

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Pittsfield Budget Committee Election Information pages 4&5 March 4, 2020

“It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.”
Charles Dickens, Great Expectations

Select Board Review - February 25, 2020

The newly created position of Code Compliance Officer, which includes zoning administration, code enforcement, and building inspection, was filled by applicant Scott Lacroix of Canterbury. Mr. Lacroix comes well qualified for the job and will begin his duties April 5.

Avitar and a representative of NH Dept. of Revenue came in to give us an overview of the whole town re-assessment which must, by law, take place this year. Each property should be assessed at fair market value as of April 1. Right now property assessments are about 81% of actual selling prices. Every taxpayer will have an opportunity to discuss their new assessment with Avitar mid to late summer. An increase in your assessment does not necessarily mean your taxes will go up. The overall spending by the town will have much more to do with your tax bill than a change in assessment.

An absolute auction of a town-owned property was scheduled for May 3. More information about the property may be obtained at the Town Hall.

The Memorial Day commemoration was discussed further. Next week's meeting will include other town organizations that we hope will take part in this important remembrance. *Carl Anderson*

To my constituents in Pittsfield,

This week, the House met on bills that will go to a second committee. One that I've gotten letters about, HB 1387, prohibiting declawing cats, was killed 198-157, after a long debate. I voted 'against' because there was no evidence this is a common procedure in New Hampshire, and there's no need to get the government involved.

I spoke against HB 1205, which would delay the pension cut for teachers and employees from age 65 to 67, the Social Security full retirement age. Nice for them, to get an increased pension for up to two years, but everyone in the state will pay for it in their property taxes for the next twenty years! There are no broken promises here: this cut has been unchanged

since 1988. It passed, 181-151, and went to Finance. I moved to table HB 1341, which repealed reforms in pension status that were passed in 2011; the majority leader had suggested this, and it was tabled 182-161. An attempt to remove it from the table later in the day failed, 125-218. This bill had more justification than HB 1205, but also cost a lot more: something over \$100 million versus \$37 million. I will work with the sponsor to explore options for a smaller cost.

Anyone wishing more information may call or email me for my weekly newsletter details.

Representative Carol McGuire

carol@mcguire4house.com 782-4918

Pittsfield Critter Count 2020



Rose & Finley, Golden Retrievers

Gail Allard

The US Census Bureau will soon begin counting all of the humans in the United States. This made the *Post* volunteers wonder: how many different types of domesticated animals live in Pittsfield? So far we've learned about cats, horses, Scottish Highland Cattle, a Border Collie, Black Lab and Golden Retrievers. What kinds of animals do you have? Send us an email, with pictures! Or stop in the library and contribute to the critter list. We'll publish the final tally in early April.

PITTSFIELD TOWN CRIER

by Andi Riel, 435-6346

pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30pm PMHS

Community Open Mic Night, hosted by Youth Leaders with Pittsfield Youth Voice in it Together (PYViIT) of Pittsfield Listens, will be held at the PMHS Library. All ages, all talents, all voices are invited to join! Snacks will be available, and pizza by donation- sponsored by Jack's Pizza. All who attend will be entered into a raffle to win gift certificates and goods from local businesses. Childcare will be available. Contact Amanda Pawlik, Youth Organizer with Pittsfield Listens, to sign up (signups are welcome at the event too!) amanda@pittsfieldlistens.org or call/text 603-312-0695. For more information, please visit facebook.com/pittsfieldlistens or pittsfieldlistens.org

Wednesdays, March 4-25, 10:15am PMHS

Little Panthers: Colors. PMHS students will be offering an hour of activities, read-aloud, songs, and snacks each Wednesday morning between 10:15 and 11:15, March 4-25. Come to PMHS and enjoy some activity time outside of the house! All families are welcome.

Wednesday, March 4, 6pm Rotary

The Suncook Valley Rotary Club will meet. Location to be determined. For more information, contact suncookvalleyrotary@gmail.com

Wednesday, March 4, 7pm Barnstead Parade Fire Station. The Suncook Valley Sno Riders meeting. For information, visit suncookvalleysnoriders.com

Friday and Saturday, March 6 & 7, 7:30pm Scenic Theatre Pittsfield Players will stage the One Act Play, "Trifles," written by Susan Glaspell, first performed in 1916 in Provincetown, MA. Directed by Meggin Dail and sponsored by The Iron Dragon Corporation, "Trifles: promises to surprise you with a bit of mystery and give you a little something to think about. The play is suitable for all ages and is not more than one hour in length. Tickets are available for \$12 at the door, by making reservations calling (603) 435-8852, or via the TicketLeap link on The Pittsfield Players web page www.pittsfieldplayers.com

Friday, March 6, 6:30pm Joy Church

55 Barnstead Road, will be hosting a FREE movie, "Frozen II." Please join us for FREE popcorn, drinks, candy and a fun movie! All Free!!

Saturday, March 7, 1pm Community Center

Pittsfield Youth Baseball Association (PYBA) is hosting sign-ups for the 2020 Spring Baseball and Softball season. Youth ages 4-12 welcomed; experience not necessary. \$50 per player (please ask about scholarships if needed). Come join in the fun! Meet new friends and PLAY! Questions email pittsfieldyouthbaseball@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 10 from 7am – 7pm Town Hall

The 2020 School District Election & Ballot Voting AND the Town Election and Ballot Voting. Please visit the Town website, www.pittsfieldnh.gov for information about warrant articles, budgets and sample ballots.

Tuesday, March 10, 10am, Senior Center

Puzzle Competition. Groups will be timed on how fast they put together small puzzles and earn prizes..

Tuesday, March 10, 6pm PMHS

Stand Up! Pittsfield will meet at the Media Center.

Tuesday, March 10, 6:15pm Community Center

Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Wednesday, March 11, 6pm PES

PES Parent Teacher Organization meeting.

Tuesday, March 17, 10:30am Senior Center

St. Patrick's Day Celebration. Kevin Durk will perform festive songs, followed by a traditional Irish luncheon. If you plan to have lunch, please RSVP by March 10.

Friday, March 20, 11am Senior Center

First Day of Spring Cookout and Meals on Wheels fundraiser. \$5.00 donation per meal with all proceeds going to MOW. Come, visit with friends, eat, and support a good cause.

Monday, March 23, 6pm PMHS

Planning meeting for the Pittsfield High School All Class Reunion. Please contact Andi Riel at 435-6346 or pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com for more information.

Tuesday March 24, 3-6pm Josiah Carpenter Library
125th Birthday Reception, with special presentations at 3:30 and 5pm.

A very special **Happy Birthday** wish to my Favorite Sister-in-law Terri Riel this past Monday. Happy Birthday wishes to Tobi Chassie on Friday and Gene Ladd on Saturday. Enjoy your special day!

NH Town Scramble

Unscramble the letters to get the answers.

Across

3. tloan

6. dtiilpstef

8. tlgimnoa

10. yer

Down

1. dstaaernb

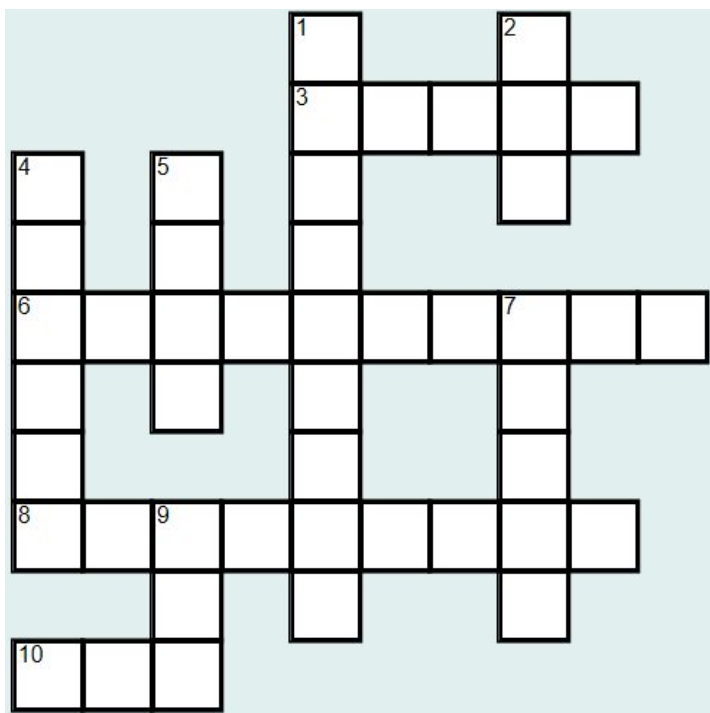
2. wbo

4. ppgeni

5. htba

7. roler

9. ele



The PMHS Athletic Department is actively looking for a Girls Junior Varsity Softball Coach and Girls Varsity Assistant Softball Coach. The game schedule begins April 13th and continues to May 27th. Previous experience playing and or coaching is preferred but not required. We will work with and educate an interested and motivated applicant. All interested applicants should contact Jay Darrah, Director of Athletics at jaydarrah@pittsfieldnhschools.org

Suncook Valley Rotary Club is selling chances on when the 'Bailey Hotel' outhouse will plunge through the ice (on the pond by Globe Mfg). If you guess the closest date and time, YOU will win \$500.00! A webcam to track progress will be live soon. Tickets are \$5 per guess or 3 guesses for \$10. For more information and tickets go to suncookvalleyrotary.org and click on 'Outhouse Plunge' on the 'left' under 'Site Pages' OR Blue Collection Boxes for the Plunge are out at the following locations: Danis Market, Pittsfield's Main Street Variety, Jitters Café, Bell Brothers, Chichester Country Store, and Barnstead Country Store – and you can purchase tickets at those locations.

Josiah Carpenter Library 1895-2020

In 1895, at Pittsfield's Annual Town Meeting, the citizens voted to establish a public library. The creation of a public library enabled the consolidation of seven different private libraries, the first of which began operation in 1804, and most importantly opened library services to all citizens.

Throughout 2020, the library plans to celebrate the 125th year of serving Pittsfield. We'll remember pastimes, books, and community traditions. The first celebratory activity took place during Winterfest in January. Families and children enjoyed playing Chinese Checkers and Tiddlywinks, games that were invented in 1895.

Currently the library is preparing for a 125th Birthday Reception which will be held on Tuesday March 24th from 3-6pm at the library. Leading up to the reception, 125 pictures of birthday cakes are being hidden in the building. Starting today, visit the library, find a cake, and claim a small prize!

Community News a continuation of the Town Crier

Please help support PES FOOD 4 KIDS. This program sends bags of food home on weekends for a large number of children in our community. For the month of March, every time the reusable \$2.50 Fight Hunger bag is sold at the Hannaford Store, 73 Fort Eddy Rd., Concord, Pittsfield Elementary Food 4 Kids will receive a \$1.00 donation.

Warrant Article Explanations from the Pittsfield Budget Committee

In order for the Pittsfield Budget Committee to best assist voters in the practical appropriation of public funds, we present this series of explanations of some of the warrant articles for the 2020 Annual Town Warrant and 2020-2021 School District Warrant. There are many Warrant Articles to be considered when you go to the voting booth to vote on the Town and School District budgets this year. Please accept this information on reading and understanding warrant articles.

Any article that has money attached to it is presented in the same manner. This is based on rules and regulations overseen by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). You will see the phrase "...vote to raise and appropriate the sum of..." at the start of each money-related article. This phrase is mandated regardless of where the money is coming from.

For example, Article 11 is seeking to raise \$263,280 for a Fire Department grant to purchase radios and self-contained breathing apparatus. It says we are voting to "raise and appropriate the sum of \$263,280 for...with a grant revenue offset of \$236,952..." The bulk of the money for this purchase is coming from a grant, not taxes. Even so, we still have to "raise and appropriate" the total amount in order to be able to expend the grant money, \$5,000 from the Fire Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and the amount of \$21,328 which would come from general taxes.

Reading through to the end of the Article you will see a line which reads "Estimated tax impact is \$0.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value." That is the amount of money you will fund with your taxes if the article passes. Next, you will see how the Select Board and Budget Committee voted on the article. This article was passed by all Select Board members with no one opposing or abstaining from the vote (5-0-0); as well, all Budget Committee members with no one opposing or abstaining (12-0-0).

Please take the time to review the Town Meeting Warrant and the School District Warrant ahead of time. Copies are available on the Town website, or you can get them at the Town Hall. If something is confusing or difficult to understand, ask for clarification at the Town Hall or School District. You can also reach out to a member of the Budget Committee. 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.

School District Warrant Article 3: Operating Budget

The proposed decrease in the tax impact is because the State of NH has restored school funding for the 2020-2021 school year and our schools received an increase in revenues. The School Board has proposed returning more than half of these funds to the town to lower the tax impact.

Town Warrant Article 4: Municipal Operating Budget

The proposed Municipal Operating Budget reflects an increase in the tax impact due, in part, to a number of specific things: there are 27 pay periods for town employees as opposed to the normal 26 pay periods, extra elections (state and federal), an increase in the BCEP contract obligations, additional funds for sidewalk improvement, and the revaluation of properties.

Town Warrant Article 8: funding to complete Shaw Road Bridge over Kelly Brook project

This project has been ordered by the State of NH. The Town of Pittsfield will need to have funds on hand for this project or will risk encumbering the entire cost through taxation. A 'YES' vote will raise and appropriate \$57,996 through taxation to secure the town portion of the grant. A 'NO' vote will potentially leave the town in the position of losing all the grant monies for this project.

Town Warrant Article 9: Increase annual deposit into the Ambulance Replacement & Equipment Fund

This warrant article simply increases the amount of funds being set aside for ambulance and equipment replacement from \$30,000 to \$35,000. We have set aside \$30,000 from ambulance billing revenues each year since 2016, but need to modify this amount to meet the proposed schedule for replacement.

Town Warrant Article 11: Raising matching funds for a Fire Department Grant

You may remember this warrant article from last year. We did not receive the grant and are reapplying for it this year using a professional grant writer. 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 \$26,328 in order to receive \$236,952 in grant funds. Yes, that is \$210,624 in grant money that our

fire chief worked hard to get approved. Pittsfield Fire received our radios on a State grant from Homeland Security in 2006. The radios are now 13 years old and are at the end of their life cycle. 2019 was the last year they could be repaired. The Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) was also received from a grant directly from the manufacturer in 2007. This apparatus is nearing the end of its useful life and will soon need to be decommissioned. These are VITAL tools for life safety as they are used when responding to hazardous environments such as fires, Co2 calls, and gas leaks.

Town Warrant Articles 12 through 22: Capital Reserve Fund Contributions

These warrant articles set aside funds for equipment used by the Fire Department, Police Department and Highway Department. This equipment needs to be maintained and replaced periodically. The Capital Improvement Program Committee established in 2019 has proposed a strategic plan of replacement for each of the vehicles represented by these Capital Reserve Funds. The proposed amounts reflect the committee's desire to stabilize the tax impact over the coming years according to this long-term plan. The plan for 2020 represents an overall increase of \$78,500 more than 2019.

Town Warrant Article 23: Add to the Floral Park Cemetery Fence Expendable Trust Fund

The Select Board is in favor of continuing the work on the fence around Floral Park Cemetery. One of the selectmen has offered their salary/stipend to the fund totaling \$500. There is no impact to the tax rate and no other monies being raised or asked for toward this project in this article.

To the Voters of Pittsfield,

I am announcing that I am running for the three-year seat on the Planning Board.

Having been involved in the Planning Board since 2018, I have worked towards a positive change for Pittsfield. I have made nearly all the meetings in the two years that I have been an alternate.

While at these meetings, I can see areas in need of improvement. I believe that the meetings can be run a little more organized and timely, so as the applicants and residents can feel comfortable coming to the board with projects or concerns.

I have an open mind and am willing to listen to the residents of our town. As a board member, I believe that while listening to the concerns of a

resident, a reasonable solution can be accomplished that benefits the town as a whole.

I have talked with many members of our community and they are quite happy with the progress that the Planning Board has done in the last year. We have approved multiple projects that will increase the tax base that Pittsfield needs. Our Planning Board continues to be "Focused on the Future."

I look forward to continuing to work with the Planning Board, and thank you for your support.

Adam Gauthier

To the Citizens of Pittsfield

Town elections come around again very soon. Once more we'll be asked to vote on some critically important questions, and to fill vital offices for the running of our community. We'll be deciding on Pittsfield's future. Those elected to serve on the Planning Board play a huge part in working out what the future looks like, and this year we have three candidates running to fill one seat. With a proven record of service on both the School Board and Budget Committee, and as a past president of Rotary Club, Adam Gauthier is the candidate to help move Pittsfield forward. He is young, energetic and creative, and he is committed to improving all aspects of Pittsfield's public life. Adam listens, balances concerns, and decides thoughtfully. Most of all, Adam treats anyone he meets with respect and genuine interest. With Adam on the Planning Board team our town will be better postured for the kind of growth we all want and need. A vote for Adam is a vote for brighter days ahead for Pittsfield. Let's shake off the past and vote for Adam Gauthier.

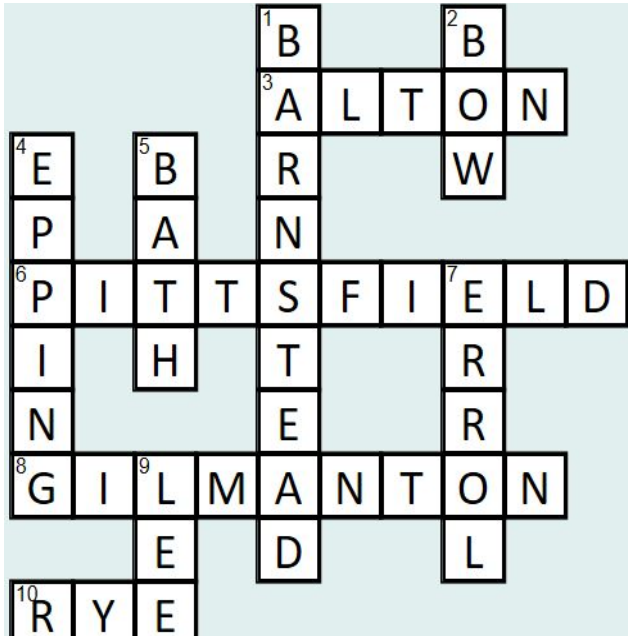
J.C. Allard

History Repeating Itself?

How soon we forget.....but it has been many years since World History was a prominent subject all students had access to. Ahhh world history, sounds like nap time? Yes, continue to snooze as history is on its way of repeating itself. How can we tell that is so? If we were an informed citizenry and more capable of discerning good and bad we would without a doubt see socialism rearing its ugly head. We could see China's Mao, Russia's Lenin and Stalin, Cuba's Castro, Germany's Hitler, Cambodia's Pol Pot and Venezuela's Chavez in the likes of the current promises and speeches from the left. Free this and free that-all you have to do is trade your freedoms for comforts. WOW-time to wake up folks. Live free or die! Think you're a serf now-you ain't seen nothin' yet! Sincerely, *Sharon Matras*



NH Towns Scramble Answers



The Pittsfield Players
present
TRIFLES
A One Act Play by Susan Glaspell

Artwork by Meg LaCombe

Directed by Meggin Dail
Assisted by Vicki Watson

FEB. 28 & 29 , MAR. 6 & 7 at 7:30pm
MAR 1. at 2pm

Tickets \$12 / 603-435-8852
www.pittsfieldplayers.com
SPONSORED BY THE IRON DRAGON

The Pittsfield Post Loves News!

Do you have an interesting story to tell, or maybe you want to share info with your friends and neighbors? Are you a member of a community group that has news to share? Send us your news by noon on Friday.

pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org



Please Support the Pittsfield Post

Pittsfield Center Development Corporation (PCDC), owner of the Community Center, is the fiscal agent for the *Pittsfield Post*. PCDC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to engage in activities that benefit Pittsfield. Checks should be made out to:
Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, memo: Newspaper
P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263

Donations are tax-deductible. Donations above \$50.00 can be acknowledged as sponsor of the week.

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