



The Greenfield Spirit

FEB-MAR 2024

GREENFIELD'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31.0

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

FREE



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Town Budget

Throughout the year the Selectboard works with our department heads to manage the town's resources in an efficient and cost-effective manner. As we work together during the year we take note of potential savings, upcoming needs, and problem areas while simultaneously navigating the daily challenges of an ever-changing world. This process is the basis for the following year's budget.

We began the formal 2024 budget process in October with our annual Budget Summit, an all-day meeting with department heads to review progress in 2023 and look forward at each department's needs for 2024 and beyond and think about how we can best meet those needs. We then refine this through the winter months culminating with the presentation of the proposed 2024 budget to the public at our Budget Hearing on February 8th at The Meeting House. At this hearing, the Selectboard will explain the budget so that you can gain an understanding of our current expenses as well those that the town will be facing in upcoming years and how we plan to address these matters. YOUR feedback at the budget hearing is critical. At the budget hearing it is still possible to make changes to the proposed budget prior to Town Meeting. With your feedback, we can craft budgets that prioritize our citizen's common goals for the Town. We need all the help we can get.

For the last several years inflation has been a major challenge, with many costs rising beyond our control. We have encountered three notable examples this year. Firstly, our paving warrant article has seen a 20% cost increase due to our primary paving company discontinuing operations in New Hampshire. This will add approximately \$40,000 to the 2024 budget.

Secondly, our ambulance contract has surged by around \$40,000 compared to the

Continued on page 3

SPIRIT DEADLINE
MARCH 1ST FOR
THE APR-MAY ISSUE

PUBLIC
BUDGET HEARING
THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 2024
The Meeting House
at 6:30 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME
To view and comment
on the 2024
Proposed Town Budget

TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
VOTE AT THE MEETING HOUSE
10AM - 7PM
Vote by ballot on Town Elections, Zoning Amendments,
and ConVal School Warrant Articles
TOWN MEETING CONTINUED
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024
9 AM AT THE MEETING HOUSE
Vote on Town Budgets & Warrant Articles
Town Financial Discussions and More! Come and get involved.

TOWN DIRECTORY

TOWN OFFICES

GREENFIELD SELECTBOARD Meetings are Thurs. at 5:30 pm every week in the Meeting Room in the Town Office unless otherwise posted.

Selectboard: Michael Borden Chair, Tom Bascom, and Mason Parker
Town Administrator: Aaron Patt
Email: townadministrator@greenfield-nh.gov
Check the town website for updates.
<https://www.greenfield-nh.gov/>

Regular Town Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 9:00 - 5:00
Fri - closed to the public
Office Manager: Catherine Shaw
Tel: 603-547-3442 Fax: 603-547-3004
Email: officemanager@greenfield-nh.gov

BUILDING/HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspections by Appt/as needed
Inspector- Mike Borden
Tel: 603-547-0437
Email: mbordenbi@gmail.com

TOWN CLERK (Registrations)

M 2-5 pm, W & TH, 3 pm - 5:30 pm
By mail and by appointment
Office Tel: 603-547-2782 Leave message.
Town Clerk: Dorene Adams
Email: townclerk@greenfield-nh.gov
Deputy Town Clerk: Ann Setaro
Email: deputytownclerk@greenfield-nh.gov

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector - Wendy Drouin
Mon 1:00 - 6:00pm, Wed 11:00 - 4:00pm
Tel: 603-547-2782 Fax: 603-547-2242
Email: taxcollector@greenfield-nh.gov

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Welfare Director: Leah Fiasconaro-Conway
Email: greenfieldnhwelfare@gmail.com
Tuesday 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Tel: 603-547-3442 Ext. 3
Emergency assist: Call 603-547-2525

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

CEMETERY TRUSTEES:

Mtgs 2nd Wed at 7pm - Town Offices
Chair: Roger Lessard
Tel: 603-933-3130
Email: mtking@pobox.com

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mtgs 4th Wed at 7pm - Town Offices
Chair: Karen Day Tel: 603-547-5606
Email: concom@greenfield-nh.gov

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Jim Morris, DPW Director
Tel: 603-547-3504
Email: publicworks@greenfield-nh.gov

PLANNING BOARD

Mtgs: 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.
Chair: David Thimmel
Email: planningboard@greenfield-nh.gov

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
Supervisor: Caleb Hall Tel: 603-547-8617
Email: recyclingcenter@greenfield-nh.gov

STEPHENSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Tel: 603-547-2790
Hours: TuCS 2-6, Wed 10-8, Thurs 2-8, Fri 2-6, Sat 10-4
Director: David Bridgewater
Email: director@stephensonlibrary.org
youth@stephensonlibrary.org
Circulation/General Questions
circulation@stephensonlibrary.org

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Mtgs - as needed
Chair: Gil Morris
Email: zba@greenfield-nh.gov
Tel: 603-547-3412

OTHER CONTACTS

OAK PARK COMMITTEE

Mtgs every Thurs at 5:30 pm - Oak Park
Chair: Dave Thimmel
Email: woodshopronin@gmail.com

SCHOOL BOARD REP:

Katherine Heck
Tel: 603-547-3442 x 1
Email: kheck@conval.edu

TOWN FORESTER

NH Licensed Forester
Karla Allen Tel: 603-733-7922
Email: Karlaallen367@gmail.com

GREENFIELD U.S. POST OFFICE

Open Hrs: 8-11:30 am & 1-5 pm,
Sat. 8-12 pm
Tel: 603-547-3310

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

FIRE & POLICE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief: Jeff LaCourse
Telephone: 603-582-3289
Emergency Dispatch:
Tel: 603-352-1100 or 911
Email: chiefjefflacourse@greenfieldfire.org

FIRE BURN PERMITS

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

FIRE WARDENS

Eugene Hennessey, F. Warden 603-718-3936
Jeff LaCourse, Deputy 603-582-3289
Michael Borden, Deputy 603-547-0437
Chaz Babb, Deputy 603-562-0545

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dave Martin, Director
Email: emddavemartin@greenfieldfire.org
Sign up for alerts: ReadyNH.gov

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief: Brian Giammarino
Office: 603-547-2535
Dispatch: 603-547-2525
Email: police@greenfieldnhpd.com



The Greenfield Spirit

The Greenfield Spirit is published 6 times a year by the Town of Greenfield, PO Box 256, Greenfield NH 03047

Tel: 603-547-3442 Fax: 603-547-3004

Editor & Graphic Designer: Karen Day
Copy Editors: Michael Borden, Tom Bascom, Mason Parker, Aaron Patt, and Catherine Shaw.

Printed by Savron Graphics

To submit articles to the Spirit:

Email 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. All content is printed at the Selectboard's discretion.

SPIRIT DEADLINES

January 1st for the Feb/Mar Issue

March 1st for the Apr/May Issue

May 1st for the Jun/Jul Issue

July 1st for the Aug/Sep Issue

September 1st for the Oct/Nov Issue

November 1st for the Dec/Jan Issue

Budget continued from page 1

previous year due to increased costs at the provider's end. Lastly, the expenses associated with employee benefits have risen, adding an extra \$40,000 to the 2024 budget. Collectively, these three examples alone contribute to an approximate \$120,000 increase in the town budget.

Inflation has also impacted our ability to purchase equipment. While we have largely shifted away from buying used equipment to reduce repair costs and minimize downtime, soaring prices have made it necessary to finance these purchases at higher interest rates. We have been able to offset this to some degree by utilizing the savings in our Capital Reserve Funds (CRF). Being able to make larger cash payments has often enabled us to obtain better terms than would otherwise be available. We must continue to prioritize saving for future acquisitions and executing these purchases according to well-thought-out plans.

In 2023, our bi-annual Capital Improvements Plan was updated. It was made abundantly clear to us that our current levels of savings in the CRF lines are not nearly enough. A good example of how inflation has affected prices of equipment is shown with our police cruisers. When we bought the first Dodge Charger in 2019 the cost for the vehicle and up-fitting was roughly \$27,000. Three years later we purchased the 2022 Charger and up-fitted it for a total of \$42,000. A \$15,000 increase in only two years! We are now looking to purchase a cruiser at the end of 2024; the estimated cost to purchase and up fit is \$54,000. An additional \$12,000 increase in just two years. So, the cost for a police cruiser has doubled from \$27,000 to \$54,000 in just 5 years.

Other equipment is seeing similar increases and, in some cases, we are investigating less expensive alternatives and different approaches that might be able to suit our town in an efficient and cost-effective way.

In spite of these challenges, our department heads were mostly able to keep their budgets flat. Those budgets are beginning to reflect the forward thinking and effective planning of our highly valued employees. We are very grateful for their dedication to our Town and their sensitivity to spending hard earned tax payer dollars.

The Selectboard has worked tirelessly to craft the overall budget. We believe that the core operating budget (warrant articles that start with "to support the operation of...") has very little room for cost savings. The Selectboard views the core budget as efficient, reasonable and prudent. We regularly go over it line by line striving to make each line as realistic and transparent as possible. This core budget represents what it really costs to do the things that the town has been charged with doing. We are, of course, open to ideas and suggestions about individual line items so please ask questions and make recommendations.

Undoubtedly, some citizens will want to cut back on spending somewhere in order to lower taxes. This is where the other warrant articles come into view. You will notice in the 2024 budget

several warrant articles that are not "to support the operations of..." These "other" warrant articles represent choices that we are presenting to voters. That might be a significant piece of equipment that we need to purchase, a major project that needs funding, a decision about how much money to save for future needs, or any other decision that the voters need to approve.

If citizens disagree with the Selectboard and feel that some of these items should be postponed to another year, or that there is a better way to achieve the goal then they should speak up at the budget hearing! Please share your thoughts and ideas. These non-core warrant articles are your best opportunity to impact the overall budget without effecting the core mission of individual departments.

Ultimately, if not satisfied at the Budget Hearing, vote "no" at Town Meeting on these non-core warrant articles.

Through this process, citizens will be able to directly craft what projects and equipment their taxes will go toward and what things they feel can wait. Remember, we the citizens of Greenfield, vote to approve or reject the budget. Therefore, it is important that all citizens participate in helping to set our priorities as a community.

We hope you will come be a part of the budget hearing on February 8th And more importantly, come be a part of Town Meeting on March 16th.

*Thank you,
Your Selectboard*

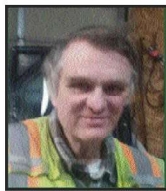
THE TOWN WEBSITE

In many instances, what you are looking for is on the Town Website at: www.greenfield-nh.gov/



Temporarily unable to drive? Vehicle not on the road right now? Maybe it was just the right time for you to turn in your "road warrior" badge. But, you still need to get to non-emergency medical appointments, to the grocery store, pharmacy, and bank, etc. That's where CVTC (Community Volunteer Transportation Company) comes in. Our volunteer drivers get you to your essential appointments whether your transportation situation is temporary or long-term. Call 603-821-0569 to request a no-fee ride. Please give us a 7-day notice. And, we are always recruiting new volunteer drivers. Interested in giving the gift of mobility to a neighbor? Call 603-821-0569 and talk to our Transportation Coordinator or go to www.CVTC-NH.org.

As one rider stated, "CVTC is such a blessing to all of us. We are so very fortunate to have this organization available in the Monadnock Region. Kudos to all of you at CVTC."



RECYCLING CENTER

Hours: Tues 8-4, Thurs 11-6, Sat 8-4

603-547-8617

Looking back over 2023, the GRC had a fairly normal year. The most noteworthy was the number of new faces at the transfer station. Good thing that we updated our brochure and price list because we passed a lot of them out.

For recyclables, a return to normal has meant lower prices. Only aluminum and copper prices have stayed strong. Steel prices have levelled off at about half of the peak. A half ton bale of cardboard nets us \$30.00. The most important thing to remember is that if that same amount of cardboard were thrown in the demo or trash, it would cost \$77.50 to dispose of. It cannot be emphasized enough the importance of keeping recyclables out of the trash!



Speaking of cardboard, one of our patrons with a young son put the cardboard box shown in the photo through the window telling us that the box represented a classic case of overpackaging. Shipped air freight from England and being nearly half the size of my entry in the cardboard and duct tape boat regatta, the box contained... wait... a soccer jersey (basically a T-shirt on

steroids) of his son's favorite soccer player on the Liverpool team. Not even a game-worn, sweaty, dirty, signed jersey, just a regular off-the-rack one. Another justification for American's general scorn of "football" (soccer).



When Arrow Equipment came down to service our beloved waste oil burner, we got the news that its heat exchanger was kaput and unsafe to use. Just what you want to hear in December. The repairs would cost 90% of a new one. The photo shows the new unit that was installed Friday, December 29th. The old Reznor unit was purchased new 18 years ago so it has done its duty and due for a rest.

Without the furnace and working in the cold building, our calorie needs greatly increased and you folks responded with

generous gifts of Christmas cookies, chocolates and sweets. Bill, Steve, and I want to thank everyone for their generosity and best wishes. We really do feel appreciated!

One of our regular patrons dropped off several quarts of maple syrup before the holidays which we transferred to the town welfare office for distribution. It made some families' Christmas a little sweeter.



The can in the picture caught my attention and I imagined how the fruit might have gotten its name. I pictured a ship landing on a tropical island and the crew finds this strange fruit. One sailor tells another to take it to the captain ask him what kind it is. The sailor goes up to the captain and when asked what kind of fruit it is, replies: "I don't know jack about fruit- I'm the ship's captain not a blasted botanist! Now get back with the crew! Upon the sailor's return, he is asked by the other sailors what the captain said. To which the sailor replied: "He called it a Jackfruit."

By the time this edition of the Spirit is published, there should be two 45' trailers on site near where the tire trailer we purchased last year is located. The goal is to move recyclables storage away from the demo/steel dumpsters thus allowing us to create a drive thru.



I am saddened to report that Ed Spoon, who hauled our bottles and cans to Vermont for the past three years, has had to retire from this service. Hauling one of his last loads, Ed is pictured with his son J.J. Another fellow, Bill Paju, has taken over the job.

Lastly, our Christmas tree entry to the Fire and Ice festival. Bill and I hope you enjoyed it.

As always, keep the stuff coming!

*CJ Hall
Recycling Center
Supervisor*



STEPHENSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY NEWS

David Bridgewater, Director

Library Contact: 603-547-2790,
director@stephensonlibrary.org

OPEN to the public - Hours: Tues 2-6, Wed 10-8, Thurs 2-8, Fri 2-6, Sat 10-4

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

WEEKLY events:

Wednesdays, 10:00am-11:00 Story Time

Saturdays, 10:00am-11:00am Baby Story and Play Time

MONTHLY events:

Family Chapter Book Club, Third Saturday of the Month, 11:00am-12:00pm. Students ages 6 and up and their parents are invited to join Ella for a chapter book read aloud and discussion of each month's book.

February 17th: A Cricket in Times Square by George Selden

March 16th: The Music of the Dolphins by Karen Hesse

Stem Day with Brighid: one Saturday a month, join Brighid for STEM activities from 10:00-3:00.

February 24th:

March 23rd

SPECIAL events:

Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00-4:00: Join us in celebrating the library! Come for crafts, games, snacks, and other fun library activities! It may be called Take Your Child to the Library Day, but all patrons are invited to come and take part in the day's activities!

- Cookie Swap
- Friends Book Sale
- Snowflakes with Helaine



THE TRI-TOWN BOOK CLUB

The Stephenson Memorial Library is joining with the George Holmes Bixby Library in Frankestown and the GEP Dodge Library in Bennington to create a Tri-Town Book Group for 2024.

The Bixby Library and the Stephenson Library will take turns hosting the book group's monthly meetings. Meetings hosted in Frankestown will take place on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Meetings hosted in Greenfield will be on Saturdays at 3:00 pm. Each library will arrange for carpooling as needed.

A Meet and Greet was held on January 20th at the Stephenson Library to choose a book list for the year. Our first book discussion will take place on **February 22 at 6:30 pm in Frankestown** (snow date is February 24th in Greenfield). The book is Lynda Rutledge's West with Giraffes. Copies are available at the Stephenson Library.

The March meeting date is Saturday, March 23rd at 3:00pm at the Stephenson Memorial Library.

If you have any questions about the Tri-Town Book Group and would like a copy of the meeting dates and book titles for each month, please contact Marcia de Steuben at: marciet53@gmail.com.



PUBLIC NOTICE WINTER PARKING BAN

By order of the Selectboard, the Town of Greenfield in accordance with Town Ordinance Chapter 1, Section 4, as well as, RSA 105, Sections 6-7-8, no vehicle shall be left standing on any street in said Greenfield between the hours of 11:00 PM and 6:00 AM. Effective November 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024. This is to allow plowing of the streets during snowstorms.

Per order of the
Greenfield Selectboard



THE FIRE CHIEF'S CORNER

Fire and Ice

Thank you everyone who made it happen and those who turned out to make it a festive event. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on our ladder truck led by 9 reindeer creatively made by our Grand Marshall, Bruce Dodge.

There were 25 parade entries with many great and creatively decorated and lighted vehicles and floats. This made it difficult for the judges to choose the winners. In the end the decisions were made.



Best of show went to The Gingerbread Delight team created by Cindy Bates and family. Her husband Chris helped build the float architected by her brother, Wesley Selfridge. The float had a gingerbread house with an oven baking gingerbread cookies and smoke coming out of the chimney. Cindy's nieces, Ruth and Josephine, were the bakers. Cindy and her sisters, Arlene, Donna, Judy, and Nancy were dressed as gingerbread people marching with the float. Chad and Stacy Bates drove the tow vehicle. The Christmas music played on the float put the finishing touch on this elaborate presentation.

Best private vehicle went to the Sparkle and Shine team. The vehicle was a Kubota side-by-side wrapped in Santa fabric, candy cane ribbon, and lights with a "rain" deer mounted on the front with a red nose. A lighted Santa stood in the back with presents and stockings. Diane LaCourse, Kathy and Steve Scigars, and their granddaughters, Suzan and Izzy, were all dressed as Santa's elves. It really did sparkle and shine.



Best commercial vehicle went to Steve's Towing. Steve had a tow truck elaborately covered in colored lights.

The parade ended at Oak Park where the floats were parked inside the track and kept their lights on so people could walk around and see them up close. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way to the gazebo to meet with all the children and ask what they wanted for Christmas. There were camp fires with smores for all and games for the kids. People gathered around the large bonfire to visit and keep warm.

Sharon Andrews and Warren Aldrich did a great job running the concession. I'm told the Mac and Cheese was great. It was gone before I got there but there was enough Chili and other items to go around.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated this year and there was no rain.

Thank you again to everyone for making this a festive event.

*Chief Jeff LaCourse
Greenfield Fire Department*

DID YOU KNOW?

Are there fewer birds visiting my feeders this year?



Maybe. There is natural variation in bird population size year to year. This year many trees like oak, maple, and white pine produced abundant seed, the preferred nutrition of birds, so our feathered friends may be thriving in the forest. However, there are other factors that may be impacting their numbers - declining populations over the past few decades, weather patterns, drought, predators, disease, and climate change.

For further information go to:
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/im-seeing-fewer-birds-in-my-yard-is-something-affecting-their-populations/#>

GREENFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A WHAT?

By Lenny Cornwell

In 1997, there was talk around town of having a charrette. A what?! We soon found out. A group of professionals descended onto the village. They took a walking tour of the whole downtown.

Plan NH had arrived! Fifteen members of their nonprofit organization of volunteers presented the townspeople with ideas and suggestions for Greenfield's downtown area.

It was thought that this group would offer ideas on the land behind the former Carbees' building, now Mi Corazon, and DeLay's Store, now the Harvester Market. The group provided the town with a master plan, suggestions toward revitalizing the downtown areas including: a community septic system, new sidewalks and small parks, more and better parking, elderly housing, and a child care center. Lots of potential!

A new elementary school was already in the works - which dovetailed nicely with the proposed plans for the downtown district. Sidewalks from the village to the school would connect the school to the village as the new elementary school site was fairly close to the fire station and the proposed senior housing.

Greenfield was fortunate to obtain half of the federal housing aid given to New Hampshire - totaling almost two million dollars! This was to be used toward a twenty-four unit building for the elderly. Southern New Hampshire Services would get, as a result, five years of rental subsidies.

Additions to the library and fire station were included in the warrant article for a bond for the downtown improvement initiative. Some private fund raising was also done for the library addition. Work on the old school building to house town offices and the police station were also included in the bond. Sidewalks in the downtown area and the creation of a central downtown septic system rounded out the package. Paved sidewalks extending as far as the new school with a gravel walkway to Oak Park were specified.

Late December of 1999 brought moving day for the school. The school children as well as many community members walked to the new school, carrying supplies from the old one. It was quite the sight! So ended the 1900s with a new start for a new century. Work had also commenced on the elderly housing unit lot - with the removal of a few private buildings as well as trees to make way for the new facility. Greenfield Commons was completed in 2002.

Activity on the downtown sidewalk and sewer system were about to begin. Expansion of the fire station and the library addition as well as outfitting the old school as the town's of-

fices were underway in the planning stages. All of this would be completed by 2003. By then, the new Historical Society lot, transferred by the town to GHS was being readied for the building of the Museum.

Needless to say, when all of the projects were completed, the look of the village had once again changed in appearance, providing a new look for the new century.

Sources : *The Peterborough Transcript*
The Keene Sentinel
The Monadnock Ledger
Greenfield Town Reports

UPDATE

With the start of the new fiscal/membership year, the current officers and Board of Directors are:

Alan Easton - President
Bruce Dodge - Vice-president
Secretary - Sylvia Shea
Treasurer - Amy Lowell

Board of Directors: Lenny Cornwell, Linda Dodge, Adele Hale

We are always looking for new members, and if you are interested in becoming a board member, please contact the Society.

SPIRIT DEADLINES

**MARCH 1ST FOR
THE APR/MAY ISSUE**

May 1st for the Jun/Jul Issue

July 1st for the Aug/Sep Issue

September 1st for the Oct/Nov Issue

October 1st for the Nov/Dec Issue

January 1st for the Feb/Mar Issue

LIGHT EXCAVATION & SITEWORK

SPECIALIZING IN DRIVEWAYS,
DRAINAGE, FIELDS & MORE



BROADFORK

603-289-5927
BROADFORKCO@GMAIL.COM

SANDRI COMPANIES, LLC
HARRISVILLE, NH

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
Townclerk@Greenfield-nh.gov
1-603-547-2782

Dorene Adams, Town Clerk
Anne Setaro, Deputy Town Clerk
Website: <https://www.greenfield-nh.gov>

OFFICE HOURS

2- 5pm Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 3:00 - 5:30pm
Changes will be posted on the Town Website.

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

Mon. Feb. 19, 2024 for Presidents day.

Appointments: Email or call us with the day and time you want to come in and we will add you to our list! When calling, please note that we only retrieve messages when we are in the office. Making appointments cuts down on **your** wait time in the office.

Online Payments via E-Checks

Online payment option for vehicle renewal registrations, dog licenses and vital record requests (Marriage, Birth & Death Certificates). Check out the Town of Greenfield website.

Mail in Renewals:

Residents can mail in renewals or use our drop box outside our office. Please address your envelope to **Greenfield Town Clerk, PO Box 256, Greenfield, NH 03047**. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for us to return your registration in. Instructions are on your renewal letters. Please include the letter.

Payment Types: Two Checks or Cash

We are a 2 check Town, which means you will write a check to The Town of Greenfield, for the Town portion of the registration and a check to The State of NH-DMV, for the State portion. **We DO NOT take cards.**

Moving to Greenfield from another state:

A) New residents to NH are required to register their vehicles and obtain a NH driver's license within sixty (60) days of moving to NH. Bring in your Vehicle Title, or Lienholder information, proof of residency (such as a utility bill, pay stub etc), current registration, your drivers license and 2 checks or cash for payment. We will retitle your vehicle to NH and give you a NH new registration.

B) If you have a dog, you need to register your dog with the Town Clerk as well.

New Residents to Greenfield from another Town in NH and Change of Address:

1) Residents who move here from another town in NH

must notify the Motor Vehicle Dept. of their new address within ten (10) days of a change. Forms are available at the Town Clerks office. Bring in your ID, proof of residency (such as a utility bill, pay stub etc.) and current registration. We will issue an updated registration.

2) If you have a registered dog, we will transfer that registration to Greenfield.

**SURPRISE YOUR TOWN CLERK
RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSE EARLY!**

New dogs must be registered with the Town Clerk when you get them. All dogs must have renewal registrations done by April 30th.

A renewal letter will be sent to you if your dog was registered in Greenfield during the last year. You can pay online, by mail or make an appointment. Rabies certificate must be up to date. Check your renewal letter for rabies expiration date.

Fee Schedule:

Male or Female Dog	9.00
Spayed or Neutered Dog	6.50
Puppy (Under 7 mths)	6.50
1st Dog owned by a Senior (age 65)	2.00
Group Licenses (5-10 dogs)	20.00
Group License (10 or more)	25.00

Failure to license your dog is a violation of State law. In addition to the annual license fee you will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per month, per dog for each month (or part of month) after May 1st. A civil forfeiture fee will also be assessed in the amount of \$25.00, which is payable within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the notice of failure to register your dog (s).

Please notify our office if your dog passes away or if you no longer own the dog, so we can keep our records up to date. Thank you.

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST

Linda Dodge, Ellen Sanford, Kathy Seigars

**REGISTER TO VOTE
and Make Name and Address Corrections**

2024 Supervisor Session

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Time: 11-11:30am

**Location: Town Offices,
7 Sawmill Rd.**

Continued on next page 9

You can register to VOTE with the Town Clerk, during office hours, before Sat. March 2nd, but you will not be officially added to the Voter Checklist until the Supervisors hold their session.

What to bring when registering to VOTE:

- **Proof of identity:** a photo ID such as a driver's license or passport.
- **Proof of age:** an ID with your birth date, as listed above, to prove you are 18 or older.
- **Proof of citizenship:** birth certificate or citizenship papers. Marriage certificate or legal paperwork if you had a name change.
- **Proof of domicile:** such as: an ID, a utility bill, a pay stub, or current registration, showing your name and physical address.

Need an absentee ballot?

If you need an absentee ballot, please contact the Town Clerk for an Absentee Ballot Request form or find it on the State of NH, Secretary of State website. You must be a registered voter to receive an absentee ballot. Not sure if you are registered? Contact the Town Clerk's office at: townclerk@greenfield-nh.gov.

TOWN ELECTIONS
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024
Location: The Meeting House,
at 776 Forest Road
Time: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
 Want to help count ballots after voting?
Please email or call the Town Clerk.
 Town Meeting continues on March 16th at the
 Meeting House at 9am



**HARRIS CENTER
FAMILY PROGRAMS**

GET OUT AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

Programs from Harriscenter.org

Thursday, February 8, 22

Nature's Playground Play Group

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Join Harris Center naturalists and parent educators from The Grapevine and The River Center for last two mornings of child-centered, unstructured outdoor winter play. While your little ones build snow forts and sculptures, slide like otters, and practice using snowshoes, you'll have a chance to talk with other parents and caregivers.

Thursday, February 15

Easygoing Hike at Rand Brook Forest

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Join outdoor enthusiasts Ben Haubrich and Audrey Dunn for an easygoing ramble along Rand Brook Forest's woods roads and trails. Along the way, we'll search for signs of wildlife and enjoy a view of the Lyndeborough Mountains. Registration required.

Monday, February 26, 27, & 28

February Vacation Camp

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Harris Center (Hancock)

Join Harris Center teacher-naturalists for three active days in the great outdoors! Bring your curiosity and sense of wonder as we explore our favorite trails, giant boulders, and secret dens.

Saturday, March 2

Royalston Falls Hike

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join longtime hike leaders Brian Bishoff and Denny Wheeler for a 2.5-mile roundtrip hike along gorgeous Falls Brook, which features numerous cascades, glacial potholes, and 45-foot Royalston Falls.

Sunday, March 10

Environmental Studies Institute: Coffee with the Birds

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Join Phil Brown and Ignacio Oreamuno for a series of winter wanderings in tucked-away places close to the Harris Center. Each exploration will focus on a different natural history theme related to the conditions that present themselves that day.

This is just a sample of the wonderful programs at the Harris Center for Conservation in Hancock.

For more information on any of these events, please contact Susie Spikol at (603) 525-3394 or by email at spikol@harris-center.org.



THE GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Greenfield Conservation Commission is charged with the protection of natural resources and playing a critical role in evaluating and commenting on conservation plans and wetland permit applications; educating and informing town boards and the public. We work hard to ensure that Greenfield remains a healthy place to live, work, and enjoy all the beautiful natural areas our town has to offer.



Enjoying Nature in Winter

By Tom Bregani
Conservation Commission Vice Chair



East Road Wetland with North Pack Monadnock

Getting outside for walk through field or forest in winter offers a unique perspective of the world compared to the other seasons. Some features, like landforms, cellar holes, and stonewalls are easier to see. Views are less complicated, seemingly less diverse, and more open. Best of all, with no bugs, you can wander freely

into frozen wetlands! Along the way, the cold, fresh air you experience will be invigorating and rejuvenating to mind and body.

Explore nature on a grand scale by wandering over hills, through valleys, or along a river. Using binoculars, you can sweep the landscape to see hidden details. Alternatively, you can choose to observe nature on the minute scale, through a magnifying glass. The unaided eye can be quite satisfying as well.



Hogback Pond with muskrat lodge

Where to go

We have many class VI roads in Greenfield to wander over. They offer easier travelling compared to trails into our great outdoors and avoid street traffic and noise. In my neighborhood, Pine Ridge Road, Savage Road, the George Proctor Town Forest, and Dunklee Road provide quick getaways. Every part of

town is close to similar offerings. A look at our Natural Resources Inventory, a document posted on the Town Website's Conservation Commission page, provides a detailed look at what is available for exploration. For example, there are maps covering road inventory (Map 2), topography (Map 4), surface waters and wetlands (Map 12), land cover (Map 16), and conservation lands (Map 21). Studying these maps can help you plan an outing.

What to see

I bring along my favorite winter field handbook, *A Guide to Nature in Winter*, by Donald W. Stokes, illustrated by Deborah Prince and the author (hereafter called the Guide). This book is

a collection of eight guides covering winter weeds, snow, wintering trees, evidence of insects, winter's birds and abandoned nests, mushrooms in winter, tracks in the snow, and woodland evergreen plants. Just knowing that there are things to discover in each of these categories will sharpen your observational skills along the way.

Winter weeds

A closer look at some dried flowers with a hand lens exposes hidden star-shaped symmetry and a straggling parachute seed. Using the Stokes Guide, you discover that the plant is an Aster with an interesting story.



From the Stokes Guide

Trees

The stories of our trees begin with their identification. In our Natural Resources Inventory Chapter 7 you will find listed, by family, the flora of our town as passionately catalogued by resident Larry Winchester (deceased). Trees are on the list which help narrow down the possibilities. In the Guide, Stokes advises us to first learn about the six most common deciduous trees – oak, maple and ash, beech, birch, and aspen, as well as the evergreens. He includes useful sketches of their buds and many natural histories. A special place in our town is the Spruce Swamp in the State Park where Black Spruce and other water-loving plants thrive.



Black Spruce



(Black) Spruce Swamp State Park

Also of note is understanding that the assemblage of trees you encounter is the result not only of our general climate, but also of disturbances such as storms, fungi, insects, fire, and humans through harvesting and past clearing for farming. The well-illustrated book, *The Nature of New Hampshire*, by Ben Sperduto and Ben Kimball (2011) presents accessible explanations of our eight natural communities from alpine to seacoast.

Continued on next page

Insects

On tree trunks you may see unusual “carved” patterns and on plant stems odd ball-shaped growths. The Guide includes a discussion of evidence of insects primarily as egg tunnels and caves made by beetles living under the bark and galls found on plant stems. Galls are deformations, spherical or more simple bulges, caused by insects seeking food and shelter. Their formation remains poorly understood, but some insects overwinter within them.

Birds, birds’ nests

In our NRI Chapter 8 you can find an extensive list of birds catalogued initially by Fred Briscoe (deceased) and updated by others. Listed winter residents include the goshawk, rough legged hawk, snowy owl, bohemian waxwing, red poll, pine siskin, evening grosbeak, pine grosbeak, and tree sparrows. The Guide includes several fine sketches of birds’ nests found in winter as well as many winter bird life histories. Get outside to enjoy the treat of seeing some of these winter birds and nests!

Mushrooms, lichens

The shelves you see protruding from trees and fallen logs are non-green plants and called Bracket Fungi. There are numerous species. Identification begins with a close look at the undersides. The Guide explains the four groups and then offers other clues. For the more curious, you will need a dedicated field guide such as Fascinating Fungi of New England by Lawrence Millman.



Shelf mushrooms



Lichens are similarly complex and numerous. Abundant in our area are Common Greenshield lichens often growing as yellow green circular patches on tree bark. They are harmless to the trees and when viewed with a hand lens reveal intricate beauty. On rock ledges and boulders, we can find Smooth Rock Tripe. A great reference is Lichens of the North Woods by Joe Walewski.



Greenshield Lichen



Smooth Rock Tripe Lichen

Animal signs

When there is snow, it’s fun to try and identify what animal left those tracks. The NH Fish and Game “Pocket Tracking Guide” is downloadable from Track Card (<https://www.wild-life.nh.gov/education/curriculum-resources>). There is also a Scat Card!

Evergreen plants

Shrubs that appear to thrive in winter include mountain laurel and juniper. I am amazed to see ferns such as Christmas Ferns and Polypody still green in winter. Wintergreen can be abundant on the forest floor. Break open a leaf and take a sniff! The Guide covers more than two dozen natural histories of these amazing winter survivors.




Wintergreen

More to see

Beyond the prompts offered by A Guide to Nature in Winter, there is more natural history to discover. For example, many glacial landforms can be found in Greenfield – eskers, drum-lins, glacial lake deltas and drainage outlets. Our kettle ponds with sphagnum moss mats, streams, swamps offer many opportunities to study their ecology in any season.

I encourage you to go outside to enjoy the great beauty of our own natural world. The more often you go, the more you will see, especially if you trek slowly. Take along a field guide covering a topic of interest to you and dive into its diversity. Enjoy!

Tom Bregani can be reached at tbregani@hotmail.com



GUIDED WINTER WALK

Tom Bregani and Mike Gagnon from the UNH Extension will be leading an *easy casual winter nature walk from 10:00 to 11:30 am* in the State Park on **Saturday, March 9th** to explore nature in the ways described above!

Meet by the RR tracks on the park entrance road. Park in the State Park or at Oak Park. *Dress warmly and wear boots.*

We will send a reminder via our email list and display posters around town. To get on our email list, just send a note to com@greenfield-nh.gov.

Brought to you by the Greenfield Conservation Commission.



Sundays at the Meeting House

**Worship Service
10:00AM
Potluck Fellowship After Service**



GREENFIELD BIBLE CHURCH

www.greenfieldbiblechurch.org

Greenfield's
FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHES CLOSET

**12 DEPOT DRIVE • OFF SLIP ROAD
WATCH FOR SIGNS**

OPEN HOURS
Food Pantry: Saturdays, 9 - 12 Noon
Clothes Closet: Saturdays, 10 - 12 Noon

Both the Food Pantry and the Clothes Closet are ministries of the Greenfield Covenant Church. Food items are available to all who need assistance and there is always an abundance of good, clean clothing at reasonable prices.

Donations of food and clothing are always welcome. (You can donate food items at the Greenfield Post Office or on Saturday mornings at the Food Pantry. Good, clean clothing can be dropped off at the Ministry Center Drop Box or on Saturday mornings at the Clothes Closet. To all of our friends who contribute to our GCC Food Pantry, THANK YOU!! Your contributions go a long way in help those who are experiencing food insecurity.

Greenfield Covenant Church • 12 Depot Drive
*Ministry to Greenfield, the Eastern Monadnock Region
and beyond since 1791*
www.greenfieldchurch.org • 603-547-3626
Worship 10:00 AM on Sundays

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If you'd like to sponsor an issue of the Greenfield Spirit, please email greenfieldspirit@gmail.com. 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.



Spring
15 COMING

SPIRIT EMAIL

GreenfieldSpirit@gmail.com
Next deadline: March 1, 2024
for the Apr/May Issue



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Happy St. Patrick's Day



FRIENDS OF THE GREENFIELD COMMUNITY MEETINGHOUSE NEWS

By Jesseca Timmons, Secretary

In December, the FGCM bid farewell to one of our founding board members when Ray Cilley, our Vice Chair, rolled off the FGCM Board after almost five years. We could not have launched the FGCM without Ray. For those of you who don't know Ray, he is an "out of the box" thinker who always has a million ideas going at once. He came up with many of the ideas that set the FGCM on our path forward and in the right direction. (One idea was that the FGCM have an office upstairs in the Meetinghouse, which has been essential for storage and organization). Ray's expertise in the world of construction has been invaluable as we started the process of working with architects, developing the design, and prioritizing repairs and construction.

Ray was instrumental in getting Oktoberfest, our primary fundraiser and community event, off the ground. Over the past four years, he did everything from set up chairs and install fencing to lend us his generator and organize a crew of friends and family to lend a hand. Ray donates the wood for our Wood Raffle every year, which has brought in thousands of dollars in sales for our Building Fund. Ray also took on the job of securing our one-day liquor license for the first three years, which is no easy task! We are grateful that Ray has offered to stay on as an informal advisor of the FGCM as he moves on to countless new projects...we know he always has something exciting in the works. Thank you, Ray, for all your hard work and dedication to the FGCM! As I wrote this, we were looking for a new board member to replace Ray, so hopefully, we will be able to announce that in the next issue of the Spirit.

This year, for the Fire Department's third Fire and Ice event, the Friends handed the Festival of Trees over to the wonderful staff at Stephenson Library. Many thanks to Ella Cadermatori and David Bridgewater for making this happen, to library staff and volunteers for their help, and to all the families who brought trees into the library! What a joy to see the trees light up in the windows of the library as we drive through town! We hope this tradition will continue, and we're already think-



ing about what we can do during Fire and Ice to bring people into the Meetinghouse next year. We are very proud that our own awesome cooking team of "Sharon and Warren" took on the cooking for Fire and Ice this year...they served up hot dogs and Warren's fabulous chili to over 300 people!!!

The FGCM is still recovering from our action packed fall—our biggest ever Oktoberfest, followed by a second storytelling with Sebastian Lockwood. At the same time, all our board members were working hard complete our portion of the Town of Greenfield's CDFA grant application, AND, we were completing paperwork for a charitable gaming partnership with the New Hampshire Group. We would like to thank Senator Denise Ricciardi, our state senator for NH District 9, for her help in making the FGCM aware of this amazing fundraising opportunity. We somehow lucked into the New Years Eve time slot for this partnership with Lakes Region Casino, which is a partner in the "Rebels With a Cause" legalized gaming fundraising program for New Hampshire nonprofits (<https://playlikearebel.com/charitable-giving/>). We looking forward to learning how much we raised for the Meetinghouse Building Fund during our two week partnership!

Please stayed tuned for upcoming FGCM events! For more information about the FGCM and the Meetinghouse renovation project, please go to greenfieldmeetinghouse.org, email greenfieldmeetinghouse@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

**TOWN BUDGET HEARING
FEBRUARY 8th
AT THE MEETING HOUSE
6:30 PM**



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FROM OUR SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Happy New Year Greenfield Residents!

There are many updates to share around all things related to our schools. In addition to the annual budget development process, we are also in the middle of several other “activities” that could impact future budgets and property taxes including the reconfiguration project and the appeal of the Contoocook Valley School District et al v. The State of New Hampshire lawsuit. While we wait for a decision from the courts on the state’s appeal around education funding, the budget and a warrant article concerning the articles of agreement along with a one-year amendment to the teacher’s contract will be brought forward for your consideration. (For more information on the budget, the reconfiguration project, public meeting agendas and minutes or to learn more about what’s happening in our school’s visit: www.conval.edu)

The deliberative session is scheduled for February 6th at ConVal High School beginning at 6:00pm. This is the meeting where the voters have the opportunity to discuss, vote on and possibly amend the budget or a warrant article that is on the proposed warrant. Structured much like our Greenfield annual town meeting, voters at the school district deliberative session decide the final wording of the warrant articles to send on to the March 12th ballot and elections at the polls. The proposed operating budget is \$58,370,749, up from \$56,106,282, representing a 4.04 percent increase over the prior year. After years of working on your behalf to bring forward budget increases at or below 2 percent, the combination of inflation, one-time federal funding being exhausted, and deferring requests for resources for our middle and high school programs, the 2024/2025 operating budget reflects the needs of the district to maintain 11 schools. With underutilized space and resources spread thin, the proposed budget reflects the minimum amount needed to fund programs and services associated with providing our students with an education that meets and exceeds federal and state mandated requirements and reflects local educational goals set by the school district. The warrant also requests voter approval for \$1,229,388 to amend the collective bargaining agreement reached between the ConVal School Board and the ConVal Education Association. Attracting and retaining educators has never been more challenging and this request allows ConVal to offer competitive salaries in our region. To address over a decade of deliberations and study around declining enrollment, the warrant will also request the voters approve, with a 2/3 majority, a change to the Articles of Agreement which requires the district maintain 8 elementary schools. This change would require that the district maintain 4 elementary schools (Greenfield, Hancock, Antrim and Peterborough) and allows the option to maintain the rest. The driving force behind this initiative is simply to provide the best education possible for our children and grandchildren in the most cost effective and safe manner. A community forum will be held on February 8th at 7:30 pm at the high school around this important topic.

Finally, I write to announce that I will not seek reelection to the ConVal School Board this March. It has been an honor to serve in this role over the past seven years— from start to finish. I am grateful to live in a supportive and responsive community and I see the core values of the district —fostering caring and cooperative relationships, respecting differences, pursuing academic excellence, and cultivating community—reflected by our town daily. While I have three children who gleaned so much from their education and are now on unique paths as young adults, my service was far from being just about them. For me it was about the Greenfield/ConVal community—the faculty, the administration and staff, the families, our towns, and, first and foremost, all of our students. I thank you all sincerely for this opportunity.

Respectfully,
Katherine Heck, ConVal School Board, Greenfield Representative
kheck@conval.edu

CONVAL DELIBERATIVE SESSION - February 6th at ConVal High School - 6 pm

COMMUNITY FORUM - February 8th at ConVal High School - 7:30 pm

EASY WINTER ACTIVITIES

Here are some easy winter projects to pass the time that anyone can do. All four can be accomplished without even stepping outside, especially if the weather is nasty.



January 1 - March 31 - NH Fish & Game's 2023 Winter Turkey Flock Survey, began on Jan. 1 and continues through Mar. 31. Look out your window. Do you have a flock near you? Observations can be reported from anywhere in NH, not just here in Greenfield. You can find out how to participate in this important project by visiting <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/surveys/turkey.html>.



February 10 & 11 - NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey will take place on the weekend of Feb. 10 and 11. You can count the birds that visit your feeders and/or any that you see overhead, on the ground, and even in the water. Count and record whatever birds you can see from your backyard. This means that you might have a sighting of a bird flying overhead, or swimming in the river bordering your yard. If you can see it while standing in your house or yard, you can report it. Visit <https://nhbirdrecords.org/bwbs-reporting-and-forms/> to obtain the required forms.

February 16 - 19 - On Feb. 16 through 19, you can help researchers at The National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Birds Canada by taking part in the 26th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you. Identify them, count them, and submit them to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. Unlike the NH Audubon survey, this one is done in real-time, online. Learn more at birdcount.org.



March 14 - From 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Mar. 14, the Harris Center for Conservation presents the Salamander Crossing Brigade Workshop on Zoom. Learn how to aid amphibians in crossing well-traveled roads during their spring migration, by scooping them up by hand and depositing them safely on the other side, on one or more "Big Nights". Register for this training by calling Brett Amy Thelen at (603) 525-3394 or email to thelen@harris-center.org.

Before you know it, spring will be here and it will be time to plant flowers for the bees and butterflies!

Brought to you by the Greenfield Conservation Commission

SPONSOR THE SPIRIT

If you'd like to sponsor an issue of the Greenfield Spirit, please email:

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Apr-May issue deadline: March 1, 2024



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