

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

“Summer should get a speeding ticket.” Anonymous

July 29, 2020

Pittsfield Historical Society Bringing the Past to Life

When you take a stroll through the quiet streets of downtown Pittsfield, it's hard to imagine the hustle and bustle that once defined our town as one of the most important and vibrant centers of commerce and culture in the region.

We met recently with Larry Berkson of the Pittsfield Historical Society, and he generously opened the windows to the amazing history of Pittsfield and some of the town's inspiring founders and leaders. Larry has had a lifelong interest in history and genealogy. He was born in Pittsfield, left the area for the Midwest to pursue college, eventually earning a PhD in Political Science and Public Law from the University of Wisconsin. After returning to Pittsfield, Larry was approached by a small group of volunteers who asked him to help revive the Historical Society.

The Society subsequently purchased their current headquarters, the building on Elm Street, and were able to move a large number of donated artifacts into their new 'home.' Shortly thereafter the all-volunteer members of the Society set forth on a number of major projects. The first was sponsoring Lyman Park and establishing the site as the starting point for what later became the Pittsfield Historic Trail, a fascinating 1.5 mile walking tour highlighting 35 historic buildings and locations with an accompanying brochure that provides interesting details about the early people and places of our town.

Larry explained the period after the Civil War brought significant growth to Pittsfield and the arrival of the railroad (The Blueberry Express) in 1869 set the stage for an economic boom that endured for close to 100 years. Pittsfield was the largest city serving the region including Barnstead, Chichester, Epsom and Northwood. The town had numerous schools, churches, a beautiful library, a theater, and at one time an opera house, all of which contributed to a rich cultural heritage. In the post WWII era there were over 100 businesses in town, 4 car dealerships, 9 gas



Display inside the existing Historical Society

service stations, a bowling alley, a few hotels, and 4 grocery stores.

Over the years, the Society has completed many projects, including the development of the Thyng Memorial next to Floral Park Cemetery. They found the original bell from the cotton mill bell tower and returned the bell to its current resting place on Main Street; and they found the original steam pump from the cotton mill and arranged for it to be restored and placed in front of where the cotton mill once stood, across from the dam.

The Society has hosted numerous programs and lectures and completed significant research on what they call The Pittsfield Hall of Fame. This includes about 50 people from our town who achieved significant accomplishments in a range of fields, including the CEO and Chairman of Gulf Oil, the
Continued on Page 3

Town Crier Andi Riel @ 435-6346
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Congratulations to the 2020 Citizen of the Year, Cedric Dustin III. He has committed the last 36 years of his life to serving the town of Pittsfield in many ways. Cedric has served as Town Moderator, Budget Committee chairman, Pittsfield Historical Society President, Rotarian, and current treasurer of the Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, to name a few. Congratulations to Dr. Dustin – thank you for all you have done to make Pittsfield a better place to live!

Tuesday, August 4, 9-11am The Infant/Toddler Diaper Pantry at the First Congregational Church will be open. Please use the parking lot off Chestnut Street and call 435-7471 for instructions when you arrive in the parking lot. Clients will not be able to enter the Church at this time. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate through the pandemic.

Friday, August 7, 6:30pm To honor and celebrate our 2020 Citizen of the Year, Dr. Cedric Dustin III – our community will be having a Car Parade. To join the parade please meet at the High School. If you would like to watch the parade, the route will be posted on Facebook.

Are you ready to paddle? The Friday Night Kayaking Group meets in a different location every Friday evening at 6pm. For more information about this great activity go to <http://www.huffnpuff.info/>

Voting in the General Elections Any voter may request an absentee ballot for the September 2020 Primary and November 2020 General Elections based on concerns regarding COVID-19. The absentee ballot application may be downloaded from the town website: www.pittsfieldnh.gov or picked up at the town hall, or contact the town clerk/tax collector's office at (603) 435-6773 ext 15, or e-mail: eanthony@pittsfieldnh.gov for one to be mailed to you. Voters may also track their ballot: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/>

The playground and basketball court have been opened up at Drake Field. Please be respectful of the facilities, and help do your best to limit the spread of germs by following general NH public health guidelines. If you witness inappropriate behavior, please notify the Pittsfield Police Department.

The Pittsfield Historical Society continues to raise funds for the new Museum and Headquarters. A commemorative garden on the Museum grounds is being designed. This "BUY-A-BRICK" project affords an opportunity for people to purchase a 4"x8" brick for \$100, to be custom engraved with 3 lines of 18 characters each. For information go to www.pittsfieldhistory.com call 798-3984, or email larryberkson@comcast.net

Parents...if you are looking for something fun for your kids, stop by the Fire Station and pick up a fire prevention goodie bag. Unfortunately at this time the Fire Department is unable to do station tours for the kids, but hopefully those can resume in the near future.

A VERY special Happy Birthday wish to my fabulous mother-in-law, Corine Miller, last Sunday! I hope you had a GREAT day! In addition, Happy Birthday wishes to Kelsea Davis last Sunday, and to Erich Engelmann on Thursday. Happy Anniversary wishes to Ray & Judy Webber on Tuesday.

Vacation Spot the Differences

Can you find all the differences in the two pictures?
Print and solve this fun vacation spot the difference puzzle.



Historical Society *Continued*

first female bank president, the founder of the California public school system, a Minnesota Supreme Court justice, NH governors and senators and a renowned WWII pilot ace, among other notables.

The members of the Society are thoughtful curators and caretakers of thousands of artifacts. Their collection is exceptionally large including manuscripts, every issue of the original *Suncook Valley Times* newspaper first published in 1868, photos, portraits, prints, maps, items related to the railroad, the history of the fire department, objects related to the cotton mill, weaving and shoe manufacturing industries, furniture, household items, farm equipment, and so much more. A few of the most historic and interesting items include John Cram's Bible (the 'Father of Pittsfield,' circa 1768); a black beaver-skin top hat that belonged to one of John Cram's sons, Tristram Cram (1770 to 1838); the original ticket machine from the old railroad depot that still has paper tickets on the reels inside the machine; and a spectacular Shaker spinning wheel.

Although the Society is steeped in the past, they are looking forward to moving into their new building. They are pleased with the construction progress and have begun early planning for moving their archives and collection to the new building, as well as planning new exhibition spaces. The Society operates entirely on donations and, with several of their traditional fund-raising activities having been cancelled due to the pandemic, they are extremely grateful for community support. Please consider becoming a member or making a donation, the address is Pittsfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 173, Pittsfield, NH 03263.

Although Larry Berkson wears his title of Town Historian with tremendous humility, he is without doubt the expert regarding Pittsfield's history. Thank you Larry and all of the Society members for your tireless devotion to preserving our magnificent past and for inspiring all of us for a bright future.
MP Christakos

Select Board Review - July 17, 2020

Town Moderator Dustin discussed state mandated voting requirements for the primaries. Most importantly, the Select Board must find a

location that can accommodate those requirements. The only thing that's sure is it won't be the Town Hall.

No changes were made to the Covid 19 protocol: town offices remain open with some restrictions relative to the number of people at one time in the lobby.

We approved new Fire Department member Joshua Barker. Great to have another Pittsfield resident on the roster!

The Highway Department and volunteers from the Fire Department recently combined forces to replace a failing drainage system across the FD driveway. To complete this project properly, the driveway in front of the doors must be repaved. A generous anonymous donor came forward offering to pick up the entire paving tab, which we accepted with thanks. This combined effort between departments and the private sector to maintain and upgrade town property rather than campaign for astronomically priced new facilities is a much appreciated relief for taxpayers. It's refreshing to see all the town departments and the Select Board cooperating and working together. The right people in the right places makes all the difference.
Carl Anderson

Double Word Puzzle #5 by Diana Westgate

Find the word that satisfies both definitions.

1. Dog sound _____ Tree part
2. Front of a ship _____ Present decoration
3. Weapon _____ Accelerate
4. Diver's sickness _____ Turns
5. Clothing article _____ What a hot dog does
6. Affix to a letter _____ Foot movement
7. What #3 does _____ Plant tendrils
8. Place a signature _____ Omen
9. Keeps your money _____ A small rise of land
10. Kitchen fixtures _____ The opposite of floats

The answers are on p. 6



Cook's Corner

One-Pot Pasta With Tomato Cream Sauce

I know it's summer and it's hot, but am I the only one who's getting tired of 'light' meals and salads? I prefer to think I'm not alone. If you're hankering for a good plate of pasta, here's the dish for you! It all happens in one pot, as advertised, with a little chopping prep work, but nothing too complicated. This pot of deliciousness gets to the table quickly, just add some garlic bread and a salad and you're good to go. You can add sausage or chicken to this, or keep it as is for your vegetarian night meal rotation. Bon appetit!

12 oz rigatoni
¾ cup roasted red peppers, chopped
½ cup sun-dried tomatoes in oil, chopped
3 Tbsp tomato paste
3 cloves garlic, chopped
1 pinch crushed red pepper flakes
1 tsp salt
3-inch sprig of fresh rosemary
½ cup heavy cream
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large, deep skillet, combine the first 6 ingredients with 5 cups of hot water and rosemary sprig. Drizzle a little oil from sun-dried tomatoes into the pan. Season with salt & pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low, simmer for 15 minutes, stirring frequently, until pasta is *al dente*. Stir in cream and cheese. Discard rosemary sprig.

This is great served 'as is,' with a salad and garlic bread on the side; or pair this pasta with pan sauteed chicken cutlets, pan grilled sausage, or add shrimp or scallops to the pan for the last 3-4 minutes.

I've lost count of how often I've made this. It's super easy when you have guests, and when you turn this out in a beautiful platter, everyone smiles.

MP Christakos

Pittsfield School District News

Administrative Restructuring. The School Board has approved a restructuring plan for district administration that will impact students and families at both schools. The district administration will move

away from the dean/director structure to the more traditional principal/assistant principal structure. Our district administrators will now fill the following roles:

PES Principal: Danielle Harvey

PES Assistant Principal: Kathy Lemay

PMHS Principal: Derek Hamilton

PMHS Assistant Principal: Melissa Brown

Additionally, Jessica Bickford will continue in her role as Director of Student Services.

Next School Year, 2020-2021. The governor has provided guidance for school re-opening. Essentially, the guidance places the decision-making for school operations at the local level.

Our District Leadership Team (DLT), consisting of teacher leaders and administrators, are assuming primary responsibility for developing our Pittsfield plan. Other teachers and support staff have also volunteered to help in this important initiative.

The DLT and sub-teams (see below) are considering full remote, full in-person, and hybrid learning models for the fall. Four sub-teams have been formed to study and develop recommendations in key operational areas: communications, instruction, public health, and the school environment. Other topics are also being actively addressed; these include food services, technology, and transportation, among others.

The School Board will review the recommendations from these teams on August 6.

We appreciate the involvement of everyone who is helping to put this plan together. As always, the understanding and support of community members will be so important to the success of re-opening our schools.

Superintendent Transition. The School Board agreed to terminate the superintendent's contract effective July 31, at the request of the superintendent. The Board then initiated a process to hire an interim superintendent for the 2020-2021 school year. However, that process did not result in hiring a replacement; therefore, the current superintendent will continue on an acting basis as the Board begins a second process for hiring an interim superintendent.

The Board will make plans to search for and hire a permanent replacement; this search is likely to begin in the early fall, which is the typical hiring season for school district leaders. It is anticipated that a permanent superintendent will begin his/her service on July 1, 2021.

Against His Will

Part Three of a Serial Tale

By Apen Monicoeur

Trace poured two glasses of wine and placed one in front of Jeannette. She raised her head out of her arms where they were folded on top of the kitchen island.

"Listen, Beanie..." Trace started.

"No, Trace. Please don't," Jeannette replied. "I get it."

Trace put a hand on her shoulder and she gave him a weak smile.

Jeannette knew that Trace's filing for a 'Cease and Desist' order against her reporting was only a matter of police business, but she felt as if she had been slapped on the wrist. Trace was trying to comfort her by justification and attempting to prove to her that he wasn't the enemy. They worked so well together, he a detective and she an investigative reporter, that this sudden wall between them put a strain on their conversation.

"I called Evans for another assignment," Jeannette stated. "I have a choice between featuring the PTO's upgrading of the elementary school playground, or how insurance companies are charging clients more money who own certain breeds of dogs. Real front page news reporting there."

"I'm sorry, Jeannette. I really am," Trace replied.

"So what killed him?" Jeannette asked.

"Don't," Trace said.

"Oh, come on, Trace! I'm off the assignment. I can know now."

Trace smiled meekly and eased around her to the kitchen to stir the simmering pot of homemade spaghetti sauce.

"Let me guess, then?"

"I can't, Beanie," Trace stated.

Jeannette put her head back down into her arms and groaned out a sigh.

"I really liked Mrs. Clough," she said. "What a feisty old woman. I bet she has a lot of secrets she's not telling. That's kind of what I picked up from her."

"Like what?" Trace asked.

"Well, she made some statements that seemed arbitrary, but I'm sure they have a backstory. For instance, she told me that Mr. Parson was a "tidy" man."

"Why is that surprising?" Trace asked. "Can't a man be organized and clean?"

Jeannette snorted.

"Of course," she said. "But what I'd like to know is if he was so meticulous in his ways, why then is his Last Will and Testament missing, and why did he have Mrs. Clough cleaning for him?"

"Yes, good questions." Trace lifted the spoon and blew on the simmering sauce.

"If I didn't know any better," Jeannette said, "I would say that she and Mr. Parson may have actually had a *thing*."

"A thing?"

"Yeah... you know. Like a romantic affair. I mean, why not. She's a widower, he's a widow..."

"Could be. But I'm not sure how that leads to murder."

"Maybe it does, maybe it doesn't. I have such a good rapport with Mrs. Clough..."

"Jeannette, no!" Trace poured the dry spaghetti stalks into a pot of boiling water.

"I mean I could just..."

"No."

"If I can talk to..."

"No. Negative." Trace replied. "You're out of bounds."

Jeannette's eyes met Trace's. He put down the spoon and leaned into her.

"I know what you're thinking. I know that look in your eyes, Beanie. But you can't mess this one up for me. You just can't. There's so much at stake and so much trouble you can get both you and me into if you try to pursue this."

"I won't!"

Trace backed away and stirred the cooking spaghetti with the tooth spoon.

"Do you mean that?"

"I mean it, Trace! Come on!" Jeannette stated.

Behind her back she had both of her fingers crossed.



Josiah Carpenter Library

Ready to Read Family Activity of the Week

Counting: Create a grocery list with your child. Look at what you have and what you need to purchase.

Classifieds

Epsom Healthcare Center is now hiring part-time Dietary Aides; we are an equal opportunity facility. Dietary Aides help to provide our wonderful residents with hot and nutritious meals. They help with cleaning of the kitchen and washing of the dishes after meal services. No late nights, out by 8pm every night. For more information, please call Beth at (603)736-4772.

Vacation Spot The Difference



Classifieds

Josiah Carpenter Library is now hiring a part-time circulation services assistant. Friendly, patient, multi-tasker needed to help customers, check materials in and out, shelve materials, and other duties as assigned. Must enjoy working with people of all ages; have good communication skills, both oral and written; be computer literate, and reliable. Schedule includes evening and Saturday hours. Minimum \$10.25/hour, 8-12 hours per week. For information call Leslie at 435-8406, or download an application at <https://www.pittsfieldnh.gov/applications-forms-permits/pages/applications-forms> Send the application to Leslie Vogt, Josiah Carpenter Library, 41 Main Street, Pittsfield, NH 03263 or lvogt@pittsfieldnh.gov

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Answers to Double Word Puzzle #5

1. Dog sound – **bark** – Tree part
2. Front of a ship – **bow** – Present decoration
3. Weapon – **gun** – Accelerate
4. Diver's sickness – **bends** – Turns
5. Clothing article – **pants** – What a hot dog does
6. Affix to a letter – **stamp** – Foot movement
7. What #3 does – **shoots** – Plant tendrils
8. Place a signature – **sign** – Omen
9. Keeps your money – **bank** – A small rise of land
10. Kitchen fixtures – **sinks** – The opposite of floats

Advertising in the Post

Costs begin at \$5.00 for a brief classified ad. Guidelines and order forms are located at www.pittsfieldpost.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 Sponsor of the Week. Go to www.pittsfieldpost.org to download a donation form.

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