



The Greenfield Spirit

Aug-Sept 2020

GREENFIELD'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 28.3

Visit the town website at <http://www.greenfield-nh.gov/> for more information

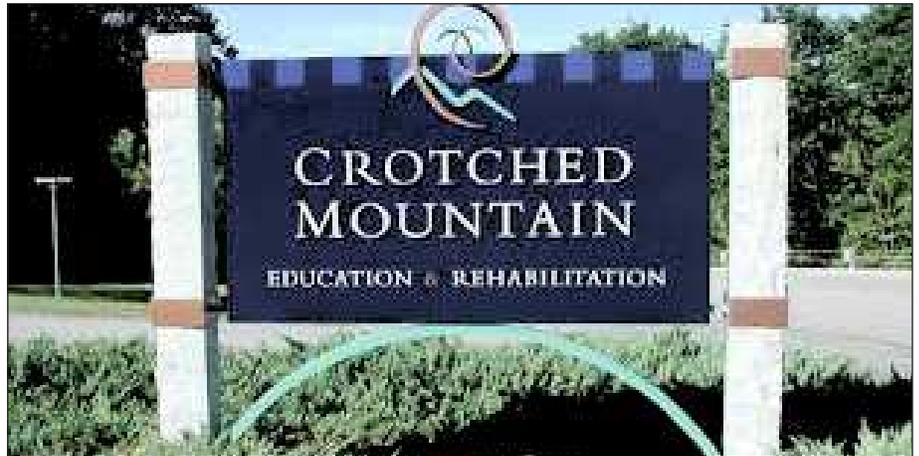
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GREENFIELD WILL MISS CROTCHED MOUNTAIN



As a community, we are saddened to hear that Crotched Mountain School is closing its doors by the end of the year. For 66 years, we have been friends, neighbors and associates of the world-renowned facility.

A light has gone out in Greenfield. Over the years, Crotched Mountain has broadened its mission but it has never diminished its steadfast commitment to providing quality compassionate care for the less fortunate among us, always with children at its heart.

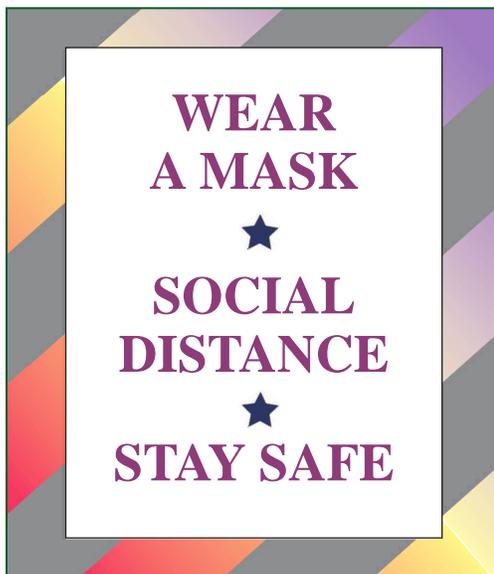
Greenfield will not be the same without the familiar sights of Crotched Mountain residents shopping at Harvester Market, swimming at Sunset Lake or enjoying Music on the Common.

It is painful to think that Crotched Mountain is one of the Covid-19 fatalities. From school to day care facility, to brain injury center, to ventilator-dependent hospital, to nationally recognized rehab unit, to specialized pediatric care facility, to handicapped-accessible trails Crotched Mountain has focused attention on the beauty and serenity of Greenfield that made us good partners.

Crotched Mountain was dedicated to treating all its patients with dignity and respect. From janitors and cafeteria workers to senior management, the staff knew clients by name and made them feel important as individuals.

We wish all the patients, care specialists, staff and managers the very best as they move to new phases in their careers and lives.

The Greenfield Selectboard



TOWN DIRECTORY

TOWN OFFICES

GREENFIELD SELECTBOARD
Executive Selectboard meetings are Thurs. at 5:30 pm every week unless otherwise posted.

Selectboard: Margo Charig Bliss Chair, Karen Day, and Robert Marshall
Town Administrator: Aaron Patt
Email: greenfieldnhbos@myfairpoint.net

TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Check the town website for updates.

<https://www.greenfield-nh.gov/>
Office Manager: Catherine Shaw
Tel: 547-3442 Fax: 547-3004
Email: greenfieldnhacct@myfairpoint.net

BUILDING/HEALTH INSPECTOR
Inspections by Appt/as needed
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Inspector - Mike Borden Tel: 547-0437
Email: mbordenbi@gmail.com

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Meetings As needed via Zoom
Chair: Roger Lessard Tel: 933-3130
Email: mtking@pobox.com

PLANNING BOARD
Meetings: 2nd & 4th Mon. at 6:30 pm
At the Town Offices. Normally the 2nd Mon. meeting is for hearings and the 4th Mon. meeting is for other business.
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Chair: Mason Parker
Email: greenfieldnhpb@gmail.com

TOWN CLERK (Registrations)
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
WINDOW HOURS:
M, W, TH, 3 pm-5:30 pm
By mail and by appointment
Office Tel: 547-2782 Leave message.
Town Clerk: Dorene Adams
Email: greenfielddeputyclerk@gmail.com
Deputy Town Clerk: Ann Setaro
Email: greenfieldtc2@gmail.com

TAX COLLECTOR
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Please make payments by mail or leave message if needed.
Tax Collector - Kathleen Valliere
Tel: 547-2782 Fax: 547-2242
Email: greenfieldnhtaxes@myfairpoint.net

WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Welfare Director: Leah Fiasconaro-Conway
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Email: greenfieldnhwelfare@gmail.com
Please call: 339-545-1209
Emergency assist: Call Police at 547-2525

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Roads Division Manager:
Todd Mason Tel: 547-3504
Email: greenfield.nh.dpw@myfairpoint.net

Buildings & Grounds Division Manager:
Rick McQuade Tel: 325-7346
Email: dpwbuildings@myfairpoint.net

STEPHENSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Tel: 547-2790 Calls welcome
Tues. - Friday 8:00 to 6:00
Director: David Bridgewater
director@stephensonlibrary.org
youth@stephensonlibrary.org
Circulation/General Questions
circulation@stephensonlibrary.org

RECYCLING CENTER
Hours: Tuesday 8:00 am to 4 pm
Thursday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
OPEN REGULAR HOURS
Supervisor: Caleb Hall Tel: 547-8617
Email: greenfieldnhrecycling@myfairpoint.net

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
Meetings as needed- Gil Morris, Chair
TOWN OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC
Please call the Town Office for information
Tel: 547-3442

OTHER CONTACTS

SCHOOL BOARD REP:
Katherine Heck - 547-3442 x 1

TOWN FORESTER
NH Licensed Forester
Karla Allen Tel: 662-5646
Email: karla@garlandlumber.net

GREENFIELD U.S. POST OFFICE
Open Hrs: 8-11:30 am & 1-5 pm, Sat. 8-12 pm
Tel: 547-3310 OPEN

HARVESTER MARKET
547-4314 OPEN

HUNGREY GOATS EATERY
547-3240 OPEN

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
QUESTIONS 547-3501
Leave Message or
Email:
GreenfieldEMRTQuestions@gmail.com

Sign up for alerts: ReadyNH.gov

EMERGENCIES
DIAL 911
POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE
DIAL 911 or 352-1100

FIRE & POLICE
FIRE DEPARTMENT
Fire Chief: Rick McQuade
Office Tel: 325-7346
Emergency Dispatch: Tel: 352-1100 or 911
Email: chiefrickmcquade@greenfieldfire.org
Monthly meetings: 1st Mon. at 6:30 pm

FIRE BURN PERMITS
To obtain a Fire Permit, please go to <https://nhdflweb.sovsportsnet.net/> or call one of the following:

FIRE WARDENS & TEL NUMBERS
Eugene Hennessy, Fire Warden 718-3936
David Hall, Deputy FW2 547-2222
Jeff LaCourse, Deputy FW3 582-3289
Michael Borden, Deputy FW 4 547-0437
Chaz Babb, Deputy FW 5 562-0545

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Chief: Brian Giammarino
Office: Tel: 547-2535 Dispatch: 547-2525
Email: greenfieldnhpolice@myfairpoint.net



The Greenfield Spirit

The Greenfield Spirit is published 6 times a year by the Town of Greenfield Selectboard's Office at PO Box 256, Greenfield, NH 03047.

Tel: 603-547-3442 Fax: 603-547-3004
Graphic Designer: Karen Day
Editors: Margo Charig Bliss, Karen Day, Robert Marshall, Aaron Patt, and Catherine Shaw

To submit articles to the Spirit:
E-mail text to: GreenfieldSpirit@gmail.com, or drop off typed articles to the Town Offices. Also, please send in photos, articles, event announcements, news of the town, poems, drawings, historical info, etc., with the name of the writer and/or photographer. Thanks!

All opinions in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Selectboard and may not necessarily represent any town official or department.

THE ON-GOING COST OF COVID-19

Navigating the dual crises of avoiding Covid-19 and paying our bills is proving challenging for everyone - private citizens, companies, and municipalities alike.

The Selectboard's early recognition of that difficulty has helped us anticipate a downturn in revenues from the State, but there's no beating around the bush: Town finances, like everyone's finances in a pandemic, are under stress. These days, the Board finds itself wedged between reduced revenue on one hand, increased expenses on the other, Town Meeting's expectations based on the budget that was passed, and, state laws that sometimes restrict remedies you might apply at home to balance rising bills against lower than anticipated income.

Early in the Covid spring, the Selectboard did two things: We instituted a spending freeze (Department heads were told that even if there is money in their budget, don't spend it without asking) and identified some budget items that we could cancel, delay or spread out. It's our intention that the tax rate be stable compared to last year and with some revenues declining, we want to be ahead of the curve when it comes time to set the tax rate in the fall. We've held off as long as we could to see where finances are going, but some projects demand attention. For example, despite passage of a warrant article at Town Meeting to replace the 11-year-old 6-wheel dump truck, the Board looked at estimates to keep and repair what we have. Unfortunately, time takes its toll and the repair estimate coupled with the uncertainty of weather and the potential for difficulty in the winter months meant that the Board has decided to purchase a new truck sooner than later. However, the Selectboard opted to reduce the amount of the down payment and spread the savings over the five annual payments. That gave us \$10,000 to apply to other projects. Not a lot, but every little bit helps.

Not all the news was as bad as we had anticipated when we reported to you in the last Spirit. Our Treasurer noted that revenue from the State will not be as low as we feared when we applied the brakes on spending in April. But it's less than we estimated when we crafted the budget. Therefore, there isn't enough money to do everything we planned to do when the budget was approved at Town Meeting, without raising taxes, which the Selectboard is working diligently to avoid. We can move some money around, but we can't make our own.

Based on the experience of some neighboring towns that tax their resident's quarterly, the Board also recognizes that some residents may have trouble paying their tax bills. Some residents may believe that it doesn't matter if they're a little late, as long as they get there in the end. Timeliness is important. Our largest bill is the school tax bill - \$251,554 per month, followed by the town's expenses. New Hampshire cities and towns have learned from the courts when attempting to change school tax payment schedules that the answer is "No". So that comes off the top each month. As you can imagine, it matters greatly that taxes are paid on time. We have arguably reached a point in the

year where it is not feasible to borrow money in anticipation of taxes. Without a crystal ball in hand the Board is focusing on day-to-day spending; because the town has to pay its bills on time - that's also the law.

Our Treasurer noted that on June 19, Greenfield's cash on hand was 62% below where it was the same time last year. Imagine that for every dollar in your wallet you really had 38 cents and a promise that you would get the other 62 cents later ... some-time ... maybe. You would have to look long and hard at your budget and curtail or delay some purchases. That is what the Board is doing.

Here are comparative figures for what was in our bank account on July 3 of three successive years during the first installment of tax payments:

Bank Balance

2018	2,128,732
2019	2,184,180
2020	1,926,879

"Overall, this is good news," said the Treasurer to the Board. "The statewide estimate for uncollected taxes during Covid is 12-18%, so we are in the low part of this range at 12.25% uncollected taxes. ... I am hopeful tax money will continue to trickle in and the 2019 tax lien is generated by mid July."

Much has been said and written lately about Federal reimbursements. The Town is required to use grant funds to offset actual Covid-19 costs, which are the increases above and beyond the budget approved in March. In June, Greenfield received reimbursement from the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security act) for money spent on Covid-19 resistance through the end of April. There are two more submissions deadlines in July and August. We only qualify for reimbursements if we cross every 't' and dot every 'i'; let's hope we keep doing it all right. But even reimbursements have their limitations; if there is no money in the bank to buy an item in the first place, it's just another good deal we can't afford. That's the definition of a cash-flow problem.

Several weeks ago, as part of an objective review of the current budget and assigned projects, the Board suspended the plan to repave East Road "until further notice." Even if money starts to flow again, it may be too late to undertake that project this year. We are committed to it and hopeful for 2020, but we will just have to wait and see. Another area where we could hold off spending is not to fund some or all of the Capital Reserve Funds as voted at Town Meeting. The law says we have to fund them once townspeople have voted for them, but the governor has given cities and towns emergency permission to change their annual budgets without a Special Town Meeting. The Board is acutely aware of how hard this community has worked over the last few years to bolster its savings accounts and we would not make that decision lightly.

The Selectboard is working with town employees in all departments to ensure that they have the safest workspace we can

Covid continued from page 3

provide. To that end, there are a series of large and small renovations under consideration, the cost of which is not yet known. Can we get it done before the reimbursements run out? Meanwhile we continue to examine the employee hours, schedules, shared office space, new technology, etc. The goal is to beat COVID-19, keep our taxes flat, and keep our town moving forward. Ultimately everyone's goal is to get to the day when we can greet and treat our residents the way we always have. In the meantime we thank you for reading and hope you remain well.

The Greenfield Selectboard

BRINGING BROADBAND TO GREENFIELD

The Greenfield Broadband volunteer group has been hard at work gathering information from residents about the quality of internet service in Greenfield. The goal is to upgrade our archaic service to modern broadband speeds to benefit the underserved residents of Greenfield!

With the changed circumstances brought on by COVID, many of us have been valiantly trying to grapple with the unexpected extra challenges of working from home, home schooling, and college students trying to complete courses on top of all of the ordinary internet use that was already dreadfully slow and inconsistent. We want to alleviate these problems as quickly as possible.

**SEASONED CORDWOOD
FOR SALE**

**YOU PICK UP—\$200 PER CORD
WE DELIVER — \$250 PER CORD
(10 miles radius)**

**CALL
Michael Sparling at 603-491-8241**



*Proceeds support the
Greenfield Church's
Richardson Temporary Housing*

Here is the basic outline of what could work for Greenfield residents:

Senate Bill 170 (effective July, 2018) allows NH communities that are unserved by internet providers to issue bonds for building broadband infrastructure that meets the FCC definition (currently defined as connectivity speeds of at least 25Mbps download/3Mbps upload).

The intent is to provide service to every address in Greenfield (approx. 50 miles of road). Many technologies are possible but the most common solution is Fiber Optics. This infrastructure is typically capable of providing speeds of up to 1Gbps upload & download (balanced).

To accomplish this Greenfield would pursue a public-private partnership where the provider would guarantee the bond (likely over 20-30 years). Rather than pay the bond through local taxes, the bond would be paid for by a monthly user fee (typically around \$10) added to the provider's service charges. In this way there is zero impact on taxes. Only the subscribers pay and they only pay a small additional fee until the bond is paid off.

Chesterfield became the first NH town to take advantage of SB 170 in 2019. At Town Meeting in 2020 six more towns approved projects and many other NH communities are well underway for 2021.

The steps:

The first step is a Request For Information, which includes surveying the town to demonstrate that internet speeds meet the definition of "unserved" as described above. Have you taken the online survey? If yes...THANK YOU! If no, please take the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LT52PVL>

A Request For Proposal would then be issued to interested providers.

Upon selection of a provider, a series of meetings will be held and the bond would be presented for town vote.

If the bond is approved then construction would begin next summer and would hopefully be complete by year-end 2021!

The Greenfield Broadband volunteers have been hosting weekly call-ins to answer questions and keep townfolk up to date. We regularly post on the Greenfield Meeting Place Facebook page, but if you are not on Facebook, please send us an email and we will let you know the next day and time of the call-in. You can email us here:

greenfieldbroadband@gmail.com

Thank you!

Tom Bascom, Nanette Perrotte, Katlyn Lawver

**For more information, please see our website:
<https://greenfieldbroadband.com>**

CONVAL REOPENING COMMUNICATION

The COVID-19 pandemic has required all of us to greatly adjust our personal and professional lives. The effect of COVID-19 is not isolated to one aspect but is all-encompassing. Nowhere is it felt more than within our school system as its impact is felt by students, parents/guardians/ school personnel and the ConVal community as a whole.

We have all seen the response to this unprecedented crisis as we had to transition from a classroom centric environment to a remote home-based environment. This was a very quick transition starting March 15th that had to take place in less than a week.

We are still faced with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and need to plan for an unknown future. We want to successfully open up the 2020-2021 school year knowing there is still much to consider.

The planning for this new school year, even though we learned a lot from our previous experience, is significantly more complex and far reaching. No longer are we confined to a few months of disruption, we must now look to long term solutions based on multiple reopening phased scenarios.

This reopening process began before the 2019-20 school year ended. Then, starting May 29th, all staff participated in a ten day evaluation of the remote learning experience and how we must address the future, knowing that it is critically important to develop flexible strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and throughout the community.

To address these scenarios, ConVal administration has developed a comprehensive and detailed approach involving over 120 individuals representing all internal and external stakeholders formed into a multi-faceted committee structure as follows:

- Steering/Guidance committee - Define guidance and direction. Assign roles and responsibilities, survey to parents/guardians and communications.
- Wellness (mental health) -- Assess resources, outreach, guidelines, and protocols
- Instruction (Curriculum) - Assess learning progress and loss. Identify intervention programming.
- Facilities (cleaning and sanitizing) - Identify resources needed, procedures for first day back.
- School Operations - Additional or different staffing needs. Liability identification.
- Technology (resources and deployment) - Identify additional resources, if needed. How to deploy.

- Post-secondary - Classes of 2020 and 2021, unique needs of recent graduates, stewards for the class of 2021.

These committees have been active in their assigned responsibilities and are making significant progress.

Based on current CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidance we are formulating our plans around a three phased approach that is scalable and can be used to guide the detailed plans that will be necessary to re-open our ConVal schools. These phases can encompass a hybrid approach (combination of remote and in school learning) and they progress from the most restrictive environments to the least restrictive.

The plans under development will be based on the science community's direction on what is now known to be safe, and will be updated and modified as circumstances continue to change. Here are the most important principles that are guiding the planning:

- Safety first - the safety of our students, faculty, and community is our highest priority.
- Schools play a critical role in supporting students' academic, social, and emotional growth.
- An in-person learning environment is preferable for most students and families.
- Re-opening decisions and movement between phases in this Framework will be based on epidemiological data and guided by public health officials and local emergency management partners.
- ConVal will use this opportunity to re-envision and implement an improved model for providing the children in our communities a robust PK-12 public education.
- Any remote instruction will focus on providing students with learning opportunities, excellent instruction and the purposeful use of technology.
- Schools reopening is an important factor to support economic recovery because it will facilitate parents returning to work.
- The ConVal Framework for Reopening will establish precautionary measures to minimize exposure where possible using scientifically supported guidelines.
- During the pandemic we will adjust class sizes and the use of all school buildings and district facilities to support the overall health and well-being of students, staff, and the community.

Continued on page 8

GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY STORIES & MORE

The Hopkins Brothers and Belcher's Store
By Lenny Cornwell

Charles H. Hopkins bought some land in the village center in 1873. He constructed the building now known as the Greenfield Meeting Place (presently the site of the Hungry Goats Eatery with apartments overhead on the upper two floors). Charles's store occupied the bottom floor with the top two floors designated as living quarters or rooms for rent. There is no mention as to who actually lived in these rentals.

The store became a social gathering place, especially with the Post Office tucked in there for many years. Charles added grain to his inventory as well as a livery stable, thereby creating additional reasons to stop by the store. The grain area and livery were added on to the northerly side of the main store edifice.

In 1893, Charles' two sons, Edwin C. and Walter L. became the owners and proprietors of the business. At first, Charles had rented the store to this sons. Eventually, they prospered enough to own the establishment themselves. The store was known for having the highest grade of cheese around ! Edwin and Walter also sold molasses, dry goods, kerosene, hardware and grain.

Gradually, the grain business became more of the focus of the two men (See the June/July edition of The Spirit.) In 1917, stagecoach driver, Christie Belcher bought into the store, and assumed its day-to-day operation. Then, the store became Hopkins Brothers and Belcher's Store.

Only three bookkeepers were hired between 1873 and 1954! Mrs. Charles H. Hopkins, Miss Annie McCanna, and Miss Doris Belcher were the efficient bookkeepers. Several other employees worked for twenty or more years during the store's eighty-one year history, before it was acquired by the Roland Carbee family in 1954.

About the time of the store's changing hands, Walter Hopkins recalled that his first sale in the store in 1893 had been clothes pins bought by Charles Peavey. At the "Open House" before the Hopkins Brothers and Belcher's Store shut in December of 1954, Christie Belcher gave two of the oldest customers in attendance clothespins!

The store underwent extensive renovations before reopening in 1955 by the Carbee family. (Catch this chapter in the building's history in the October/November, 2020, edition of The Spirit.)

Reference for this article : The Peterborough Transcript of December 11, 1954.

OF IMPORTANCE..

Did you miss out on the opportunity afforded by the twenty-four hour NH Gives campaign in June ? The Greenfield Historical Society, like so many other worthy non-profit organizations, has foregone its usual fund-raisers during the pandemic. But its work - preserving the history of our village and its citizens, being a resource for authors seeking information or families working on their genealogy, acquiring artifacts - has continued. During these unusual times, more than ever, we are relying on your generosity.

To donate to the Society, please contact Amy at 547-3339 or mail your contribution to The Greenfield Society/ P.O. Box 316/ Greenfield, New Hampshire 03047. THANK YOU ! Your response makes a difference and is appreciated !

For other matters, or to arrange a visit while the Museum is closed, simply contact Lenny at 547- 2198.



NOTICE



MASKS

**must be worn by everyone
in the
polling place on
September 8, 2020**

**If you do not have one with you, one will
be provided for you.**

by order of the Greenfield Selectboard

RSA: 41

WHAT WILL ELECTIONS LOOK LIKE IN GREENFIELD?

By Dorene Adams, Town Clerk

Many residents have been asking what effect COVID will have on voting at the upcoming elections. My answer: **you can VOTE at the polls or by absentee ballot.**

Moderator, Bill Nichols, Buildings & Grounds Manager, Rick McQuade and I, met at the Meeting House earlier this month to go over how things will be set up this year. We are working with the Secretary of State's office, the Supervisors of the Checklist, the Emergency Management Team and the Select Board, to come up with modifications to accommodate COVID-19 concerns during Elections, while maintaining the voting laws of NH.

ELECTION DATES, TIMES, LOCATION: Primary Elections, Tuesday, September 8, 2020, and General Elections, Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020, will be held at the Greenfield Meeting House from 8 am-7 pm.

REGISTERED VOTERS: If you are already on the Voter List, you can vote at the polls or by requesting an absentee ballot.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS: We are encouraging people to vote by Absentee Ballot due to COVID concerns. The Secretary of State has issued a new form to include COVID-19 health concerns as a reason to vote by absentee. You can also request an absentee ballot for both the September and November elections on one form.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORMS: If you are planning on voting by absentee ballot, please download the Absentee Ballot Request Form from the Secretary of State's website, the Town of Greenfield Website under the Town Clerk Dept., email the Clerk's office for the form or stop by the office on M, W, TH, 3-5:30pm to pick one up. It is important to fill out this form and mail it back to our office or drop it off to us, as soon as possible to allow for processing time. Please do not wait until the last minute!

NEW VOTER REGISTRATIONS/ REGISTERING TO VOTE: If you would like to register to vote, we encourage you to do so before the elections. It's quick and easy.

- **The Supervisors of the Checklist** will be holding sessions to add voters to the Checklist on Wed. Aug. 5th and Wed. Aug. 12th between 7-7:30 pm. The last session to register before election day is on Sat., Aug. 29th between 11-11:30 am.
- **You can also register with the Town Clerk** on M, W, Th, between 3-5:30 pm. The Clerk will give the Supervisors your Voter Registration Form and they will add you to the Voter List at their next session.
- **ABSENTEE VOTER REGISTRATION PACKET:** If you are concerned about coming to the office to register to vote, due to COVID or you cannot make it

in during those times, you can request an Absentee Voter Registration Packet. This will be emailed or mailed to you. Follow the instructions and return the information that is needed via regular mail. Please plan ahead to allow for mail time.

- **Registering to vote after Aug. 29th.** You will register at the polls as a same day registration.
- **What to bring when registering to vote:** (for a list of qualified proofs, see SOS.NH.Gov website)
- **Proof of Identity and age:** such as a driver's or non-driver I.D.
- **Proof of Citizenship:** birth certificate or naturalization papers
- **Proof of Domicile/Residency:** Copy of a utility bill or notarized letter from landlord stating you reside at the address given or that address matches driver's license address.

At the Polls: Entrance and exits will be kept separate. There will be sneeze guards in place to protect the Election Workers and voters, as well as masks that will be provided by the State for those that need them. Six foot distance markers will be used inside the building as well.

Voting Procedure: Check in with the Ballot Clerks. Each voter will be given a placemat, pencil and ballot. If you need a magnifying glass for reading the ballot, please ask the Ballot Clerks.

- Go into a voter booth, put the placemat on the shelf, fill out your ballot.
- Leave the booth, taking your ballot, the placemat, the pencil and magnifying glass with you.
- Check out with the Clerk. Leave the magnifying glass at the checkout table.
- Give your ballot to the Moderator to put in the ballot box.
- Place mats and pencils can be thrown in the trash upon exiting.
- Hand sanitizer will be available upon exiting the voting area.
- Sadly, we ask that you exit the building and not stop to chit chat with others, which is what we all do in normal circumstances.

VOLUNTEER ELECTION WORKERS AND BALLOT COUNTERS: If you would like to help out at the September and/or the November Elections, please contact the Town Clerk's Office for more information. We are in need of more people to help count the ballots once the polls close at 7 pm.

You can check the Town of Greenfield website for upcoming notifications or changes. Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerks office at 547-2782 or email me at Greenfielddeputyclerk@gmail.com



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS DIVISION

After a long 8 month wait, the deck at the Recycling Center is finally done. This project came at a good time after budgets were frozen from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.



Most of the materials were purchased out of last year's budget and had been sitting at the Recycling Center waiting to be used. This project started last fall when Jim Morris

from the DPW helped me set the 5 concrete peers to hold up the 36' x 10' cantilevered deck. This was a very large project with framing taking almost two days. Jim helped with a majority of the framing and the rest of the DPW staff jumped in to help once they completed a small road project. After the framing was done, I took the next couple of weeks to complete the decking boards, railings, steps, and ramp. Having employees with skills like this saves the town money by not having to subcontract out projects.

The next few projects we will be taking on are separation walls at the Town Office and cutting brush at Oak Park. The walls at Town Office will help cut down on exposure to Covid-19 as we start to prepare to open up the town buildings. A wall will be built to separate the two Administrative Offices from the foyer and a walk-up window installed in the wall. The walk-up window will be useful to help protect all parties and create a safe manner to transfer data and communicate.

The other large project will be the cutting and trimming of brush at Oak Park. If you are a frequent user of the park, you have probably noticed that over the years the brush has slowly started to encroach into the walking track and also growing up within the park, especially on the corner closest to Rt 136. This overgrowth creates three serious safety concerns: First the branches hit the snow removal equipment during winter operation and can hinder clearing the snow and ice from the track. The second concern is that people using the track are having to dodge branches when they meet other walker/runners and third and most important, is creating a safe environment for the patrons that use the park. The years of overgrowth have created lots of hiding spots for the 2 and 4 legged critters. Once the brush is cut back you will be able to see into the wood-line as well as around the corners safely. The day I started cutting brush we had a black bear that strolled through the track on the end closest to the football field. Not his/her first walk through, it has been seen on several occasions. Maybe it was looking to exercise, but I'm more inclined to think it was looking for some of the berries that grow in the area. Our goal is to create a safe area for people to walk and exercise. Trimming the brush will help us meet that goal. Hopefully before the next addition of the Spirit, we will have things cleaned up and looking good.

I spent 3 days helping the DPW staff with ditching of South Francestown and Dodge Road. This is the reciprocating teamwork that works so well with the Buildings & Grounds and Highway Department. I hope everyone is having a great summer so far, covid has changed what we do, and how and when we do it, but we all seem to be taking it in stride. Also, a big shout out and thank you to Jeremy Gagnon who continues to make our little town look so good.

Rick McQuade, Building & Grounds Manager

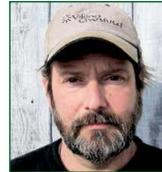
ConVal continued from page 5

- This Framework needs to be fluid. The ConVal Framework for Reopening acknowledges that it may be necessary to progress or regress through the Phases as public health conditions change.
- This Re-opening Framework must support educational equity for all students.
- This Re-opening Framework must support the personalization of learning for all students.
- The plans for reopening need to be developed so that they can be operationalized within the limitations of the current pandemic.
- The plan will include maximizing grant opportunities and federal and state funding resources.
- Educational services will be consistent with the values and expectations of our communities, stakeholders, and the parents of our students.
- It is imperative that we retain our present student enrollment and this must be a priority.
- Stakeholders will be engaged in the process when and as appropriate through surveys and feedback opportunities.

ConVal will take this opportunity to re-envision and implement an improved model for providing the children in our communities a robust PK-12 public education with lessons learned from our COVID-19 response, and looks to its parent and community partners to guide and support this plan and its implementation. Now more than ever, we are in this together. We are ConVal.

The ConVal School Board

*Submitted by Katherine Heck
School Board Representative*



FROM THE DPW ROADS DIVISION

This year we have been able to get a lot of roadside ditching done because of the way things are going right now in the world. We are trying to keep the spending down by doing jobs that just require fuel and labor to get the job done. The photos in the article show one type of repair that we do to make the road better by removing the pocket of sand in the roadway and replace it with new gravel for a better base to drive on.



We are also changing out old culvert pipes and grading as well as addressing many other issues throughout the town. This fall, we are planning to rent a wood chipper and start brush cutting along some of the roads. I set up work for the team each week so if you have a problem on your road please call and leave a message for us so we can look into it and get back to you. Thank you.

*DPW Road Manager
Todd Mason and the crew*



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STEPHENSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS

David Bridgewater, Director

Library Contact: 547-2790, director@stephensonlibrary.org

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC NOW - For Questions, call-in hours: Tuesday through Friday 8-6

The Stephenson Memorial Library is a not-for-profit public library.



Your library is moving into a new, much more useful, phase. Full details are on our website and also on our Facebook page.

DO FAIRIES STILL LIVE IN GREENFIELD?



The library fairies are making their first annual visit to our library from 25th to 31st of August. They need tiny houses to stay in while visiting. CAN YOU HELP?

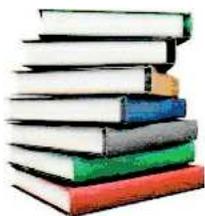
Visit www.stephensonlibrary.org for details

CURBSIDE SERVICE



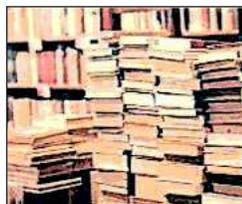
You can now request/reserve books from our collection by going to the library catalog on the website or by calling 547-2790.

RETURNING AND DONATED BOOKS



Leave in the drop box.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY HAS MORPHED INTO BIG FREE LIBRARY



Make an appointment to visit the motherlode in the Wensberg Room.



COMPUTER USE

Make an appointment.
547 2790

HOMEMADE SCARECROWS COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Details later at our website



SIX WEEKLY ELEMENTARY SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER



Details to follow on our Website

Inter-Library Loan. This will start again when most of the New Hampshire libraries have opened.

Facebook. We have posted a few book reviews, and a lot of activities for children of all ages over the last few weeks.

Our hope is that the library will be opening to the public early to mid - August.

SUNSET BEACH SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK

MODIFIED DUE TO COVID-19

SUNSET LAKE BEACH RULES

1. The beach is for Greenfield Taxpayers, Residents, and their guests, and non-resident property owners ONLY.
2. A Greenfield facilities permit sticker is required on your vehicle.
3. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
4. Pick up your trash and take it home with you. This is a carry in/carry out facility.
5. NO dogs, horses, or other animals are allowed on the beach.
6. Fishing allowed on the outside of roped beach area ONLY!
7. No lifeguards this summer. Swim at your own risk.
8. Beach closes at 10 p.m.
9. Sunset Lake Beach is a **NO SMOKING AREA**.
10. The beach is open to the residents between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Presence outside of these hours is considered trespassing.

COMPLAINTS AND COMMENTS should be directed to Buildings & Grounds Manager Rick McQuade at 325-7346.

EMERGENCIES AND VANDALISM should be reported to the Greenfield Police Department immediately by dialing 911.



CVTC continues to provide no-fee rides for those without access to transportation to important non-emergency medical appointments, grocery shopping, the post office, bank and pharmacy. Masked Volunteer Drivers are equipped with necessary sanitizers to keep the car free from germs. Call 821-0569 to speak with one of our Transportation Coordinators who are working from home. We like to have five business-days' notice so that our Volunteers have time to review open rides and select those that fit their schedules. CVTC serves all 34 towns in the Monadnock Region.

PLEASE PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Protect yourself and others against infections



CHANGES THIS SUMMER AT SUNSET LAKE

There will be no lifeguards at Sunset Lake Beach this summer. Social distancing is encouraged for your safety.

There will be floatlines to help keep people safe, but the Board opted not to put out the floating dock without lifeguards present.

Families are encouraged to pay close attention to children in the water and to keep small children within the kiddie swimming area. Beach patrons also are asked to keep their area of the beach tidy and clean and to take out any trash they create while visiting the beach.

Remember that a town facilities permit is required to park at Sunset Lake and the Police Department will patrol as usual. Please call Town Hall (547-3442) for more information.

Have a safe summer.

The Greenfield Selectboard

SPIRIT DEADLINES

September 1st for the Oct/Nov Issue

November 1st for the Dec/Jan Issue

January 1st for Feb/Mar Issue

March 1st for the Apr/May Issue

May 1st for the Jun/Jul Issue

July 1st for the Aug/Sep Issue

NH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

NHDES freshwater beach monitoring for summer 2020 bathing season

Concord, NH - As the beaches at the state's freshwater lakes and ponds are opening back up, NHDES reminds the public to practice safe swimming and to be vigilant for potential health concerns, such as cyanobacteria. This summer, NHDES will focus on monitoring, assessing and responding to cyanobacteria blooms. The Beach Inspection Program will not be sampling freshwater beaches regularly for fecal bacteria, as it has in the past, due to lab capacity and logistical challenges posed by the pandemic.

The Beach Program will, however, maintain an active monitoring program that will be able to respond in cases when public health risks arise and can ramp up at areas with a history of bacterial problems. Beach owners and municipalities can still collect water samples themselves and submit the samples to a number of available labs for analysis. In addition, illness report forms are available for reporting bathing-related illnesses. The public is encouraged to submit this form to the Beach Program if someone becomes ill after swimming in one of the state's waterbodies. That will help protect all of us.

The public is also strongly encouraged to keep an eye out for cyanobacteria in state waterbodies. As the water temperatures warm, some lakes and ponds may display bright green surface scums or dingy green water throughout the water. These are signs that a cyanobacteria bloom is present.



Cyanobacteria can produce toxins that are harmful to humans, pets and livestock. Toxins can cause acute health effects including irritation of skin and mucous membranes, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some cases, short term exposure can also result in nervous system interference including tingling, burning, or numbness sensations. Prolonged exposure can also lead to liver or kidney problems.

Cyanobacteria blooms are extremely unpredictable occurring sporadically anywhere or anytime. Therefore, as a precaution, the Beach Program recommends against swimming in areas of lake or ponds with a suspected cyanobacteria bloom and restricting pet or livestock access.

If you see what you believe is a cyanobacteria bloom, please report it via text or phone call to (603) 848-8094 or email to HABS@des.nh.gov. We also ask that you include a photo of the bloom. A response to a reported potential bloom will typically occur within 24 hours. Bloom alerts or lake advisories will be issued following confirmation of the condition and will be posted on the NHDES website.

Please report a bloom to NHDES 603-848-8094 or HAB@des.nh.gov

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The **GREENFIELD CLOTHES CLOSET**

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Clothes Closet: Fridays & Saturdays, 10 – 12

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 Ministry Center, Depot Drive, Greenfield

NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (VLAP)

Have you ever wondered how clean New Hampshire's lakes are, and how we get that information?

If so, you may be interested in the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.

What is VLAP?

The Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) was initiated in 1985 in response to an expressed desire of lake associations to be involved in lake protection and watershed management. By collecting water samples from their waterbodies at regular intervals, VLAP volunteers make it possible for the state (with only eight aquatic biologists) to better understand water quality trends for New Hampshire's more than 900 lakes and ponds. VLAP is a cooperative program between volunteer monitors and NHDES: Volunteers collect water samples, and NHDES analyzes and interprets data to provide annual water quality reports for each lake. This cooperative effort empowers communities to make informed decisions about how to best manage their lake and the surrounding watershed area.

Approximately 500 volunteers from nearly 180 lakes and ponds located throughout the state currently participate in VLAP!

Why is Volunteer Lake Monitoring Important?

By sampling a lake or pond several times each year (usually once a month during the summer) over a period of years, volunteer monitors help develop a comprehensive data set from which long-term water quality trends can be discerned. In addition to sampling the waterbody itself, volunteer monitors sample the streams that flow into and out of the waterbody and survey the surrounding watershed.

Such monitoring results in the early detection of water quality changes, allowing NHDES to trace potential problems to their source. If the data gathered through VLAP reveals a significant water quality problem, the historical data can be used to justify implementation of a more intensive watershed study.

VLAP data sets are invaluable, serving as a community planning resource, in maintaining federal lakes funding, and in NHDES' mission to protect New Hampshire's lakes and ponds.

Regardless of the motivation for joining VLAP – whether it is to improve community planning decisions, to do their part in protecting the local environment, or to protect their own investment in property adjacent to a lake or pond – the end result is the same: VLAP volunteers play an integral role in protecting the quality of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds.

How does VLAP work?

VLAP is a cooperative effort; volunteer monitors and NHDES each have a role to play:

The Role of the Volunteer Monitor:

- Schedule sampling dates with NHDES.
- Schedule equipment and bottle pick-up.
- Collect water samples (typically once per month during the summer).
- Deliver collected water samples to the laboratory within 24 hours of sample collection.
- Provide minimal financial support for sample analysis.
- Report on potential water quality issues to NHDES when necessary.
- Pass on water quality information to associations, community, and/or town officials.

The Role of NHDES:

- Teach principles of lake ecology.
- Train volunteers how to collect samples.
- Provide sampling equipment.
- Conduct sampling audits.
- Analyze samples in the laboratory.
- Interpret and publish data in annual reports.
- Provide technical/educational materials.
- Provide notifications of workshop opportunities.
- Investigate water quality complaints.
- Assist communities in addressing concerns.
- Incorporate data collected by volunteer monitors into state water quality reports.

Sampling Audits: NHDES biologists regularly train volunteers and accompany them on a sampling trip to make sure they follow proper sampling procedures. This provides volunteers with additional training and allows them to discuss any areas of concern with the biologist.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off: Volunteers can pick-up and drop-off sample bottles and equipment from the NHDES Jody Connor Limnology Center (JCLC) in Concord and can also use the Lake Sunapee Protective Association – Colby Sawyer College VLAP Satellite Laboratory in New London.

How can I get involved?

VLAP could not be a success without the dedication of volunteer monitors who realize how important New Hampshire's lakes and ponds are to the beauty, economical and ecological health of the state. Lake associations or individuals interested in learning more about VLAP or other NHDES volunteer programs should contact:

Sara Steiner
VLAP Coordinator
sara.steiner@des.nh.gov
(603) 271-2658

Greenfield Tradespeople: To include your FREE Business listing, call 547-3442

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If you'd like to sponsor an issue of the Greenfield Spirit, please call the Town Office at 547-3442. The cost is low, and it's a great way to get the word out about your business or group, as well as an easy way to support your community. Interest has been so great that we now have a sign-up form to keep everyone's turn organized. Please call the Town Office to get on the list.

Oct/Nov issue deadline: September 1, 2020



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