

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE NEWSLETTER BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"Some people are worth melting for." — *Frozen*



February 14, 2024



Pittsfield 4th Grade Visit to the State House

On February 2, Cyril and I got to do what we like the most – help host the Pittsfield 4th Grade Visit to the State House. The students arrived at 9:15 in the front courtyard area, where we introduced ourselves to about thirty students while we waited for Virginia Drew, who runs the Visitor's Center. See **State House Tour** on page four. (State Representative *Clayton Wood* and NH State Senator *Howard Pearl*, shown in background)

Ash Wednesday Service



The First Congregational Church, 24 Main Street, will observe the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service, February 14, 7 p.m. As part of the service, there will be a time of prayer and reflection, as well as the imposition of ashes. The Rev. Steven Small will lead the service with the addition of special music by the Chancel Choir and the JuBellation Handbell Choir. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Lent is the beginning of the 40-day season of repentance and preparation for the remembrance of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It culminates Easter Sunday, March 31.

Parking and wheelchair accessible entry are available at the rear of the church building at Chestnut Street.

For more information, call the church office at 603 435-7471.

Nella Hobson, for the First Congregational Church

Pittsfield's local elections, and voting for Town Meeting and School District Meeting will be held on March 12, 2024.

To help support the sharing of information, ideas and opinions, the **PITTSFIELD POST** will be published on February 28 and March 6. To submit items to be considered for publication email: pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

Town Crier To have an event included in this column, call Andi Riel at 603-435-6346 or email pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

Friday, February 16 - Deadline - Each candidate for Town and School District elected positions should have received a letter at the time of registration from the Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce, inviting them to "Meet the Candidates" night on Weds, March 6, and to also submit a candidate letter for inclusion in a packet to be handed out that night as well as published in the *Post*. **We must receive your letter by Fri, FEB 16 (Date correction)** for it to be included in the packet and the *Post*. If you did not receive the letter, please contact Andi Riel at 435-6346 or pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

February 15, 16 and 17th at 7:30pm- Pittsfield Players will present "10 Ways To Survive The Zombie Apocalypse" as their Kids' Theatre Workshop production. Directed by Meggin Dail, with assistant Andrew Gibson, the Zombies will take the stage at The Scenic Theater, home of The Pittsfield Players, 6 Depot Street, Pittsfield, NH. Be sure to reserve your tickets now to the Apocalypse you don't want to miss! www.pittsfieldplayers.org for more information and tickets.

Monday, February 19, 5:30-6:30pm - The Community Supper will be held at the First Congregational Church. Price is a donation only. Please join us for a delicious meal and fellowship.

Pittsfield Youth Workshop is open for Regular drop-in hours - 3pm-6pm on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri; and 1-6pm on Weds. Please contact Ashley or Zach at 603-435-8272 or email at info@pittsfieldyouthworkshop.org for more info

Pittsfield Senior Center! Mon & Thur 8-2pm and Weds 7:30am-1pm. Senior Community Lunch: Mon & Thu at 12pm; Bingo: Mon & Thu 10-11:45am; Cribbage & Games: Wed 10-12pm; Walking at the Center: Mon, Wed, Thu 8am-1pm; Sweatin to the Oldies: Mon & Wed 9am; Chair Yoga: Thu 9am. For more information, call Anne at 603-435-8482.

Senior Center - Breakfast Bingo! Every other Wednesday we will serve breakfast at 9:30am, then bingo from 10-11:45am. "Breakfast Bingo" dates will be Feb. 14 & 28. Cribbage players are still welcome.

Tuesday, February 20, 1pm: Bingo, Movie, and Lunch Event at the **Senior Center**. Join us for this combination event so we can fit in as much as we can! Because of the holiday, we still need our weekly double dose of Bingo! Right? 1pm - Bingo; 2pm - the movie will be put on and we will start to serve burgers and chips. Come on out and join us; a fun time for all!

Pittsfield Youth Baseball - Join us every Sunday for BINGO hosted by Pittsfield Youth Baseball/Softball Association Bingo. They have a great menu of food items along with their games, and it all benefits the children of Pittsfield for their baseball/softball program. Doors open at noon and Bingo starts at 2:30pm at 48 Airport Road in Concord.

The town of **Pittsfield's Winter Parking Ban** on town roads is effective November 15th through April 15th. This ban prohibits parking in or on the town's roads or rights of way between the hours of 10pm and 7pm. The purpose of this parking ban is to allow the winter or inclement weather maintenance crews unobstructed routes for snow removal and ice control, to maintain effectiveness of their routes.

The Suncook Sno-Riders Club members are selling tickets for their annual Winter Raffle. 1st Prize: \$500, 2nd Prize: \$300, 3rd Prize: \$200 And 10 \$100 Prizes. Only 200 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$20 each. The drawing will be at our club meeting on March 6th. You do not need to be present to win. Please see a club member for tickets.

Pittsfield Hoops 603 Heatwave Camp - Summer basketball camp for Grades 1-6 at the PMHS gym. All skill levels are welcomed and encouraged. \$40. July 15-19, 9-1pm for Grades 1-3, and July 29- Aug 2, 9-1pm for Grades 4-6. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Coach Stratton at 603-341-2691 or pittsfieldhoops603@gmail.com Sign up today on our website to reserve your spot in something great - <https://leagues.teamlinkt.com/pittsfieldhoops603>

Happy Anniversary wishes to Fred & Sheila Holmes on Monday, February 12, and happy 50th to Jim and Gail Allard on Friday, February 16!

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Spotlight on Jen Tyrell, PMHS

PMHS is pleased to welcome back one of their alums to their teaching staff. Jen Tyrell was raised in Pittsfield, attended Pittsfield schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, and graduated from Pittsfield High School in 2012.

Jen attended Frostburg State University in Maryland. She studied biology, animal behavior, natural history and psychology with the intent of pursuing a career as a zoologist.

During university, Jen was inducted into the Biology Honor Society program and in the summer before her senior year, she was offered an internship with a wildlife rehabilitation center in a remote area of South Africa. While there, Jen worked hands-on with a wide range of wild animals including lions, leopards, hyenas, mongoose and birds of prey.

After completing her bachelor's degree, Jen returned to South Africa for 10 weeks and over the next several years, she would make 5 more trips to work and visit the rehabilitation center.

In the 2018-19 time frame, while waiting for a longer-term South African work visa, Jen took a position as a paraprofessional in the Pittsfield Elementary kindergarten classes. Eventually it became apparent that the work authorization was not going to materialize. She worked here locally in a dog daycare facility, while also exploring opportunities with various zoos across the US.

In November 2022, Jen was made aware of the need for a middle school science teacher in the Pittsfield Middle School. The students had been using an online science learning curriculum while the school tried to fill the teaching vacancy. Jen was offered the position of Middle School Online Science Coordinator.

Today, she teaches biology, earth and physical science to both 7th and 8th grade students, while also working on her alternative certification plan. The "alt cert" program is offered through the US Department of Education and the State of New Hampshire, and Jen says she receives tremendous support and mentorship from the PHMS staff. She expects to be fully certified within 3 years.

Jen is highly complimentary of the comradery and enthusiasm that the teaching and support staff bring each day. And she is devoted to her students, many of whom she's known since they were in kindergarten. Jen shares, "I want my students to grow up to be good people; to be able to understand the difference from fact and fiction; to learn how to think and above all to become life-long learners." She is honest with her students and works hard at building their trust. Jen says she believes the perspective she gained from living and working in South Africa allows her to share real-life experiences with the students and motivates her to deliver her best. Her students are also inspired by her commitment to completing her certification. She says, "We're doing so many things right here at PMHS, really making a difference for these young people. There is nowhere else I would rather teach."

Welcome home, Jen. It's great to have you back. *MP Christakos, Pittsfield Post Volunteer*

Card of Thanks:

The splendid number of birthday greetings I received was quite overwhelming. My grateful thanks to all the thoughtful people who took the time to remember me. (And yes, I did get 98 cards!!!)

Maureen Van Horn



Cook's Corner

Chocolate Fluffernutter Pie (No Bake)

Are you looking for a tasty treat to delight your special Valentine? You've come to the right place. This 'no bake' pie is scrumptious and guaranteed to bring smiles to all your sweet-tooth sweethearts! It's best made with a chocolate pie crust, but you can certainly substitute a graham cracker crust if necessary. Happy Valentine's Day, enjoy!

MP Christakos

1 & ½ cup heavy cream

2/3 cup marshmallow crème

1 (8 oz) block cream cheese, softened

1 cup creamy peanut butter; plus more, melted, for drizzling

¾ cup confectioner's sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

Pinch of kosher or coarse salt

1 store-bought chocolate pie crust, such as Oreo or Keebler

Chocolate shavings for serving

In a large bowl, using a hand-held mixer on medium-high speed, beat the heavy cream until soft peaks form. Transfer half of the whipped cream mixture to a medium bowl. Add marshmallow crème to remaining whipped cream and beat until stiff peaks form.

In another bowl, again with the hand-mixer on medium-high, beat cream cheese, peanut butter, confectioner's sugar, vanilla and a pinch of salt until smooth. Fold in the plain whipped cream.

Pour filling into the crust. Top with the marshmallow whipped cream mixture, spread evenly across the pie. Refrigerate at least 4 hours.

Drizzle the top with melted peanut butter, then top with some shaved chocolate.

Express your Opinion!

Do you have questions or opinions you would like to share? Are you a candidate for an elected position in Pittsfield? Share your ideas or candidacy in the *Post*.

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. We look forward to supporting an informed Pittsfield election season. The *Post* Volunteers

State House Tour continued from page 1 - At that point, it didn't take long to find out who was in charge. Virginia mentioned to the students how important they were since their State Reps were here to meet them. The first part of the tour was Representatives Hall, where Cyril and I work. After explaining how a bill gets brought to the floor, discussed, and voted upon, Virginia made them all State Representatives. HB 1016 was introduced. HB 1016 is a bill that concerns the NH state flag and will add the state motto, "Live Free or Die," under the state seal. This bill is actually waiting for its fate in committee. Quickly, the junior reps presented two opposing opinions: the flag has been around for a long time and should not be changed, and the state motto "Live Free or Die" is an important addition. After much debate, HB 1016 passed. "Live Free or Die" prevailed.

The class then moved on to the State Senate, where State Senator Howard Pearl joined to explain how HB 1016, which passed their House vote, would need to be adopted by the Senate. Questions from the students moved to the four large paintings that cover most of the back wall. Virginia is our expert in these matters and explained their history and importance. A picture of the first graduation from Dartmouth College shows the importance of education. Daniel Webster, reading the Constitution, helped to form the state government. Abbott Thayer teaching an art class; his work created the field of camouflage design. And John Stark, who was responsible for "Live Free or Die," preparing to join George Washington's army.

The students then went to the last step in making a bill law – the Governor's office. All bills must pass both the House and the Senate and finally, get signed by the Governor to become law. Some of the students were then voted in as members of the Executive Council. They needed to help the Governor by approving his candidate to the Supreme Court.

The tour's last step was visiting the Hall of Flags, which displays flags from the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, and the Vietnam War. This is worth the visit alone.

Cyril and I thank the 4th graders for their questions, interest, and behavior. It was certainly a memorable day, consistent with our favorite House activity. Respectively, your State Representatives *Clayton Wood and Cyril Aures*



The past two Sessions on February 1 & 8 were very busy, with over 40 bills reaching the floor in addition to a substantial number of bills voted on from the Consent calendar. In addition, many bills had amendment(s) which also had to be addressed.

February 1st bills of significance:

HB396 was moved to reconsider but failed to pass 187-190. This bill permits classification of individuals based on biological sex in lavatory facilities and locker rooms. In a very bipartisan way many bills passed on a Voice Vote, **HB1199** child advocacy, **HB1588** children in need of special services, **HB1598** social security payments/veterans benefits for children in foster care, **HB1237** police vehicles used in traffic enforcement must be clearly marked, **HB1398** net energy metering costs recovery by electric distribution utilities and **HB 1179** allows retired veterans / spouses free access to state parks.

HB1391 passed 241 to 123 eliminating inspection for new vehicles. **HR20** passed 354-6 reaffirming relations and trade with Taiwan. **HB1068** was defeated 189 to 190 to test children entering day care and public school for lead, as this is already done. **HB1520** was defeated 184 to 193 which would have provided Free car usage as part of a family assistance package. **HB1002** passed 193 to 178 charging up to \$25/hour after 10 hours for public record information. Please note that this bill was reconsidered on Feb 8 and sent back to committee.

CACR23 & HB1248 were defeated by bipartisan votes of 184 to 193 and 11 to 363, respectively. CACR23 for the constitutional change in favor of abortion, which needed a margin of 60%, was easily defeated and HB1248, having a fifteen day abortion limit, also easily defeated. It was obvious both sides of the aisle didn't want to deal with these out of the ordinary positions.

February 8th bills of significance:

HB1206 prohibiting educator indoctrination passed on a voice vote. Bipartisan support for this bill was overwhelming. **HB1561** which would have expanded EFA (Education Freedom Account) eligibility to a wider range of students. For example, identify as LGBTQ+ and bullied or tested at the bottom of standards. This bill was "DEFEATED" by 183 to 197.

HB 1634 removing the household income criteria from the EFA eligibility requirement failed by a vote of 193-188. This bill would have opened up the EFA program to all families.

HB1665 raised the annual household income limit from 350% to 500% above the poverty level to qualify for the EFA program. It passed 190 to 189, so some Reps had to have voted both ways in order for this to pass and **HB1561** and **HB1634** to get defeated.

HB1116 allows more firearms using straight walled cartridges for deer management hunting in otherwise restricted hunting areas. Straight walled cartridges are very accurate, better for deer harvesting results, yet do not have the power or range of bottle-necked cartridges, protecting people in restricted hunting areas. The bill passed 221 to 157.

HB1045 will require power boat operators to wear an engine cut-off switch. Bipartisan support was overwhelming, passed 324 to 53.

HB1700 prohibiting cloud seeding, weather modification, intentional release of emissions into our atmosphere or at ground level to supposedly prevent global warming failed to pass by 58 to 315. The bill was too broad and did not define authority and control with no definitions and standards.

HR1138 equalizing fines for operating an OHRV or snowmobile with an expired license.

We will continue to keep you informed throughout the year. Please contact us if you have any questions.
Sincerely, Your House Representatives *Cyril Aures and Clayton Wood*

School Board Update

The Board met on Thursday, February 1st, and then hosted the Deliberative Session for the Budget on Thursday, February 8.

At our meeting on the 1st, the Board was pleased to hear from student representatives presenting a proposal to personalize senior parking spots. The proposal was well-written and accepted as written. We look forward to seeing the student artwork brightening up our parking lot at PMHS.

Both principals presented the happenings at PES and PMHS respectively. Mrs. White reported about recent successful field trips, the winter concert, professional development and mid-year assessment data. Mr. Hamilton reported out on first semester report cards and helped explain competencies and competency recovery options for students. Additionally, Mr. Hamilton shared data surrounding student behavior and discussed current practices to address these behaviors, specifically tardies to school.

Mr. Lane's report gave more information about a current audit by the DOE regarding Free and Reduced Lunch. The Board is following this situation closely. Mr. Lane also discussed the plan to present the school budget at the Deliberative Session.

The Deliberative Session was well-attended and quick. We are pleased that the budget we presented and the other articles were passed and will appear, as written, on the ballot in March. The Board urges all voters to turn out to vote for both school and town articles presented on the ballot on Tuesday, March 12.

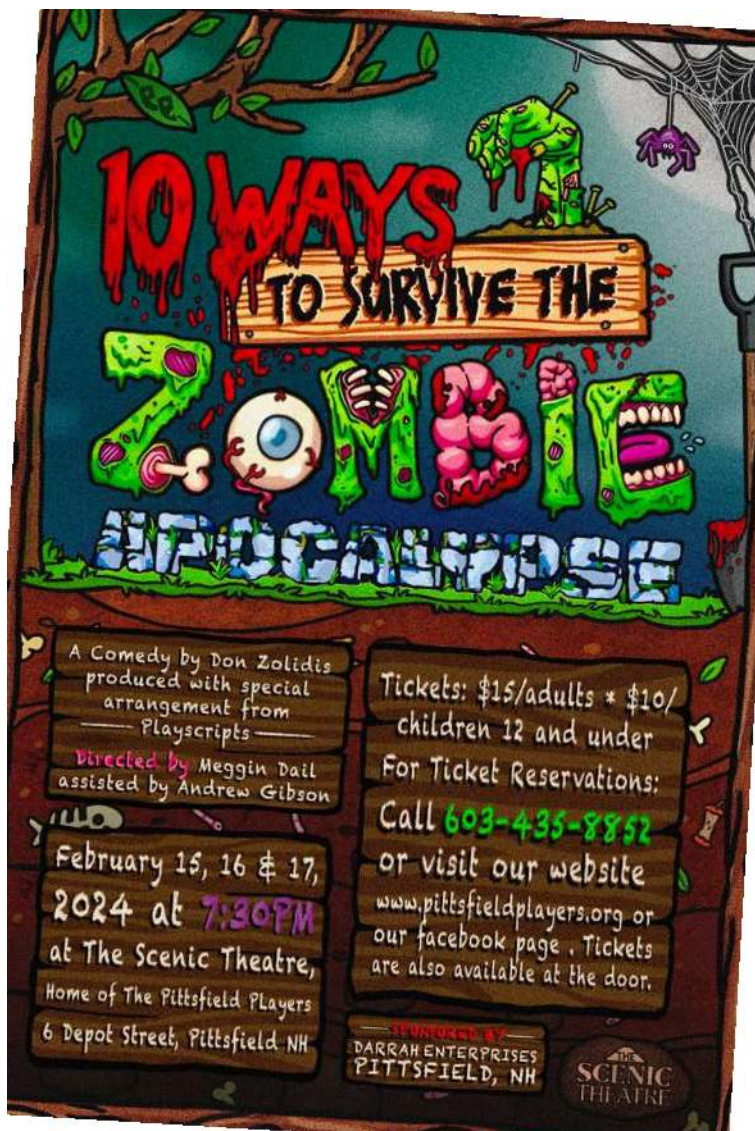
Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 15th at 5:30 in the PMHS library. We hope to see you there. Molly Goggin, mgoggin@sau51.org 603-387-1396

Opinion

To the Good Citizens of Pittsfield:

I could not help responding to the *Looking for Adequate Education?* letter in the January 31 issue of the *Post*. I went to Pittsfield's schools, so I get angry and depressed when people who did not go to Pittsfield schools do not understand how our dedicated staff make the schools function as well as they do - without proper funding. The letter makes it sound like the staff are in it for themselves, which is wrong.

The NH constitution says it is wrong for public money to support religious and private schools. Let me give you a lesson. Bill of Rights, Article Six, morality and piety: "But no person shall ever be compelled to pay toward the support of any sect or denomination." Summary - A. Parishes or religious societies may set up schools. B. No one can be forced to support any religiously based schools. That is why they threw school choice in the state budget. Which is also unconstitutional. Thank you to the staff of Pittsfield schools. I don't know how you put up with us.
Dan the Stoneman



**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION CANDIDATES
PITTSFIELD NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 12, 2024**

SELECTMAN

3 year term – vote for not more than two

JAMES CONRAD ALLARD

JAMES H. ADAMS

TOWN MODERATOR

2 year term – vote for not more than one

JACKSON E. MARSTON

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

6 year term – vote for not more than one

ROBERTA JANE MAXFIELD

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

3 year term – vote for not more than one

ERICA ANNE ANTHONY

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

3 year term – vote for not more than one

(WRITE IN ONLY)

CEMETERY TRUSTEE

3 year term – vote for not more than one

CARA M. MARSTON

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

3 year term – vote for not more than one

LIZ DIMMICK

PLANNING BOARD

3 year term – vote for not more than two

EDWARD A. TRZCINSKI

RAYMOND LEWIS RAMSEY

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

3 year term – vote for not more than two

HEATHER A. ELLIOTT

PAT HEFFERNAN

ARTHUR J. ST. LAURENT

**ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION
CANDIDATES**

PITTSFIELD NEW HAMPSHIRE

MARCH 12, 2024

SCHOOL BOARD

3 year term – vote for not more than two

ADAM GAUTHIER

TIMOTHY PAUL ROBINSON

SABRINA ANN SMITH

ADAM COTE

SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR

3 year term – vote for not more than one

GERARD A. LEDUC

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