

"Your Local Weekly Since 1868 ♦ A Tradition Worth Keeping"

# THE Messenger

Free ♦ Our 144th Year ♦ Issue 40 ♦ October 5, 2012

## Teacher of the Year

In 2002, Hillsboro-Deering High School was named a High School of Excellence. On Monday, the faculty, staff and students learned that the school is also home to the 2013 NH Teacher Of The



Year. H-D Music Director Heidi Welch was presented that honor by NH Commissioner of Education Virginia M. Barry. See story and photo on page 3.



New London Hospital has announced the opening of a new art exhibit featuring five area artists and will be on view until January. A portion of all sales benefits the programs of the Hospital (left to right) David Bashaw, Mark Vernon, Yvonne Shukovsky, Bruce King, Connie Leathers.

# School's future?

## Saturday meeting at Whipple Hall

Selectman Janet Kidder suggested that New London Selectmen establish a committee to come up with a proposal regarding the future of the 1941 school building. Tina Helm thought that there should be a public meeting for people to bring up their ideas first. She thought they should have two key questions and keep the discussion focused as to not rehash what has been discussed before.

Helm said that there has been a lot of discussion about this issue and she would like to "quasi-clean" the slate and have a public forum for those who are interested in sharing

their ideas. Questions they could direct to the participants would be something like "If you could dream what would be the best use of the building, what would it be?" and "If you perceive "x" as the best use, should Town monies be attributed to it?"

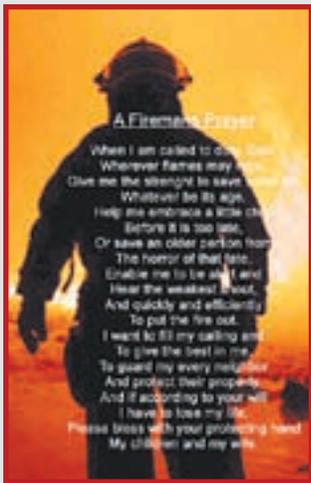
Bianchi said that after the public meeting, an eight-member committee could be formed to come up with a proposal. It was decided that Saturday, October 6th at the usual CAC meeting (7:30am – 9:00am) would be a good time. It could be held at Whipple Hall to accommodate more people.

## Grantham chowder sweeps the Sunapee awards

In what could be called a decisive victory, the Grantham Farmers' Market entry walked away with all of the top honors at the Annual Sunapee Chowder Challenge on Sunday.

The Grantham chowder won the Judges, Kids' and the Peoples' Choice. Awards. Defend-

ing champion, Sanctuary Dairy Farm with Chef Rich Ducharme of Sunapee took the Second Place Peoples' Choice Award with the Lil' Red Baron of Newport placing third. Of the 11 entries in the competition, several were past champions.



## Firefighter's Salute

See pages 20-21



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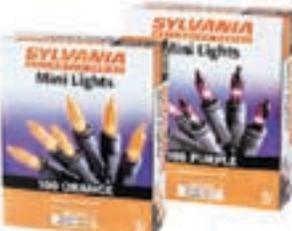
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The Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce sponsored its Annual Schnitzelfest on Saturday, complete with the traditional oompa band.

### Peterborough 911 call prevents burglary

Peterborough Police received a 911 call regarding a possible burglary in process at some storage units on Upper Union Street. The caller reported seeing two men taking items from a unit and loading them into the back of a pickup truck. Corporal Craig Edsall and Officer Martin Kolb responded, and arrested Nicholas Kierstead, 19, of Peterborough. The other man ran off but has been identified and an arrest warrant has been issued.

### Newbury's cold weather drive starts now

Newbury's family services department will be holding a fall cold weather drive the week of October 22-26. The family services director is looking for coats, hats, gloves and scarves only. There is especially a need for kids' items. Please leave all donations in the receptacles in the town office lobby. The annual giving tree will be put up in the town office lobby by November 6th. Please help to make a child's dream come true by taking a snowflake and buying that child the gift they wished for. All gifts must be wrapped and under the tree by December 7th. There is also a great need for items in our food pantry. Foods such as macaroni and cheese, tuna fish, baking items, Spaghettios, toilet paper, paper towels, and sundries are greatly appreciated. Family services also works hand-in-hand with the South Newbury Union Church in giving out holiday baskets to those in need during the holidays. Monetary donations can be sent to the South Newbury Union Church, P.O. Box 37, Newbury, NH 03255 or foods such as cranberry sauce, juice, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, fruit pie mix and crust. All items can be left in the receptacle in the town office lobby. If anyone has any questions, or would like to help in other ways, they can call the town office at 763- 4940 and ask for Gail Bostic.

### Concert benefits Smith Church painting

Just Desserts, a popular band local to Hillsborough, hosts the acclaimed monthly event The Open Door, a Community Coffee House in the function hall at Smith Church in downtown Hillsborough. In addition to the talent of the performers and the support of the audience, Just Desserts owes much of the success of The Open Door to Smith Church, which provides free use of their space. Just Desserts will show their appreciation for this generosity by performing in concert, with ticket proceeds to benefit Smith Church's "Paint the Church" fund. The concert will be held on Saturday, October 27th, up-stairs at Smith Church, 30 West Main Street, Hillsborough. The evening includes music by Just Desserts from 7pm to 8pm and delicious desserts served downstairs immediately following the concert. Tickets are \$10 per person, and include both the music and the desserts. Tickets can be purchased by calling 464-3529; or you can buy yours at Sweet Expressions, located at 27 West Main Street, Hillsborough.



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# Hillsborough's Heidi Welch named 2013 NH Teacher Of The Year

During a surprise ceremony at Hillsboro-Deering High School on Monday, NH Commissioner of Education Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., announced that Heidi Welch, a music teacher at Hillsboro-Deering High School, was selected as the 2013 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year. In receiving this award, Welch becomes NH's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

"The NH Teacher of the Year isn't the best teacher in the State, but is chosen to represent the many excellent teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning in their classrooms. Heidi will serve as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers in NH."

Heidi Welch has been teaching for sixteen years, the last fourteen at Hillsboro-Deering High School. The selection committee recognized her passion for education, the excitement she brings to the classroom and her ability to reach every student. She possesses boundless commitment to support and guide the successes of her students. She realizes that literacy is the key to being truly free and strives to engage students in this pursuit through music. Literacy through music means that her students study American history in the context of the music of peoples lives and the times, that students read the plays to which they are performing the scores, and that reading is fundamental but literacy means so much more. Heidi wrote in her application, "I knew that education was the key to a door that would lead me out of a life of poverty and fear and into a life of freedom and opportunity. I entered college with the dreams of becoming a British Literature teacher but within only a few weeks, I found the pull of being a music teacher too much to ignore. I knew

that if music education allowed me to find myself as a student, instilled in me a passion for the arts and for learning, and gave me a chance to push myself in ways that I never thought possible, that it would surely do the same for other young people trying to find where they fit. I would give them a chance to learn, to express themselves, and most of all to find a safe place to call home for a few hours a day: a space where they belonged, were part of a group that was achieving excellence, and learned valuable life lessons along the way. I may be a music educator, but I stress the educator first, and education in my mind begins with the ability to read. Literacy in and through the arts is a passion for me and will continue to be. Though music is my filter, literacy is my ultimate

goal, because my message to my students will continue to emulate Fredrick Douglass's words from long ago. When you can read AND WRITE you are truly free, and through music education everyone can find a way to sing."

Her principal Jim O'Rourke said, "Heidi continually looks for ways to improve student learning and motivation in her classroom. She has strong educational values, high expectations, and demands excellence of every student. Her leadership style and caring nature in working with students and parents is exceptional. I have observed her interactions with many students, parents, teachers, and administrators and she presents herself in a respectful and professional manner."



NH Commissioner of Education Virginia Barry (l) presents HDHS Music Director Heidi Welch (r) with a plaque in recognition of her selection as 2013 NH Teacher Of The Year.



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# TAKE YOUR MEDICINE



BY SARAH CHAPIN

Metformin, which is commonly used to control blood sugar levels in type 2 diabetes, also substantially reduces the effects of uveitis, an inflammation of the tissues just below the outer surface of the eyeball according to a study published in Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science. Uveitis causes 10 to 15 percent of all cases of blindness in the United States, and is responsible for an even higher proportion of blindness globally. The only treatment now available for the disorder is steroid therapy, which has serious side effects and cannot be used long-term.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic versions of Boniva (ibandronate) tablets, a once-monthly product to treat or prevent osteoporosis in women after menopause. The most common type of bone disease, osteoporosis, is characterized by low bone mass and structural deterioration of bone tissue, leading to bone fragility and an increased risk of fractures of the hip, spine, and wrist. According to the National Institutes of Health, in the United States more than 40 million people either already have osteoporosis or are at high risk due to low bone mass. Ibandronate is in a class of medications called bisphosphonates that help increase bone mass and reduce the chance of having a spinal fracture. Generic drugs approved by FDA have the same high quality and strength as brand-name drugs and provide a lower cost alternative. The generic manufacturing and packaging sites must pass the same quality standards as those brand name drugs.

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Overcast skies did not deter the visitors to the annual Music On Main Street celebration sponsored by the Spirit Of Henniker Organizational Team (SHOT) on Saturday.

## Olde Fashioned Christmas December 8th

Planning has begun for Hillsborough Pride's 2012 Olde Fashioned Christmas Celebration, which will be held on December 8th. The committee will meet on October 10th at 2 p.m. at the office of Red Coat Travel. Civic groups, churches or businesses who wish to participate in this year's event are welcome to send a representative. If unable to attend but still want to participate, please call committee Chair Leigh Bosse at 464-3388.

## Free Coat Fridays on Newport Common

Coats for the Community sponsored by United Way of Sullivan County will be giving away free coats on four Fridays in October. The Free Coat Fridays will be held on the Newport Common Oct. 5 and 19 and at the Claremont Savings Bank on Broad Street Oct. 12 and 26. United Way personnel will man the four locations from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on those days. Free Coat Fridays are open to the public. There will be warm clothing for the entire family including coats, hats, mittens, scarves, sweaters, sweatshirts, pants and warm childrens' clothing. Gently used clothing is currently being accepted. Drop off locations include Lake Sunapee Bank, Sugar River Bank and Claremont Savings Bank, three locations each.

## Peterborough woman facing felony DWI

Police have arrested a Peterborough woman on felony DWI charges after a Sunday crash on Route 101 in Marlborough. Reports indicate that Rebecca L. Reed, 22, was driving eastbound on Route 101 early Sunday morning, when her car left the roadway and crashed head-on into a large pine tree. Reed was taken to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Keene. Her passenger, Kristopher J. Powers, 23, also of Peterborough, suffered life-threatening injuries in the crash. He was also taken to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene, but later transferred by ambulance to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, where he was in intensive care at last report. Authorities believe speed and alcohol consumption contributed to the crash, and Reed was charged with felony DWI and an open container violation.

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## Henniker Community School students study Contoocook watershed

Ever wonder where the water from a raindrop that lands on the top of Pats Peak ends up? That's exactly the type of question inquisitive Henniker 5th grade science students will answer as they study the Contoocook River and watershed this October in class and with the US Army Corps of Engineers. For the last five years, Henniker Community School science teacher Donna Furlong has taken her 5th grade students onto the Contoocook River in rafts to study the depth and width of the river and test the water for pH, phosphorous, and dissolved oxygen. "This year we've added a few things to the project," says Furlong. "We'll be working with the US Army Corps of Engineers mapping the watershed of the Contoocook, and when we're finished students really will know where that raindrop from the Peak ends up!" continues Furlong.

US Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Karen Hoey will also be coming into Furlong's classroom to talk with the students about the Great Flood of 1938 and how it impacted businesses and those who lived in Henniker at the time, especially those who lived along the Contoocook River. Ranger Hoey will also speak to the students about why the Hopkinton Dam was built and the Federal Government's process to acquire the land necessary for the flood control zone. "A great education is all about bringing it to life, to the individual students' life," says Henniker Community School Principal Katherine McBride of Furlong's river study project. The New Hampshire sci-



Henniker Community School students get hands-on experience. Courtesy Photo.

ence curriculum for the 5th grade calls for the study of watersheds. "Not only does Donna's river study project have kids studying watersheds and land forms, she has them in rubber rafts on the Contoocook taking water samples and studying the chemical properties of the water. Then she has them working side by side with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Now that's lively teaching," continues McBride. Furlong will also integrate technology into her river study project by collaborating with the school's Technology Integration Specialist, Leanne Chauvette. "Adding technology to projects whenever you can is a must in teaching today," says Furlong.

"During various stages of the project, my students will be taking still pictures and video with Mrs. Chauvette and creating audio podcasts. All of this information will be placed on a dedicated site to share with others," continues Furlong. The first phase of the river study project began on Friday, October 5, 2012 as the students and teachers went to the Contoocook River to gather water samples and take various measurements. Ranger Hoey will be coming into the classroom later this month. The NH Department of Environmental Services is lending Furlong some of their models and their Incredible Journey Water Cycle Game for use in her instruction.

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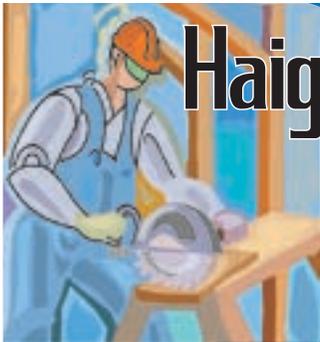
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Summercrest residents entertained those assemble on Newport's Common for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk on Saturday.

## Antrim Lions hosts candidates' Forums

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club will be hosting three Candidate Forums aimed at voters interested in learning more about the State House and Senate candidates. All sessions will take place on the second floor of the Antrim Town Hall and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a "meet and greet" until 7:00 p.m. followed by a ninety-minute "question and answer" session. During the Q + A voters will be able to input their questions on 3" x 5" cards for the moderators to ask the candidates. The three forums are as follows:

### Tuesday, October 9, 2012

#### New Hampshire Senate District 8

Candidates: Bob Odell (R)      Christopher Wallenstein (D)  
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.      Meet and Greet, Refreshments  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.      Q + A Antrim Town Hall  
(District 8 includes Antrim, Bennington, Deering, Frances-town, Hillsborough, Weare, Windsor as well as additional Towns)

### Monday, October 15, 2012

#### New Hampshire House District 1

Candidates: Robert A. Fredette (R) Holly L. Mecheski (R)  
Marjorie A. Porter (D) Gilman Shattuck (D)  
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.      Meet and Greet, Refreshments  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.      Q + A Antrim Town Hall  
(District 1 includes Antrim, Hillsborough and Windsor)

### Thursday, October 18, 2012

#### New Hampshire House District 38

Candidates: Fred Edelblut (R) Alexandra B. Riley (R)  
Richard D. McNamara (D) Richard Eaton (D)  
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.      Meet and Greet, Refreshments  
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.      Q + Antrim Town Hall  
(District 38 includes Antrim, Bennington, Frances-town, Greenfield, Greenville, Hancock, Hillsborough, Lyndeborough, Wilton and Windsor)

If you have questions please contact Dick Loveland at [ral@gsinet.net](mailto:ral@gsinet.net) or 603.478.1344.

# Henniker Bed Races to become an Olympic Sport?

With crowds rivaling those at the NASCAR Races in Loudon, the Annual Bed Races held as part of Henniker's Music On Main Street drew flocks of spectators to witness this premiere athletic event. Defending champion Ayer & Goss was edged out by the team from Country Spirit Restaurant, with Intervale Pancake House placing

third. Henniker Veterinary Clinic won the "Most Creative" trophy. In a case of questionable tactics, it is rumored that the Vets were sending donuts to the Ayer & Goss team in hopes of fattening up and slowing down their runners. Ayer & Goss returned the "favor" by sending six packs of beer to the Vets.



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In celebration of the 225th signing of the Constitution during Constitution Week DAR members toured the NH State House and then enjoyed a luncheon together at the Upham Walker House in Concord. Pictured from left to right are: Janet Anderson, Susan Tullis and Janet Fortnam of the Buntin Rumford Webster Chapter, Sylvia Larsen member of the New Hampshire Senate, Carol Piroso, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Susan Oleson, Roxana Smith, and Mary Stuart of the Mercy Hathaway White Chapter.

**Newport Town & School extend pact**

Since July of 1985, the Town of Newport and the Newport School District have agreed on a "Control and Use Agreement" for the rights to operate and maintain six tennis courts, three basketball courts, a natural ice-skating rink, a multipurpose turf field in conjunction with a girls softball field, a 35 meter ski jump, a football field, a soccer area and the right to construct, operate a six lane running track at the site of the Newport Middle High School. At Monday's Selectman's meeting the board agreed to extend the agreement, which the School Board had previously done.

**Hikers rescued from Antrim mountain**

Nicholas Reid, 22, and Marissa Bryant, 21, of Peterborough started climbing Bald Mountain last Thursday. The pair took a wrong trill and back-tracking delayed their return until after dark. Reid then called the Antrim Police Department, which dispatched a rescue crew. Antrim Police N.H. Fish and Game located the two and returned them safely to the trailhead.

**Hearing on Sunapee noise ordinance**

After months of study, the Sunapee Selectmen have approved a Noise Ordinance and scheduled a Public Hearing for October 22nd at 7:00 p.m., prior to its adoption. As proposed it provides that:

1. It shall be unlawful to cause a breach of the peace by making loud and unreasonable noises between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am by unloading, opening, closing or otherwise handling of boxes, crates, containers, building material, trash cans, dumpsters or similar objects. OR between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:30 am Monday through Thursday and between 11:00 pm and 6:30 am Friday and Saturday and 10:00 pm to 8:30 am on Sundays and Holidays created by use of lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, lawn edgers and hammers and the like.

**Bradford Highway controversy simmers**

The controversy at the Bradford Highway Department and the status of Road Agent Jeff Remillard flared up again at last weeks Selectman's meeting. Dave Camarie, Sr. asked if there is enough proof of what Jeff Remillard has done. He wondered why, if the town has proof, he isn't he just fired? If this is out of the town's hands, and is in the Sheriff's Department, he should be off Bradford's books. Chair Harry Wright said with a little more patience, we'll see some results. Jon Marden added that he does not know what the full circumstances are here, but sooner or later, you need to fish or cut bait. "

## Newbury Fire Chief reminds us to always 'Have 2 Ways Out'

Newbury Fire Chief Henry Thomas reminds us that fire prevention week is October 7-13. The theme for 2012 is "Have 2 Ways Out." All residents should identify two ways out of each room in their home in case of a fire. In many cases, a second means of escape is a window. Families should determine where these escape routes are and list them in their fire emergency plan. The plan should be shared with the entire family and include a designated meeting place outside of the house. This plan should be discussed periodically with the family. Another way to be prepared for an emergency is to check to see if your street number is visible from the street so that fire, police and ambulance vehicles can easily find your home in an emergency. Newbury town ordinances require all homes and businesses to have a street address clearly marked on the home, mail box, sign or tree. Remember that reflective numbers lose their reflectivity after a few years and should be replaced with new ones. Also, be sure that overgrown trees and bushes are not obstructing the numbers.

Lastly, with the heating season upon us,

it is important to be sure all of your heating equipment is fire safe. Chimneys and stove pipes should be checked annually and

cleaned when necessary. Any new wood stove installations need a permit and inspection by the fire department.



Gwen Gaskell, of Washington, gave a presentation of "The Diaries" at the Franklin Pierce Homestead Monday night. She portrayed Clara Hurd, through information she read in her diary and other research she did to find out about Clara. This was part of the Hillsborough Historical Society Fall Programs.

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Mrs. Nye's first grade with Ginger Wentworth, para educator. Courtesy Photo.

## Henniker School joins "Jam Minute"

Mrs. Nye's first graders along with the entire Henniker Community School and kids from across the country participated in Jam Minute on September 27. Jam Minute, a national physical activity campaign, was created to rally everyone to pause and take just a minute for a fitness break. Henniker was among the 7,426 students and adults in New Hampshire to participate in Jam Minute. The goal was to set a new world record of 2 million jammers in the US; the total reached was: 1,297,728.

## Newbury Library offers October programs

Everyone is invited to two events that will be held at the Newbury library this fall. The first is a display of a beautiful collection of photographs of New England's most treasured covered bridges by renowned photographer Jeffrey Blackman. Covered Bridges of New England will be presented at the library on Sunday, October 7th at 1:00 p.m. Blackman's photography has been featured in many high-profile publications such as Life, Newsweek and National Geographic Traveler. He currently lives in Wilmot.

The second event scheduled for the library this season is Dwight Phetteplace, who will play his acoustic guitar on Monday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m. Phetteplace was born and raised in rural New Hampshire and is a graduate of Dartmouth College. He started seriously writing his own songs at the age of 40. He has an album entitled "Down the Merrimack" which will be available for purchase at his performance.

## Graffiti vandals hit Great Brook School

Vandals struck last week, leaving graffiti on the exterior walls and pavement at Antrim's Great Brook Middle School. Principal Jim Elder called the Antrim Police on September 24th to report a large amount of graffiti on the south side of the building, on the parking lot. Det. Jason LePine investigated and found the graffiti, including profanity and symbols, which were spray-painted on six different areas of the wall and parking lot. The police are without leads in the investigation; no arrests have been made. If caught, the vandals could be charged with a Class B misdemeanor, and trace fines and community service.

## Deering's Phil Bryce is DRED nominee

Governor John Lynch has nominated a Deering man to be the interim commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development. Phil Bryce will serve until a new commissioner is named. Bryce is currently the Director of Parks.

# New London employee grows pot on town property

On the heels of last week's news of a major marijuana bust in Henniker comes news of a similar event in New London. George Mooshian, a wastewater operator for the Town of New London was placed on administrative leave Sept. 5 and fired Sept. 10, after being arrested and charged with a felony count for growing marijuana on town property.

He has been charged with a felony as police say he knowingly manufactured a quantity of marijuana with the intent to sell. Acting on an anonymous tip, authorities found 32 plants on a town wastewater treatment lagoon, behind the sewer plant on Frothingham Drive. The marijuana was mature and ready for harvest.

## Selectman named

The Henniker Selectmen opened their Tuesday meeting by standing for a moment of silence in honor of their colleague Tom Watman who died last week. During the meeting they appointed John Prieto to fill out Watman's term until elections in March.

Although the amount seized has not yet been measured, it is estimated at five pounds, with a street value of at least \$150,000. New London Police Chief Dave Seastrand believes the 42-year-old

Mooshian was probably also using town water and other materials to grow his crop. Depending on the amount seized, Mooshian could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$300,000 fine.



Hillsboro Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram is proud to announce the opening of their showroom on Antrim Road. The ribbon cutting event included Kevin Sutter and Dennis Roberts Jr., from the dealership, Meg Curtis from the Chamber, and Jack Wells of Hillsboro Pride. Dave Fullerton Photo.



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Monday at 5pm prior to Fri. publication.

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We will be responsible for errors in advertisements only to the extent of correcting the same in the next issue using space equal to the items in error.

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We will print signed letters to the editor on a space available basis. Letters should be no more than 250 words, typed or e-mailed. Letters must be signed but names may be excluded upon request.

**PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:**

We encourage individuals and groups to submit photos of their events or activities, either by mail or e-mail.

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We strive every day to present full, fair and accurate news reports. We will correct, in this space, factual inaccuracies in our coverage. We encourage readers to tell us if we have made a mistake.

**Also from the The Granite Quill:**

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## Guest Editorial *by Grant Bosse*

**SHOULD NH GET ON BOARD  
WITH COMMUTER RAIL?**

When it comes to transportation policy, you're either a train person, or you're not.

I'm not. When I was living in downtown DC, it was really convenient to take Amtrak into the center of Philadelphia or New York, and not have to deal with traffic or parking. It would be great if enough Americans rode the train to make passenger rail an efficient and profitable part of our transportation system. But they don't.

Former New Hampshire Senator John Sununu has been a leading opponent of subsidizing Amtrak's long-distance routes, which hemorrhage more money every year. Sununu added up the costs a year ago in his Boston Globe column, finding over half a billion in Amtrak operating losses in 2010, on top of a billion dollars in capital expenses, and \$1.3 billion in stimulus grants. 80% of Amtrak's losses come from 15% of passengers who travel long-distance. It would be cheaper for us to buy each a plane ticket than to have them buy a ticket on Amtrak.

These losses are nothing new. Amtrak has promised to get on track to self-sufficiency since it began in 1970.

You'd think Amtrak could at least make back a few bucks on concessions. Yet Amtrak's food service operation has lost money every year since Congress told it to start breaking even, in 1981.

Only Amtrak could lose \$80 million a year selling food to a captive audience. It spends \$16 to make a hamburger that it sells for \$9.50. Don't worry. It will make up the difference in volume.

Sure, taking the California Zephyr or the Sunset Limited across the country might be wasteful, but trains make money in the crowded Northeast Corridor, right? Sort of, if you don't count taxpayer funded capital costs. There are a few routes to and from New York that bring in more ticket revenue than they spend on operating costs.

Take the most successful passenger rail line in the country over the last decade, the Downeaster. This commuter train makes five trips daily between Boston and Portland, with New Hampshire stops in Exeter, Dover, and Durham. It's seen record

ridership this year.

This railroad success story makes enough money to fully pay half of its operating expenses. The taxpayers of Maine fork over \$7-\$8 million a year to keep the Downeaster rolling, much of it going to subsidize the daily commutes of workers who don't live, work, or shop in Maine. Be sure to thank them.

This week, the New Hampshire Business and Industry Association held a forum on the prospect of bringing a Downeaster-style commuter rail line through Central New Hampshire. The Capital Corridor Project would extend passenger rail service from Lowell up through Nashua and Manchester, eventually providing daily rail service from Concord all the way to Boston's North Station.

In addition to the annual operating losses that New Hampshire taxpayers would inevitably pick up, the Capital Corridor Project would cost around \$300 million to build. Extending the tracks just to Nashua would cost between \$60 to \$90 million.

Former NH Rail Transit Authority Chair Peter Burling points out bringing rail service to Nashua would qualify for a 50% federal match, but bringing it all the way to Concord would be 90% federally-funded. That's quite an incentive to choose the most expensive option on the table.

No one can claim that passenger rail would ever pay for itself, much less recover its construction costs. We would be paying for other people to take the train to Boston. Advocates tout vague and unverified claims of economic development, as if businesses and tourists are following the train tracks like it's 1870.

Housing and shopping may indeed cluster around new train stations, but there is scant evidence that passenger rail service does anything more than concentrate economic activity. It does not create it.

One thing we can all agree on, especially while stuck in traffic on I-93, is that other people really need to start taking the train more often. The question is how much are we willing to pay them to get out of our way.

**Grant Bosse is Vice-President  
for Media for the Josiah Bartlett  
Center for Public Policy**



## Another View *by Gilman Shattuck*

### COMMUTER RAIL IS WORTH IT

Last week, I traveled to New York City. I went from and to Concord on the bus to South Station, from South Station on Amtrak Regional (several stops), returning on Acela Express (three stops). This comfortable trip on the train made me think of what could have been possible with train service from Concord to Boston - and how off-base Grant Bosse was in his column about possible train service on this line and Amtrak service elsewhere. Amtrak train service on the Northeast Corridor between Boston and Washington is booming. All trains run at full or near capacity. This is the only Amtrak service that is profitable. It generates more than 50 percent of all Amtrak revenue. More than 54 percent of all air and train travelers between Boston and Washington ride on Amtrak. They have come to realize that trains are a much better alternative to the vagaries and discomforts of air travel between these cities and points between. We could have had this service many years sooner. The initial phase of the upgrade was completed in the 1970s. Congress refused to allow the completion for 20 years, so the Acela service did not start until 2000. Even though the Acela is an improvement that makes it effectively competitive with air travel, it does not begin to compare with service in other countries.

Train service between Vienna and Salzburg, Austria, allowing for the slightly longer distance between Boston and New York, will take 2:25 hours as of Dec. 1, compared to 3:30 on Acela. In France, where high-speed service has been in place for many years, comparable trips take even less time.

Amtrak is hobbled by Whims of Congress forcing service on low-usage lines and not allowing upgrades to tracks and equipment for high-speed service. Amtrak does not have the funding to add additional service.

#### Lowell to Concord

The proposed phased extension of commuter rail northward from Lowell, Mass., and eventually to Concord makes economic and social sense. Yes, it involves a substantial investment to rebuild the existing alignment to modern standards.

Yes, it will require a substantial subsidy for several years until passenger volume builds up. Commuter rail service has boomed where it has been encouraged and supported. Commuter rail has an enormous effect in the Boston area. More than 130,000 riders use the MBTA commuter rail service on weekdays. This was the pattern for the Downeaster service between Boston and Portland. This service began in 2001. Usage began slowly but has rapidly accelerated in the past three years to the point where it is the most rapidly growing line on the entire Amtrak system. Again, growth is limited by the availability of equipment. While perhaps the main intent of reinstating service on the line was for inter-city traffic, a very large and growing component of traffic is for commuters both into Boston and into Portland and intermediate points.

#### Subsidy is worth it

In years past, there was excellent regional and commuter rail service on the Concord-to-Boston line. There have always been job opportunities in Massachusetts and a need for commuter transportation. Because of the collapse of the rail system in New Hampshire, the only alternatives now are auto and bus transport. And an obsession to expand the highway system at huge cost and increasing air and noise pollution. The prospect for traffic on the Concord-to-Boston line is very encouraging. There is a much higher population density and commuter density on the corridor that would be served by this line. The prospect is excellent both for volume and growth.

Yes, it will require a substantial subsidy in its early years, but a substantial amount of federal money will be available in these years. It will require some subsidy on an ongoing basis. It will require coordinated development of feeder transportation and parking. Opponents of this service totally ignore the economic benefits and, more important, the Social benefits to the community that this service will bring. The huge impact of sharply reduced air and noise pollution, less need to destroy property for ever more lanes of highways. These benefits like all investments in infrastructure are continuing and keep paying off in the years ahead.

# THE Messenger

## Pick up your Messenger at:

**Antrim:** Antrim Marketplace, T-Birds, Rick & Diane's

**Bennington:** Harris Convenience, Albertos, Bennington Village Store, A Common Place

**Bradford:** Post Office, Lake Sunapee Bank, Appleseed, Cobble Farms

**Contoocook:** T-Bird, Colonial Village, Dimitris

**Deering:** Deering Town Hall

**Francestown:** Country Store

**Goffstown:** Sully's Superette, Town Office

**Greenfield:** Harvester Market

**Hancock:** Fiddleheads, Country Store

**Henniker:** Harvester Market, Country Spirit, Edmunds, Pharmacy, Henniker Farm Store, St. Georges Cafe, Town Hall

**Hillsborough:** Sweet Expressions, Shaw's, Diner, Williams' Store, The Corner Store, Lake Sunapee Bank, Sovereign Bank, Post Office

**Hopkinton:** Cracker Barrel, Town Hall

**Jaffrey:** Belletete's

**Newbury:** Marzelli's, Mobil, Out Spoken, Lake Sunapee Bank, Double Diamond, Post Office, Mountain Edge, Best Western, One Mile West, Tackle Shop

**New London:** Hannaford's, McKenna's, Colony Marketplace, Gallery, Pizza Chef

**Newport:** Violette's, Shaw's, Irving, T-Bird, Country Kitchen, Caronis Market

**Peterborough:** Belletete's, Agway, Shaw's

**Rindge:** Market Basket, Hannaford's

**Sunapee:** Sugar River Bank, Lake Sunapee Bank, Exxon

**Sutton:** General Store

**Warner:** Evan's Expressmart, Irving, Market Basket, Foothills

**Washington:** Washington General Store

**Weare:** Lancots, Couburns, Dimitries



Art, antiques and other treasures were available at the Newport's Library Arts Center (left photo) and at Weare's Osborne Memorial Hall (right photo).

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# Retired Mass police officer thwarts Washington burglary

On October 1st the Washington Police were called to Highland Haven Rd. for a report of a burglary in progress. Officer John Corrigan arrived and found a neighbor was blocking a vehicle being operated by Chantale L. Lyons, 24, reporting no permanent address. The neighbor, a retired 37 year police officer from Massachusetts reported that Lyons had stopped at his house and was asking questions that raised his suspicions. After she left he checked the area and located her and the vehicle at a neighbor's house. After blocking the road with his truck he directed a neighbor to call 911 while he watched Lyons from a

hidden position. He saw her force her way into a house and remove items, putting them in her van. She has been charged with Burglary, Operating After Suspension- Second Offense and Transportation

of Open Container. She is being held in the Sullivan County Jail pending \$25,000 cash bail. The investigation is on-going to determine if there are other victims based on the amount of items observed.

## Warner's installs granite steps

The Warner Selectmen reviewed the revised contract from Tasker Landscaping with the Director of Public Works and his foreman. There is \$14,941 in the capital reserve, Selectman Clyde Carson asked if there are any other projects and Town Administrator Laura Buono said the steps were the main project; The Board approve the quote for the steps amounts to \$9,200.



Stone Arch Tavern is open for business on West Main Street in Hillsborough. The ribbon cutting event included owners Bill and Kate Mayer, Meg Curtis of the Chamber and Jack Wells of Hillsborough Pride. Photo by Dave Fullerton.

## POT LUCK DINNER

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