Peggy Chagnon's 90th Birthday!

On Saturday, February 12, Peggy Chagnon of Main Street, Pittsfield, was surprised by her family with a 90th birthday party with many relatives and friends attending the celebration. They came from Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina; and here in New Hampshire they came from Alton, Boscawen, Center Barnstead, Concord, Epsom, Loudon, Newmarket, Pittsfield and Webster. A big thank you to everyone who made this day a special one for her. Paulette Chagnon

Pittsfield Budget Committee
Ballot Summary

Budget season is coming to a close and the second session of annual town and school district meeting (election day) is right around the corner. This has been a rather uneventful budget season, thanks to the hard work of our department heads, town and school administration, and our select and school boards. Both the town and school have proposed very reasonable and conservative budgets.

Decreases in the school budget can be contributed to decreased costs in health and dental insurance and the hiring of new staff at lower salary rates. Increases in the town budget are due to increased costs in New Hampshire retirement and contractual obligations. However, due to offsetting department and grant revenues, along with an overall increase in assessed value of the town, the tax impact of the budget only went up by one cent.

You may also notice a slight increase in capital reserve fund contributions. These increases are due to a few things: 1. The warrant article to contribute to the Dump Truck Capital Reserve Fund was defeated last year. In order to stay on track with the replacement schedule we need to make up for it with a higher contribution this year. 2. Warrant Article 20 is to see if the town will vote to establish a Light Equipment Fund for the Public Works Department. This is a new fund that will be used to replace smaller equipment that still has a high cost, like the chipper. 3. Lastly, there has been an increase in estimated vehicle and equipment replacement costs, hence the need to contribute a little more to certain funds. Our CIP committee has worked very closely with our department heads to establish a replacement schedule. Staying on track with the recommended annual contributions will help to create stability in our tax rate and ensure that our safety departments have what they need to serve our community effectively and efficiently.

Election day is set for March 8, 2022. Please make sure to do your research and reach out to the appropriate people with any questions you may have prior to stepping into that voting booth!

Happy voting! Katie Bocash,
Budget Committee Chair

The Post is Counting on You!

Dear Readers:
The Post needs your help to keep printing this weekly publication. When you're thinking about supporting our community, please send us a donation! Thank you, The Post Volunteers

Want to see the pictures in color? Subscribe to receive the Post by Email Go to: www.PittsfieldPost.org Or scan the QR code
**Town Crier** Andrea Riel 603-435-6346
pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

**Absentee ballot applications** are available at the Town Clerk's office or may be printed from the town website pittsfieldnh.gov. The ballots will be mailed to you as soon as they are available. **Please Note** absentee ballots must be either handed to the town clerk or deputy town clerk, or mailed by U.S. mail. Any ballots left in the drop box will not be counted.

**Teen Surprise Book Bags** are available at the Josiah Carpenter Library to help you get the most out of school vacation! Get cozy with a good book, snack, and cocoa today! We have books from all genres for ages 10 and up. Go on in, and check one out.

**Second Session of Annual Town and School District Meeting (Election Day) Tuesday, March 8, 2022**
Pittsfield Middle High School Gymnasium 7am - 7pm
**Please note:** Oneida Street is one way to the Middle High School. Berry Avenue is one way leaving the school. The entrance will be the gymnasium side door, to the left of the lobby doors. Traffic through the polling place will be one way with the exit on the opposite side of the gymnasium. **Masks shall be worn** (masks will be available). Social distance spacing of at least 6 feet. No public restroom facilities. Poll workers will be available to provide direction and answer questions. Please call or e-mail the Town Clerk's office with any questions or concerns prior to Election Day - 603)435-6773 ext 1
eanthonypittsfieldnh.gov

**The Pittsfield Senior Center** - staff shortages that you have been hearing about on the news have affected the center. Therefore, we need to reduce hours. The center is open for Bingo on Mondays and Thursdays 9:30am to 12pm. Inside walking hours are postponed until further notice. This is only temporary until we find a coordinator. Please call the Center at 435-8482 with questions.

**The Pittsfield Players’ Kids’ Theater Workshop will present “Godspell, Jr.” at the Scenic Theatre, 6 Depot St., Pittsfield, NH on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 17, 18, and 19, at 7pm. Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for kids under 12, on sale now, and may be purchased through he players’ website pittsfieldplayers.org or reserved by calling 603-435-8852.**

**The Pittsfield Association and Support Group of the Pittsfield Fire Department** is sponsoring an All You Can Eat Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, March 5 from 5-7:30pm at the Pittsfield Fire Station. Menu includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink. Cost is by donation.

**PHS Alumni** - It is with a heavy heart that the PHS Alumni Association Executive Committee has decided to postpone the **All-Class Reunion** for one more year. We have concluded that it is too early in the evolution of the pandemic for us to extend financial and human resources for an event that ultimately may need to be canceled or will be compromised by some people’s reluctance in being in a large crowd. We look forward to starting the planning process in the fall of 2022 for a wonderful, well-attended event in July of 2023. If you are interested in joining the All-Class Planning Committee, please contact Andi Riel at pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

**Joy Church** is hosting a free family movie night on Friday, March 4 at 6:30pm. We will be watching ’Spies in Disguise.’ The whole community is invited. There will be free popcorn and snacks for everyone. We hope to see you there! Our address is 55 Barnstead Road in Pittsfield.

**The American Legion Peterson Cram Post 75** will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, March 7 at 7:30pm at the Town Hall.

**Suncook Valley Sno Riders Club** will meet on Wednesday, March 2 at 7pm at St. George’s shop on High Street, Pittsfield. Please bring a chair if you would like to sit.

**Pittsfield Youth Workshop's** spring calendar is out with lots of exciting news! A couple of special events are taking place throughout the next few months. The first is Wednesday, March 9, when they will be having a special visitor stopping by from 2-3pm to show everyone some healthy and tasty after-school snack options. A High School Only Night will be held on Friday, March 11 from 6-8pm! PYW is open for Drop-In Monday-Friday, 3-6pm with extended hours on early release Wednesday 1-6pm. PYW is open to youth in grades 6-12th and the membership is free! Stop by for a tour, a membership packet, and to meet the staff! Email: Laurie@Pittsfieleyouthworkshop.org

**Happy Birthday** wishes to Dave Johonett at the end of February! A very special Happy Birthday wish to my fabulous Sister-in-law, Terry Riel, on Wednesday. I hope you have a great day!
The School Board would like to thank the Student Site Council members, as well as Matthew Swenson, the student representative to the Board, for their attendance at our meeting on the 17th. The four students brought forward a letter stating why they were proposing dress code changes, as well as the process they have used to create their proposal. The students asked questions of the Board and Superintendent Lane to ascertain more specific feedback in their revision process. We applaud these students and their involvement as active members of their school community.

The Board also heard from Director of Student Services Jessica Bickford, as she presented changes from the Department of Education about their measurements for compliance for special education. This will impact all schools in New Hampshire, so the Board is grateful to Ms. Bickford for her proactive presentation of these changes.

Mr. Lane brought forward information about declining Covid numbers. In light of this, the Board changed the policy regarding mask wearing in our schools. Additionally, Mr. Lane gave the Board details surrounding the feasibility study by Team Design Herriman. The study will begin the first week in March. Mr. Lane hopes to have information from the design firm soon after the study for the Board so that we can make a determination as to the final costs associated with tuitioning high school students.

We encourage all community members to get out to vote on Tuesday, March 8th. Polls are open 7AM-7PM at PMHS. The next scheduled School Board meeting (Thursday 3/3) has been canceled due to school vacation, so please consider attending our next School Board meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 5:30pm in the PMHS library. Molly Goggin, mollymoultonbrooks@gmail.com 603-387-1396

A public hearing was held regarding acceptance of a donation of a Nitrox pump for the Fire Dept./EMS. The pump will deliver pain relief gas for ambulance passengers, reducing the need for Pittsfield to have to engage the services of a licensed individual when our “in-house” employee is not working. The Nitrox pump will allow the gas to be “self-administered.” The grant is $5,000 (the entire cost of the pump) and will save us additional expenditures going forward, as well. There was no public input and the BoS accepted the donation.

A request for permission for a “traffic mirror” (for the benefit of a private business) to be located on town owned property was denied. The board was in agreement that a mirror such as this is not a good idea nor frankly even safe, and therefore should be placed on private property if the business believes it to be beneficial.

The Board voted to dispose of a tax deeded 10-acre parcel of land at public auction. The parcel is “landlocked,” meaning it has no access on a road, public or otherwise, and therefore will most likely be of most interest to abutters. Watch for notice of the sale on the town website for further information.

Highway Dept. Supervisor Noel Gourley attended the meeting and discussed a 1991 loader/backhoe, owned by the town, that he feels is not a piece of equipment it makes sense to keep. We voted to sell it by sealed bid, with a deadline of March 18, 2022. Call the town office to make arrangements to see it if you are interested.

Election Day, March 8 is upon us. There are a couple of contested positions up for re-election, and a number of important monetary articles for your consideration. Please vote! Carl Anderson
It’s Maple Month here in the Granite State, a sure sign that Spring is around the corner. Here in Pittsfield we are fortunate to have a local sugarhouse. Journey’s End Maple Farm has already been buzzing with activity and they are ready to meet all of your ‘maple needs!’ With this crazy up and down weather, the sap has been running exceptionally well this season.

Be sure to visit the farm for Maple Weekend on March 19 and 20. Several vendors will be at Journey’s End that weekend, offering a wide range of goodies including homemade chocolates and sweets, jams and jellies, homemade breads, local beef products, handmade crafts, home decor items, and more. You will also be able to pick up your favorite maple syrups, maple sugar, and candies. They will offer tours of their maple operations; and be sure to enjoy one of their special maple lattes.

Journey’s End Maple Farm is located at 295 Loudon Road, Pittsfield, (603) 435-5127.

Cooks Corner

We’re celebrating all things maple this month in Cooks Corner. To kick off the month-long series we’ll start with two sweet treats. Maple Pudding Cake was sent in by one of our devoted readers, Corine Miller. You’ll see more of Corine’s recipes later this month, but this one is especially scrumptious. Our second sweet for this week is from Jean Cram. She offers up a classic recipe for maple flavored Anzac cookies. Anzac biscuits (cookies) were created in 1915 when the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was formed. These biscuits were originally featured in care packages sent to soldiers during WWI. Check out Journey’s End Maple Farm here in town for your syrup and maple sugar. Enjoy!

Maple Anzacs (cookies) (Jean Cram)

1 cup butter
2 TBSP maple syrup
1 Cup Flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup flaked coconut (unsweetened)
1 cup sugar

Heat oven to 350. Soften butter slightly then cream in maple syrup in a bowl. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Roll into small balls. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes.

Maple Pudding Cake (Corine Miller)

1 & ½ cups flour
¾ cup sugar
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
¾ cup milk
½ cup chopped nuts (optional)
1 & ½ cups maple syrup
⅛ cup water
2 TBSP butter

Heat oven to 350. Mix together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, milk, and nuts (if using). Pour into a greased 8 inch square baking pan. Combine the maple syrup, water and butter in a small sauce pan. Heat just until the butter melts. Pour gently over the cake batter. DO NOT STIR. Bake for 45 minutes. Serve warm, with whipped cream or ice cream.
School District Ballot Description Part Two

The Pittsfield School Board is bringing forward Warrant Article number 4, which is to see if the votes will allow the District to establish a fund using unexpended budget funds annually. There was a law passed a few years ago that gave the school district the ability to create the same kind of fund that the Town of Pittsfield has.

How will the fund be created? If the Warrant Article is approved, the School Board will create a policy that says:

- The District will never keep more than 50% of the unexpended fund balance each year
- The District will cap its annual addition to the fund at $150,000. So if the unexpended fund balance is more than $300,000, the district can only keep $150,000
- The District will create a cap for the fund of $400,000

According to the law, the fund can only be spent in two ways:

The first option is the creation of a special project. Any special project needs to be approved by the School Board, the Budget Committee and the Department of Education. This would be a rarity and the project would not be something that could be funded by a Capital Reserve Fund.

The second option is for the School Board to add revenue to the School District budget to minimize increases in the tax rate. As an example, if the contract with the Education Association of Pittsfield had created an increase of $50,000, the Board could choose to add $50,000 of available funds as revenue. This would balance out the increased cost and the citizens would not see an increase in taxes due to the cost of the contract.

Why do this? If the Board uses this fund to minimize changes in the tax rate, the voters can look forward to only small changes in the tax rate. This will minimize the rising costs that the District may experience. It will also allow the District to counteract any decrease that may come from federal funds. The fund does not need to be used every year and the Budget Committee will be aware of any use of the fund as they consider the budget annually. If a special project came about due to an emergency, the fund could be used without going to the voters to ask for more money.

If you have questions, please contact Bryan Lane, Superintendent of Schools at 603-435-5526. Please vote on March 8th. Polls open from 7AM to 7PM at Pittsfield Middle/High School.
Pittsfield Budget Committee
2022 Warrant Article Explanations

We understand that the warrant articles tend to be confusing and difficult to understand. We present these explanations, in an objective manner, to assist you in understanding what a ‘yes’ vote will accomplish and what a ‘no’ vote will accomplish. We have selected the warrant articles that seem to be the most misunderstood.

If something is confusing or difficult to understand, please ask for clarification at the Town Hall. Once you are at the voting booth you cannot ask what the articles mean, so make sure you are an informed voter ahead of time.

Note: ‘Tax Impact’ does not necessarily mean a tax increase. We can not simply add up the estimated tax impact of these warrant articles as an increase in taxes. The ‘tax impact’ implies the portion of the tax rate that is represented by the funds proposed in these articles.

Warrant Article 2: Municipal Operating Budget-
The noted increases in the operating budget were a proposed contract for the zoning ordinance rewrite, 4% increase in wastewater management contract, and the 19%-26% increase in retirement costs.

Even though the operating budget total is more than last year, the increase in offsetting department & grant revenue used in the calculation of the estimated tax impact - along with overall increase in assessed value of the town, the tax impact only went up by one cent.

A ‘yes’ vote will approve the proposed operating budget. A ‘no’ vote will approve the default budget.

Warrant Article 6: Raising Matching Funds for a Fire Department Grant – 1994 Fire Tanker Replacement
This is one of those cases where the article must be worded in a precise manner dictated by the state, but the real impact is unclear. It is asking you if the Town can spend $60,000 in order to receive $248,000 in grant funds. A ‘yes’ vote will approve the expenditure of the total $308,000 to purchase a new Fire Engine Tanker. A ‘no’ vote will refuse the town funds and the reception of the grant and ultimately deny the purchase of the fire engine replacement.

Warrant Article 7: Police Cruiser Replacement
Most of the funds needed to purchase a new Police Cruiser will come from the two funds mentioned in the article, created for this purpose. The remainder of $6,000 will need to come from taxes. A ‘yes’ vote will approve the raising of these taxes and the purchase of the new cruiser. A ‘no’ vote will deny the raising of the taxes and purchase of the new cruiser.

Warrant Article 8: Dump Truck Replacement
The dump truck the town is seeking to replace is the oldest truck in the fleet, a 2006 International with 106,000 miles on it, well passed the typical 10 year replacement. The frame rails on the body have started to rust and will need a new body in the near future. Its reverse struggles to activate and needs a $2,300 shifter replacement. The department had 3 different mechanics look at it and all came up with the same diagnoses. The trucks plow is also 16 years old and has served the town well but also is in need of replacement.

With new trucks taking longer to purchase, now is a good time to get on a list. Just in case it takes a year to year and a half to receive.

Most of the funds needed to purchase a new dump truck will come from the Capital Reserve Fund created for this purpose. The remainder of $2,000 will need to come from taxes. A ‘yes’ vote will approve the raising of these taxes for the purchase of the new dump truck. A ‘no’ vote will deny the raising of the taxes and the purchase of the new dump truck.

Warrant Article 9 thru 19: Capital Reserve Fund Contributions
These warrant articles set aside funds that allow for maintenance and replacement of equipment used by the Fire, Police, and Highway Departments. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee proposed a strategic plan of replacement for each of the vehicles represented by these Funds, amounts which reflect the committee’s desire to stabilize the tax impact over the coming years according to this long-term plan.


- Article 11: this reserve fund is to set aside funds to replace the Fire Engine Pumpers as needed. There are two Fire Engine Pumpers in our Fire Station. One pumper is being proposed for replacement this year. The funds saved here are for the next upcoming replacement. See CIP for timelines and numbers.
- Article 15: this reserve fund is to set aside funds to replace the Highway Department Dump trucks. There are three dump trucks covered by this reserve fund. This article was defeated at the 2021 Voting Session and results in an increase this year.

School Warrant Article 2: Operating Budget
There is a reduction in the proposed operating budget for the schools this year. A ‘yes’ vote will approve a budget of $10,165,083.77. A ‘no’ vote will approve the default budget of $10,463,271.07.
Meet the Candidates for Pittsfield School Board

Dalton Swenson, founder and leader of the Pittsfield Middle High School club ‘Future Voters of Pittsfield’ submitted this ‘Meet the Candidates’ on behalf of his club which, over the past few weeks, interviewed the candidates and compiled their responses so that voters could be informed and prepared for Voting Date on March 8!

Molly Goggin
Molly Goggin is an incumbent on the School Board. She is an educator and has experience teaching English and literacy at many levels. She also holds an advanced degree in school leadership and is certified to be a NH principal and curriculum coordinator. Ms. Goggin believes the most important issue is to focus on children and help them succeed. On closing the high school, Ms. Goggin says: “If this move would benefit students of Pittsfield, I would certainly consider it.”

Sandra Adams
Sandra Adams is an incumbent on the School Board. She was Pittsfield’s first Reading Specialist and previously worked in budgeting and human resources for the State. Ms. Adams prioritizes student achievement by setting high standards and behavior management. On the budget, she says she is “willing to support a solid academic school of learning.” Ms. Adams also says that her focus is on student success, “whether that is tuitioning out or remaining in Pittsfield.”

Sarah Marston Duval
Sarah Marston Duval was born and raised in Pittsfield and graduated from PHS. Ms. Marston Duval wants to “put people in place who are not afraid of the tough decisions and the hard work to restore a more rigorous curriculum.” She also wants transparency from the Board and the Superintendent. Ms. Marston Duval opposes closing PHS; she believes there is no economic advantage and the town would lose the “heartbeat of a community.”

To see the candidates’ full responses to our questions, visit pittsfieldnhschools.org
Future Voters of Pittsfield

Adam Cote
Adam Cote did not respond to our interview questions. We do not have enough information to overview his candidacy.

Jody Cunningham
Jody Cunningham is a life-long resident of Pittsfield with experience on Pittsfield Listens and bridging the community-school divide. Ms. Cunningham believes the top priority of the district should be “finding more ways to offer more. … without raising taxes.” Ms. Cunningham leans against closing PHS, saying it would harm the community and “we have not exhausted all avenues or fully investigated the possibility of other schools choosing to tuition into a contract at Pittsfield.”

Granite Image
940 Suncook Valley Hwy • PO Box 683
Epsom, NH 03234 • 603-736-6056
print@granite-image.com • www.granite-image.com
To my constituents in Pittsfield,

Last week, the House met for two days on all the early bills which are going to a second committee. From my committee, HB 1417 required the state to pay 7.5% of local contributions to the state pension fund. I spoke in support of the committee recommendation of killing it for two main reasons: first, the towns and cities decide how many employees to hire and how much to pay them, and having a subsidy for some of the costs incites them to hire and pay more; and second, when the state dropped its contribution to zero, in 2011, the employees’ rate was increased to make up for it. In any event, a lot of towns and school districts want more funding... and tell their representatives to vote for any increase. The motion to kill it passed, 173-172. Then a representative in the back called for reconsideration – and that passed, 180-171. A motion to table failed, 171-180, the kill motion failed this time, 171-179, and the bill passed, 182-169, with a few more Republicans joining the Democrats on every vote (going from 11 to 15.) It was a challenge to me to come up with a snappy reason for voting against this bill five times when I expected to need only one!

HB 1535, which granted a cost of living increase to retirees, was amended and passed without comment, on a voice vote. The amendment deleted about $2 billion in property tax increases to fund automatic annual cost of living increases! HB 1587, tweaking the calculation of average final compensation, had been recommended to pass by the committee. It was debated, on the merits of granting a pension improvement only to Group II (fire, police, and corrections) and not the much larger Group I (teachers and employees,) as well as the fiscal impact. It passed, 232-113, with Representative Pitaro joining me and 111 other Republicans in defeat.

Anyone interested can email me for my weekly newsletter, with all the details!

Representative Carol McGuire, mcguire4house@gmail.com 782-4918

Answers:
1. cake
2. Jacket on tiny mouse
3. Spot on jacket of mouse on the right
4. Pocket on apron
5. Flower
6. Knob on mixer
7. Chair
8. Glass on shelf
9. Bowl on shelf
10. Polka dots on mother mouse’s pants
11. Flower on flower pot
12. Recipe on book

Classifieds

Pittsfield Community Center
Function Rooms available for Rent
Days, Nights, Weekends.
Call 603 435-6729 for information

Help Wanted: Senior Center Coordinator

The Pittsfield Senior Center is looking for a coordinator who will assist the Resource Manager with the day-to-day operations of the Senior Center. The hours are Monday through Friday, morning and early afternoons, 25 hours per week. Perfect hours to work around school children’s schedules. If interested contact the Center at 603-435-8482 or send an email to cschiferle@capbm.org. You also may submit your resume at https://www.capbm.org/careers.

Pittsfield Early Head Start

FREE, fun, home based program and playgroup for families with children birth to 3 years. Early Head Start program is now enrolling families. Contact Crystal at 603-225-3295 ext. 1127 or email Headstart@capbm.org

Express your Opinion!

Do you have opinions you would like to share?
Submission Guidelines
- Identify yourself and provide contact information.
- 300 words or less; exceptional information may exceed the word limit at the discretion of the Post Content Team.
- Topics may include events, issues, and opportunities about or affecting Pittsfield.
- Please be civil, factual, specific, and clear. No submission is guaranteed publication.

Deadline is noon on Friday via pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org
The Post Volunteers
REQUEST FOR BIDS
OUT OF SERVICE EQUIPMENT

The Town of Pittsfield, New Hampshire invites those interested to submit sealed bids for equipment that is no longer in service.

1. 1991 Case 680L backhoe – $10,000 bid minimum
2. 2002 Caterpillar 36” backhoe bucket – fits on 420/430 backhoe

Item #1 has a bid reserve minimum offer of $10,000.

Items #1 & #2 are located at the Pittsfield Public Works Garage – 36 Clark Street

Please call 603 435-6151 or email ngourley@pittsfieldnh.gov to set up a time for equipment inspection.

The Town of Pittsfield, nor any of its representatives, makes any representation as to the quality or integrity of the items for sale. The items for sale are being offered and sold “as is.”

Bids must be submitted in writing, in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Town of Pittsfield, c/o Town Administrator, 85 Main Street, Pittsfield NH, 03263 with OUT OF SERVICE EQUIPMENT marked on the envelope.

A bid submission form is available at the town hall or on the town website – www.pittsfieldnh.gov

The sealed bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022. Bids received after the specified time may not be considered.

The bids will be opened by the Board of Selectmen at their first meeting following the due time and date for the bids.

The winning bidder must remove the item awarded to them no later than March 31, 2022.

The town reserves the right to accept or reject any bid which it believes to not be in the best interest of the town.