32) because the state doesn't recognize LWL as a separate entity, he said.

If the town doesn't obtain the LWL information before the deadline to post the budget and warrant, Dorsett said he will request that the town hold a special town meeting at a later date and remove the LWL-related articles for the Feb. 1 deliberative session and March 9 town meeting ballot vote.

In early January at Grafton Superior Court, the town filed a request for injunction that asks the court to compel LWL to comply with the Municipal Budget Act by putting its budget before town meeting voters and provide the town with financial reports, such as year-end financials and monthly profit-and-loss statements, and to turn over any excess funds to the town.

The warrant articles that had been planned for town meeting 2021 ask voters to appropriate money for the operating budget of LWL, as well as approve a collective bargaining agreement for 2021 and 2022 negotiated between the LWL commissioners and the LWL employee union for increases in salaries and benefits.

On Jan. 8, LWL Commission Chairman Schuyler Sweet said it was too bad the issue had to reach the court level on the part of the town because LWL had been in the process of trying to negotiate an agreement with the DRA.

LWL runs on a net-zero budget with about \$12 million in gross revenues and offers some of the lowest rates in New Hampshire and New England.

LWL uses a bank balance of some \$4 million as collateral to purchase power on the open market to help keep rates low.

Its three commissioners have argued that LWL being considered a town department contradicts its charter from 1903.

In September, the commissioners voted to not comply with DRA's demand and to instead conduct additional legal research to provide a better answer to the DRA.

On Monday, LWL representatives said there is no employee contract negotiation until after Dec. 31, 2022.

Social Service Requests Change

For the first time for a town meeting, selectmen had been considering putting all of the social service requests into one article, until resident Tom Alt brought up concerns at Monday's bond/budget hearing that some residents will vote for some and not others.

The 11 nonprofits seeking a total of \$137,470 in town contributions include the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council (\$35,000), Boys and Girls Club (\$11,000), Burch House (\$2,937), North Country Home Health and Hospice (\$21,000), Northern Human Services (\$9,696), Tri-County Community Action Program (\$11,850), Above the Notch Humane Society (\$5,000), Ammonoosuc Community Health Services (\$15,000), Pathways Pregnancy Care Center (\$3,200), Bridge House (\$2,000), and Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce (\$14,160).

During their work session on Monday morning, selectmen will decide to break those out into individual warrant articles, said Dorsett.

"There might be one person for three, four or five who might make a divisible motion and then you'd have to go through the whole process for each one and it's likely to create a lot of extra time if they're all in one combined article," he said.

Unprepared Hikers Airlifted To Dartmouth From Franconia Ridge

FRANCONIA, NH — On Jan. 23 at 12:45 p.m. the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department was notified of two hikers who had lost the trail as they descended from Mount Lafayette. It was learned that one of the individuals had lost his footwear and was now barefoot as they wallowed thru several feet of snow in an effort to make it to the road.

Eventually, they were too overcome by cold/fatigue; they could no longer continue and called for help. In an attempt to keep warm, they placed their feet into a pack and waited for rescuers.

Coordinates placed the pair well off the Greenleaf Trail in the headwaters of Lafayette Brook. Conservation officers, along with volunteers from the Pemi Valley Search and Rescue Team responded to the Greenleaf Trail, while a call was placed to the N.H. Army National Guard to determine the feasibility of a helicopter rescue.

By 1:50 p.m., a flight crew had been assembled at the hanger in Concord. As ground crews approached the vicinity of the two hikers, the Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopter arrived on the scene at 3:08 p.m. They quickly located the pair and lowered a medic by hoist to assess.

At 3:40 p.m. both hikers had been lifted by hoist along with the medic into the helicopter. The hikers were taken directly to Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center for evaluation of cold weather injuries. Shortly after departing the area, the mountain was enveloped in cloud cover that most certainly would have prohibited an air rescue.

The two hikers were identified as 35-year-old Michael Burleson, of Gorham, Maine, and 34-year-old Nicholas Drouin, of North Hampton, N.H. They explained that they had departed at 9 a.m. in an effort to complete the nine-mile Falling Waters/Old Bridle Path loop.

They had hoped to do the entire loop in four hours, but as they summited Mount Lafayette they lost the trail in the 40-mph winds, single-digit temperatures, and blowing snow. As they were floundering thru deep snow, one of the pair lost his trail running sneakers and continued on barefoot.

Realizing they needed to get out of the wind, they just headed downhill and eventually were drawn into the Lafayette Drain-

age until they could no longer continue due to frozen extremities. Eventually, they were able to thaw out a cell phone and call 911 for help.

If not for the swift response of the N.H. Army National Guard, this rescue effort most likely would have had a much different outcome. It also saved ground rescuers from a grueling effort in waist-deep snow on steep terrain. Both hikers are being evaluated at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and no update on their condition is available at this time.

Forest Society Highlights Complete Vision For Rocks Estate

BETHLEHEM — The Bethlehem Planning Board has approved the site plan for the major renovation advancing at The Rocks Estate.

On Jan. 13, town planners gave the green light to the plan to transform the stone barn known as the Carriage Barn, thereby setting up the total renovation effort for a possible late 2022 completion.

The project, remaking The Rocks into "Forest Society North," comes after the February 2019 fire that destroyed the Tool Barn, which had been the center of Rocks Estate operations for decades.

Detailing the project for the site plan review was Amelia Brock, of the Holderness-based Samyn-D'Elia Architects, who said the Tool Barn served as the northern education center, and the Carriage Barn, the aesthetic stone face of which will be kept intact, will serve as the same.

The project includes expanding the parking area to 100 spaces.

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News Briefs

Continued from Page 9

es that will better accommodate retail Christmas tree operations and educational events, as well as having in the barn expanded public restrooms, two classrooms, exhibit and open gallery space, and an open pavilion at the west end for hikers, picnickers and groups gathering at the beginning and end of events.

The Vision

On Wednesday, Jack Savage, SPNHF president; Anne Truslow, SPNHF vice-president for development who is advancing the project fund-raising; and Nigel Manley, Rocks Estate general manager were on-site to survey the barn and grounds for the work ahead and to highlight the complete four-season vision going forward.

The loss of the Tool Barn opened up sweeping White Mountains vistas to the north and east.

"The one silver lining is it opened up the view and we plan to accentuate that view," said Savage. "This is a moment in time when we have an opportunity."

And the Carriage Barn itself called out for a "reinventing," one that can help the Forest Society enhance its presence and mission in the North Country, he said.

This summer, landscaping done by Leigh Starer, of Franconia, took place to fill in the foundation of the former Tool Building.

"As we reinvent, we want to make this area more of an open green space," said Savage.

The original two-story Carriage Barn was built in 1884, with an addition in 1907, and a cow barn addition made several decades later.

The cow barn, which makes up about a third of the total barn space, is in poor condition and will be coming down, said Truslow.

The classroom that will be built on the eastern side of the barn will be called the Jane A. Difley Classroom, in honor of Savage's predecessor, former SPNHF President Jane Difley.

"People will enter the building from the south side," said Truslow.

The redesign of the Carriage Barn will encompass about 8,000 square feet and will include an open lobby at the west end that goes up two stories as well as a gift shop, welcome center, classrooms, second-floor office space for staff, and space for SPNHF employees coming up from downstate to lodge overnight.

"We want to make it more integrated," Savage said of the overall barn plan.

As for staff, more people will be needed to accomplish Forest Society goals in northern New Hampshire, he said.

"Especially post-COVID, our staff will no longer think of themselves as based out of Concord," said Savage.

The reinvented Rocks Estate will have a solar array behind the barn (unseen during the summer months) to provide renewable energy, and the Carriage Barn will be heated by geothermal, all to get closer to net-zero energy emissions, he said.

Featured, too, as they have been, but with an added emphasis, will be picnic areas, trails for hiking, the maple museum and the late winter-early spring maple experience, numerous educational opportunities, the Christmas tree farm,

a play area for children, and more.

"We are thinking of this whole area as a forest exploration area," said Savage. "This is first and foremost a place for the public to go repeatedly."

And in making The Rocks an even greater destination, the vision is to have a charger for those driving there with electric vehicles and to have ample charging stations for cell phones and devices, he said.

The estate, once owned by John Jacob Glessner, a co-founder of the Illinois-based International Harvester Co., was a place where some early experiments and innovations with farming were done, and it featured several summer cottages, all of which can be reinterpreted for current and future generations, said Truslow.

"There really is something for everyone," she said.

The plan is also to continue Forest Society relationships with local businesses and to develop an app to direct visitors to other SPNHF destinations outside of The Rocks and nearby, said Truslow.

After the fire, The Rocks decided to relocate the farm-specific headquarters and to separate the equipment, tractors and tools that had been housed in the Tool Barn and move them all to the location of the red house, at Route 302 and Interstate 93, and away from the public.

Last year, a new two-bay heated garage and workshop was built at the red house that provides a heated workspace for Manley and the Rocks crew.

And this spring, the longstanding building visible from Route 302 that once housed the North Country Council and other organizations is expected to be taken down, after many years of being in poor shape, said Savage.

Will Abbot, the former SPNHF vice-present of policy and reservation stewardship, officially retired in May but has agreed to remain in a part-time capacity to oversee The Rocks building project.

The nonprofit SPNHF received the 1,400-acre Rocks Estate in 1978 as a donation from the Glessner family, which had owned the property for a century.

About half of the total fund-raising to remake The Rocks is in hand.

The total \$7.5 to \$8 million project - the largest-ever Forest Society capital project in its 120-year history - entails a \$5.5 million total renovation and a \$2 million endowment, the latter to provide the money to run the expanded Rocks Estate operation.

"We need \$1.5 million by the spring of 2021 to stay in our time frame," said Truslow. "If we are in a good place in the spring, we'll start this project in the fall."

If funding goes well and sticks to the timeline, the Carriage Barn's renovation could be complete for the 2022 Christmas tree season.

"This will provide a launching pad for more work up north and we're really excited about it," said Savage.

Tensions Boil Over In Haverhill

HAVERHILL — Town Manager Brigitte Codling has apologized for comments made this

CLOSE TO HOME

The Chickadees

I have always loved chickadees. In this, of course, I am hardly alone. These birds, with their endearing black caps, diminutive size, and cheery calls, appeal to many people. I love them in all seasons. But in winter, when so many of our spring and summer birds have flitted off for warmer climes, I appreciate the chickadees' presence even more.

For as many winters as we have lived in this house, I have placed a bird feeder outside the big living room window. It's hung from an iron shepherd's hook post (hard for raiding red squirrels to climb) and placed roughly equidistant between two sprawling old lilac bushes, which provide ample landing spots for the chickadees.

Most of the daylight hours, a flock of these birds flits to and fro, from bush to feeder to tangled rugosa hedge and back, over and over. I've often watch them peck at the bark of the lilacs, or the nearby maple tree, or the mock orange against the house, where they cache seeds, saving some food for those days I am slow to refill the feeder — or, I suppose, in case there comes a time when the resident humans become an unreliable source of food.

Recently, I learned that chickadees develop additional brain cells during winter, which boost the birds' memories, so they can recall where they've left those seed caches and retrieve them as needed.

The winter I became a mother, I spent countless hours in a chair by the big window, watching the chickadees as I nursed and rocked two tiny babies. I recall learning back then that (unlike winter chickadees) human mothers actually lose brain cells when they are pregnant. In those early weeks of motherhood, the size of my brain hardly seemed to matter; getting to know two new humans, keeping them safe, loving them was all I could think about anyway. Still, watching the little birds flock around the feeder was nearly meditative.

The chickadees we see out the window now are likely generations removed from the birds



BY MEGHAN MCCARTHY MCPHAUL

I watched 14 years ago. They have a hierarchy, I've read, although I can't tell who's in charge in of our little flock. When I approach to refill the stock of seeds, the birds call — to each other, I presume, but I talk back to them anyway, and stop sometimes to watch the ones perched closest to me.

In other places, I've fed chickadees right from my mittened hand. But the wild birds in our yard remain just wary enough to stay out of reach. Perhaps it's because they

know I also tend to a cat who is far too curious about their comings and goings.

Boots (the cat), who came to live with us just before the winter solstice, is fascinated by the birds. We don't know where he lived before he joined our menagerie, so I don't know if his former home had a window to look out and birds to watch. He spends hours on the windowsill, tail in some stage of movement, from slightly twitching to frustrated wagging. He meows and paws at the glass, or crouches as if ready to pounce. It all makes me think Boots will have to forever be an indoor cat — or wear a collar made of bells if he's ever allowed outside.

Although the chickadees are the most loyal to our feeder, sometimes their flock expands to include a couple of red-breasted nuthatches, or a pair of blue jays pops in for a bite. A few weeks ago, a couple dozen Bohemian waxwings alit on the highbush cranberry on the other side of the driveway, all showy black eye streaks and bright, yellow-tipped tails. And just Monday, a small group of common redpolls scavenged the fallen seed below the feeder.

But the chickadees are the regulars, the reliable birds I know I'll hear calling from somewhere nearby any time of year. And in a year like this one, it's nice to know there are some things that are steadfastly similar to how they've always been.

Meghan McCarthy McPhaul is assistant editor of Northern Woodlands and a former staff reporter for the Caledonian-Record.

month about a supporter of the Woodsville Ambulance Service.

Codling was seemingly unaware a live stream had continued, after a budget committee meeting on Jan. 13, when she reacted to a social media post that portrayed her as an enemy to Woodsville Ambulance.

Offended, she called the author a "f—king moron."

She issued a 1,100-word apology two days later, in which she acknowledged "I made an inappropriate comment toward an individual, due to my frustration over his dissemination of misinformation related to the Ambulance Service."

She said the comment was made during a difficult time — her father had died the previous month, and she had worked a series of 14-hour days — and did not reflect her feelings towards Haverhill residents. She called it "something I regret deeply and apologize for."

The apology did not satisfy everyone. Petitions were circulated to remove Codling from office. One received more than 600 signatures before it was removed from Change.org for violating community guidelines, specifically harassment.

The situation reveals growing tensions over

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News Briefs

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the town’s ambulance contract.

In response to rising rates, the Board of Selectmen did not automatically renew traditional EMS provider Woodsville Ambulance, in order to perform a cost comparison.

Selectmen are in the process of evaluating a competing bid from Warren Wentworth Ambulance, which would provide 24/7 service out of the North Haverhill Fire station.

Some have accused Codling of orchestrating the process, and have targeted her for criticism.

“I have been trying to correct the record, this is not my decision to make. This is an effort of the Select Board and a decision of the Select Board, period,” she said. “I will do the work, I will get the proposal, I will get the numbers, but in the end, it’s their decision to make.”

BIGGER ISSUES

Since being hired two years ago, Codling and the board of selectmen have repeatedly butted heads with the Woodsville precinct.

In addition to the ambulance service, there are disputes in the following areas:

Highway Funding: This was the first contentious issue under Codling. Town officials objected to Woodsville Highway Department funding levels as excessive. As a result, WHD has filed a lawsuit against the town, and the town has supported state legislation to increase Woodsville’s share of WHD costs.

Fire Department Merger: The plan to merge the North Haverhill, Haverhill Corner and Woodsville Fire Departments into a single town department was approved by 2020 Town Meeting. However, it must also be approved by the individual fire districts. North Haverhill said yes, Haverhill Corner will vote again this year, Woodsville has declined to bring the issue to a vote.

Woodsville Audit: The N.H. Department of Revenue Administration is conducting a forensic audit of the Woodsville district dating back to 2015. There is a disagreement between town and precinct officials if the audit was necessary.

“Those three things are really contentious. So then you kind of understand where their hostility is coming from, from the people of Woodsville,” Codling said.

These issues have caused some Woodsville residents to consider secession.

The issue was raised during a precinct meeting on Monday night. They could proceed in March, depending on the outcome of the Select Board vote, and whether another Woodsville member is elected.

“They want to take over everything Woodsville has,” said Woodsville Precinct Chair Steve Wheeler. “Woodsville is the center of the town really. Woodsville is where all the business is, where all the restaurants are, where the ambulance is, where the sewer plant is, and it’s owned by the Woodsville people.”

Despite growing public support, it’s unclear if secession is feasible.

Wheeler said Woodsville’s strength — its commercial tax base and federal funding receipts — could impair its ability to break free of Haverhill.

“I don’t think the state will allow it, because if we leave, it’s going to bankrupt Haverhill,” he said.

ATTACKS & ARGUMENTS

One thing everyone seems to agree on: The situation has gotten personal.

“People have accosted my wife in the grocery store,” said Select Board chair Darwin Clogston. “She’s married to me, and she’s unlucky in that regard. But she does not speak for me. She has her own mind. You can come and accost me, but don’t accost my wife.”

Codling described rising levels of abuse hurled at her and other town employees. Particularly after her live mic comments last week.

“After Tuesday [Jan. 13] my road agent, my bookkeeper, my finance officer, everyone started getting nasty phone messages. It

was really out of hand. So Wednesday morning [Jan. 14] we decided to take down the Facebook page to try to curb some of the attacking that was going on. It didn’t work, it didn’t even help. I think it made things worse,” she said.

The takedown was short-lived. Under public pressure, the Facebook page has been reactivated.

However, on the advice of town counsel and other municipal governments, the Select Board on Monday voted unanimously to switch all official town Facebook accounts, including the town office and police accounts, from “pages” to “groups,” which allow comment sections to be locked.

“In other towns it worked well to have a group instead of a page, to shut comments off. So that you can feed the public information, but they can’t get on and say nasty things, to you or to each other. Because that’s not appropriate,” she said. “It’s not that we don’t want to hear it, we just don’t want to see it on the Facebook page.”

The online back-and-forth has gotten so intense that Codling’s husband was drawn into some of the social media discussions, prompting her to step in.

“My husband has been really good about staying out of local politics until this. He’s just beside himself right now, he’s so upset by it all. I asked him very bluntly please stay off Facebook, just don’t look at it. You just can’t get involved,” she said.

Despite the ugliness, Codling intends to stay on.

She notes that her grandparents lived here, and she spent a lot of summers with them. She works with people who knew them. She has an emotional stake in Haverhill, she said.

“I come to work because I care about this community,” she said. “So this matters to me more than a lot of people realize.”

And for those who continue to denounce her, she added, “The Woodsville idea that you get rid of the Town Manager, you get rid of all our problems is so unrealistic, because these problems existed long before me.”

General Finds New Mission With NCIC

Peter Corey was a model soldier.

He served 34 years in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard, deployed to global hotspots, and retired as a Brigadier General in 2015.

Now he has a new mission.

Corey, 58, has been named president of the economic development non-profit, Northern Community Investment Services.

“I think I’m continuing my selfless service to contribute what skills or talents I have to make my community a better place,” he said.

Trading in his military fatigues for a business suit, he will lead NCIC’s efforts to get new businesses up and running in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom and New Hampshire’s North Country.

It’s vital work in the pandemic.

Corey has experience responding to a crisis. He was deployed to Liberia during the Ebola outbreak and served a tour in Kuwait during the Iraq War. He sees similarities to COVID-19.

“The parallel is it’s a unique set of challenges. [The pandemic] is just a different set of challenges, I guess. The goal is to find opportunities within that, to keep people sustained through this, until we get to the other side and things get back to normal,” he said.

NCIC is positioned to help the Northeast Kingdom and North Country emerge from COVID.

The organization offers various services to help new businesses. They assist with grant applications, provide micro-loans, and offer marketing grants.

In addition, NCIC forms partnerships to bring forward large economic development projects. Corey said multiple large projects are in the works, which could bring new industries and high paying jobs to the region.

“It’s making the connections, that’s a big part of what we do. Knitting together multiple sources of funding to make a project work,” Corey said.

A Littleton native, Corey has a longstanding interest in economic development.

He received a master’s degree in economic development from Southern New Hampshire University and helped lead the Whitefield Economic Development Corporation’s successful efforts to lure Presby Plastics, Inc. to the Whitefield Industrial Park in 2002.

When he looked to re-enter the workforce, NCIC was a perfect fit.

“Economic development has always been a passion of mine,” he said.

It stems from his connection to the area.

Corey was born and raised in the North Country. He graduated from Littleton High School in 1980. He and his wife, Margaret, have lived 26 years in Whitefield where they raised three children (daughters Kerstin, 32, and Dana, 29, and son Joe, 27).

Corey noted his three children have left the area. He points to economic development concerns. Specifically a lack of jobs, housing, and amenities catering to young professionals in the North Country.

“Unfortunately none of them are living in the North Country, and a lot of that is the lack of economic opportunity, and the lack of social and cultural activities, and the poor quality of much of our housing stock,” he said. “I would hope that someday this would be a place our youth would want to stay, work and live.”

Corey has made a life of public service.

Following his retirement from the military, he joined the Whitefield Board of Selectmen and Planning Board and the board of directors for non-profit housing agency Affordable Housing, Education and Development (AHEAD).

He maintained such a busy schedule, he figured he might as well go back to work.

Following stints with New England Wire Co. and his brother’s business, J.A. Corey Electric, he was contacted by outgoing NCIC president Jon Freeman, whom he had worked with before.

Freeman suggested that Corey apply.

See News Briefs, Page 13

NOTICE

TO THE VOTERS OF LITTLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 3, 2021

LITTLETON HIGH SCHOOL

You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the Littleton School District Annual Meeting, to be held at the Littleton High School Cafeteria, 159 Oak Hill Avenue, Littleton, New Hampshire, on the third day of February 2021, being Wednesday, at six o'clock in the evening (6:00 P.M.) and (if needed) the fourth day of February 2021, being Thursday, at six o'clock (6:00 P.M.) in the evening to be held at the Littleton High School Cafeteria. The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by State law.

SECOND SESSION

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the Littleton School District Annual Meeting, to elect School District officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the Littleton Highway Garage, 240 West Main Street, Littleton, New Hampshire, on the ninth day of March 2021, being Tuesday, at eight o'clock in the forenoon (the polls are to be open at 8:00 A.M. and may not close prior to 7:00 P.M.).

NOTE: Masks will be required upon entering and leaving and we will be conforming to social distancing protocols. Per Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04; Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A.

Littleton School District School Board:

Greg Cook, Board Chair
Mildred Nelson, Vice-Chair
Larry Blaisdell
Ann Wiggett
Erica Antonucci

The Caledonian-Record Athletes Of The Week: Ballots For Jan. 18-24

The Caledonian-Record is seeking your help in naming Athletes of the Week during the 2021 high school sports seasons.

The CR covers seven high schools in New Hampshire's North Country (Littleton, White Mountains, Profile, Lisbon, Woodsville, Groveton and Colebrook) and seven in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom (St. Johnsbury, Lyndon, Danville, Lake Region, North Country, Hazen and Blue Mountain).

This week, and every week during the three sports seasons, members of the public may vote for a top girls athlete and a top boys athlete (see below for this week's ballot).

There are only New Hampshire athletes on this week's ballot, with Vermont indoor varsity sports on pause.

Casting A Vote

All voting is through the two ballots below. We will not accept votes through email or social media.

Voting began Monday, Jan. 25, and continues through midnight Thursday.

And The Winner Is...

The two winners will be announced in a story published at caledonian-record.com on Fridays.

Nominations Please

Please nominate a deserving high school athlete by sending an email to sports@caledonian-record.com (Subject Line: Athletes of the Week Nomination)

Boys Athlete of the Week More On Each Candidate

Josh Robie, Profile basketball: Freshman Josh Robie scored 13 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter as Profile rallied to top Lin-Wood 57-43 to give Mitchell Roy his first win as a varsity coach. The Lumberjacks led 35-31 after three quarters, but Robie and the Patriots roared back, outscoring the visitors 26-8 over the final eight minutes.



Kaiden Dowse, Colebrook basketball: The sophomore guard had 18 points and seven boards while helping spark the defense as the Mohawks knocked off rival Groveton 60-57 for their first win of the season. Dowse scored the final six points for the winners, including a go-ahead jumper and a pair of free throws.

Brody LaBounty, White Mountains basketball: The Spartans' leading scorer Tyler Hicks was out nursing an injury, so the junior point guard took it upon himself to carry the load. LaBounty splashed five threes and finished with 27 points to lead WM's 55-36 rout of Lisbon 55-36.

Josh Finkle, Littleton basketball: The energetic Littleton senior forward has helped set the tone early this season for the defending champs, including a 15-point, seven-rebound effort in

a rout of Gorham and an 18-point, 11-rebound outburst in a 69-40 blowout of Colebrook.

Cam Tenney-Burt, Woodsville basketball: The Woodsville junior forward took advantage of his one game last week, the sweet-shooting swingman pumping in 23 points in the Engineers' rout of Profile.

Girls Athlete of the Week More On Each Candidate

Makenna Price, Profile skiing: The eighth-grade speedster won the two-run giant slalom and two-run slalom to lead the powerhouse Profile girls to a sweep in a six-team season-opening alpine meet at Bretton Woods.

Sage Smith, Colebrook basketball: The senior point guard had a monster opening week for the defending champs. Smith scored 26 points, added six steals, five rebounds and three assists in a dominant victory over Littleton, then had two more big games: 21 points, eight steals and seven assists in a win over Berlin and 23 points, six steals, four rebounds and four assists in a blowout triumph over Groveton.

Samantha Howe, Colebrook basketball: The senior forward always produces for the defending champs and last week was no different. She had a double-double (11 points, 11 rebounds) in a season-opening win over Littleton, tallied 25 points, 16 rebounds and three steals in a victory over Berlin, then capped the week with 18 points, 12 boards and three steals in a win over rival Groveton.

Sara Brown, Lisbon basketball: The junior guard/forward had a pair of solid games to lift upstart Lisbon to a 2-0 start to the season. Brown had 12 points in the Panthers' season-opening win in Lincoln, then netted 16 points as Lisbon upended Division III White Mountains 33-30.

Departs

Continued from Page 7

said Carrie Gendreau, chair of the Littleton Board of Selectmen. "With any personnel, there are always those that are quick to criticize, but unless you are sitting in that seat nobody has any idea. He has done so many good things for Littleton and brought a good perspective and kept the momentum going. For anyone stepping in, he has paved the way with so many ideas. What he's done has been amazing ... Littleton has by far some of the best visionaries. In looking for a new town manager, we want to make sure that person has vision, too."

For Dorsett's successor, a search committee has been es-

tablished that includes former Selectman Milton Bratz, Town Moderator Gerald Winn, and Littleton Industrial Development Corp. President Greg Eastman.

River District Redevelopment Commission Chair John Hennessey will join when candidate interviews begin, and Cummings has been asked to join as she will be working closely with the next town manager, said Gendreau.

"Of course, the selectmen will be part of it was well and we will ask the different department heads if they want to be a part of it," she said. "We really want to get their input."

Although the town hasn't really put the position out there, there have already been a half dozen resumes submitted, including one from Arizona, another from Texas, one from Pennsylvania, and an interested candidate in New Hampshire, said Gendreau.

"A couple are already standing out, so that's good," she said.

Former Littleton Town Manager Fred Moody, now retired, was contacted to see if he would serve temporarily, but he cannot because of personal commitments, said Gendreau.

Retired Haverhill Town Manager Glenn English was also contacted to see if he would serve as interim in Littleton, but he is busy with his family opening a pub in Woodsville, she said.

Going forward, a decision will be made on whether the new hire will be an interim town manager or a permanent manager.

Dorsett did reach out to Municipal Resources Inc. to see if they have any candidates, but they do not have any at the present time.

"We are just seeing what our options are," said Gendreau. "We will have our work cut out for us, for sure."

Dorsett said he is ready for his next administrative post.

"I'm looking forward to really learning about the county and finding ways to bring improvements there," he said.

NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DELIBERATIVE SESSION (Annual Meeting 1st Session)

The White Mountains Regional School District's Deliberative Session will be held at the White Mountains Regional High School Gymnasium on **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, the meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

COVID-19 guidelines from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services regarding social distancing measures and face coverings will be followed.

Informational packets will be available on the district's web site (sau36.org) prior to the meeting.

White Mountains Regional School Board

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; one School Board Member for a term of three 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 20, 2021 and Friday, January 29, 2021.

The SAU #84 hours are from 8:00 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 29, 2021 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.

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.

News Briefs

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Corey interviewed on Dec. 22 and began on Dec. 28. He joins a seven-member staff, who he called “really nice people,” and will be assisted by Freeman, who he called “a legend in the North Country.”

“You can drive around the six counties [Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Vt., Carroll, Coos, Grafton, N.H.] and point to projects [Freeman] was integrally involved in and brought to fruition, that created jobs for hundreds if not thousands of people in the two states,” Corey said.

It gives him an example to follow.

“I hope to someday say I had a part in that,” Corey said. “At the end of the day, the mission is to improve the economic landscape in our two states, the economic health of our citizens. That’s the end goal. That’s the mission.”

Court Street Arts Plans COVID Comeback

HAVERHILL — Court Street Arts is still here.

The non-profit arts organization aims to resume programming this year, after being dormant for most of 2020.

There’s no telling what the lineup, the venues, or the schedule will be due to COVID-19.

But one thing is clear: Court Street Arts wants to reconnect with the public, after nearly a year of pandemic separation.

“We really have lost a little bit of our connection with our audience, we need to beef that back up,” said Dennis McFadden, executive director of Court Street Arts parent organization Haverhill Heritage, Inc.

Court Street Arts typically hosts 12 to 18 events per year, most of them live music performances.

They hope to stage a 50% schedule for the upcoming 2021 season.

Early shows could be held outdoors on Haverhill Corner North Common, to allow for social distance and fresh air.

Events could return to the 100-capacity Alumni Hall venue in the fall and winter, once enough people are vaccinated to reach herd immunity.

McFadden said Court Street Arts could plan multiple “first event” scenarios for the season, in response to COVID uncertainty.

“Maybe what we do is choose three potential dates, when we might be able to present things again and look at what we can do for each of those three dates,” he said.

Court Street Arts went through most of last year without an executive director (McFadden was hired Dec. 1). They hosted one event, an outdoor concert by rock group The Fairlanes on Oct. 3.

The organization lacked the technology and know-how to pursue streaming entertainment options.

As a result, it largely disappeared from public view.

Now, planning its comeback, Court Street Arts will apply COVID lessons and diversify its offerings.

The organization will resume its traditional role of staging live shows, but it will also explore ways to bring people together.

McFadden suggested Court Street Arts could become an information clearinghouse in support of arts and culture, or a bulletin board connecting local artists and performers.

“[COVID] forced us to ask ‘What do we do if we can’t bring people together, how do we build a community?’” said McFadden, adding that COVID has created a ‘new normal’ for the

arts. “This has so deeply shaken and reshaped who we are. That doesn’t mean we abandon what we did in the past, but we have to do more.”

Like other arts organizations, Court Street Arts owns a venue — Alumni Hall — which has fixed maintenance and utility costs.

To help pay the bills, Court Street Arts obtained relief funds through a state-administered program last year.

In search of continued help, McFadden is looking closely at two federal programs, the re-authorized Paycheck Protection Program and the newly created Shuttered Venue Operators grant program.

In the meantime, Court Street continues to receive substantial support from those in and around Haverhill.

The non-profit organization recently held its annual fundraising drive and saw donations remain level to last year.

Even during COVID, support remained strong.

“We had a good response,” McFadden said. “It’s a great community we have. We’re really lucky in that sense to have people who are loyal, who care.”

Hitchiner

Continued from Page 2

mainder for housing units.

“Littleton is an attractive place to live with access to many outdoor recreational opportunities and a vibrant downtown,” Croteau wrote in the narrative. “The proposed redevelopment will attract an in-migration of people looking to take advantage of all Littleton and the North Country offers.”

The pandemic has also changed the way people live and work, and after it ends, it will have long-term effects and will have changed the way people live and work, and many will still work from home, he said.

The phased redevelopment will begin with the rehabilitation and upscale renovation of the buildings on-site, and the overall project will include up to 124 housing units, from studio apartments to one-bedroom units.

On Friday, Croteau said following a successful variance approval, his team, working closely with banks, would set up the financing for what would be a multi-million dollar project.

If all goes well with the variance, he expects to close on the property in March and then enlist architects and engineers to begin designing the building with the hope to get “the hammers swinging” by June at the earliest.

“We can start to do demolition immediately after we get the loan,” he said.

Croteau is working with partners and tradesmen who include Robert Denise, “who is well-versed in construction”; David Pallaria, master electrician and owner of Pallaria Electric; son-in-law William Marsden, a licensed Realtor who manages some of Croteau’s properties; and Croteau’s younger adult son, Kyle Croteau, who has his own landscaping business.

“We are hoping to achieve 25 percent of the work on our own with just our team,” said Croteau.

Contractors would do the heavy lifting, such as any major demolition and installation of the big infrastructure.

For 30 years, he worked in the hospital industry, 19 of them at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, in Boston, where he worked his way up as a heating and ventilation technician and departed as the director of facility operations.

He then went on to help launch Lawrence General Hospital, in Lawrence, Mass., where he was a senior facility director for eight years and was involved in the construction of several new buildings.

As for redeveloping the Littleton property, Croteau sees potential.

“We feel pretty confident about it,” he said. “I love taking something old and bringing it back to life ... It’s a challenge, like anything, but we have a good idea of the challenges.”

They plan on demolishing as little as possible and only when absolutely necessary.

The plan calls for renovating and giving all new windows to what he calls the “tower building,” the property’s five-story building for the residential units.

If all goes according to plan — variance approval and secured financing — the first units could be ready for occupancy by the spring of 2022.

Then there is the vast open space on the first level, which Croteau and crew have nicknamed the “football field.”

“What we are going to do with this is put in the gym, a work space for tenants, a laundry room,” he said.

The front section of the first level is also where any future commercial operations would go, with ideas including retail, a restaurant, coffee shop, a brewery, and L.L. Bean outlet, said Croteau.

Pets are allowed and the plan is to also build a dog park outside, he said.

“It’s going to be exciting,” said Croteau. “We love the town of Littleton.”

During Thursday’s River District Redevelopment Commission meeting, Littleton Town Manager Andrew Dorsett said it’s important that the commission support Croteau’s variance request.

“The residential floats the property,” he said. “Commercial is phase two. There will be significant landscaping and connecting the rail trail to the landscaping.”

Littleton Selectman Chad Stearns said Croteau is open to connecting to the river district from the property.

Commission Chairman John Hennessey said if the commission is asked to support the variance, its members ought to take a vote in the affirmative.

DINING

& entertainment guide

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Topic of the Town

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“BE KIND”
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Obituaries

Continued from Page 5

her footsteps.

Buffi is survived by her sister, Nancy Lindgren of Reading, Mass.; sister-in-law, Esther C. McLellan of Sharon, Mass.; children, Jennifer Henry (husband George) of Monkton, Vt., Leslie Grima (husband Frank) of Franconia, N.H. and Allyson G. Smith of Essex, Vt.; grandchildren, Christie Gordon (husband Chad), McKenzie Santolucito (husband David), Angela Henry, Peter Henry, and Nicholas Henry; great-grandchildren, Sean Santolucito, Braylynn Grima, Lorelai Santolucito, Bryce Gordon, and Wyatt Gordon; and many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her loving husband, The Honorable Peter W. Smith.

Many of her friends quickly became and remained part of our family. Buffi will be missed by many.

Due to current circumstances, a memorial service will be

held at a later date.

For those desiring, memorial contributions in Buffi's name may be made to the Above the Notch Humane Society, P.O. Box 98, Franconia, NH 03580.

Richard Franklin Cross

Richard Franklin Cross, 100, died Jan. 20, 2021 at his home in Bedford, N.H. surrounded by his loving family. He was born on Oct. 9, 1920 in Waltham, Mass., the son of George C. Cross and Stella Cross. He was the husband of Frances R. Cross. They were married April 2, 1982 in Manchester, N.H.

Richard served in the Pacific Theater during World War II with the 1st Marine Division. He was a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th degree.

Richard retired from PSNH after 37 years. He enjoyed, golfing, fishing, painting and gardening and was an Avid Red Sox and Patriots Fan.

He was a loving father and husband and is survived by

his wife of 39 years, Frances R. Cross; his son and daughters, Carolyn Hepworth and her husband Jim, Evelyn Bryan and her husband Roland, David Cross and his wife Elaine, Lorraine Tyma, and Angela Gaskin and her husband, Kevin; 11 grandchildren, Laryana, Richard, Ben, Emily, Alex, Julia, Andrew, Gabrielle, Ethan, Jacob and Jackie; three great-grandchildren, Gracen, Aria and Marik.

Richard will be laid to rest at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Visiting Nurse Association of Manchester and Southern NH (Hospice), 1070 Holt Avenue, Suite 1400, Manchester, NH 03109.

Assisting with arrangements is the Cremation Society of New Hampshire. To view Richard's online tribute, send condolences to his family, or for more information, visit www.csnh.com.



Richard Cross

William F. Smith

In memory of William F. Smith, born on Oct. 24, 1954, son of Orison & Helen Smith of Lisbon, N.H., who passed peacefully on Jan. 19, 2021.

Predeceased by both parents, brother Stanley Smith & brother-in-law Loriston Shumway.

Survived by wife Kimberly Smith, daughter Stacy Rowe, son-in-law Jay Rowe, grandchildren Allee & Colby, son Thomas Smith, granddaughter Jasmine, son Billy Jo, grandchildren Gus, Graceyn and Griffin.

Stepdaughter Angela Aldrich, partner Corey Beale, grandsons Kaydin, Kane & Klayton, stepdaughter Justina Aldrich, fiancé Erik Pemberton, grandson Colton, stepdaughter Tawnya Aldrich, partner Justin Jenkins, grandchildren Jayden & Nevi.

Surviving family members include Helena Smith, Ronald Smith and wife Amanda, Brenda Smith and brother-in-law Charlie Coulstring, brother Danny Smith and wife Lydia, brother Doug Rathburn, sister-in-law Jill Smith, sister-in-law Kristina Vigeant and brother-in-law Kenneth Vigeant as well as many nieces, nephews & friends all dearly loved.

Upon Billy's wishes there will not be any public services held.



William Smith

Hazel Avis Sayers

Hazel Avis Sayers, 87 formerly of Orford, N.H., died on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 at the Grafton County Nursing Home, North Haverhill, N.H.

Hazel was born in Groton, Vt. on Feb. 27, 1933 to Fred H. and Helen (Mace) Sayers. She was a graduate of Groton High School and of Lyndon State College. She worked as the switchboard operator for Liberty Mutual Insurance in Manchester, N.H., retiring in 1992.

She resided in Manchester for 26 years before relocating to Orford in 1999.

She was predeceased by her companion, Wilfred "Mitch" Mitchell on July 13, 2006; her mother, Helen Sayers on Jan. 17, 1974; her father, Fred Sayers on Nov. 23, 1995; two sisters, Pearl Whitehill and Ida Bushway; and a brother, Eric Sayers.

She is survived by three sisters, Shirley McLure and husband Paul of Johnson, Vt., Betty Fargo of Quaker Hill, Conn., and Linda Goodrich of Lyme, N.H.; a brother, Scott Sayers of Piermont, N.H.; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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Obituaries

Continued from Page 14

There will be a calling hour on Saturday, Jan. 23, from 11 a.m. to noon with a funeral service immediately following at noon at Ricker Funeral Home, 1 Birch St., Woodsville, N.H.

Burial will be in the spring in Pinehurst Cemetery, Ryegate, Vt.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

For attendance at Hazel's service, social distancing and masks are required.

For more information or to offer an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com.

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is in charge of arrangements.

Shirley L. (Ball) Ladd

Shirley L. (Ball) Ladd was called to the Lord on Jan. 1, 2021. She was born on May 20, 1929 in Littleton, N.H. She attended Littleton High School. Shortly after she married her first true love Keith Brown. Together they had three beautiful children, Mark, who was KIA serving with the Fifth Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Viet Nam, Diana Craggy and Wanda Brown. Shirley was a wonderful homemaker and involved in many civic activities. Sadly, her husband of 36 years passed away. Much later she met Frank Ladd whom she was married for 18 years. Shirley traveled across America a number of times for work and enjoyment.

She is predeceased by her husbands Keith Brown and Frank Ladd. Her son Mark Brown. She is survived by two daughters Wanda Brown, Diana Milinski and son-in-law Frank Milinski. Three grandchildren: Mark Craggy with his wife Tarissa, Jeff Craggy, Ben Brown. Two great-grandchildren: Keegan and Nora Craggy.

Two stepdaughters: Cinda Plyer and Cocoa (Mike) Spencer. A niece: Jane Ladd.

Interment at the Boscawen Veterans Ceme-

tery with a private service in the spring.

John Robert Hersey

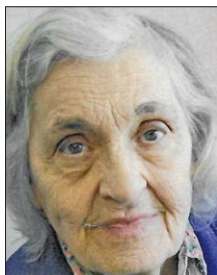
John Robert Hersey, 67, of Groveton, N.H., passed away on Jan. 16, 2021 at the Portsmouth Regional Hospital in Portsmouth, N.H.

John was born in Lynn, Mass. on Nov. 9, 1953 to Charles and Marion (Spinney) Hersey. John operated his own mechanic shop as young man in his hometown of Lynn, Mass. He later moved North and was a faithful fuel man at the P&H Truckstop in Wells River, Vt. He then worked at Upper Valley Press in North Haverhill, N.H. and drove over 2 million miles in his many years there. In 1999, John married Leslie Ellen Marston and shared many good years with her until her death. John enjoyed working on cars, Gospel music, and watching Jimmy Swaggart Ministries every day. His church family at New Beginnings Christian Church was very important to him. He served by maintaining the church building and van and used his gifts and talents as a drummer on the church worship team. John loved his little home in Groveton and was excited to see his family being restored. He loved the Word of God, as well as he was a servant to all. John was a great encourager, a giver, a passionate lover of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. John will be greatly missed but is in the ever-loving arms of his creator. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Survivors include a son: Steven Hersey of Lynn, Mass.; a stepson: Derek Palomo of Newcastle, Calif.; a brother: Frederick Hersey; three sisters: Doris and Sandra Hersey, and Charlotte Hersey Jackson; two grandchildren: Steven Jr. and Skyla Hersey; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife: Leslie Hersey; his parents: Charles and Marion Hersey; two brothers: David and Kenneth Hersey; and two sisters: Jo-Ann Mallett and Beverly Melanson.

There will be no services at John's request.



Hazel Sayers



John Hersey

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