The Ayes Have It

Of the 1244 registered voters in Dublin, 541 came to the polls on Election Day.

In our most-local elections, held on the Top Floor of the Town Hall on March 12, Chris Raymond became our new Selectman. Tim Clark continues as Moderator; both Gail Bartlett and Celeste Snitko were reelected as Library Trustees; Arthur Sussman remains the Water Commissioner; and Steve Baldwin and Susie Vogel stay on the Budget Committee.

Kiki Sangermano is our new Cemetery Trustee; Donna Garner joins Allen Hearn on the Planning Board; Rick MacMillan continues on the Trustees of Trust Funds, and Bernd Foecking was re-elected as Dublin’s representative to the ConVal School Board.

At Dublin’s Town Meeting on March 16, after considerable deliberation on the variety of topics, Dubliners passed just about everything we were presented with, including some articles the Budget Committee did not recommend. That means the operating budget was $653,121 higher than the originally proposed total (see the Bud-Com’s totals on page 2.)

The new sum total includes a new police cruiser, exterior paint and carpet in the Police Station, a new roof for the Town Hall, a truck for the Road Agent, a loader, plans to renovate the Town Barn, 12 SCBAs for our firemen, new heat in the Post Office, paint and carpet for the Library, a lawn tractor for use at the cemetery, Town Capital Reserve Funds, support for The Dublin Advocate, funding to support the nonprofits that provide health and welfare services, Expendable Trust Funds, income from the sale of cemetery lots, transfer of funds and interest to Town’s general fund, a solar tax exemption, and a contribution to the Community Center.

Considering our ConVal School Board proposals, Dublin voters made certain decisions on our School District votes, which may or may not be the same as the whole school district (see Bernd’s explanation on page 6). For us, Article 1 (ConVal’s operating budget) passed, allowing continuation of the district’s programs.

Articles 2 and 3 also passed, facilitating a collective bargaining agreement. The proposed funding formula in Article 4 was voted down (which would have raised Dublin’s already high school-tax rate), as was the idea to propose alternate bus routes.

Article 6 on the Special Education Reserve Trust Fund passed, as did the building capital reserve balance in Article 7. In Article 8, we passed the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; Article 9’s Health Trust Fund, Article 10’s School Board salaries, and Article 11’s petitioned warrant article requiring the School Board to submit detailed analyses of financial, educational, and social impacts of any proposed school closure on the community in which they reside. Article 12 on reorganization of schools failed.

All candidates attending were sworn in by Town Clerk Jeannine Dunne after the Town Meeting, held March 16.

Sturdy Thomas (center) receives the Town Clock from fellow Selectmen Walt Snitko and Dale Gabel, for his work for the town during two terms as Selectman.
Dublin Public Library

A n article on the front page of the Keene Sentinel had me searching the library shelves for two wonderful books on rescued dogs. One of those books is about who is doing the rescuing and the other is as if straight from the dog’s mouth. If you are thinking of adopting a dog, some of the rescue websites deserve checking out. As a person sharing her home with a furry child from Arkansas, I can attest to their being wonderful.

Books on display this month will be about Spring… once the snow goes, getting out in the yard, trimming, weeding, and planning new gardens. Then, for those April shower days, pick up a few books to keep you happy while the rain falls.

For the children: Spring has arrived and we’re probably listening to “peepers” as the ponds thaw. Books about tadpoles and frogs with facts and fiction will entertain young listeners. The probability of more snow in April is very real; that is why we will enjoy a “beach day” playing in the sand and looking at shells. Learning about eggs and what is inside will keep you guessing! Did you plant a seed last month at the library? Learn what you need to keep it growing strong, and come make a May Day pole at the end of the month.

Book Buddies meets on Tuesdays, after school, from 3:45 to 4:45 pm. Story Time meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Snacks are provided.

Reminder: The library will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20 at 10 am. Please bring your own basket or bag!

Town Budget for 2019

BY BILL GURNEY

The town operating budget for 2019, as presented by the Budget Committee, and approved at Town Meeting is $2,001,959.00. The town also approved $653,121 in Warrant Articles for a gross operating budget for 2019 of $2,655,080.

The amount to be raised by taxes is offset by revenue and withdrawals from capital reserve funds, totaling $1,010,582. The cost to be raised from taxes is $1,644,498. The estimated impact per thousand dollars of assessed value will be $7.11. This is a reduction of 82 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation from 2018.

Please note, these figures are preliminary and will be verified by the Town Administrator; they do not include assessments for school or county expenses.

BILL GURNEY is on the Budget Committee. The other members of the committee are Charles Champagne, chair; Sturdy Thomas, Selectmen’s representative; Judy Knapp, co-secretary; Nancy Campbell, co-secretary; Steve Baldwin, and Susie Vogel.

Please support the advertisers you see in The Dublin Advocate.
Citizen of the Year 2018

The Selectmen awarded the Citizen of the Year to Charles Champagne, and honored him with the following commendation:

The Dublin Selectmen take great pleasure in announcing the 2018 Town of Dublin Citizen of the Year – Mr. Charles F. Champagne. Charlie joined the Dublin Board of Selectmen in 2008 and served competently and faithfully as a Selectman until March of 2014. During his six years on the Board, Charlie worked effectively with the other Selectmen to manage the “prudential affairs” of the Town. In addition to the routine tasks of managing budgets and spending, and supervising Town employees and volunteer boards and committees, Charlie was involved in significant special tasks and projects that had long lasting positive effects on the Town. In his first year on the Board, renovation of the top floor of the Town Hall was completed, the collapsed Old Marlborough Road bridge was restored to full operation, and the worst ice storm in decades received careful management and remediation. In subsequent years, Charlie was involved in the planning and execution of the Traffic Calming and Safe Routes to School projects and replacement of the Charcoal Road bridge. He participated in the hiring process for a new Town Administrator and Police Chief, as well as numerous other personnel actions necessary for the management of Dublin’s superb complement of Town employees.

In 2014, after completing six years as Selectman, Charlie moved to the Budget Committee, taking over as Chair in 2015. During his five years as Chair of the Budget Committee, Charlie has been a notably effective leader. He conscientiously weighed the costs and benefits of various budget scenarios each year and ensured that the budget presented at town meeting reflected the needs of the Town and its citizens – and no more. Charlie showed exceptional leadership in helping to manage the Town’s budgetary response to the 2018 flooding and consequent road damage. He helped determine the amount of money needed to address the issue and assisted the Select Board in getting the funding into the operating budget. He has been a consistent voice for low growth in spending while at the same time ensuring the town has the funding necessary to provide essential services.

During his more than a decade of service to the Town of Dublin, Charlie has proven himself to be the type of volunteer citizen all small towns must have in order to survive and prosper. He has earned our thanks for his service and is deserving of our recognition as Dublin’s Citizen of the Year for 2018.

Officer Dan Cheshire, honoree, awarded the Patriot Award to Police Chief Tim Suokko as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), enabling support to Dan’s family while he was deployed to Afghanistan. Lee Cheshire, at left, is NH’s Employer Outreach Director of the ESGR.
SWRPC: Age-Focused Planning for Southwest NH

Your participation in this survey will provide the important information we need.

The Southwest Region Planning Commission is conducting a survey to collect information as part of an age-focused planning study for Southwest New Hampshire. The link to the survey is https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AgeFocused

Through this project, we will examine current and projected demographics as well as the wants and needs of residents, especially as current trends indicate a rapid increase in the older population combined with a decline among younger residents.

A balance of all ages is important to maintaining a healthy and vibrant community. Some communities are finding it increasingly difficult to fill volunteer positions on local boards as well as for critical services such as firefighters.

DCF Seeks Scholarship Applicants

BY ROSEMARY MACK

Dublin Community Foundation welcomes scholarship applications from 2019 graduating seniors who are residents of Dublin. A limited number of scholarships is available for students who are planning to continue their studies at a college, university, technical, or business school.

The deadline for completed applications is May 15, 2019. Notification of awards will be made by June 15. Applications are available from guidance counselors at Dublin Christian Academy, the Dublin School, and Fairwood Bible Institute.

ConVal students may submit ConVal’s Scholarship Common Application form. DCF also welcomes applications from Dublin students who have been homeschooled. Those students may email us at dublincommunityfoundation@gmail.com to request an application.

Completed applications can either be mailed to DCF at PO Box 1036, Dublin, NH 03444, or emailed to us at dublincommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

ROSEMARY MACK is the president of the DCF. Jane Keough, Jeff Oja, May Clark, and Tom Warren are the other members of the board.

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To assist with this effort, we need to gather information from residents from each of the 33 communities in which we serve. We ask also that you share the survey link above with others in your household as well as friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

If you would prefer to complete a hard-copy of the survey rather than the online version, or if you have questions regarding this project, please contact Lisa Murphy, Southwest Region Planning Commission, at lmurphy@swrpc.org or call (603) 357-0557. Thank you for participating in this survey!

TOWN OF DUBLIN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Public Notice

Effective March 15 through May 1, 2019, all Town roads will be closed to all vehicles over 6 tons. For exceptions, please contact the Road Agent, Roger Trempe, at 396-8546.

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DCF Seeks Scholarship Applicants

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ROSEMARY MACK is the president of the DCF. Jane Keough, Jeff Oja, May Clark, and Tom Warren are the other members of the board.

“The Dublin Advocate” may be found online and in color at www.dublinadvocate.com
News from DCS
BY NICOLE PEASE

This winter has been challenging for the staff and students to get our learning groove back. Between snow days and opening delays, I cannot remember when we had our last full week of school. With the onset of Spring, we are looking forward to regaining our momentum!

Despite the disruptions to our year, we have been able to complete the students’ winter benchmarking assessments. DCS has created year-long goals in math, reading, and behavior and, upon close examination of the winter data, we are well on our way to achieving the growth we set out to reach.

The end of March brought many different learning activities to DCS. Art Day was held on March 15 with a variety of art activities planned by art teacher Andy Shultz; Science Club, coordinated by Jesse Marcum, was held after school; Jeannie Connolly with Arts Integration spent some time in our classrooms, among other opportunities. The annual Movie Night on March 22 was a fun night; students and their families loved coming to school for pizza, popcorn, and movie – a beloved tradition! Thanks so much to our wonderful PTO for coordinating this.

We welcome April, and it brings a new theater residency to DCS. Children’s Stage Adventures will be working with all of our students to put on a performance of The Prince and the Pauper on April 19 at 6 pm. Community members are invited to attend this performance. It will be an enriching and busy week before April vacation.

It is hard to fathom that the final quarter of the school year is upon us! May will mean the beginning of the final round of assessments to examine student growth. Students work hard to do their best on these tests, and staff will work hard to balance the efforts with fun.

Kindergarteners are wanted. If you know of a child who will be 5 years old before September 30, please have their family contact our school.

Everyone is welcome to stop by and visit. We love having the community see what is going on in our school; please just give a call first (563-8332).

NICOLE PEASE is Teaching Principal at DCS.

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School Board Update
BY BERND FOECKING
First and foremost, a truly heartfelt “Thank You!” for your support of the budget, the teacher’s contract, and Warrant Article 11. I think it was wise to forego the change of the funding formula and the costly change to the the bus schedule. I am also grateful to be reelected to another term as your School Board Representative.

Now that we have adequate funding for the coming school year, we at the School Board can work on giving you the answers to the questions you ask through Article 11. I personally hope to continue my work on the Strategic Plan Committee that will probably spearhead this effort, hopefully with the help of selectmen and citizens from all towns.

At this point, you will have heard of the legal action we are taking against the continued inadequate funding by the State of New Hampshire. While this was a big decision, I firmly believe it was the right one. The State’s current funding of only $3,636.06 per pupil is not adequate. It doesn’t recognize our cost for transportation, actual teacher-student ratios, benefits required by the State, nor does it cover required expenses such as school nurses, the superintendent, and food services.

While you will certainly get updates on this through TV and regional press, I will endeavor to keep you abreast of any developments through The Dublin Advocate.

BERND FOECKING (bfoecking@conval.edu) has just been voted back in for another three-year term as Dublin’s representative to the ConVal School Board.

Estate Planning Seminar
For Seniors and Their Families
Tuesday, April 30th
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Dublin Community Center
Dublin, NH

At an upcoming free legal seminar, Elder Law Attorney Edward “Ted” Beasley will discuss:

- Planning for disability
- How to avoid probate
- Strategies for passing assets safely and efficiently
- How to protect your house and lifetime of savings from a prolonged nursing-home stay
- How to protect your children’s inheritance from creditors, divorce, or drug dependency.

Ted Beasley, former chairman of the American Bar Association Elder Law Committee, presents this lively and engaging seminar in everyday language, and there will be plenty of time for questions. Receive a copy of our latest book and new guide. Co-Author Greg Gagne will also present.

News from DCA
BY KEVIN MOODY
Plans for Dublin Christian Academy’s spring fundraiser are under way. Instead of a benefit auction, DCA is doing a serve-a-thon, called “Feed the Need,” inspired by their student body theme, “Make me a servant like you” (Mark 10:45).

This year’s funds will be used for much-needed renovations to the science lab and classroom. Along with raising funds for the renovations, the students will be participating in a four-hour-long packing party, where they will pack 10,000 meals for children in Christian orphanages and high-poverty schools in Haiti.

This hands-on project will enable the students to personally and literally impact the world beyond our borders.

KEVIN MOODY is Director of Development at DCA.

All Dublin residents are invited to attend an Old Fashioned Potluck Supper
Bring your favorite dish to share with friends old and new.
Saturday, April 13, 6 pm
Dublin Community Church Hall

Anya Thomas, the daughter of Sturdy and Heidi Thomas, has been named to the Dean’s List of Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida, for the Fall 2018 semester. The Dean’s List includes students who have completed at least four courses with a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Anya would like to thank her hometown of Dublin for support through two scholarships she received this year.

Amanda Thomas, the daughter of Sturdy and Heidi Thomas, has been named to the Dean’s List of Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida, for the Fall 2018 semester. The Dean’s List includes students who have completed at least four courses with a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Anya would like to thank her hometown of Dublin for support through two scholarships she received this year.

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A Helping Hand for Salamanders

The spring amphibian migration and Salamander Crossing Brigades are under way.

BY BRETT AMY THELEN

Every year, on the first warm, rainy nights of spring, tens of thousands of amphibians make their way – sometimes up to a quarter-mile, on tiny feet – to vernal pools and other wetlands to breed. It’s a perilous journey, and many are killed when they must cross busy roads.

Studies have shown that this “road mortality” can have a significant impact on local amphibian populations, which in turn, can affect the health of our forests. Thankfully, you can help:

1. Drive carefully – or not at all – on warm, rainy nights.
2. Slow down, especially near wetlands.
4. Join the Salamander Crossing Brigades: Attend a volunteer training on March 30 (10 to noon at the Harris Center for Conservation Education).

The Harris Center for Conservation Education is dedicated to promoting understanding and respect for our natural environment through education of all ages, direct protection and exemplary stewardship of the region’s natural resources, conservation research, and programs that encourage active participation in the great outdoors.

For more information, contact Brett Amy Thelen at (603) 358-2065 or email thelen@harriscenter.org.

BRETT AMY THELEN is Science Director at the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock.

Call for Graduates

Calling all College Graduates in 2019: The May issue focuses on your graduations from technical school or college. Please send a photo of your face, where you will graduate from, and plans if you have them. Please send all your material to DublinAdvocate@gmail.com by April 15.

Autism Services for Children

Crotched Mountain’s Ready, Set, Connect! program has opened an autism clinic at the Greenfield campus. Ready, Set, Connect! provides ABA therapy for young children in a group setting, offering an environment of fun and learning and a path to a bright future! Locations also in Manchester and Concord, NH.

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Call for Graduates

Nancy Nolan submitted this photo of a Barred Owl “all fluffed up.” It has been hanging around her house all winter. Notice the missing bark to the left of the owl. That’s from the hungry porcupine who climbs the tree and eats the bark.
A Place to Grow

Dublin Community Preschool and Childcare Center is housed in the Dublin Village Park.

BY DENISE FRANKOFF

Last week was Spirit Week at the Dublin Community Preschool and Childcare Center located in Dublin Village Park. The Director, Sheena Baldwin, was dressed as the Cat in the Hat and some children were dressed as their favorite book characters. The space was filled with laughter. There were preschool children engaged in reading books, dancing, creating shapes with shaving cream, building with blocks, and having a tea party. The infants and toddlers were playing with their teachers; some were practicing standing and taking steps. In the middle of the week, families would gather to celebrate at an Ice Cream Social. What a week!

The Dublin Community Preschool and Childcare Center (DCPCC) has been caring for children from the Monadnock Region since 1964. It is a nonprofit, independent, state-licensed educational center. DCPCC has four full-time and two part-time staff and is licensed for up to 35 children. It offers flexible, full-, and part-time care for children 6 weeks through 11 years of age through infant and preschool programs, before- and after-school care, childcare during school vacation weeks, and summer camps.

The Center welcomes children with special needs who are referred by their school district. DCPCC assists families who are eligible for the state-funded tuition scholarship program, which offers a sliding scale tuition rate. The staff at DCPCC works closely with its Board of Directors, which is composed of parents and community members.

Sheena joined the Center as Director and Associate Teacher in January 2019 and has...
deep roots in the Monadnock Region. She grew up in Greenfield, where she described herself as the “town babysitter.” She graduated from ConVal Regional High School and Plymouth State University. Sheena began working with young children at the age of 15 at Norah’s Depot Childcare Center in Greenfield. Over the years she worked in early childhood education at ConVal’s First Friends Preschool and Pine Hill Child Care Center in Peterborough, and managed her own in-home daycare in Antrim.

Sheena is excited to be a part of DCPCC. She believes the Center is unique because of its high-quality, flexible programs and team of experienced and enthusiastic professionals. The highly involved parents and board members promote an element of community.

DCPCC has a large outside play area where children enjoy time in the sunshine and snow. Seasonally, there are opportunities for gardening, nature walks, sledding, and snowshoeing.

Sheena and the DCPCC team look forward to connecting with our community, and were happy to participate in Dublin’s Business Fair and Newcomers’ Reception that was held March 23 at the Dublin Community Center.

To learn more about DCPCC, call 563-8508, email info@dublinpreschool.org, or visit www.dublinpreschool.org.

Watch for monthly updates about DCPCC in The Dublin Advocate.

DENISE FRANKOFF is on the staff of The Advocate.

CVTC Benefits All

Since 2008, CVTC (Community Volunteer Transportation Co.) has been providing no-fee rides to people who do not have access to transportation because of age, ability, income, and/or life circumstance.

Our trip purposes include non-emergency medical and social-service appointments and the purchasing of basic needs like food and medicine. We serve the 34 towns that make up the Monadnock Region in southwestern NH.

We offer mileage reimbursement at $0.41 per mile. Just as important is the actual impact on those who ride with us: Survey results indicate that 89% of riders say they don’t hesitate in making necessary medical and social-service appointments because they know they can get a ride; 75% report health improvement; and 80% say their health isn’t any worse. More than 80% of riders report eating healthy meals; and 89% say they feel they are less of a burden on family and friends.

If you’d like a ride, give us a call – or if you’d like to become a volunteer driver, please call 1-877-428-2882, ext. 5.

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DENISE FRANKOFF is on the staff of The Advocate.

Photos by Denise Frankoff

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THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE may be found online and in color at WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM
April Events at the DubHub

Open Stage: Bob Pope & Lisa Greenleaf
Bob Pope and Lisa Greenleaf are the featured performers for Open Stage on Friday, April 5. Bob Pope and Lisa Greenleaf met in 2003 and began performing together at area open mics, gigs, and other events. Their repertoire of music includes country, ballads, folk, easy rock, and a little bluegrass. They appeared at the recent Carole King-Along, and at last year’s Benefit Concert for Puerto Rico.

Doors open at 7 pm and performances begin at 7:30 pm. Admission is $5, and we pass the hat for the feature. Nine open

Artwork by Diana Conrad
This month the Hub features paintings and beadwork by Diana Conrad. The opening reception is on Friday, April 5, from 5 to 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Diana has many ties to the arts community. She is an accomplished violinist and teacher, but photography is her favorite hobby, as well as gardening and interior design. When her daughter and husband signed her up for one of Mary Iselin’s painting classes ten years ago, she turned to the canvas with a new love of color and texture. Her medium is oil and her goal is creating beauty. She is currently studying with Betty Glass and Richard Whitney. Diana also studied lampwork glass bead making with Lulu Fichter last year. She knew she needed to stop when she had made 1,000 beads! This winter she turned some of those beads into jewelry.

Dance Fitness Spring Session
Put some spring into your step and join Deb’s class to kick off the new 8-week spring session of Dance Fitness starting April 1. Geared toward “boomers,” the class meets on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The session, which runs until May 20, costs $40. Participants are asked to bring clean shoes and water. Please enter through the rear door of the Hub.

Qigong for All
Qigong will meet four times in April: 3, 10, 17, 24. Monthly fee is $48. Single class $15.

Tai chi shoes, which offer support yet allow the foot to relax, are for sale at $10 per pair (ideal for the study of Qigong.)

On World Tai Chi Qigong Day (Saturday, April 27), I offer a free community class in Keene from 10 to 11 am at Railroad Square, outdoors, to participate in or watch. Please contact Ginnette Groome, LMT, at 313-9828, or email ammatwirl@aol.com.

Community Lunch
Join us for a home-cooked meal on Tuesday, April 16. The menu is tomato bisque and grilled cheddar cheese with salad, sweets, and drinks. Cost is $3. Lunch is served from noon to 1 pm. Come enjoy delightful conversation with your neighbors!

Artwork by Diana Conrad

Dana B. O’Brien
Brooklands Design
Mechanical Consultant
Dublin NH 03444
603.209.3616
dana@brooklandsdesign.com

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THE DUBLIN ADVOCATE may be found online and in color at WWW.DUBLINADVOCATE.COM
Bring Your Own Ukulele

The Monadnock Ukulele Group meets on April 19 from 7 to 9 pm. A $5 contribution is appreciated. Song lists will be emailed to participants ahead of each meeting and the member must bring their own copy. No lessons given, but easy two-and three-chord songs are included each month. Please email Nancy at thoreaucottage@gmail.com or call 603-785-9857 to request a song list or to be put on the monthly email list. Beginners through advanced uke players are welcome.

Forum on Mount Monadnock

The Hub will host a discussion on the cultural and natural history impact of Mt. Monadnock on our local community on April 27 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Topics will include the impact on Dublin’s art community.

From the early settlement of Dublin in 1749, land was cleared for pastures on the lower slopes. Later it became home to sheep up to the rocky ledges and marked by stone walls. By the 1800s, farms had been established by early settlers. A fire set in 1800 to drive wolves away from the sheep burned off trees at the summit. Henry David Thoreau’s journals give us an excellent picture of the mountain as it was in 1860.

The 1938 Hurricane and a major fire in 1953 destroyed hundreds of acres, but they have since reforested. Most of Mt. Monadnock is protected today through generous donations of people in Dublin and Jaffrey.

Join us for an educational discussion on the importance of the mountain in the Monadnock Region, moderated by Tom Warren, a member on the board of the Hub.

Song Circle

The monthly Song Circle meets on Friday, April 26, from 7 to 9 pm. Bruce Simpson leads this informal group. Bring your own beverage and songs to share (if you want others to play along). Listeners and singers are welcome. For more information, contact Bruce at bruce_simpson@msn.com.

Coffee & Conversation and Open Hours

The DubHub is open for Coffee & Conversation on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to noon. The Hub remains open until 5 pm on Mondays. On Wednesdays it is closed for Qigong at noon and is open again from 1 to 4 pm. For information, call 563-8080 or visit www.dublin-communitycenter.org.

Easter Services in Dublin

Fairwood Bible Chapel
Easter Service at 10:30 am
We’d love to have you join us!

Mountain View Bible Church
April 21: Easter program, “Calvary’s Love,” 10:30 am

Dublin Community Church
April 18: Maundy Thurs. Service, 7 pm
April 21: Easter Sunrise Service, 7 am; & Easter Sunday Service, 10:30 am

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“A Matter of Balance”  
Managing concerns about falls.

If you have ever had a fall or are afraid of falling, join us in an Information session to learn about this nationwide award-winning program on Sunday, April 14, from 2 pm to 3 pm at the Community Church of Harrisville & Chesham, Canal Street, in Harrisville.

Linda Cook, a master trainer for A Matter of Balance, will introduce us to the program and invite interested people to sign up for an eight-session course to follow in April, May, and June.

A Matter of Balance emphasizes practical strategies to decrease risks and fear of falling, increase physical activity, and learn that falls are controllable. They are not a necessary part of aging.

Just because you don’t have a balance problem doesn’t mean you are not at risk for falling. Learn to be more aware of what can be done to increase your confidence, ensure your independence, and improve the quality of your life.

A Matter of Balance is for anyone who can walk, even with a device, and is for folks aged 60+. If you are younger, you are eligible if walking is difficult thus putting you at a higher risk for falls. Everyone can benefit from this program.

This introductory talk is free and open to all. It is jointly sponsored by the Community Church of Harrisville & Chesham and the Dublin Community Church.

River Center Offerings

With only a few more weeks left in the tax season, The River Center is offering drop-off appointments on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2 and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm. For the second year we are also encouraging filers who are getting money back to split their refunds. If you choose to split your refund when you get your return prepared, you can enter the SaveYourRefund promotion online for one of 10 weekly $100 prizes. If you enter the photo contest, you have a chance at one of two grand prizes of $10,000.

On April 9 at 6:30 pm, join Wendy Hill for a Tuesday Topic discussion, “Finding Your Family’s Vision,” in which she will help parents discern their principles and priorities to help them make those tough decisions in the best interests of their children and family.

Still going strong are our noontime Tuesday groups for parents of Tweens & Teens and our Wednesday morning play-times at 9:30. We also offer free money coaching on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2 pm by appointment or drop-in.

For more information, call 924-6800 or RSVP at www.rivercenter.us/register.

The River Center provides community connections, parenting support, tax assistance and money coaching to strengthen individuals and families in the Eastern Monadnock Region. It is located at 9 Vose Farm Rd., Suite 115, Peterborough.

Four on the Floor

All are welcome.

A Concert to Benefit the Homeless Shelters of Keene will take place on Sunday, March 31, at 3 pm. Fifteen Quartets by professional musicians will join talents in jazz, vocal, flute, dance, strings, harp, euphonium, and more. Performers include Joanne Mead, Steve Cady, George Robinson, Tom Martin, Walt Sayre, and more.

Come to Saint James Episcopal Church, 44 West Street, Keene, NH. Suggested donation at the door $15.
Earth Day Festival: Be Water Wise

The New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (Auburn, NH) announces its 12th annual Earth Day Festival on April 13, from 10 am to 3 pm. This is a family-oriented event that celebrates the wonders of our great planet and strengthens our appreciation for clean water, air, and soil.

There will be live music, games, a bonfire, face painting, and an exciting raffle. Guests will have an opportunity to meet our live animals, watch a rehabilitated raptor be released back into the wild, visit with over a dozen earth-friendly vendors, and get tips on how to “Be Water Wise” ($10 individuals; $25 families).

For additional information, call NH Audubon at 668-2045 or visit www.nhaudubon.org.

Did you know you can receive The Dublin Advocate in your email each month? It’s even more meaningful in color on your laptop. Email DublinAdvocate@gmail.com with your request.

The Mourning Dove

BY TOM WARREN

Somewhat smaller than the pigeon, the Mourning Dove has a brown head and long pointed tail and wings. It is best located by its long cooing, coo, coo call by the males, not females. Also, its wings in flight make a sharp whistling sound.

It was formerly quite common in southern New England, but by 1908 it had become scarce. When Massachusetts gave it protection, its numbers increased. In the southern states it was considered a game bird, but now has federal protection as a migratory bird.

Mourning Doves feed on the ground in fields, farms, and gardens. Buckwheat and corn are favorite foods as well as weed seeds. In winter they prefer beechnuts and acorns. They will feed on the ground under bird feeders where they often become prey of Goshawks and Cooper’s Hawks.

The nest is poorly made of sticks, straw, and weed stalks and is built at a height of 10 to 15 feet. Occasionally it nests on the ground. Its 2-3 eggs usually hatch in 14 days. Young Mourning Doves are fed “pigeons’ milk” (from its crop) by both adults but after a few days are fed worms and seeds.

It is considered a very useful bird from its habit of eating weed seeds and grasshoppers. A habit of eating ripening peas has never been documented.

The Mourning Dove has long been a symbol of Peace and Hope. As a symbol of hope, a Mourning Dove was released by Noah after 40 days and nights. The dove returned to the Ark with an olive branch indicating land was near, a sign of deliverance.

TOM WARREN is Dublin’s resident ornithologist.

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### APRIL 2019 Dublin Town Events

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>31 Keene St. James benefit for the homeless shelters 3 pm</td>
<td>1 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open noon-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm; DPL Raylynmor Opera 6 pm</td>
<td>2 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL Book Buddies 3:45 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>3 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open 1-4 pm; Qigong noon-1 pm; DPL Storytime 9:30 am; Republicans 6 pm; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 HUB Art Reception 5-7 pm; Open Stage 7:30-10 pm</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Favorite Poem Event, Harrisville's St. Denis Hall 4:30 pm</td>
<td>8 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open noon-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>9 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL BookBuddies 3:45 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>10 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open 1-4 pm; Qigong noon-1 pm; DPL Storytime 9:30 am; Democrats 6 pm; Trustees 7 pm; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
<td>11 DPL Republicans Exec. 6 pm</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 DCC Old Fashioned Potluck Supper, 6 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Palm Sunday</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open noon-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>16 DCC MRC 7:30 am; HUB Community Lunch 12-1 pm; DPL BookBuddies 3:45 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>17 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open 1-4 pm; Qigong noon-1 pm; DPL Storytime 9:30 am; Dublin School Choice Comm. 6 pm; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
<td>18 DPL Recycling 6 pm</td>
<td>19 Good Friday Passover begins at sundown; HUB Ukelele Group 7-9 pm; DCS Prince &amp; Pauper performance 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Easter Sunday</td>
<td>22 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open noon-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>23 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL BookBuddies 3:45 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm; DCC Community Supper 5:30-6:30 pm</td>
<td>24 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open 1-4 pm; Qigong noon-1 pm; DPL Storytime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm</td>
<td>25 DPL Book Group 6:30 pm; TH ZBA 7 pm</td>
<td>26 HUB Song Circle 7-9 pm</td>
<td>27 HUB Monadnock Forum 4:30-5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 HUB Coffee 9 am-noon; Open noon-5 pm; Dance with Deb 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm</td>
<td>30 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL BookBuddies 3:45 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm</td>
<td>BOS Board of Selectmen</td>
<td>DCC Dublin Community Church</td>
<td>DCS Dublin Consolidated School</td>
<td>DPL Dublin Public Library</td>
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The Dublin Advocate is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Everyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. Email submissions by the 15th of each month to DublinAdvocate@gmail.com. Articles subject to edit. The editor reserves the right to refuse any article or advertisement.

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