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# SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 68th Year of Community Service / May 20-26, 2026

## American Singer-Songwriter Ben Folds Performs At Colonial



Acclaimed Emmy-nominated, singer-songwriter, Ben Folds will step onto The Colonial Theatre stage to entertain the audience on Sunday, June 7th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Folds is best known as the frontman of the alternative rock trio Ben Folds Five, and went on to score hits like *Brick* and *Underground*. He has released acclaimed solo albums, including *Rockin' the Suburbs* and *Songs for Silverman*. More recent projects were the release of the albums *Sleigher* and *What Matters Most*.

Folds has worked with artists Regina Spektor, “Weird Al” Yankovic, and William Shatner; a *New York Times* best selling author, and creator of new music for film, TV, and theater.

The Colonial Theatre is located at 95 Main Street in Keene. Tickets can be purchased by calling 603-352-2033 or visiting [www.thecolonial.org](http://www.thecolonial.org).

## Home Healthcare, Hospice And Community Services Honors Nurses During Nurses Month



Gloria Reed, Chelsea Nadeau, and Patricia Governor

For over a century, Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) has stood on a foundation built by nurses committed to meeting patients where they are. From traveling by foot and trolley in the early years to delivering specialized care today, HCS nurses have consistently led with compassion and innovation.

This Nurses Month, HCS honor the legacy of those who came before and reaffirm their commitment to supporting and advancing the next generation of nurses.

Nursing requires both skill and dedication. Providing care in rural communities calls for an added level of adaptability, independence, and deep connection to the people being served. At HCS, they recognize that meaningful care depends on shared knowledge and continuous learning, both within our organization and across the broader healthcare community.

HCS has partnered with the nursing program at Keene State College, strengthening the future of healthcare

in the region, for over a decade. They offer students hands-on experience in home care, foot clinics, and hospice, providing a meaningful introduction to rural healthcare where the connection between social conditions and health outcomes is especially apparent. These experiences help prepare students not only to deliver excellent care, but to understand the full context of patients’ lives.

One of the most exciting developments to emerge from the nursing collaboration and support initiatives is the growing vision for the Skills Lab at HCS as a shared community resource. Designed to support hands-on learning, the Skills Lab will provide a space where nurses, care aides, and nursing students can connect classroom knowledge with real-world practice. It will serve as a hub for ongoing education, skill validation, and cross-training, helping nurses grow confidently in their roles.

NURSES, page 16

## Sophia’s Hearth Launches Class For Expectant Parents

Adding an infant to the family for the first time comes with a long list of questions that new parents must navigate. To support families and help them find the joy in the first three years, Sophia’s Hearth will host an upcoming Joyful Beginnings class series. The class is four sessions, Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., and begins on May 27th. Financial assistance is available.

The class is designed specifically for expectant parents to welcome this new addition to the family with delight and confidence. Participants will learn the essentials of infant care, including feeding, sleep, diapering, development, health, safety, and more.

Joyful Beginnings will provide expert guidance from Sophia’s Hearth staff and faculty, who have been working with families of young children for over 25 years and include specialists in infant sleep, caregiving, and development. Each session includes ample time for questions and sharing personal experiences. Participants will also have access to resources after the classes conclude, along with a support network to grow with over time.

Registration is now open. For more details or to reserve a spot, visit [sophiashearth.org/joyfulbeginnings](http://sophiashearth.org/joyfulbeginnings) or call 603-357-3755.

## Cheshire Floral Farm Greenhouses Are Packed Full

Cheshire Floral Farm is more than ready for gardeners eager to get started planting for the season. There are five greenhouses filled with annuals and perennials, vegetable plants, house plants, and succulents. Outdoors has all sorts of perennials including hellebores, lavender, coreopsis, peony, hosta, heuchera, columbine, iris, pulmonaria, and others. The cole crop vegetable starters are also outside with rose bushes, lilacs, and spiraea for shrubs.

There is a sale on day lilies: \$12 a pot or six or more for \$10 each. Creeping phlox in eight-inch pots are on sale for \$16 each or five for \$60. All the plants for sale are grown onsite. The farm also stocks potting and supplies for all gardening needs.

Cheshire Floral Farm is located at 92 Pleasant St. in Marlborough. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. For more details, visit their Facebook page or call 603-355-7930.



Bob Powers of Cheshire Floral Farm holds up a hanging basket full of lantana in a greenhouse packed with a variety of plants ready for the garden. This greenhouse has hanging plants with million bells of many colors, petunias, and other flowering varieties, canna lilies, petunias, other varieties, and a large selection of herbs.

For more on spring planting, green living, and home renovation, see the special pull out section included in this week’s paper.

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**EARLY DEADLINE**  
All advertising and news for the May 27<sup>th</sup> issue of The Monadnock Shopper News must be in our office by **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** at 1:00 pm.  
Thank You!

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**Summer Home & Garden... 7-14**  
**Military Appreciation Month... 4 • Summer Camps... 6**

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**PET OF THE WEEK**  
from THE MONADNOCK HUMANE SOCIETY

**Odie**

Odie is a three-year-old Australian Shepherd with a big personality and an even bigger need for activity. He's a smart, energetic guy who thrives on a consistent daily routine, plenty of exercise, and enrichment to keep his mind busy. Chewing outlets like bones or pig ears go a long way in helping him stay happy and focused, and they're especially useful for preventing him from getting into things he shouldn't. Odie may feel a bit anxious when left alone, but his previous family found that giving him engaging enrichment made a big difference. He's potty trained and has done well living with children, including kids ages five and seven. He's lived peacefully with cats – he might give chase at first, but quickly loses interest and leaves them alone. Odie has all the makings of a loyal, fun-loving companion.



The Adoption Center is located at 101 West Swanzey Road, outside of Keene on Route 10 South. It's open Thursday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn more at [www.monadnockhumane.org](http://www.monadnockhumane.org).

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**Deep River Ramblers Presented By Peterborough Folk Music Society**



L to R are Jim Henry, Chris Brashear, and Paul Kochanski.

On Saturday, May 30th, Peterborough Folk Music Society presents the Deep River Ramblers in concert at Deb's House in Harrisville. The evening begins with a pot luck at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. Doors open 10 minutes before each event. For those wishing to participate in the pot luck, email [deb@pfmsconcerts.org](mailto:deb@pfmsconcerts.org) with RSVP and contribution. The address for Deb's House will be in the ticket email.

Ramblers combines the talents of well-known Chris Brashear and Jim Henry playing guitar, fiddle, mandolin, or dobro with bass player Paul "just make it sound good" Kochanski.

Attendees can expect to hear uncommon songs by their favorite artists, original songs, traditional tunes, and above all else, master musicians playing in service to their songs and stories.

Originally formed to play a Doc Watson tribute show, the Deep River Ramblers combines the talents of well-known Chris Brashear and Jim Henry playing guitar, fiddle, mandolin, or dobro with bass player Paul "just make it sound good" Kochanski. Attendees can expect to hear uncommon songs by their favorite artists, original songs, traditional tunes, and above all else, master musicians playing in service to their songs and stories. For more details or to purchase tickets, <https://pfmsconcerts.org> or call 603-318-9196.

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**Yard Sale To Benefit 3rd Congregational Church Set For Saturday, May 23rd**

The 3rd Congregational Church of Alstead will again hold one of its popular huge yard sales on Saturday, May 23rd at 9 a.m. at 32 West Surry Road in Keene.

Attendees will find items from multiple family estates, quality furniture, and much more. There will something for everyone. All proceeds will benefit the church.

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# Marlow's America 250 Celebration Planned

Marlow's America 250 Celebration will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 6th and 7th, with a weekend of community events recognizing Marlow's role in the American Revolution. Centered in Marlow Village, the celebration will feature historical presentations, military reenactments, music, family activities, food, and commemorative ceremonies honoring the town's Revolutionary War militiamen.

Saturday's events begin with a town parade through the village featuring Marlow Perkins Academy students dressed in period costumes, members of the 1st New Hampshire Regiment, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Infantry of the Foot, descendants of Marlow's militiamen, and Richard Wright portraying General John Stark, author of New Hampshire's famous motto, "Live Free or Die."

The parade will be followed by a Revolutionary War military encampment featuring reenactments, demonstrations, and cannon fire throughout the day. A rededication ceremony for the Soldiers Monument

will be held at Jones Hall, led by members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Major McKinley Camp No. 9.

Later in the morning, members of the Sons of the American Revolution will conduct a Patriot Grave Marking Ceremony at West Yard Cemetery as part of a nationwide effort to recognize Revolutionary War patriots.

Additional activities throughout the day will include children's games, a performance by the Nelson Town Band, and a community dessert potluck by the Odd Fellows Lodge. Historical Society of Cheshire County Senior Historian Alan Rumrill will present "Patriots and Loyalists: Revolutionary Dissension in a Cheshire County Town," exploring the tensions and divisions that emerged in the region during the Revolutionary era. Murray Hall will also host a colonial medicine display and presentation by former Marlow resident Barry Corriveau, featuring examples of 18th-century herbal remedies, apothecary tools, and battlefield medical practices.

The weekend celebration continues on Sunday afternoon with a theatrical performance of Abigail Adams – Liberty and Legacy at Jones Hall, followed by a Revolutionary Afternoon Tea at the Christmas Trees Inn for Marlow residents and their guests. All activities are free and open to the public.

Additional details may be found at the Marlow NH Historical Society website at [marlownhhistoricalsociety.org](http://marlownhhistoricalsociety.org).

# Sullivan Holds Yard, Plant, And Book Sales

May 22nd And 23rd

There will be Indoor/Outdoor Yard, Plant, and Book Sales on Friday and Saturday, May 22nd and 23rd at the Sullivan Congregational Church, Sullivan Fire Department, and (Saturday only) Sullivan Library.

This rain or shine event includes a yard sale at the church at 4 Church Street from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and includes assorted items like toys, kitchen and glassware, paintings, clothing, and more.

The fire department at 440 Centre Street will hold its yard sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is said to have something for everyone.

The library at 312 Centre Street will hold a plant and book sale, with perennials in many varieties and colors for \$3 each, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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### Marlborough Memorial Day Ceremony Sunday, May 24th

The American Legion Post 24 in Marlborough will hold a Memorial Day ceremony on Sunday, May 24th. The event will begin at noon at Pine Grove Cemetery on Granite Street.  
A parade will step off at 2 p.m. from Terrace Street to Marlborough School.

The events are part of the community's "250 Years Semiquincentennial Kickoff 1776 to 2026" observance.  
For more details, contact John F. Fletcher at 603-209-5267.

### Jaffrey Memorial Day Observance May 25th

The Town of Jaffrey, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5613, and the John Humiston American Legion Post 11 invite everyone to a Memorial Day observance, honoring and for giving thanks to the men and women who gave their lives for this country.  
This year the observance in Jaffrey will be on Monday, May 25th. At 7:30 a.m. Honor Guards and troops from the local veterans organizations, John Humiston American Legion Post #11 and Jaffrey Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5613 will visit cemeteries in town. Prayers will be offered, taps played, and a salute rendered in honor of departed veterans. The parade will form on Blake Street at 10:30 a.m.; parking

will be at the Community Field on Union Street, just off Stratton Road behind the Depot. The parade will step off at 10:45 a.m. and proceed to the Civil War Memorial in front of the Library, the Korean-Vietnam Memorial Park, and proceed with ceremonies at the Buddy Monument on the Common where the flag will be raised at noon. The speaker is Charlie Turcotte.  
All veterans are invited, with a special invitation to those who moved to the community recently or who have been there and haven't marched, and to active duty personnel home on leave. Those who would prefer to ride should call Marc Tieger by May 22nd at 603-532-8765.

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## Avoiding An Overscheduled Summer Can Foster Independence And Creativity

With schools ending for the summer, it can be refreshing to avoid an over-scheduled summer for kids. It's common to try to get kids into all the summer camps and activities to help them stay active and maintain learning throughout the summer months, but there is also benefit to taking a bit of a breather during the summer months to rest and recover before jumping back into school for the next grade.



Parents may experience a sense of pressure to ensure they plan enough and fill kids' schedules enough to optimize their learning and experiences, and to prevent kids from falling behind once the new school year begins. There's summer camps, enrichment programs, summer jobs, etc. Then the summer begins to look and feel more like the school year than the break that it is intended to be.

Cultivating a more relaxed and less structured summer may have its own benefits. Unstructured time allows kids space to figure out what to do with themselves, which is an important skill for them to learn. Boredom can be the impetus for creativity to bloom. Without scheduled plans with adults leading the activities, kids will become more inventive in creating games, building things, exploring, reading, and problem solving. These activities can help kids shape independent thinking in ways that having every moment scheduled cannot.

Allowing summer to be a slower pace also allows for families to avoid the constant rush from one activity to the next and instead discover time for lingering over meals, taking evening walks together, or planning a last-minute trip to the lake on a hot afternoon. These ordinary family moments offer ways to connect and just enjoy one another's company that gets lost when every moment is planned and everyone is rushing to get to the next activity.

It doesn't mean that you need to scrap all structured activities, but maybe limit the number of things you schedule to allow for a more relaxed and spontaneous summer experience. Choose a few activities that your children are really excited to do rather than overwhelming them with too many activities just to keep them occupied. The overall message to cultivate is that rest and recovery are just as essential as activity, and not every moment needs to be planned.

Some parents may struggle with allowing too much free time, as it may

feel uncomfortable to not have it all mapped out. It could be frustrating to listen when kids start to complain about being bored. However, kids learning to occupy themselves more independently can be a valuable skill.

Embrace some more traditional play activities. Have a variety of toys that promote creativity – blocks, dolls, dress-up toys, and include some boxes, art supplies, etc. Play encourages kids to use their imagination and builds essential skills. Sometimes play isn't valued as much as it should be; it enhances brain development, promotes communication and social skills, and fosters executive brain

functioning.

If you have a child who tends to get overwhelmed, it can be helpful to have a selection of calming activities. Create a container with some de-stress and sensory activities available such as Play-Doh, journals and writing utensils, calming music, bubbles, glitter jars, finger paints, and fidget toys. When kids are overwhelmed, they can choose a calming activity and take a break.

Stock your home with some traditional board games, decks of cards, and plenty of books and magazines for reading and entertainment. There are always so many options for engaging kids right at home. Make use of the local library to always have something new to read without having to buy a bunch of new books.

Let summer be a time of nature exploration. Encourage kids to get outside and explore nature in your own neighborhood. Spending time in nature has been shown to lower stress hormones. Spending time playing outside is great way to get kids less dependent on technology too. Equip your home with balls, sidewalk chalk, scooters, a basketball hoop, bug catching equipment, etc. There are many ways that kids can engage with the outside world on sunny summer afternoons.

Your kids can have a rich and educational summer without having to plan every moment. You may also find that fostering your kids' ability to play and explore may provide you with more self-sufficient and independent children who have the ability to entertain themselves.

*Sheri Lapointe is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor with a Master's Degree from Antioch New England University. She works as a behavioral health clinician for the Granite State Children's Alliance. She also has many years of experience teaching in local schools. Send comments to her at The Monadnock Shopper News, P.O. Box 487, Keene, NH 03431.*

## Apple Hill Center For Chamber Music's Lineup For Tuesday Night Summer Concerts

The Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music recently announced the lineup of the 2026 Summer Concert Season for its Tuesday Night Summer Concert Series.

Beginning on June 23rd and running through August 25th, concerts will be held in the Louise Shonk Kelly Concert Barn on Apple Hill's central campus at 410 Apple Hill Road in Nelson. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the Summer Gala on August 11th.

Visit [www.applehill.org](http://www.applehill.org) to see the upcoming schedule and for reserved seating. Lawn seating is always free, while reserved seats inside the concert barn are \$35, with a discount rate of \$10 for students and kids. Multi-concert reserved ticket packages start at \$157 for five concerts.

These concerts will feature the residents of Apple Hill Center. Free talks are held prior to the concerts at 6:45 p.m. Concertgoers are also invited to picnic on the lawn before each concert; bring something or the kitchen will provide a meal for \$25 per person. Advance reservations are required for the catered dinner via online.

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

from HANNAFORD'S SUPERMARKETS

May 17, 2026

Hallie Elizabeth Clark, daughter of Erik & Chelsea Clark, Westmoreland, 2

May 20, 2026

Rhaya Varney, daughter of Ryan & Haley Varney, Keene, 3

Rhys Varney, son of Ryan & Haley Varney, Keene, 3

May 23, 2026

Ava Lin Ball, daughter of Hanna & Garrett Ball, Surry, 7

## HANNAFORD'S BIRTHDAY CAKE

This Week's Winners



Ava Lin Ball, Surry, 7



Rhys Varney, Keene, 3



Last week's winner:  
Quinn Madeline  
Lou Smith  
Keene, 9

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## New Local Book Coming Out – *Dead Man’s Ridge: The Bravery Of American Paratroopers At The Battle Of The Bulge*

More than 30 years ago, author Peter M. Hanrahan spent a full day interviewing his wife’s uncle, Niilo Liimatainen, at his home in Jaffrey. The topic was Niilo’s experiences during the Battle of the Bulge.

Niilo had been wounded and captured during a battle in Flamierge, Belgium, also known as the Battle of Dead Man’s Ridge. The two men agreed to co-author a book telling Niilo’s story. Unfortunately, they never got around to it during Niilo Liimatainen’s lifetime.

Niilo Liimatainen was a member of the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and part of the 17th Airborne Division, under the command of General William M. (Bud) Miley). The 17th Airborne began its attack on Flamierge on January 4, 1945, and over the course of the next several days the American forces encountered determined resistance from the German defenders.

Miley’s division was under the command of 3rd Army General George S. Patton. The battle took a severe toll on the 17th Airborne, and Niilo Liimatainen’s platoon was hit especially hard when it was surrounded and overwhelmed during the battle. Only three members of the platoon survived the engagement, and all three survivors were soon captured.

In his autobiography, *War As I Knew It*, General Patton scoffed at the battle account that claimed 40 percent of the battalion had been lost. “Whenever one gets such a report, it indicates that people don’t know anything of war. A casualty report of ten percent is seldom true, unless people have run away or surrendered.” The report was indeed accurate, and eventually Patton retracted this statement.

Niilo Liimatainen passed away in 2005, but Peter M. Hanrahan was resolved to tell his story.

The Battle of the Bulge, involving 600,000 Allied troops, was the largest and bloodiest land battle fought by American troops in World War II. In its last major offensive action of World War II, the Germans had deliberately focused their attack on American



Niilo Liimatainen (L) and his brother Oiva, photographed in London, England in 1944. Both grew up in Troy. Oiva is mentioned a few times briefly in the book, Niilo is the central character.

Oiva was stationed in England and did not enter combat. Their meeting was in London where Oiva was stationed. Soon after they met, Niilo was headed for combat at the Battle of the Bulge.

Oiva and Niilo had two other brothers, Toivo and Lauri, who also served during WWII. Their parents were both born in Finland, later coming to the US and settling in the Monadnock Region. They had 11 children.

troops, who were considered weak and inferior. On this count they were proven very wrong.

Against this backdrop, *Dead Man’s Ridge* features many first-person accounts that illustrate the bravery, resolve and patriotism of young American men confronting a seasoned and determined enemy.

*Dead Man’s Ridge: The Bravery Of American Paratroopers At The Battle Of The Bulge* can be pre-ordered from many on-line sellers, including Amazon, Books-a-Million, Barnes & Noble, etc.


An online search for “*Dead Man’s Ridge* book” will find the above and many more.

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## Dance Features “Champagne Jam” This Saturday

Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club will hold a dance on Saturday, May 23rd from 7 to 10:30 p.m. at ELMC Memorial Community Center at 21 Durkee Street in Winchester.

The dance will feature live music by Champagne Jam. There will be free refreshments, a 50/50 raffle, and all are welcome. Admission is \$12.

For more details, call Barbara at 603-392-0447.

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Week 4: August 10 – 14  
Barnyard Palooza: Farm antics and fun

Week 5: August 17 – 21  
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Visit [moco.org/camps](http://moco.org/camps) for more details.



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## Spring Is In Full Bloom At Allen Brothers Farms



Nicole Godfrey, garden center staffer, tending to annuals. For more details about Allen Brothers Farms, see the ad on page 5.

## Quality Cleans LLC Is Ready For Any Cleaning Need

Quality Cleans LLC is a full-service company available for just about every cleaning need, both residential and commercial. Formerly Scott's Cleaning Service, owner Shelly Thibeau gave the company a fresh start after her husband, Scott, passed away. They have offices in Gardner, MA and Peterborough, covering a wide area of availability.

They use eco-friendly practices and top-to-bottom clean with attention to detail. Some clients want regular housecleaning; some a deep clean for airing out after a long winter; preparing for graduation or other celebratory parties; post-construction clean-up; and moving in or moving out of a house.

They offer nightly cleans for restaurants, clean professional offices, including banks, law offices, town halls, and historical societies. They clean after hours for convenience and the best clean. They are bonded and insured and can do background checks. The company also specializes in quick turnovers for short-term rentals in the area, including laundry service.

People call when they are tired of individuals canceling on them, not showing up, dropping them as a client or after having so many terrible cleans and are ready for reliable, dependable coverage by highly trained professional cleaners.

Gift certificates are available for someone who has just had surgery, or just had a baby, after an illness, and can be given as a unique birthday present or for



Emma Salerno of Quality Cleans LLC makes sure she gets every nook and cranny as she cleans this home.

Mother's Day, Father's Day or Grandparents' Day. For more details, call 978-424-6093 or 603-808-1206 or visit [www.qualitycleansllc.com](http://www.qualitycleansllc.com).

## Invaders In Our Midst

By Deb Paul

Are your neighbors' plants making a home in your shrubbery? Is greenery that you never bought strangling your trees? Are leaves from unknown aquatic greens traveling on your boat to find a home in your favorite lake? Conservation officials remind us that invasive plants are a local problem, and they're a problem in our waterways as well.

According to the state's invasive species coordinator, invasive plants impact endangered or threatened species, reduce diversity and wildlife habitat, affect

water quality, damage property, and lead to starvation of birds.

Japanese knotweed, bittersweet, purple loosestrife, multiflora rose, and burning bush thrive locally – all literally have a stranglehold on portions of our woodlands and roadsides.

But we don't have to leave our yards to encounter invasive. All it takes is ignoring an invasive's presence in one location, and soon it has taken over the neighborhood.

INVADERS, page 11

## Books About Gardening, Just In Time For Growing Season

It's almost time to dig in the dirt. For months, it was too cold, too wet, too early to get to your garden patch but now you can hardly wait. You've been through the seed catalogs and picked your plants, but, depending on the weather, you might need to be patient just a little longer. So pass the time with these great new books...

Let's start with something different that makes gardening even more pleasurable: bird song. Imagine a world without it and how much you'd miss it – and then read *The Feather Wars And the Great Crusade to Save America's Birds* by James H. McCommons (St. Martin's Press, \$33).

In very early America, immigrants simply assumed that the abundance they found on this continent would last forever. We know better now, and so did a lot of scientists, nature-lovers, society folks, hunters, and others who worked hard to ensure that wild birds thrived, despite the bad guys you'll also find inside this book. It's a story for anyone who enjoys birdsong and has feathered friends.

So you're going to spend the rest of the spring, all of the summer, and maybe into fall, growing beautiful blooms. You don't want to just leave them outside that whole time, do you?

BOOKS, page 11

## Treehugger Farms Gift Certificate Raffle



Chelsea Clark, office manager at Treehugger Farms, with Hallie Clark, age 2.

Treehugger Farms is holding a gift certificate raffle where one lucky winner will receive a \$500 gift certificate good toward any purchase of green or kiln-dried firewood (picked up or delivered), a wood/gas/pellet stove, or bark mulch.

"We wanted to create something fun to help people save money," says Chelsea Clark, office manager at Treehugger Farms. "We also wanted to educate the customers about thinking ahead when it comes to their winter firewood, avoiding the hectic fall rush to help give the customers the best experience possible."

To be entered into the drawing, customers can share the Treehugger Farms gift certificate Facebook post, stop by the shop, and fill out a raffle ticket. An extra ticket will be given to those who purchase one cord of firewood (and mention the post). Customers who purchase a stove will receive 10 extra tickets.

"This is a great way to save even more money on our award-winning, US-made, Lopi stoves, which are currently on sale with savings up to \$700," says Clark. The entry period runs now through May 30th with the drawing to be held on June 1st. The gift certificate will be valid for one year, until June 1st, 2027.

For more details, or to enter the raffle, Treehugger Farms is located at 1046 Rt. 12 in Westmoreland. For questions about firewood or mulch, or to order, call 603-399-8454 or visit <http://www.treehuggerfarms.com>.

## J.A. Hutchins Tree Service Is Dedicated To Personalized Service

J.A. Hutchins Tree Service is a small, family-run business built by two brothers, Jay and Josh Hutchins, focused on serving homeowners throughout southern New Hampshire. As the business has grown, the focus remains on expanding services, upgrading equipment, and helping more customers each year. This approach helps them maintain quality control and personal service.

Some of the services they provide are tree removal, tree pruning and trimming, hazardous tree removal, 24-hour emergency tree services, storm damage cleanup, lot clearing, crane-assisted tree removal, stump grinding and removal, and firewood. Summer is a busy season with homeowners focused on outdoor maintenance, safety, and property improvements.

One service that has grown sig-

nificantly is lot clearing. More property owners are looking to reclaim overgrown land, improve access, prepare for new construction or additions, and make their land more functional and enjoyable during the warmer months. Clearing brush and opening up space can completely transform how a property looks and how it's used.

Most of their business comes from word-of-mouth referrals and repeat customers. They currently maintain a five-star Google rating, with reviews frequently mentioning their friendly, straightforward approach, fair pricing, careful work practices, and clean job sites.

J.A. Hutchins Tree Service is fully insured and offers free estimates. For more details, call 603-446-0185, email [j.a.hutchinstreeservice@gmail.com](mailto:j.a.hutchinstreeservice@gmail.com) or visit [www.j-a-hutchinstreeservice.com](http://www.j-a-hutchinstreeservice.com).

## Pete's Stand Open For The Season



Callie Benik, tending to a new crop of flowers.

The fields have been fertilized and tilled, the crops have been planted, and Pete's Stand in Walpole is up and running for the 2026 season. Now in their 52nd year of business, the staff has been busy stocking the shelves and tables with a huge selection of herbs, veggie

starts, annuals, perennials, as well as locally-produced baked goods, cheese, meats, honey, syrup, jams and jellies.

The popular farmstand is located at 517 Main Street in Walpole. Visit them online at Facebook, or at [www.petesstand.com](http://www.petesstand.com).

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# Attracting Pollinators: The How And Why

According to the US Department of Health, three quarters of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce. Pollinators, which include honeybees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other animals, work tirelessly, often going unnoticed, to provide vital support for the food chain. And they need help.

"Invasive species, development, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants, have negatively affected our native ecosystems where pollinators thrive," says Matt Wasserloos, garden center lead at Blue Seal Farm & Home in Keene. "If they can't find the right quantity or quality of food, such as nectar and pollen from flowering plants, they won't survive."

Most recently, Blue Seal has teamed up with Pride's Corner Farm, a local nursery that produces the American Beauty line, native plants that thrive in our region and attract pollinators. The selection numbers in the thousands and includes such varieties as: milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, cardinal flower, echinacea, bee balm, and many more, with new stock arriving weekly.

"(Native grown plants) adapt more readily to our climate and soil, which decreases the need for chemicals, fertilizer, and water," says Wasserloos. "Most importantly, they support the specific pollinators in our area."

For a healthy pollinator garden, Wasserloos suggests planting a variety of perennials, trees, shrubs, and annuals that flower now through the fall, providing pollinators with four seasons of food and winter



Matt Wasserloos, garden center lead, stocking a new arrival of pollinator plants.

protection. He also advises to keep the landscape chemical-free, ensuring a safe environment for pollinators to do their important work.

Blue Seal Farm & Home is located at 80 Martel Court in Keene. They can be reached at 603-357-5720 or emailed at keenestore@kentww.com. More details about pollinator plants can also be found on the Blue Seal Home & Garden Facebook page. Details will be forthcoming about a pollinator seminar on native plants, scheduled for June 28th.

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(Prepared by the Historical Society of Cheshire County)



In what Cheshire County village was this schoolhouse located?



The winner of last week's Mystery Photo Contest was Anne Olean of Keene. The Keene Teachers College student housing, shown in the 1940s, was located on Marlboro Street.

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**Textile Exhibit, Period Clothing Seamstress Demonstration**

The Stone House Tavern Museum, on the corner of Routes 9 and 63 in Chesterfield, will host a Period Piece Clothing and Textiles Exhibit and Demonstration on Saturday, May 30th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This event includes a free guided tour of the treasure that is the Stone House Tavern Museum, complete with ballroom, cage room, third floor quarters for stagecoach drivers, and seasonal historical displays. The demonstration is by Emily Stringham, professional seamstress from At The Sign Of the Golden Scissors.

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## Grilled Entrees With A Touch Of Extra

Memorial Day will be observed Monday, May 25. After the parades and solemn graveside observances, many families will gather for a traditional meal or the first backyard cookout of the year. This week I'll share some simple recipes that are familiar entrees – ones that are simple to make yet add a touch of something slightly different. You can fill in the blanks with your favorite BBQ side dishes, like potato salad, green salads, coleslaw, baked beans, and any variety of grilled vegetables and fruits. Follow-up with a favorite dessert – strawberry pie or shortcake.

**Special Grilled Burgers**  
The sour cream in these hamburgers keep them moist and tender. Put out a platter of these, along with some hotdogs, rolls and plenty of add-on toppings.

**Ingredients:**  
1/4 cup sour cream  
2 tablespoon minced parsley leaves  
1 teaspoon dried thyme  
1/2 teaspoon each salt and freshly ground pepper  
2½ lbs. ground beef  
10 hamburger buns  
lettuce leaves, sliced tomato, onion, and any other desired toppings

In large bowl, combine sour cream, herbs, salt and pepper; add beef and mix gently. Shape into 10 patties. Grill covered, over medium coals five minutes on each side, or until meat is no longer pink. Serve on toasted buns with desired toppings and side dishes. Makes 10 servings.

**Barbecued Salmon**  
A quickly made butter sauce makes this favorite grilling fish special. Serve with a platter of grilled vegetables or fruits for a nice flavor combination.

**Ingredients:**  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
1 or 2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
2 teaspoons soy sauce  
freshly ground black pepper  
4 salmon steaks, 1-inch thick

In small saucepan, combine all ingredients except salmon; cook and stir until sugar is dissolved. Meanwhile, grill salmon, covered, over medium hot heat for five minutes. Turn salmon; baste with butter sauce. Grill seven to nine minutes longer, turning and basting occasionally, until salmon flakes easily with a fork. Makes four servings.

**Southwestern Grilled Pork Tenderloin**

Thanks to my brother who shared this nicely-flavored recipe. It goes well with a corn salad, grilled vegetables – and a pitcher of margaritas.

**Ingredients:**  
1 pork tenderloin (about 1½ lbs.)

1 teaspoon chili powder  
3/4 teaspoon oregano  
1/2 teaspoon cumin  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
2 tablespoons oil

Mix seasonings with oil; rub all over tenderloin. Cover and refrigerate meat two to four hours. Grill over medium high coals 15 to 20 minutes, turning once. Makes four servings.

**Cooking Corner**



with Nancy Adams

**No-Fuss Barbecued Ribs**  
Nice in partnership with potato salad and coleslaw. Pass some wet washcloths or wipes and you'll be considered a genius! Makes four to six servings.

**Ingredients:**  
6 lbs., more or less, pork spareribs in 2 slabs  
salt and freshly ground black pepper  
barbecue sauce, your own or bottled

Prepare grill for indirect-heat cooking method. Oil grill and place four to six inches above heat or fire. Sprinkle ribs generously on both sides with salt and pepper. Place them on rack so they are not directly over the fire, cover the grill and open vents halfway. (If you don't have a covered grill with vents, you'll just need to cook the ribs over slower heat and turn them frequently to prevent burning). Cook for 45 minutes, turning once. Brush tops of ribs with some of the sauce, cover and cook for 10 additional minutes. Turn ribs, brush with some more sauce, cover and cook for 10 to 15 final minutes. Cut slabs into serving portions and pass remaining sauce at the table.

**Sage-Stuffed Chicken Breasts**  
If you're tired of the usual BBQ chicken, try this recipe idea instead. It's easy, fairly quick, and quite delicious served with a salad of fresh greens and fruits.

**Ingredients:**  
4 chicken breast halves, skinned and boned  
4 thin slices prosciutto  
4 thin slices Italian fontina cheese  
4 fresh sage leaves  
salt and pepper  
olive oil for brushing on chicken

Pound chicken breasts between plastic wrap until they are thin. Divide remaining ingredients among each of the four breasts, placing on top; season with salt and pepper. Roll each chicken piece up and secure with kitchen twine or toothpicks. Brush each with olive oil and season with a little more salt and pepper. Grill over medium heat 15 to 20 minutes, turning several times to be sure they are cooked through and to brown on all sides. Makes four servings.



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**Shrimp Boats**  
Marinate these a few hours, make up one large foil packet and put these spicy shrimp on the grill for dinner. Set out some crusty bread and bring 'em on! Enjoy these for appetizers with beer or other beverage; or serve for dinner on pasta or rice with a green salad.

**Ingredients:**  
1 bottle or can of beer  
2-3 teaspoons Cajun seasoning or to taste  
1 lb. large shrimp, cleaned and peeled or unpeeled, as preferred  
juice of 1/2 lemon

Pour beer and Cajun seasoning into a bowl. Add shrimp and marinate in refrigerator for at least one hour and up to, but no more than, three hours. Remove shrimp from marinade and place on several layers of heavy duty foil. Season with lemon juice. Place another layer of foil over top and seal edges tightly. To ensure shrimp won't burn or packets leak, place entire pack in a fourth sheet of foil and seal tightly. Set over medium-low coals or on a grill with medium heat. Cook 15 to 20 minutes until shrimp are done.

*Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. She has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's great New England cooks. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: Nancy P. Adams, 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.*



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## Books About Gardening, Just In Time For Growing Season

BOOKS, Continued from page 7



Of course not, so *A Year of Cut Flowers: A Life of Growing and Arranging for All Seasons* by Sarah Raven (Bloomsbury, \$35) is a book that will guide you in bringing those blooms inside properly.

Spring isn't just for planting, says Raven. It's also for cultivating, nurturing, mulching, and taking time to see how you can make your home (and that of others!) beautiful and wonderfully scented with the blooms you'll grow in your garden. Here, you'll learn

which go-to plants to have in your plot, how to make sure you've got color in your garden from early until frost, how to get the most of your plants, and how to keep them fresh-looking and gorgeous for a lot longer inside. Bonus: photos! Lots of them, which will help keep you inspired while your greenery still slumbers awhile.

And when you need a welcome break from all that work, grab *Bloom*, a novel by Robbie Couch (Gallery Books, \$28). It's a rom-com about Morris, who lost his husband and his zest for life, and who's narrowed his entire existence to the history books he owns and his TV. Then there's Sloan, Morris's stepdaughter, who is stuck with the grief she has for her father's death and a mother who tends to take over. And there's Jade, a houseplant who desperately needs water, attention, and for Morris to wake up and live again. It's a cute book, perfect for relaxing in the sun.

If these gardening books aren't enough for you, then head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for the gardening section. There, you'll find books about vegetables, plants, butterflies and birds, dirt and composting and everything you need to grow something green, flowery, or edible. And be sure to look for the books, above. You'll really dig 'em.

*The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer. Terri has been reading since she was three years old and never goes anywhere without a book. She lives with a dog and 11,000 books.*

## Wildlife Corridors In Your Backyard Is Presentation In Rindge

Rindge Conservation, in partnership with New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, invites the public to a special presentation on how animals reach your backyard.

This free event will be held on Thursday, May 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Pines at 10 Hale Hill Road in Rindge. Anyone who enjoys the outdoors or cares about preserving their rural community is encouraged to attend to learn about helping wildlife and joining with others to do so.

Presenters are Haley Andreossi, UNH Extension Wildlife conserva-

tionist, and Jeff Littleton and Steven Lamonde of Moosewood Ecological.

Andreossi will introduce New Hampshire's Wildlife Action Plan – a blueprint for conserving wildlife and their habitat – and discuss how residents of Rindge and surrounding communities can use the plan to protect wildlife.

Littleton and Lamonde will take a closer look at key animals and how connected landscapes help them move through Rindge and people's backyards.

## 55 Acres Of Farmland Conserved

The Monadnock Conservancy has purchased a conservation easement covering 55 acres of Five Sigma Farm in Sullivan. Known for its pasture-raised meat and eggs, which are sold to many local stores including the Monadnock Food Co-op, this conservation easement will forever protect these 55 acres for current and future owners of this land. The Monadnock Conservancy will be responsible for monitoring the conservation easement, to ensure its terms are upheld in perpetuity.

Five Sigma Farm owner and operator Milton Trimitsis, who has operated

the farm since 2016, currently manages over 100 sheep and 300 laying hens. Trimitsis is committed to the best farming practices, rotating his flock daily to fresh pastures. He is also known throughout the town for his annual sheep moves, where his flock is moved through Sullivan to rotate grazing on various fields throughout town, an event many locals enjoy witnessing and participating in.

The Monadnock Food Co-op supported the project through its Farm Fund, and its Round It Up program.

## Invaders In Our Midst

INVADERS, Continued from page 7

What an invasive does is simple – they take over, crowding out native plants. It's a battle we may be losing, and we can't wait for someone else to take care of it – if the plants have arrived, they'll be in your yard soon.

Homeowners can help control these invaders by learning to identify them, joining in volunteer efforts to control them, and following professionals' instructions about disposing of any soil and plant matter that gets on clothes, shoes, or tires during the eradication.

Meanwhile, if you think the water is safe from unwelcome visitors, think again. State officials regularly issue warnings to boaters to pay attention to what they might be putting in the water. Summers in New Hampshire now demand a new way to look at hitchhiking and littering – boats, trailers, motors, fishing equipment, bait buckets, and diving gear can carry

aquatic weeds, leaving an infested lake in their wake.

With no natural predators, the plants quickly dominate native plants, fish, and aquatic life. That translates into impaired water quality and reduced shoreline property values.

If you enjoy a kayak or canoe ride, pay attention to the plants in the water as well as the scenery and bird life you are paddling out to enjoy. If you've had your boat in another body of water, examine it carefully before returning to your home lake. Encourage fellow boaters to do the same.

Prevention is the name of the game, and it's the job of each one of us to preserve the quality of the lakes we love. And back on land? Contact your local conservation commission, extension service, or the state for advice on getting rid of invasive plants. This battle won't be won unless each of us does our share.



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## Electrify Monadnock Fund Launching May 30th, Provides Financial Assistance

As communities across the country search for practical ways to address rising energy costs and climate change, the Monadnock Sustainability Hub is launching an ambitious local initiative designed to help residents make the transition to cleaner, more energy-efficient homes.

The organization's new Electrify Monadnock Fund, officially launching on May 30th, provides direct financial assistance to low- and moderate-income households across the Monadnock Region for home energy improvements. The privately funded rebate program has already raised more than \$425,000 in donations ahead of its official rollout. Since the program's soft launch in March, almost \$24,000 has already been earmarked for approved projects.

The program represents significant grassroots clean-energy investments and reflects a growing movement toward local climate solutions that reduce household costs while lowering climate pollution. Federal and state incentives for clean energy have been dramatically rescinded in recent years, leaving residents searching for financial assistance. This is where the Electrify Monadnock Fund steps in.

Residents who qualify for the program may receive up to \$7,000 in rebates for projects that improve home energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Eligible upgrades include weatherization, solar panels, battery storage systems, heat pumps, induction stoves, heat pump water heaters, electric panel upgrades, electric dryers, and electric vehicle purchases.

The Electrify Monadnock Fund takes advantage of the Hub's existing Home Energy Coaching program, which has helped over 100 households so far. The volunteer coaches help evaluate project options, understand available incentives, complete rebate applications, and develop a long-term plan tailored to their homes and budgets.

The Monadnock Sustainability Hub says this coaching component is central to the organization's mission. The program provides critical assistance to residents who are unsure where to start or overwhelmed by the technical complexity of electrification projects.

Through the coaching program, residents are matched with local volunteers who can walk them through the process step by step. Coaches aren't trying to sell you something. They are your neighbors who were previously in your shoes. They provide guidance tailored to what is best for each household.

The Electrify Monadnock Fund builds on years of climate and clean-energy organizing by the Monadnock Sustainability Hub. The organization

works with residents to help the Monadnock Region transition toward 100 percent clean energy. The Hub also has close ties to Clean Energy NH and town Energy Committees and other local groups focusing on similar goals at the municipal level.

The Monadnock Sustainability Hub has already played a visible role in regional sustainability efforts through initiatives involving solar energy, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy-efficiency campaigns, community education, and clean-energy fairs.



Now, with the launch of the Electrify Monadnock Fund, the organization hopes to directly accelerate home energy improvements while ensuring that lower- and moderate-income residents are not left behind in the clean-energy transition.

Residents interested in participating are encouraged to attend the launch event on May 30th at the Keene Public Library from 10 a.m. to noon to learn more and sign up. You can register on the Hub website: [www.monadnock-sustainabilityhub.org](http://www.monadnock-sustainabilityhub.org). Clean energy contractors and experienced coaches will be in attendance.

To donate to the Electrify Monadnock Fund or for more information about the program, check out the Hub's website: [www.monadnock-sustainabilityhub.org](http://www.monadnock-sustainabilityhub.org). For more details, reach out to [info@monadnock-sustainabilityhub.org](mailto:info@monadnock-sustainabilityhub.org).

The new effort arrives at a time when energy affordability and resilience are increasingly important concerns for New Hampshire households. Heating costs in the region remain heavily influenced by fossil fuel prices, and many older homes face challenges related to insulation, aging heating systems, and outdated electrical infrastructure.

As communities across the country search for scalable climate solutions, the Monadnock Region's newest initiative offers a locally driven model centered on affordability, education, and community support – demonstrating how regional action can help shape a cleaner and more resilient energy future.

*Rachel Ranelli is the current Program Manager for the Monadnock Sustainability Hub, a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission is to reduce climate pollution and reach 100 percent clean energy in the region. She is a 2023 graduate of Franklin Pierce University, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, graduating with honors and a Sustainability Certificate.*

## Fitzwilliam Garden Club Plant And Bake Sale On Fitzwilliam Common

The Fitzwilliam Garden Club will host its annual spring plant and bake sale on Saturday, May 30th, from 9 a.m. to noon on the Fitzwilliam Common at 13 Templeton Turnpike.

Locally grown perennials and annuals will be available alongside baked goods. Garden Club members will be

on hand to help shoppers select plants and offer planting and growing tips. Proceeds support scholarships, conservation and education efforts, and civic beautification.

For more details, contact the Fitzwilliam Garden Club at [fitzwilliamgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:fitzwilliamgardenclub@gmail.com).

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# Growing Roses



Limoncello Shrub Rose

Roses are the national flower of England and, somewhat surprisingly, also the national flower of the US. I do wonder why President Ronald Reagan didn't pick a flower native to these lands, such as sunflowers or coneflowers. Apparently, other contenders were the marigold, columbines, and goldenrod. Whatever the reasons, I can't deny that roses really do captivate the heart and mind with their brilliant scent and magical layers of soft petals. When it comes to successfully growing them, however, I must say that it has been a bit of a learning curve for me. Garden nurseries say that you can dig a hole, put the rose bush in, cover with soil and water, and walk away. Well, I can guarantee you that I've tried that and success was rather minimal. Here are a few things I've learned over the years that I hope will help you to raise flourishing roses.

The first step to success has to do with how you plant the rose. I'm just addressing potted roses, not bare roots. Although more varieties are available as bare roots, I've just found it easier to care for already potted ones. Once you have your potted rose, dig a hole that is at least twice as big as the pot and deep enough for the pot to sit about an inch below ground level. Roses are interesting because they have a root stock that is one type of rose and the graft which is the variety that you purchased. You want that root stock to be well below the surface, so if suckers come up through the soil you know it's from the root and you can just pull them out. Mix the soil you dug out with some compost, crushed up eggshells, and banana peels (the latter two for calcium and potassium, respectively). Pour at least a gallon of water into the hole. Now, you can remove the pot and loosen up the bottom couple inches of the root ball with your fingertips, being careful to do it quickly so the little roots don't dry out. Place the plant in the center of the hole and fill with the compost mixture. Put a nice thick layer of compost or mulch all around the top of the soil. Water in with a seaweed or seaweed and fish fertilizer mix. Usually, I continue to fertilize them about once a month during the growing season.

A second step to success is proper watering. Roses don't want wet feet, as that promotes fungus; but they don't want to dry out either because that stress can make them susceptible to rust or blight. A good layer of mulch or compost and not letting them dry out completely has worked for me so far.

The last thing I've figured out about

roses is that they need pruning unique to the type of rose. Ramblers, climbers, and bush roses each get pruned differently because of how they set buds. Rambling roses (with heirloom varieties like Lady Banks, Veilchenblau, and Pheasant) should be pruned immediately after they flower because they produce their blooms on the wood from the previous year. This will give the green branches a chance to harden

Woods and Gardens

with Yedida Landis

up before the winter comes. Alternately, climbers, such as New Dawn, James Galway, and Bathsheba, set their buds on the stems of the current year. So, you wait until they are completely done flowering and then prune them back to a framework you like. The new growth in the spring will be where the buds form. Finally, shrub roses, like The Poet's Wife and Iceberg, are all ones that tend to flower once and will maybe rebloom a bit in the season. To encourage a rebloom, I prune as flowers die back and even remove a few inches of stem once all the flowers in a cluster have bloomed. But, if you don't want to bother with that during the season, you can just prune them once they've completely finished flowering. The most basic of pruning techniques include removing any dead stems or, if two stems are rubbing on one another, take out one of them. I also just try to cut the rose to a pleasing shape and say thank you for all the lovely flowers.

Although roses were rather daunting to me for quite some time, they're now feeling a little easier. I hope you'll want to give roses a try, too... and, please, let me know how it goes!

*Yedida Landis has been teaching organic gardening to children for over 20 years and is Lead Gardener at MacDowell.*

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Matt DeGrosky, owner of Monadnock Shutter & Shade, with his granddaughter, Isabella Berk, admiring a solar Roller Shade that features a painting by Marlborough, NH, artist Mary Iselin.

## EXTERIOR WINDOW SHADES

Stop the heat before it hits the glass, dramatically reducing indoor temperatures and glare. Designed for sun-soaked exposures, they keep your home cooler and more energy-efficient without blocking your view.



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# Birds In My Backyard

In early May, I retrieved the two hummingbird feeders from the basement and washed them off. Hoping, but not sure, these winged friends would return this year. I brewed up a batch of nectar with simple white sugar and boiling water. When the liquid was cool enough, I poured the sweet substance into the bird feeders and hung them on hooks in my backyard.

One day passed. Two days passed. Three days passed; no hummingbirds.

My quest for sighting a hummingbird sort of floated out of my mind.

On the fourth day, around 10 in the morning, I spotted a bird out the kitchen window that was almost the opposite of a hummingbird in size and coloring. This bird was large, around 18 inches high. Its body was mostly black with a white patch running from its throat past its chest, giving it the appearance of a tuxedo. Its most striking feature, however, was a scarlet-red crown on its head.

My first impression was that this bird looked like something Dr. Seuss might have penned. It also bore a slight resemblance to the cartoon character Woody Woodpecker.

I peered in awe at this creature for several minutes before it flew away.

A pileated woodpecker. According to the *Audubon Field Guide of New England*, "a special treat when seen or heard."

The next day, I was drinking my morning coffee on a back step when I spotted a ruckus between a tiny bird and a squirrel. The bird (maybe some kind of warbler?) I'd noticed going in and out of a small birdhouse we'd nailed to a fence. It seems that the squirrel had ventured too close and the bird was on the attack. Multiple times the bird stabbed its tiny sharp beak at the startled squirrel, until Mr. or Ms. Squirrel made a prompt retreat.

I laughed and gave thanks for living in a place where I can view and know such creatures up close and personal – each distinct in personality and approach to life, almost like us.

It was the day after that when I spotted the first hummingbird of the season at the birdfeeder, sucking up the nectar with relish. It was a male, from the red dot on his neck. My heart skipped a beat.

The next day, I sighted a female at the bird feeder.

And then today, just before I started writing this article, I realized there are now three different hummingbirds – two males and one female – sipping the sweet ambrosia from the birdfeeder. More visitors than last year.

Of course, a few bird sightings in my backyard doesn't change the world. But it does bring a splash of joy and wonder to my heart. A reminder to slow down and appreciate what is right in front of my eyes, in my own backyard. I find this a great solace, and even a touch of healing, in times such as these. That we live in a place of such sacred, vibrant beauty chock full of many types of living beings beyond us two-leggeds.

Wishing you bird songs and sightings of joy this month.

*Skye Stephenson enjoys writing and researching about sacred stones and place. She lives in Keene. <https://skystephenson.com>.*

## Healing Perspectives

with Skye Stephenson



I tried to be unattached to the outcome, Buddhist style. I told myself that I had done my part to entice the hummingbirds. That now, all I could do is wait and see what would happen next. The hummingbirds might return, or they might not.

I did do one more thing, however. I decided that this year I would keep track of all the different kinds of birds that I spotted in my backyard. This was something I'd never done before not being a very scientific kind of person.

On a sheet of paper, I wrote down birds I'd already seen this year. Crows. Robins. A hawk way up high. A pair of cardinals. Some wrens, maybe?

I posted this piece of paper on my refrigerator door with a magnet.

# Sound Bath At Aloha This Friday



Aloha will host Heather Hill of Quantum Radiance Healing on Friday, May 22nd from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

She will use Crystal and Tibetan singing bowls, bells, chimes, a rainstick, and drumming. This is a deeply relaxing experience guided by sacred

healing frequencies that supports mind, body, spirit. As the vibrations pass through the body, emotional wounds are transformed, and cells are healed. The cost is \$35.

Aloha is located on court street in Keene.

Heather Hill with her drum



## Keene Pride Youth Book Club: Wilder Girls At Library

The Keene Public Library will host the Keene Pride Youth Book Club on Tuesday, May 26th, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 60 Winter Street.

The group will discuss *Wilder Girls* by Rory Power. The event includes snacks and crafts. All LGBTQ+ youth and allied youth are welcome, regardless of how much of the book they have read.

Copies of the book are available by contacting Eleanor Green at [egreen@keenenh.gov](mailto:egreen@keenenh.gov) or [youth@keenepride.org](mailto:youth@keenepride.org).

For more details, contact Eleanor Green at [egreen@keenenh.gov](mailto:egreen@keenenh.gov) or 603-352-0157.

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## Mid-Year Tax Planning Seminar For Small Businesses

The half-year point of the fiscal year is a critical time for small businesses to evaluate their financial position, identify tax-saving opportunities, and make strategic decisions before year-end. To help equip small business owners with actionable strategies to minimize their tax burden and keep more money working for their business, Scot Ward from Edward Jones, and Rachel Wallach, owner of Wallach & Wallach, LLC, will host a tax-planning seminar on Wednesday, June 17th.

Pleased with the success of the previous seminar, Ward and Wallach are excited to host another. "It's such great information for small business owners," says Ward.

Topics to be covered include: mid-year tax projections and estimated quarterly payment strategies; deductions small business owners most commonly miss, and how to capture them; Section 179 and bo-

nus depreciation opportunities for equipment and technology purchases; retirement plan options that reduce taxable income for self-employed individuals; payroll tax compliance updates and recent IRS guidance, and year-end timing strategies for income and expenses.

"Many small business owners wait until December or even January to think about taxes, but by then it's often too late to make meaningful changes," Wallach. "The goal of this seminar is to give business owners the knowledge and tools they need right now, so they can take action during the second half of the year and see real results on their return."

The seminar is free and will take place at 178 Main Street, Suite B, in Keene, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 603-499-7134.

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## Home Healthcare, Hospice And Community Services Honors Nurses During Nurses Month

**NURSES, Continued from page 1**

More than a training space, the Skills Lab represents a broader commitment to learning, partnership, and community well-being.

HCS is committed to supporting the continued education and professional growth of its staff. Through initiatives such as the Barbara R. Duckett Scholarship program and tuition reimbursement, they invest in the advancement of their healthcare workforce. These resources help individuals expand their skills, pursue new opportunities, and continue providing high-quality care to the communities served.

Since 2020, HCS has financially supported 18 employees through advanced clinical certifications and degrees, strengthening the knowledge base of home care, physical therapy, and hospice programs. Associate Nursing Director of Hospice, Vanessa Sheehan, RN, advanced through leadership roles with the support of HCS, beginning her career with the organization as a Home Support Professional in the Homemaking program.

"Growing at HCS feels unlimited," said Sheehan. "Through the support of the Duckett Scholarship and tuition reimbursement, I was able to earn my bachelor's degree, become a CHPN-certified RN, lead the VNA as a manager, and now serve as Associate Nursing Director of Hospice. What makes HCS special is the genuine belief that every employee deserves the opportunity to grow in whatever direction inspires them. There is a fairness and investment in people here that I have not seen elsewhere. HCS does not just fill positions. They develop talent, elevate potential, and create pathways for people to build meaningful careers."

At HCS, investing in nurses is an investment in the health and resilience of local communities. As healthcare continues to evolve, so does HCS' commitment to equipping its staff with the tools, knowledge, and support they need to thrive. As they honor Nurses Month, they remain focused on building pathways for growth, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that every nurse has the opportunity to succeed and make a lasting impact.

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## Upcoming Events

EVENTS, Continued from page 17

### Saturday, May 23

#### FAIRS & SALES

**Annual Yard Sale** 9am. 32 West Surry Rd., Keene. Benefits 3rd Congregational Church of Alstead.

**Yard Sale** 10am-2pm. Jane's Place, 334 Park Ave., Keene. Furniture, housewares, small appliances, clearance clothing, accessories and more for deep discounts. Weather permitting. Thrift shop open rain or shine. **603-354-3549.**

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Anne of Green Gables Tea Party** 11am. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. Literary-themed afternoon tea. Activities include crafts, tea and treats, a raffle, and more. Dress up encouraged, all ages welcome. Registration strongly encouraged. 603-239-4331. [www.conantlibrary.org](http://www.conantlibrary.org).

### Sunday, May 24

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Memorial Ceremony** 12pm. Pine Grove Cemetery, Granite St., Marlborough. Parade steps off at 2 PM. Terrace St. to Marlborough School.

#### RELIGIOUS

**Worship** 10am. First Congregational Church of Swanzey, 679 Old Homestead Hwy. **603-352-6689.** [office@swanzeyucc.org](mailto:office@swanzeyucc.org). [www.swanzeyucc.org](http://www.swanzeyucc.org).

### Monday, May 25

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Keene Memorial Day Parade** 10am. Contact if interested in participating. Rob Campbell: **603-721-9193.** [rob-camp61@gmail.com](mailto:rob-camp61@gmail.com).

### Tuesday, May 26

#### ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

**Cheshiremen Chorus: Weekly Meeting & Singing** 6:30pm. United Church of Christ-Keene, 23 Central Square. All men welcome. Use Vernon St. entrance. Meets every Tuesday. **877-312-7467.** [www.cheshiremen.org](http://www.cheshiremen.org).

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Keene Pride Youth Book Club: Wilder Girls** 5:30-6:30pm. Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. Discussion of Wilder Girls by Rory Power. There will be snacks, crafts, and the chance to talk all about this month's pick. Eleanor Green: **603-352-0157.** [egreen@keenenh.gov](mailto:egreen@keenenh.gov).

**Zumba Gold** 10:45-11:45am. Keene Rec. Center, 312 Washington St. Zumba Gold meets Tuesdays and Thursdays through July 2nd. This session will feature many popular dance themed and latin songs. Classes are open to mature adults and beginners. **603-357-9829.**

### Wednesday, May 27

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**Red Cross Blood Drive** 10am-4pm. Savings Bank of Walpole, 84 Marlboro St., Keene. **800-733-2767.** [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org).

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Wednesday, May 20

### FAMILY FUN

**Storytime** 10am. Richmond Public Library, 19 Winchester Rd., Richmond. Stories, songs, and an easy craft for toddlers and preschoolers. Every week during the month of May. Richmond Public Library: **603-239-6164**.

### LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

**Jaffrey Civic Center Lecture Series: Why is this art?** 1:30pm. Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main St., Jaffrey. Four informal spring presentations by artist and retired professor Susan Wadsworth will welcome questions and challenges on the part of the audience at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Free. [jccedassistant@gmail.com](mailto:jccedassistant@gmail.com).

**Create Your Own Custom Night Light** 5:30-7:30pm. Kingsbury Makerspace, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. This workshop will introduce you to materials and processes needed to create your own custom night light using the laser engraver. To participate in this workshop you must complete the online tutorial: Introduction to the Makerspace and the Epilog Laser Engraver Certification Tutorial. Both tutorials can be found here: [www.mynicheacademy.com/makerspacetutorials](http://www.mynicheacademy.com/makerspacetutorials).

**Drinking Liberally** 7:30pm. Margarita's, Main Street, Keene. Meet-up for left of center political discussion and other current events. No RSVP needed; just ask for them at the reception desk. **603-352-1707**. [keene@drinkingliberally.org](mailto:keene@drinkingliberally.org). [www.livingliberally.org/chapter/nh/keene](http://www.livingliberally.org/chapter/nh/keene).

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays-By Appointment** HCS Charlestown, 33 Arborway. Confidential, free of charge discussion of services that are available. **603-352-2253**. [www.HCSservices.org](http://www.HCSservices.org).

**Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services: Walk-in Wednesdays** 1-3pm. HCS Peterborough, 454 Old Street Road Medical Arts Building, Suite 208. Confidential, free of charge discussion of services that are available. **603-352-2253**. [www.HCSservices.org](http://www.HCSservices.org).

**Walk-in Wednesdays** 1-3pm. Family Resource Center at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street, Keene. Confidential, free of charge discussion of services that are available. From Healthy Starts to Hospice care. **603-352-2253**. [www.HCSservices.org](http://www.HCSservices.org).

## Thursday, May 21

### ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

**Pigments Picnic with In Situ Polyculture Commons** 2-4pm. Putney Public Library, 55 Main St., Putney, VT. Demonstrations, conversations and investigations of local color through earths, mushrooms, plants and more will be on offer, along with light snacks. Bring your own local color or pigments material to share and show, or ask questions of the pigments picnickers. This event will be held outdoors.

**Conversations with Music Creators** 7pm. Dublin Community Center, 1123 Main St., Dublin. With Steve Schuch, Garrett Cameron, & Ben Cosgrove. Host: Volkert Volkersz. **603-563-8080**. [info@dublincommunitycenter.org](mailto:info@dublincommunitycenter.org). [www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar](http://www.dubhub-nh.org/calendar).

### DINING PLEASURES

**Cheshire Village at Home Social** 10-11:30am. Horseshoe Pavilion at Wheelock Park. Coffee, pastries and conversation. **603-903-9680**.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Health & Wellness Seminars: Protecting Your Liver: Understanding Fatty Liver and Steps Toward Wellness** 5:30-6:30pm. Bond Wellness Center Conference Room, Monadnock Community Hospital, 458 Old Street Rd., Peterborough. Space is limited - Register today. **603-924-4699 ext. 1110**. [www.Seminars.MonadnockHospital.org](http://www.Seminars.MonadnockHospital.org).

**Travel Show: A Night in the Tropics** 5:30pm. AAA Travel, 429 West St., Keene. Hawaii, the Caribbean, and Mexico. Space is limited. To RSVP call **603-358-0460**. [rsvp@nne.aaa.com](mailto:rsvp@nne.aaa.com).

**Infinite Worlds Book Club: Hard Sci-Fi** 6-7:30pm. Booras Room, Keene Public Library, 60 Winter St., Keene. A non-traditional book club for adults focusing on speculative fiction. May's Theme: Hard Sci-Fi. Katelyn McStravick: **603-352-0157**. [kmcstravick@keenenh.gov](mailto:kmcstravick@keenenh.gov).

**Poetry & Pie: Alice Fogel & Henry Walters** 7pm. Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St., Hancock. Another evening of Poetry & Pie, with local poet Henry Walters and New Hampshire poet laureate emerita Alice Fogel, offering a springtime reading and conversation on the subject of trees. A variety of homemade pies will be offered after the reading. Free and open to all.

**Zumba Gold** 10:45-11:45am. Keene Rec. Center, 312 Washington St. Zumba Gold meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 19th - July 2nd. This session will feature many popular dance themed and latin songs. Classes are open to mature adults and beginners. **603-357-9829**.

## Friday, May 22

### FAIRS & SALES

**Sullivan Center Sales - Fire Dept., Church & Library** Sullivan Cong. Church, 4 Church St. Indoor Yard Sale. 9am-2pm. Sullivan Fire Dept., 440 Centre St. Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale. 9am-3pm. Sullivan Library, 312 Centre St. Plant & Book Sale. (Saturday only). 9am-1pm. **603-847-9680**.

### FAMILY FUN

**Homeschool Library Day** 11am. Conant Public Library, 111 Main St., Winchester. A time when homeschool families can meet together, find resources, and have fun. Come on in and make a craft, check out a book, and hang with other homeschool families. **603-239-4331**. [www.conantlibrary.org/](http://www.conantlibrary.org/).

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Sound Bath: Heather of Quantum Radiance Healing** 7pm. Aloha Keene Yoga Studio, 83 Court St., Keene. This is a meditation experience guided by sacred healing frequencies that support your mind, body, and spirit. As the vibrations pass through your body, emotional wounds, energetic stagnation, pain and toxins are transformed. \$35. [www.vagaro.com/alohakeene/classes](http://www.vagaro.com/alohakeene/classes).

## Saturday, May 23

### ARTS, MUSIC & THEATER

**Monadnock Tri-State Dance Club** 7-10:30pm. ELMM Community Center, 21 Durkee St., Winchester. Featuring 'Champagne Jam'. Everyone welcome. \$12. Refreshments available, 50/50 raffle. Barbara: **603-392-0447**.

### FAIRS & SALES

**Sullivan Center Sales - Fire Dept., Church & Library** Sullivan Cong. Church, 4 Church St. Indoor Yard Sale. 9am-2pm. Sullivan Fire Dept., 440 Centre St. Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale. 9am-3pm. Sullivan Library, 312 Centre St. Plant & Book Sale. (Saturday only). 9am-1pm. **603-847-9680**.

**Keene Farmers' Market** 9am-1pm. Gilbo Avenue, Keene, across from Lindy's Diner. Plants & cut flowers, produce, breads & pastries, jewelry, maple syrup, braided rugs, bird feeders & houses, alpaca fiber products, soaps, herbs & herbal body care, and so much more. [www.keenefarmersmarket.com/](http://www.keenefarmersmarket.com/).

EVENTS, page 16



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**Sullivan Cong. Church** 4 Church St.  
**Indoor Yard Sale 9AM-2PM**  
*Toys, Kitchen & Glassware, Paintings, Clothing, Etc.*  
**Sullivan Fire Dept.** 440 Centre St.  
**Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sale 9AM-3PM**  
**Sullivan Library** 312 Centre St.  
**Plant & Book Sale, Perennials \$3 each.**  
**SATURDAY ONLY! - 9AM-1PM**



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The Colonial Theatre  
 May 30 @ 2PM & 7PM  
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**Cheshire Village at Home Social**  
 Thursday, May 21st  
 10 to 11:30pm

Coffee, Pastries & Conversation

Horseshoe Pavilion/Wheelock Park  
**INFO: 603-903-9680**



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**FOR SALE: 35,000 SQUARE FOOT OFFICE/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL BUILDING** on 4.5 acres of land in Concord, MA. Situated at the end of a cul-de-sac, this property is 15 minutes from Rte. 128 and 20 minutes from Rte. 495. Not only is there town water and sewer but the town of Concord has its own electric company. In addition, Concord has underground Concord fibre optic internet. 7 minutes from historic Concord center, enjoy Walden pond, Louisa May Alcott's house and many other historic sites as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Use the entire building or keep some of the tenants already occupying the building. Mowing, plowing, and other maintenance already in place could remain. Call with any questions 978-580-1895 B

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**PT SEASONAL POSITION**  
Campground setting-camp store, office, check-ins, stocking, odd jobs. Must have transportation & be dependable. Call 603-352-9880 or text 603-313-2880.

## Miscellaneous

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**HINSDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

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- Special Education Life Skills Case Manager

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**If questions, contact us at 603-336-5728 x7684.**

SAU 92 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, ethnic origins, country of origin, economic status, status as a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking, disability, age or other protected classes under applicable law in its educational programs and activities. SAU 92 also provides equal access to buildings for youth groups. Link to Training - <https://nhprimex.org/explore-training/single/understanding-sexual-harassment/> Questions about Title IX can be referred to the SAU 92 Business Administrator & Title IX Coordinator, Jane Fortson, at [jfortson@hnhhsd.org](mailto:jfortson@hnhhsd.org) or 603-336-5728.

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
**FINANCE DIRECTOR**

The Town of Swanzey is seeking a skilled and strategic Finance Director to lead municipal financial operations and support the Town's long-term fiscal health. This senior leadership role is responsible for ensuring sound financial management, maintaining strong internal controls, and providing clear, data-driven guidance to Town leadership.

The Finance Director will oversee all functions of the Finance Department and serve as a key advisor on financial planning, policy, and compliance.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Direct and manage all Finance Department operations
- Develop and administer the Town's annual operating and capital budgets
- Lead financial forecasting and long-range fiscal planning efforts
- Monitor revenues and expenditures to support informed decision-making
- Coordinate the annual audit and implement audit recommendations
- Ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and reporting requirements
- Establish and maintain effective internal controls, policies, and procedures
- Oversee financial aspects of grant management and reporting
- Advise the Select Board and Town Administrator on financial strategy and policy matters
- Supervise, mentor, and support professional development of Finance staff
- Identify and implement improvements to financial systems and processes

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting, Public Administration, or a related field
- Minimum of five (5) years of relevant professional experience; municipal finance experience strongly preferred
- Strong knowledge of budgeting, financial reporting, and regulatory compliance
- Demonstrated analytical ability, sound judgment, and attention to detail
- Excellent organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills
- Ability to manage confidential information with discretion and professionalism
- Commitment to public service and collaborative problem-solving

**Compensation & Benefits:**  
This is an opportunity to play a meaningful role in a community-focused organization and contribute to critical financial decision-making. The position offers a salary range of \$100,000-\$120,000, depending on qualifications, along with a comprehensive benefits package.

**Application Process:**  
Interested candidates should submit an employment application, resume, and cover letter to the Human Resource Coordinator, Meagen Kerris, 620 Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey NH 03446, or email to [mkerris@swanzeynh.gov](mailto:mkerris@swanzeynh.gov). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the position will remain open until filled.

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Bedroom dresser & chest, Lay-Z boy rocker, love seat, old TVs for theater sets, cinder blocks, 6-person dining table and 4-chairs, collector plates, miscellaneous tables, & glassware.

7 FAMILY YARD SALE  
Hardy Court, Keene.  
Saturday, May 23rd 9-2.  
Rain date:  
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Collectibles, baby clothes, dishes, tools, truck tires, mattresses, & much more.

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The Town of Winchester will be accepting applications for a part-time Transfer Station Operator. The applicant will need to be qualified as a NHDES Level 1 Solid Waste Facility Operator. (Within 6 months of employment). The duties for this position include but not limited to processing solid waste & recyclables, maintain safety and cleanliness of recycling facilities, the ability to deal in a courteous manner with the public, work in adverse weather conditions and operate tools & equipment needed for the handling of municipal solid waste. Applications are available at the Town Hall, 1 Richmond Rd., Winchester or on our website, [Winchester-nh.gov](http://Winchester-nh.gov).

Submit applications to:  
Town of Winchester  
1 Richmond Road  
Winchester, NH 03470  
or by email to: [kminer@winchester.nh.gov](mailto:kminer@winchester.nh.gov) by June 3, 2026.  
The Town of Winchester is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR HOUSING AT  
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This complex is designed for individuals who are 62 years of age or older  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE WRITE OR CALL:  
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P.O. BOX 565  
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APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR HOUSING AT  
**CLEVELAND PLACE**  
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This complex is designed for individuals who are 62 years of age or older  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE WRITE OR CALL:  
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P.O. BOX 565  
KEENE, NH 03431  
603-352-9105

**Housing for the Elderly**  
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**ROLLING HILLS VILLAGE**  
HINSDALE, NH

This complex is designed for individuals who are 62 years of age or older  
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FAX: (603) 532-4519  
Email: [info@tiegerrealty.com](mailto:info@tiegerrealty.com)

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