

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"Kindness is like snow - It beautifies everything it covers." Kahlil Gibran December 16, 2020



Announcing AM 1640 Pittsfield's Information Radio Station

The Town of Pittsfield, NH Emergency Management is proud to announce its acquisition of an Information Station AM transmitter from Beltronics of Nashua, NH. In a recent "table top exercise" conducted for the Town by the NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management, particularly noted was the difficulty to inform its downtown residents of looming emergencies and preparatory actions during an event. Pittsfield is a small community of ~4000 citizens geographically located in the Suncook Valley of New Hampshire where, by its rural nature, cell phone coverage and other mechanisms of notification can make getting the word out a real challenge. The mobile AM transmitter product manufactured by RADIOsource.com seemed to answer the communication problem we were facing.

That is when the community came together! With the financial support of an EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) provided through NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NHHSEM); the wisdom of the Pittsfield Select Board; Pat Heffernan, electrician and licensed general ham radio operator; and in collaboration with Pittsfield Emergency Management's Director Rob Freese, this new tool was brought to reality. What happened next became even more amazing.... When news of this new tool was learned by local resident Bill Miscoe, an innovative/creative type of engineer, Bill donated two aluminum poles (originally designed for a high-tech offshore weather buoy) to the project and engineered the concrete base for its attachment. Soon a second antenna, necessary control cables, and ground plane equipment were donated by other residents, and Pat Heffernan put his electrical/ham radio skill combination to work in establishing a very effective home transmitting tower for the AM unit. According to the transmitter manufacturer, this is one of the best performing units in North America!

Pittsfield's AM transmitter is operational on AM 1640 as we speak. Appreciation goes to Scott Oneto for his DJ/Messaging skills and the words we are hearing during this initial transmit period. *Go to page 3*

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Pittsfield Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 7pm, at Town Hall – 85 Main Street, to review the **2021 proposed zoning amendments** -to be considered at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Questions may be directed to btheriault@pittsfieldnh.gov or 603-435-6773.

Welcome Meals on Wheels Folks

This week the *Post*, in cooperation with the Pittsfield Senior Center, has begun weekly delivery to the home-bound recipients of Meals on Wheels, following the wonderful suggestion of *Post* volunteer Jean Cram (how in the world had we not thought of providing copies for delivery sooner??). Many thanks to the Pittsfield Clothes Closet for their donation supporting the increased distribution of paper copies.

The *Post* Volunteers

The *Post* Will Not Be Published on December 30

For publication on December 23 please email your news and advertisements by 10am on Friday, December 18. pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

Cookies & Cocoa with Santa
Dec 19th 10am-Noon @ PES parking lot
COST \$5 PER CAR, PLEASE
BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY TO SUPPORT THE KYLEE STRONG TOY DRIVE
WEAR YOUR MASK
GET YOUR PICTURE WITH SANTA PHOTOGRAPHER ERIN FLANDERS

PES PTO
Pittsfield Emergency Management
Pittsfield Toy Drive

Town Crier Andi Riel, 435-6346
pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 19, 10am-12pm at PES parking lot, the PTO-sponsored Cookies & Cocoa With Santa. Enjoy a cup of cocoa, some cookies, and a photo op with Santa. \$5/car. Social distancing, and please wear your mask. No access to public restrooms. We are asking everyone to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to The Kylee Strong Toy Drive for Make-A-Wish, NH, and/or food donations for the local food pantry.

The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Decorating and Lighting Contest. Any residence, non-profit, or business in Pittsfield is invited to participate. There is no entry fee. One prize of \$100 for homes, and a two-year membership to the Chamber for non-profits and businesses! Judging will be on Thurs, Dec. 17 at 7pm. Please call or text Louie Houle at 848-1553 to register.

Donations for Secret Santa for Christmas 2020 are still being collected. This program is fully funded by donations from local individuals and businesses. Donations of new, unwrapped toys or clothing can be dropped off at the fire station. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated. For more information please contact Kris at the fire station at 435-6807. Checks may be made payable to: Pittsfield Secret Santa, PO Box 392, Pittsfield NH 03263.

The First Congregational Church - Sadly there will not be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the First Congregational Church this year due to COVID-19. To watch our virtual service on the church's website, go to www.pittsfieldcc.org on December 24. May the blessings of this holy season be yours now and in the year ahead. Sunday services continue at 10am, 24 Main Street.

The Pittsfield Historical Society 2021 calendars may be purchased at the town hall or the Josiah Carpenter Library for \$15.00 each. The theme of the 2021 calendar is "Before & After" – 28 pictures of old buildings in town and how they have changed. For more information call Fuzz Freese at (603) 848-4488.

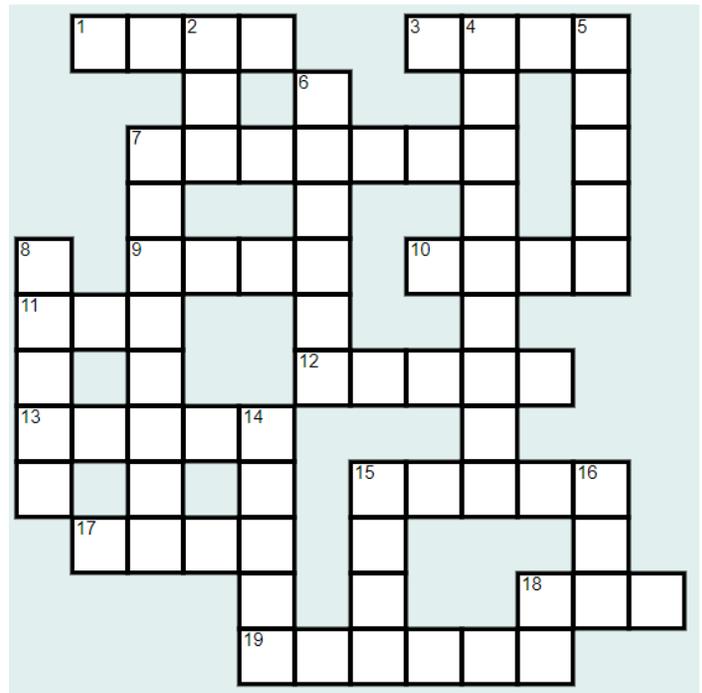
The Pittsfield Elementary School PTO, for the month of December, will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Hannaford store located at 174 First NH Turnpike, Northwood, NH.

PMHS or PES yearbooks are available to order for the 2020-21 year at <https://yearbookforever.com/>

This year's PMHS book will be \$50 and the PES book will be \$17. Online ordering is encouraged for ease and convenience. This year's class has come up with some creative ways to cover this unusual year. They are documenting the ways everyone is spending the year, as well as covering as many events as they have available! If you are the parent/guardian of a high school senior or a moving-up 5th grader, keep an eye out for the email that will give you an option to put in a message for your student. If you have any questions, please email yearbook advisor Jennifer Massey at jemassey@pittsfieldnhschools.org

Happy Birthday wishes to Aunt Carolyn Davis on Saturday, December 19. and Bob Giegerich on Friday, December 18. Hope your days are special!

SHIPS by Bill Miskoe Answers on page 5



- | Across | Down |
|---|--|
| 1 Small watercraft | 2 Toward the rear |
| 3 Flat decked barge | 4 Rescued Titanic survivors |
| 7 Powered by boiling water | 5 To find out how heavy |
| 9 Drop the | 6 Carries oil |
| 10 Sailor's punishment | 7 Ship with Main Mast aft |
| 11 Famous Brazilian port | 8 Splice the Main |
| 12 Starboard means side | 14 Number of people on a Crew race boat team |
| 13 American Indian vessel | 15 Steer a ship |
| 15 Ship's map | 16 Sailor - slang |
| 17 Ship type/Place for drunken sailors | 18 Sink .. swim |
| 18 In the Great Lakes many boats carry | |
| 19 Small harbor service boat | |

New Year Greetings



2020 has certainly been memorable, and the entire world is eager for 2021. What do you wish for in Pittsfield for the New Year? What do you wish you could share with friends and family? Send your message to the *Post*!

In January we think it would be wonderful to publish a *flurry* of greetings to ring in the new year. We're really looking forward to hearing from you, The *Post* Volunteers pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

To my constituents in Pittsfield,

This week, I was sworn in for my seventh term in the State House. We met outside, to have enough room for social distancing, at UNH rather than in Concord. Over 100 members chose not to attend, believing that those measures were not enough to protect them. Three or four members had been reported to have Covid – fewer than one would expect, based on current positivity numbers – and they also stayed away (perfectly appropriately!). So 270 of us were signed in, including all from the district; we elected Republican Dick Hinch as Speaker, Paul Smith of Epsom as House Clerk, and JB Cullen as Sergeant at arms. With the new Senate, we re-elected Bill Gardner as secretary of state and Monica Mezzapelle as treasurer. All these elections were uncontested; even the Democrat leader was not nominated for Speaker, probably because he wasn't present.

The only controversy was over adopting the House rules. Normally we adopt last year's rules and work out any amendments before mid-January. This time, the 2017-18 rules were adopted – going back to the last Republican majority and backing out the controversial changes adopted this session (banning guns in the House chamber, mandating in-person sexual harassment training, and so forth.) This change was debated but passed on a 183-60 vote. A suggested amendment to require the Speaker to implement remote committee and House meetings was debated and failed, 56-182. After adopting the rules and four more routine resolutions by voice votes, a motion to end the state of emergency failed, 95-137. We will meet January 6, also at UNH (I hope inside!) to swear in the governor and council and introduce all the bills submitted.

Anyone wishing more information can request my weekly email newsletter, with all the details.

Representative Carol McGuire carol@mcguire4house.com 782-4918

Selectboard Meeting December 8, 2020

Noel Gaboury came in to discuss a couple of questions he had regarding plowing snow. We told him to continue doing what George Bachelder had been doing on the roads in question unless research indicates a change in policies is appropriate. Noel's first storm as Superintendent of Public Works was a beaut and we congratulated him on handling it well. He responded that it was a team effort and his crew, Scott, Peter, Keith, and Brian, handled the storm professionally and stepped up to the long hours that were required.

An amendment to the Town Hall window replacement agreement with North South Construction Group was approved based on increases in building supply costs. The windows in the Town Hall are in desperate need of maintenance and repair. We've been soliciting bids for this work for years and North South Construction is the only one who's been interested.

Tax abatements were approved for a structure lost to fire and another for the value of solar panels that should have been exempted. Anyone considering installing solar panels on their roof should know that the value of the panels won't be added to the total assessment.

We tabled a proposal to install an air purification system at the Town Hall. It didn't include the meeting room, which we considered an integral part of any system designed to permit full use of the building while limiting exposure to any airborne pollutants or bacteria. We'll ask for a revised proposal. *Carl Anderson*

AM 1640

This resource is designed for the needs of Pittsfield, but is also portable as a mobile unit to be shared as needed with communities throughout our region. "We are pleased with the equipment's performance," said Freese, "but what really made it a great experience is how so many talents came together to make it possible--a very big thank you! "

This resource works only when people become aware, so signage has been constructed and shared by various folks active on social media. So remember, if you are in Pittsfield, tune your radio to AM 1640 and give us a few minutes to share our initial transmission, but also set a button on your radio so you can easily find this resource when the impact of local events could affect you. *Rob Freese, Emergency Management Director*

Cook's Corner

French Onion Chicken



Ooh La La, this is good chicken! It comes together quickly but tastes as though it took hours to make. Serve this with toasted French baguette, French-cut green beans, and mashed potatoes to soak up the delicious sauce. If you're looking for more sauce, you can double the amount of water and double the amount of the broth base. Bon appetit!

- 1 & ¼ lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 3 Tbsp all purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp vegetable or olive oil, divided
- 2 large onions, thinly sliced
- ½ tsp dried thyme
- 1 and ¼ cups water
- 2 tsp chicken broth base (such as "Better Than Bouillon" roasted chicken base, comes in a jar)
- 4 to 6 oz shredded or grated Swiss cheese

Heat oven to 425. Season the chicken with salt & pepper. Toss the chicken in the flour to coat.

Heat a 12-inch oven-safe skillet with 1 Tbsp of oil over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook 5 minutes per side until browned. Transfer to a plate and keep the chicken warm.

Add remaining 1 Tbsp of oil to the skillet along with the onions and thyme. Cook for 7 to 8 minutes until the onions are golden brown, stirring often. Meanwhile, microwave the water until very hot. Stir in the chicken broth base into the water and stir until dissolved.

To the skillet with the onions, add the water-chicken broth mixture. Return the chicken to the skillet and spoon the liquid over the chicken. Sprinkle the top with the cheese. Transfer the skillet to the oven and bake for 15 minutes until the cheese melts and the chicken is cooked through.

MP Chistakos



"Gifts of Nature" Photography Exhibit

Local 4-H members were challenged to get outdoors this past October and take some creative fall photos. Eight members from the Victory Workers 4-H Club got outside for NH 4-H's first ever photography scavenger hunt, to find and take photos of 14 items in nature. To find these items, members were encouraged to go on a hike, bike ride, or a leisurely walk in the woods. The "hunt" included boulders/unique rocks, wildlife, and many things in between.

Participants were asked to choose a few of their favorite digital photos to print, frame, and have on display at the local library. For the remainder of the month of December and all of January, the photos will be on display at the Josiah Carpenter Library.

Consider visiting the library and viewing their amazing work. The library is open Mondays and Thursdays 10am-6pm, Tuesday and Wednesdays 2pm-6pm, and Saturdays 10am-2pm.

Victory Workers 4-H

Want to see the pictures in color?

Subscribe to receive the *Post* by Email

Go to: www.PittsfieldPost.org

Or scan the QR code



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.



Christmas Meals and Pies

Please Pre-Order
Meals or Pies 435-6222

Christmas Meals

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$19.95 Inc. Tax

Prime Rib \$24.95 Inc. Tax

Veggie • Biscuit

Scalloped or Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Dessert

Order Your Pies ...

\$16.00 Inc. Tax

Blueberry • Lemon Meringue

Coconut Cream • Banana Cream

Chocolate Cream

• Extra pies will be available for purchase •

and Order Your Christmas Flowers!!