

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Heartfelt Gratitude Sponsored by Cupid

February 10, 2021

"You can't blame gravity for falling in love." *Albert Einstein*

Valentines Blessings from Vintage Hill

Greetings from the "Vintage" Hill! It is hard to believe (yet welcomed none-the-less) that February is upon us already. Happy Valentine's Day, by the way! Hopefully, our neighbors have weathered the great storm of 2020 with minimal damage. If you are anything like us, you have enthusiastically glided into the new year with the fresh outlook it has to offer.

We are pleased to report that we have remained healthy and content throughout the past year, which we accredit to the Lord's watchful care over us (and His provision of loving, selfless staff, of course). "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." We are reminded through current events the importance of counting our blessings as we learn to have grateful hearts in all things.

We have been busy about many events, such as scenic rides (including a road trip scavenger hunt) and other field trips, dine-in at the Vintage Hill Café, games, crafting, canning, making herb oils, participating in the Festival of Trees fund raiser, puzzling, and the list goes on...

This past Saturday we received our second Covid-19 vaccination, with no residual side effects, thankful to put our guards down just a bit.

We are blessed to have extended family and friends who love and care for us and look forward to life getting back to normal prior to Covid-19 real soon. In the meantime, we will continue to make the best of whatever life sends our way. We trust you will do the same!

Linda Small, CFO, Vintage Hill, LLC



Vintage Hill Valentine Tree

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

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Town Crier

Andi Riel, 435-6346
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Tuesday February 16, 9-11am Infant Toddler Diaper Pantry, through the First Congregational Church. We ask that you please call 435-7471 when you arrive in the Chestnut Street parking lot, and we will bring diapers and wipes outside for pickup.

The Pittsfield Alumni Association has decided to postpone the PHS ALL CLASS REUNION until the Summer of 2022. We are saddened to make this announcement but we are hopeful that we will be able to have a huge wonderful gathering in 2022. We will keep you updated!

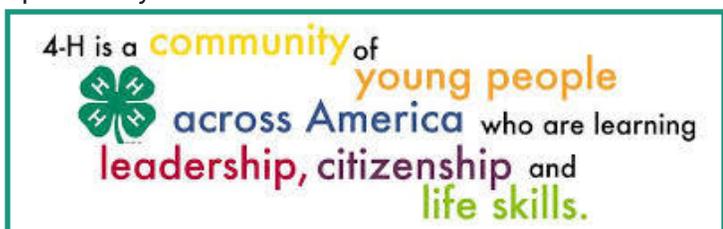
Pittsfield Historical Society continues to raise funds for the new Museum and Headquarters. The "BUY-A-BRICK" project for the garden patio is an opportunity for people to buy a brick to honor yourself, loved ones past or present, or whomever you wish to remember. The bricks are \$100 each and may be engraved with 3 lines of 18 characters each for a 4"x8" brick. Please visit www.pittsfieldhistory.com for a donation form and instructions. For more information, please call 798-3984.

Wednesday, February 17, 11:00 am The Senior Center presents – Zoom Coffee Hour: This is our first zoom program. This will be the time that allows you to just join and talk. We are also hoping to find out what new programs you would like to see. The virtual programs that are being considered is a mystery group, reading group, and bingo. Please send an e-mail to cschiferle@bmcap.org or call 435-8482 if you are interested. You will need an electronic device such as a cell phone, tablet, or computer to participate in this.

Thursday, February 25 11-12pm Senior Center-Community Lunch and Meals to Go: Curbside Pickup We are offering our meals to go. If you have participated in centers community dining and you are over 60, this service is available for you. Please call 435-8482 if interested and we will meet you outside with your meal.

Happy Birthday !

Birthday wishes to Euleta Bunnell yesterday and Tyler Chase on Wednesday. I hope you both enjoy your special day!



4-H Community Service Project

My name is Jeremiah Chapman, and I am the junior leader of a new 4-H Community Service Project that benefits folks who utilize Meal on Wheels. Items requested are: size 9 or 10 manila envelopes, books, birthday cards, stamps, puzzle books, (preferably word searches and crosswords), individually wrapped snacks, coffee, tea, baskets of any size, and small gift items, (for example pens and pads of paper). If anyone would like to donate, there is a box at the Josiah Carpenter Library for donations. **The deadline is June 1st.** As always, we thank you for your support and helping to better our community.



It's Nobody's Fault in Pittsfield

Two weeks ago the Pittsfield Budget Committee recommended that the school district cut \$487,000 from it's 2021-2022 operating budget. On February 3 at Deliberative Session the voters approved to cut an additional \$500,000. Prior to the School Board approval, \$191,687 was cut from the budget for a total budget cut of \$1,178,687.

The revenue side of the budget is where real challenges are. An estimated \$1,022,933 was reduced from the state Adequacy Grant for 2021-2022. Last year Pittsfield received \$827,000 in one time aid. In addition, resulting from the pandemic, we have a decrease in the free and reduced lunch count, and a decrease in our average daily membership due to an increase in homeschooling. Because the state aid was received after the budget was approved by the School Board, ALL of the \$827,000 was returned to the town to reduce taxes.

This is a false bottom however, because last year's huge revenue increase was a one time deal; it overinflated the originally proposed budget for 2021-2022. It masked the long term tax implications, and in part is why we are facing such extraordinary budget cuts today. Again it is nobody's fault in Pittsfield but it does indicate the flaw in the NH funding system. Property poor communities like Pittsfield continue to face challenges to support public education. The residents of Pittsfield are in an annual double bind situation.

The state funding challenge is not a new issue, for over 35 years communities like Pittsfield have continued to suffer. Again it's nobody's fault in Pittsfield

Respectfully Submitted, *Dr. John Graziano*
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Presidentially Speaking by Jean Cram

Fill in the blanks with the last names of US presidents. There are 27 total with 5 in quotation marks to denote a different spelling.

The sunlight filtered thru the “_____” while _____ Brosnan drove his _____ Continental down _____ Ave. in NYC. He wanted to bring his shirt to the “_____” for alterations. With time on his hands, he also did a few errands for his busy sister. He bought _____ and _____ baby powder and picked up her upright _____ vacuum at the repair shop. Now he had time for himself so entered a book and video store with a Marilyn _____ poster on the storefront window. The Philadelphia Story starring Cary _____ and Air Force One starring _____, looked enticing to watch on DVD. He then meandered to the book section. He looked for books on “_____” in the physics and chemistry category, but was unable to find what he was searching for. He did find a book about presidential trivia, learning that seven different presidents wrote books before or after leaving office. They were W_____, T R_____, K_____, C_____, O_____, T_____, and B_____. He was soon outside heading to a local bar. After a few shots of liquor, he instructed the bartender to “_____” into his glass. He soon left to walk to the quaint café at the end of the street for a much needed cup of strong coffee. Suddenly, he felt a “_____” on his shoulder. By golly, it was Luke _____ wearing a _____ jacket. He explained that he’d just returned from playing a _____ pilot for a movie in Alaska near Mt _____. It had been a long three months and he was looking forward to some R & R. After they reminisced about the good ol’ days, Luke invited him to come to his house to watch the _____ Browns play the Denver Broncos. *Answers on page four.*



Cook's Corner **Chocolate Fondue**

Ooh La La! This delectable treat is certain to melt your sweetie’s heart! My Mom used to make this in a double boiler, but using a slow cooker is much easier. Serve with your favorite ‘dunkables’ and bring on the smiles. Happy Valentine’s Day!

2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

1 cup milk chocolate chips

1 cup heavy cream (or 1 cup low fat evaporated milk)

1 tsp vanilla extract

1/8 tsp salt

If you can’t find milk chocolate chips, just use 3 cups of semi-sweet chips. Place all chocolate chips, cream (or evaporated milk if using), vanilla and salt in a slow cooker.

Set on low, cook for 1 hour, stirring every 15 to 20 minutes until the chocolate has melted and the mixture is smooth. Add a little more cream or evaporated milk if necessary to get the right consistency.

Serve the fondue with a variety of goodies for dipping. Ideas include: jumbo marshmallows, angel food cake (cut into cubes), pound cake (cut into cubes), apple slices, strawberries, banana slices, graham crackers, pretzel sticks or even potato chips. Enjoy! - *MP Christakos*

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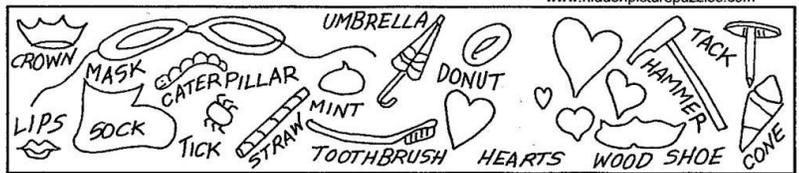
Please support the **Pittsfield Post**. Checks may be made out to Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. Donations are tax-deductible. Donations above \$50.00 may be acknowledged as Sponsor of the Week. Go to www.pittsfieldpost.org to download a donation form.

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Presidentially Speaking Answers: “Hayes” Pierce Lincoln Madison “Taylor” Johnson Johnson Hoover Monroe Grant Harrison Ford “Adams” Washington T. Roosevelt Kennedy Carter Obama Trump Biden “Fillmore” “Polk” Wilson Bush Bush McKinley Cleveland

To my constituents in Pittsfield

This week, my committee held hearings on eight bills related to the state pension system. We immediately voted to pass HB 91, granting first responders who die from job-related suicide the state death benefit; HB 150, some technical corrections; and HB 173, requiring the retirement system to report investment fees in detail. All of these are repeats from last year, and died in the shutdown. We also, at the sponsor's request, voted to retain in committee HB 619, which would put dispatchers into retirement Group II (police and fire.) Even before the hearing, the sponsor realized he hadn't thought it through.

HB 274, requiring the state to pay 5% of the localities' pension payments, and HB 390, stretching out the retirement system's accrued liability, are both attempts by Nashua (and other localities) to avoid paying the accumulated debt (plus interest) from the underfunding they enjoyed in the 1990's. These were lengthy hearings at cross purposes, with the supporters saying “we can't afford it now” and the opponents pointing out that this debt must be paid, and sooner is cheaper than later. The retirement system is underfunded largely because of the attempts to spare cities the actual costs of the pensions they were promising their employees, and doing the same thing again is insane (as more than one person testified!)

Anyone wanting more information can email me for my weekly newsletter, which has all the details.
 Representative Carol McGuire, carol@mcguire4house.com 782-4918