Memorial Day

Established in 1868, Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was a national day to honor Civil War veterans. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day and after World War I, it became a day to honor all who died in service to our country. The townspeople of Pittsfield, being a very patriotic community, held various observances throughout the years. Let us look at the various ways Pittsfield has celebrated this time-honored day.

Although we don't have a concise record of the observances prior to 1901, we do know there were parades led by a mounted color guard. At times, a firing squad shot volleys at Barnstead Bridge, Floral Park, and later Dustin Park and Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Houses along the parade route were decorated with flags and banners.

The Valley Times, and subsequent newspapers, provided detailed accounts of the celebration. As an example, on Memorial Day in 1902 a parade formed in Depot Square. The marchers included the following:

- Pittsfield Brass Band
- Knights of Pythias
- Willard K. Cobb Post #29, GAR
- Pittsfield Drum Corps
- School Children

Memorial Day 1959 Photos provided by Larry Berkson

Reuben T. Leavitt, President of the Day
E. W. Smith, Orator of the Day
Pittsfield Fire Department

In addition to the parade, each year there were religious services held either at a church or at the Opera House. School children also were involved in the programs throughout the years. At first there were separate activities at each school, but these were later combined at the Opera House where the various school children presented the program.

As the years progressed, involvement in Memorial Day has decreased. This year, 2020, a committee was organized to revitalize the involvement of the townspeople; activities and parades were to be included. However, because of "social distancing", Pittsfield will not be holding a city-wide Memorial Day celebration this year. Instead, individually, we will honor those who have died in service to our country.

Thanks to Larry Berkson for researching this information. Liz Dimmick

Want to see the pictures in color?
Subscribe to receive the newspaper by Email.
www.PittsfieldNHCommunityCenter.org
**Town Crier** Andi Riel @ 435-6346
pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

**Tuesday June 2:** The deadline to change party affiliation prior to the September State Primary is Tuesday, June 2, 2020. The Governor issued Emergency Order #43 which waives the requirement that a voter who wants to change party affiliation appear in person and make an oath to the Town Clerk or the Supervisors of the Checklist. The order establishes a new paper form for changing party affiliation which may be found on the Pittsfield town website: www.pittsfieldnh.gov. Or, upon request, the Town Clerk’s Office will mail, or e-mail, you the form. Once completed, the voter must sign it, obtain a witness signature, and return it to the Town Clerk’s Office either by mail, the drop slot next to the Town Hall door, e-mail or fax.

Josiah Carpenter Library has resumed delivery of library materials to people outside. Phone, or email, to request items you would like to borrow. The building is open by appointment and drop-in visits of no more than three people. For more information call 435-8406 or email lvogt@pittsfieldnh.gov

The Hanging Flower Basket project is in the works and thank YOU for the donations that have been coming in!!! Baskets will be hung soon! Donations can be mailed to Pittsfield Hanging Basket Fund, C/O Donna Keeley, 256 True Road, Pittsfield.

Pittsfield Historical Society continues to raise funds for the new Museum and Headquarters. A commemorative garden on the Museum grounds is being worked on. A “BUY-A-BRICK” project affords an opportunity for people to buy a brick to honor yourself, loved ones past or present, or whomever you wish to remember. Please visit www.pittsfieldhistory.com for a donation form and instructions. For more information, please call 798-3984.

Pittsfield Youth Workshop (PYW) Pantry hours have been adjusted for the next few weeks in order to accommodate families that are already out and about, picking up meals, or supplies at the school. The PYW Pantry will be open on Thursdays from 12-3pm for the next few weeks. As always, if you have any special requests please feel free to reach out to Zach or Paula at 435-8272 or info@pittsfieldyouthworkshop.org.

Pittsfield Old Home Day Committee has reluctantly decided to cancel the traditional Old Home Day activities. But we can still plan for summer fun. We would love to see Pittsfield decked out in Red, White and Blue. Decorate your home or business! If you’re planning your flower gardens, now you can consider patriotic colors! Kids who enjoy the bike parade can still decorate their bikes and put them on display at home. The committee plans to put up red, white and blue lights in Dustin Park and are working on some other “safe” activities….more information to come.

Happy Birthday wishes to Liz Hast on Wednesday, Cathy McHugh on Thursday, Jon Ward and my brother-in-law, Fred Blais on Saturday. I hope you ALL enjoy your special day! A very special birthday wish to my niece, Nicole Grainger Semales on Wednesday!

Happy Anniversary wishes to Tammy & Gary Colby on Monday and to Rich & Sarah Hillsgrove on Wednesday!

To my constituents in Pittsfield,

This week, my committee met electronically for a work session and executive session on the bills sent to us as a second committee. The work session concentrated on HB 1692, which creates a new license for wild mushroom foragers and sellers, complete with mandatory training, tests and fees, plus $1000 fines for selling mushrooms without this permission – or for not keeping the mandatory records! I suspect it will pass, warts and all, because federal rules forbid restaurants to use wild mushrooms unless collected by a licensed person.

HB 702, which requires supervised visitation centers to meet “guiding principles for safe havens”, was briefly debated and passed, 17-3. I was opposed because the guiding principles will increase costs for new visitation centers, and the bill is totally unenforceable. The Merrimack County visitation center already meets these requirements, fortunately.

HB 1710, giving child care centers more time before inspection results are posted on the web, and HB 1712, improving the appeals process for child care centers, both passed unanimously with minimal discussion.

Anyone wishing more information can call or email me for my weekly newsletter, which has all the details. Representative Carol McGuire carol@mcguire4house.com 782-4918
May 12, 2020 Select Board Meeting

The board continued interviewing applicants for Superintendent of Public Works. George Batchelder is retiring, on May 31, after 40 years with the Pittsfield Highway Department. Selecting his replacement is proving to be difficult.

We extended limited access to town buildings until May 19 to see if the governor makes any changes to the state requirements regarding Coronavirus on May 18. Pittsfield has done well, reporting zero active cases of Covid-19 as of this writing.

Another donation to the Harvey A. Marston Memorial Scholarship Fund was accepted with thanks.

We approved the purchase of the ambulance that was voted on the March ballot. We’re getting a good price on a 2019 demonstrator package, far below most proposals the fire chief received.

The first billing of taxes was approved. Bills will be going out soon.

Main Street Grill requested space in front of their restaurant where they could put a few tables in order to provide an outdoor dining option as allowed by the Governor. We want to do everything we can to assist businesses during this very difficult time, therefore we approved the use of two parking spaces for a period of 90 days. Carl Anderson

Congratulations Jean Cram
YOU are the Word Scramble winner!
Be happy, wash your hands
Thanks to everyone who played along and sent us your entries!
Stay tuned for more fun soon!
Josiah Carpenter Library
*Ready to Read Family Activity of the Week*
Playing: Go on an outside scavenger hunt. Look for shapes. How many shapes can you find?

How and what are you doing during our new normal?
**Send the Pittsfield Post your news**
Deadline is noon on Friday.
Email: pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

Please support the Pittsfield Post. Checks may be made out to: Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. Donations are tax-deductible. Donations above $50.00 may be acknowledged as a Sponsor of the Week. www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org for information.

‘Snippets’ from Bill Miskoe
>Here’s my take on social distancing– Better 6 feet apart than 6 feet under.
>I haven’t been getting my hair cut at the barbershop since Covid arrived. No need for that kind of face time. I asked my long time best friend in the whole world if she would trim my shaggy locks. Diana thought for a moment and said ‘I’ll take a stab at it’. That’s when I realized that no one has ever died from long hair.

Send the Post an email and tell us what is MISSING from this issue!

**Cook’s Corner**
*Crispy Breaded Chicken Cutlets*

With the nice weather coming in, we’re all looking for lighter meals and wanting to ‘cook once/eat twice’, making our freezer & pantry inventory stretch a little further. Here’s a great recipe that I know you will turn to time and again. It’s simple, easy and so versatile. We enjoy serving this with a nice pasta on the side, and the leftovers are lovely on a dinner salad or terrific on a sammie.

1 lb thin sliced chicken cutlets
2 cups egg whites
Splash of Ranch dressing
2 Tbsp garlic powder
Salt & pepper
2 cups Panko bread crumbs
1 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese
Olive oil for cooking
1 to 2 Tbsp butter

Put the egg whites in a large bowl and whisk in a splash or two of Ranch dressing, garlic powder and salt & pepper.

In a separate shallow bowl, add the Panko and the Parmesan cheese, use a fork to stir and combine.

Dip the chicken cutlets in the egg white, then dredge them in the Panko mixture.

In a large, heavy skillet, heat olive oil and 1 Tbsp of butter until hot. Add the chicken cutlets and cook over medium high heat for approximately 3 minutes per side. If cooking the chicken in batches, remove the cooked chicken to a platter and keep warm while you finish cooking the rest.

These are positively wonderful! This chicken is by far the one my family asks for most frequently. And the serving ideas are endless. They are great alongside One Pot Pasta, terrific on a salad; or you can use the leftovers to make Chicken Parmesan; and they’re the perfect ‘main event’ for Crispy Chicken Sandwiches. They keep well for several days in the fridge, but they don’t freeze well – the breading gets too soggy. MP Christakos

**Advertising in the Post**
Ads to Congratulate PMHS Class of 2020
Deadline Noon May 21
Cost begins at $3.00 for a brief classified ad. Full guidelines and order forms are located at www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org