

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other." **Happy Thanksgiving!**

November 25, 2020



John Freeman

Thanksgiving Tribute to Superintendent of Schools John Freeman

Artist Flavia Weedn said, "Some people come into our lives and quickly go; some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and, we are never, ever the same." That is the case for Dr. John J. Freeman, who was the principal at Pittsfield Elementary School from 1999 to 2008 and Pittsfield's superintendent of schools from 2008 until 2020. Twenty-one years of dedicated service to the Town of Pittsfield inevitably has left footprints on the hearts of many.

When a hiring team of sixteen people met in the spring of 1999 to find a new principal for the Pittsfield Elementary School, an air of excitement was evident when they met Dr. Freeman. Almost instantly, the team knew they had found the right person to fill the position critical to the continued progress of the school.

"While John Freeman was principal at the Pittsfield Elementary School, his extraordinary educational vision and insight guided and included all faculty to analyze student data and to explore the best research-based literacy and math programs to meet the needs of all Pittsfield students. John's primary focus of what is best for all students and his exceptional leadership acumen resulted in the implementation of best-practice, school-wide literacy and math curricula/programs for all students in grades Pre K-6. It was an honor to be part of this exciting and critical learning environment."

Susan Bradley, Faculty since 1993

During Dr. Freeman's tenure as principal at the Pittsfield Elementary School, the faculty was successful in implementing Responsive Classroom © school-wide, which helped students learn important social skills and immediately sent discipline statistics on a downward trend. Dr. Freeman led the faculty in collaborating on a review of approaches to the teaching of literacy. He led them through a study of numerous approaches, with the eventual adoption of Four Blocks Literacy Framework ©. This resulted in a steady increase in students' reading scores until over 75% of students were reading at or above grade level.

Similarly, Dr. Freeman led the faculty in a collaborative process of identifying Everyday Math ©
continued on page 4

"John is passionate about public education and improving education in the Pittsfield Schools. Under his leadership, the Pittsfield Community focused on student centered learning and allowing students to learn "anywhere, anytime". John had high expectations which meant a lot of hard work for many people. One thing was sure however, he was right there alongside us as we did that work to make education better for our children. It was an honor to have worked side by side with John during his tenure. I learned so much from him and the work we did. "Strong Schools, Strong Community" was not just a catch phrase to John. It was a belief that shaped his work and the impact of that work will continue to be felt by many for years to come."

Mary Paradise, Pittsfield Resident, Budget Committee Member, and Former School Board Member

Town Crier Andi Riel, 435-6346

pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

Sign-ups for Secret Santa for Christmas 2020 have begun! This program provides Christmas assistance for residents of Pittsfield in need. Children must be 14 years of age or under, must be residents of Pittsfield, and the parent or guardian who signs them up must have custody of the child. We will be accepting applications until November 30th. This year, due to Covid, we are asking that applicants call the fire station (435-6807) 9-6pm, and one of the staff will take your information over the phone. We provide not only toys, but a warm outfit and needed winter outerwear. This program is fully funded by donations from local individuals and businesses. If you would like to assist, donations of new, unwrapped toys or clothing may be dropped off at the fire station at your convenience. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated. If you are donating clothing or toys, please contact the fire station to coordinate a time to drop them off, or arrange for us to pick them up. Checks may be made payable to: Pittsfield Secret Santa, PO Box 392, Pittsfield, NH 03263.

Tuesday December 1, 9-11am Infant Toddler Diaper Pantry, through the First Congregational Church. We ask that you please call 435-7471 when you arrive in the parking lot. Clients will not be able to enter the Church at this time. Weather permitting, we will place your diapers and wipes in a bag with your name attached and place it on a table in the parking lot. If weather is not permitting, we will bring the product to you. Please use the parking lot off Chestnut Street. The Diaper Pantry has seen an increase in numbers since our reopening in June. If possible we need your help as we assist our many young struggling families. We currently need size 3,4,5,6 diapers, along with Wipes, Pull-Ups and Overnights. Do you have any diapers that your child no longer needs, we could use them! If you are able to purchase a package or two, we so thank you. To arrange for drop off please give the church a call. If you are able to help financially, please make any checks out to: FCC-Pittsfield and please note in the memo that it is for Diaper Pantry. Checks can be mailed to: First Congregational Church- Diaper Pantry 24 Main St, Pittsfield, NH 03263.

The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a House Decorating and Lighting Contest. Get in the Holiday Spirit and pull out

those house decorations and help us "Light Up Pittsfield". Any residence in Pittsfield is invited to participate. There is no Entry Fee and there is one prize of \$100! Judging will be on Thursday, December 17 at 7pm. Registration info will be posted on the Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or call Louie Houle at 848-1553 to register.

The 2021 Pittsfield Historical Society 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 contact Fuzz Freese at (603) 848-4488.

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 right of way between the hours of 10:00PM and 7:00AM.

Saturday, December 5, 10-12 the PES PTO for "Cookies & Cocoa with Santa." Drive through event at PES Parking lot- enjoy a cup of cocoa, some cookies and a photo opt with Santa. \$5/car. Social distancing and please wear your mask. No access to public restrooms.

Happy Birthday wishes to Erica Anthony on Saturday. I hope you enjoy your special day!

WEEKLY WELLNESS TIP

Managing stress and anxiety is crucial for getting enough sleep—and getting enough sleep is crucial for just about every other aspect of your health. Balance that quiet time with responsible social interaction.



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.



Cook's Corner

Apple Crunch Pie

If you're still looking for that last minute dessert for your Thanksgiving table, here's one that's sure to be a hit. But this pie is great at any time of year. I'm not the best pie crust-maker, so I always buy the store-bought crust in the frozen food section at the store. And you know what's fun? Add a half cup of raisins or currants to the filling mixture. Enjoy!

Filling ingredients

- 1 homemade or store bought pie crust
- 6 cups sliced apples
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 3 Tbsp water
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice

Topping ingredients

- 1 cup oatmeal
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup flour

2 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp nutmeg

2/3 cup butter, soft

Heat oven to 375F. Place crust in pie plate.

In a large bowl combine all filling ingredients; mix well. Cover and microwave for 7 minutes. Spoon the mixture into crust-lined pie plate. In a medium sized bowl, combine all dry topping ingredients, then cut in the butter using a pastry knife, until mixture is crumbly. Spread the topping evenly over the filling. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes.

Serve with the best vanilla ice cream you can find, or whipped cream. While you're at it, you might make 2 pies because this is awesome for breakfast! - MP Christakos

Want to see the pictures in color?

Subscribe to receive the *Post* by Email

Go to: www.PittsfieldPost.org

Or scan the QR code



Thanksgiving Treats Word Search

Read the clues and then search for the word that answers each clue. The words to search for are listed on page five. Full answer to the search is on page seven.

O	B	C	S	O	K	H	C	D	F	H	Z	G	L	K	P	Q	Z	X	K
B	X	G	I	W	E	F	S	Y	I	N	I	Z	Z	A	R	T	E	T	O
C	T	H	Y	M	E	B	Y	T	E	Y	Y	U	R	H	R	Z	M	C	L
H	F	D	T	A	T	T	V	O	N	E	U	M	S	E	O	Y	S	J	T
E	G	U	A	Q	A	A	W	M	I	K	S	C	J	K	V	A	X	I	O
Y	T	W	T	S	P	J	U	A	R	R	L	W	O	P	B	C	R	K	I
G	Z	A	E	S	I	P	D	T	E	U	A	Q	C	A	I	A	S	L	N
K	P	T	R	Z	O	J	Q	O	G	F	R	V	T	A	M	N	J	O	Q
F	K	S	U	R	C	H	Q	K	N	O	T	C	Y	I	U	B	R	P	X
E	B	P	F	R	A	V	G	G	A	T	G	T	S	Y	K	A	B	U	N
V	G	A	E	Q	K	G	W	N	T	M	D	U	B	M	F	O	I	E	T
M	E	C	O	P	K	E	O	O	Z	S	K	N	A	H	T	L	J	V	B
T	E	H	J	V	M	P	Y	N	F	M	J	A	F	O	C	N	D	T	X
V	M	T	O	A	S	T	T	M	Z	P	E	N	O	R	E	L	B	O	T
Q	E	D	T	R	U	F	F	L	E	M	M	T	A	C	O	S	Y	P	L
H	V	B	Z	N	D	V	F	F	T	D	K	F	T	P	T	F	S	K	S
K	H	V	J	J	D	E	Y	G	S	C	F	C	L	F	F	Q	H	N	R
G	H	T	A	R	T	D	C	A	K	H	Q	F	O	A	X	F	L	L	C
T	O	F	F	E	E	V	X	D	D	U	X	X	T	P	G	E	J	F	F
T	G	E	M	G	M	T	O	M	D	Q	Z	S	D	F	A	N	M	R	F

1. Red pepper sauce (some people shake it on *everything*)
2. When it's time for football, grab a tortilla filed with your favorite fillings
3. Chewy candy: "Salt Water _____"
4. One of the popular fruits for Jell-O Ambrosia
5. Starch extract, can be a pudding, or sprinkled on uncooked pie crust before adding fruit filling
6. Eight letter herb
7. Small pie
8. Slang for the vegetable that we mash
9. Popular afternoon beverage in England
10. Leftover meal with turkey, mushrooms, cream, and pasta
11. Say a prayer of _____
12. Five letter herb
13. Cold Italian dessert with layers of cake and flavorful cream
14. In the morning, butter up a piece of _____
15. Swiss chocolate with almond nougat
16. Vegetarian alternative for the main dish
17. Crunchy caramel candy
18. Favorite vegetable that is actually fruit
19. Pungent, flavorful fungi, or a soft chocolate candy
20. Need a quick, hot sandwich snack while waiting for the big meal? Have a _____ melt
21. The centerpiece of the meal
22. Fleshy, white root vegetable

as a school-wide approach to teaching mathematics. He was instrumental in developing an innovative approach for faculty observing and critiquing each other's teaching pedagogy, which led to improvement by way of collaboration and peer-to-peer mentoring.

Once appointed to the position of superintendent of schools, Dr. Freeman facilitated the school community in developing a vision and mission for the district's schools while facing the limiting reality of keeping the budget flat, taking practical steps to avoid the need to raise the property tax rate. He saw a Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) grant as an opportunity to fulfill the community-developed vision and mission during a period of austerity.

He brought community leaders together with school personnel in a true spirit of collaboration to establish new systems and opportunities for students. Under the watchful eye of Dr. Freeman, the district was given the chance to make innovative changes that improved conditions for teachers and students in Pittsfield, while making an impact regionally and nationally. In 2014, Dr. Freeman was invited to participate in the White House Summit on Next Generation High Schools, and met with education leaders from across the country as an active participant in the National Working Group on Equity in Public Education, and the Innovation Lab Network, both chartered and organized by the National Governors Association. Through this work, he brought well-deserved attention to the work of the community in developing the concept of student centered learning.

"John Freeman had a beautifully crafted way of engaging with people to better the outcomes for all students. What began as a request for feedback and direction, would soon present as an opportunity to be an active participant in the transforming of education. Anchored by decisions based on the best interest of all learners, John's commitment to the Pittsfield community benefited not only the students here, but students everywhere whose education leaders looked to Pittsfield as an exemplar for learning."

Ross Morse, Resident and managing editor of the Suncook Valley Sun

Unfortunately, the funds anticipated from the grant were not ultimately fully awarded by NMEF, but Dr. Freeman persisted in making the changes that would ensure that students have optimal opportunities to learn and enjoy voice and choice in their learning. Some opportunities for students that were envisioned could not be included in the district's

budget, such as extended learning opportunities (ELO).

"John Freeman is perhaps the most effective school superintendent I have come across in my decades of supporting schools. During his tenure as the Superintendent of Pittsfield schools, he demonstrated a deep caring about reaching each and every student. He has never wavered from his goal of raising student voice as the best vehicle to achieve excellence for Pittsfield's students. The students of Pittsfield will certainly miss him."

Joe DiMartino, Executive Director of the Center for Secondary School Redesign

However, other changes became institutionalized and still serve student interests today, such as personalized learning pedagogy and the PMHS Site Council, the school's student-majority governing body. Dr. Freeman was devoted to helping students find and use their voices, exercise student leadership, and cultivate their agency and self-determination in how they completed their high school education.

Dr. Freeman worked hard on behalf of students and families in Pittsfield by becoming a leader in the advocacy for equity in education in New Hampshire. He understands that towns, such as Pittsfield, with higher poverty rates and lower property wealth are doubly-penalized with both students and taxpayers disadvantaged. He believes that a school funding formula should give every child, no matter where they

'John Freeman is one of my heroes. It was inspiring to get to know him over the past few years as I participated with him in the grassroots movement for school funding and property tax reform. He has a profound and enduring commitment to school children and the taxpayers of Pittsfield. He is always calm and courteous in his advocacy, blending his knowledge and experience with quiet passion and determination. I saw him speak a number of times at legislative hearings, and he was always eloquent and persuasive, while always remaining humble and respectful of others. The school funding forum that he organized on a warm Wednesday night in Pittsfield in June, 2018, has been the model for the more than 75 such events that we have held since then. The Pittsfield community was incredibly blessed to have his leadership as Superintendent, and he has also had a statewide impact, as a model of courage and commitment in challenging the unfairness of our current school funding system. He has richly earned a tranquil and healthy retirement, but we will miss him."

Attorney John Tobin, Board Chair, NH School Funding Fairness Project

continued on page 5

live or what their needs may be, an equal opportunity in the educational setting. Even in retirement, his fight for ensuring equity for students and equity for taxpayers continues.

John Freeman's legacy to the Town of Pittsfield, although sometimes intangible, is immense. He has touched the lives of hundreds of children, who will always remember his welcoming presence each morning on the corner of Bow Street and casual conversations with students in the halls of the middle high school; family members, who will remember his attentiveness to their children's needs; community members, who will remember his empathetic and responsible expenditure of school funds; and staff, who will remember his willingness to roll up his sleeves and work side by side with them to create the best possible educational opportunities for students.

Footprints were left on our hearts, and we will never, ever be the same.
The Community of Pittsfield

Word Search List

Tabasco	Tiramisu
Tacos	Toast
Taffy	Toblerone
Tangerine	Toffee
Tapioca	Tofurkey
Tarragon	Tomato
Tart	Truffle
Tater	Tuna
Tea	Turkey
Tetrazzini	Turnip
Thanks	
Thyme	

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday 11am-2pm, 4-6pm Pittsfield Food Pantry

10am-6pm Josiah Carpenter Library

11am-7pm Town Hall

Tuesday 2pm-6pm Josiah Carpenter Library

10am-4pm Pittsfield Clothes Closet

8am-4pm Town Hall

Wednesday 2pm-6pm Josiah Carpenter Library

10-4pm Pittsfield Clothes Closet

1-4pm Town Hall

Thursday 11am-2pm Pittsfield Food Pantry

10am-6pm Josiah Carpenter Library

8am-4pm Town Hall

Friday 8am-4pm Town Hall

Saturday 10am-2pm Josiah Carpenter Library

10am-4pm Pittsfield Clothes Closet

1 Tuesday 9-11am Diaper Pantry, First Congregational Church

2 Wednesday 6-8pm Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall

3 Thursday 5:30pm, School Board Meeting, PMHS Lecture Hall and public access via Zoom

6pm Zoning Board of Adjustment (if needed), Town Hall

4 Friday 10am Pittsfield Post Volunteers Meeting, Bicentennial Room, Pittsfield Community Center

5 Saturday 10am-12pm PES PTO Cookies and

Cocoa with Santa, Pittsfield Elementary Parking Lot

Dusk Christmas Tree Lighting, Dustin Park

7 Monday 7:30 pm American Legion Peterson Cram Post 75 Meeting, Town Hall

8 Tuesday 6pm Selectboard Meeting, Town Hall

6:15pm Parks and Recreation Meeting, Bicentennial Room, Pittsfield Community Center

9 Wednesday 6-8pm Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall

10 Thursday 6pm Pittsfield Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Meeting via Zoom

7pm Planning Board Meeting, Town Hall

14 Monday 7pm Master Plan Committee Meeting, Town Hall

15 Tuesday 9-11am Diaper Pantry, First Congregational Church

4:30-6pm Pittsfield High School Tuition Study Committee Meeting via Zoom

16 Wednesday 5pm Library Trustees Meeting, Josiah Carpenter Library

6-8pm Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall

17 Thursday 5:30pm, School Board Meeting, PMHS Lecture Hall and public access via Zoom

7pm Chamber of Commerce House Decorating Contest Judging

22 Tuesday 6pm Selectboard Meeting, Town Hall

24 thru 26 Thursday thru Saturday Josiah Carpenter Library will be closed

The Post plans to publish a monthly calendar of events. Please send us any corrections, community meetings and events. pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

Effective November 30th, Pittsfield Schools Move to Orange Operations

On Thursday November 19th the Pittsfield School Board unanimously voted to move orange status following the Thanksgiving Break (effective November 30) through Martin Luther King Day (January 18). The orange status, detailed in the schools reopening plan, limits on-site student access to those who meet specific criteria for a specialized plan. The building capacity is reduced from 50% to 10-25% and the majority of learners will shift to remote status.

There are several reasons for this shift. First, the recent increase of cases in Pittsfield, surrounding towns, and across the state is concerning, and daily cases are projected to increase significantly in the coming weeks. Secondly, families and staff members may be traveling and gathering during the Holiday Season, which poses a greater risk of community transmission.

Finally, due to recent presumed positive cases, confirmed positive cases, and the need for close contacts to quarantine, our schools and/or grade levels have been in a state of flux as they move between hybrid and remote learning.

The hybrid attendance rates have dropped by as much as 20% as families face difficult decisions of whether or not to send their children to school.

School Leaders believe this recommendation will help to keep students, families, and staff members safe, while providing more consistency and stability in the education process.

We wish everyone an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Dr. John Graziano, Interim Superintendent of Schools



4H Community Service Project

5th year 4H member, Owen Joubert, spearheaded a food drive from his fellow 4H members and their families. A total of 16 families from the Victory Workers 4H Club donated 63 pounds of food. All food will be donated to the Pittsfield Food Pantry. Thank you Owen for organizing such a helpful community service project.

First Anniversary of the Pittsfield Post

Can you believe it? The *Post* has completed its first year of publication! On one hand, the year has flown by. On the other hand, last November before Covid, seems much more than a year ago. The *Post* volunteers really enjoy putting together a weekly update for our community which, of course, is the gem of the Suncook Valley. If you're interested in learning more about the creation of the *Post* you're welcome to attend our December meeting at 10 am on Friday the 4th in the Bicentennial Room at the Community Center. Participants will be socially distant, wearing masks, and some windows will be open to increase air circulation.

We are extremely grateful to all the readers, people who contribute articles and letters, advertisers, and donors. Thank you so much for a wonderful year!
The Post Volunteers





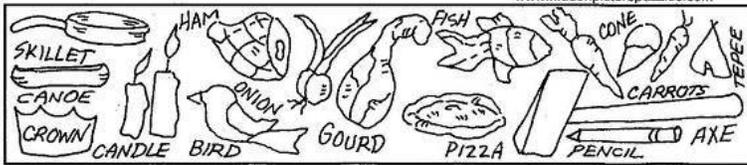
*Come and join us as we
celebrate our faith in God,
our freedom, and a loving
fellowship with each other.*

Sunday worship at 10 a.m.

**First Congregational
Church of Pittsfield**

24 Main Street
Phone 435-7471

Thanksgiving Stuffing Hidden Picture



Classified

Firewood

Dry 16" cut & split \$325 or 19" to 22" \$325 a cord

603-435-9385

Cord Wood

Cord wood for sale: 1 cord of seasoned hardwood, cut to 18 inches. \$300

603-724-9427

Pittsfield Post Readers

Have you figured out creative ways that are helping you get through these unusual times?

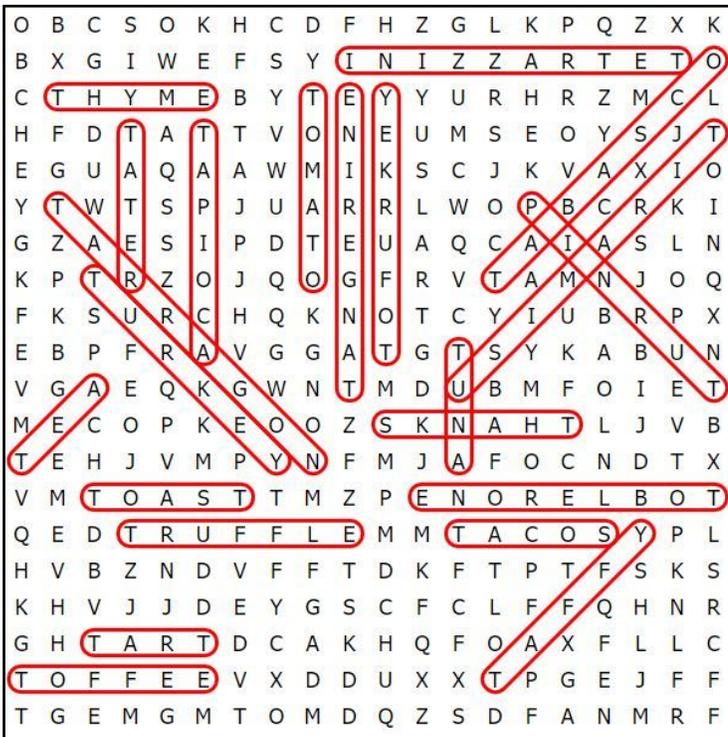
Do you have an interesting Holiday story to share with us?

Would you like to share how you and your family plan to celebrate the holiday season?

We would love to hear from you - our readers enjoy stories from our neighbors and friends!

Email us at: pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

Thanksgiving Treats Answers



MATRAS SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
 TUNE-UPS, REBUILDS, REPAIRS
 MOWERS, SNOWBLOWERS, GENERATORS,
 TILLERS, SAWS, ETC

ASA MATRAS
 821 CATAMOUNT RD PITTSFIELD NH 03263
 HOME 603-435-8214 CELL 603-312-6909

PICKUP / DELIVERY AVAILABLE

GRANITE IMAGE
 Serving your printing, copying and
 faxing service needs since 1975

940 Suncook Valley Hwy • Unit 17
 (PO Box 683) Epsom, NH 03234
 603.736.6056 • fax 603.736.6089
 print@granite-image.com

www.granite-image.com



Jitters Cafe

Thanksgiving Meals

November 25 all day * 26 til 11am

'dine in or take out'

Main St, Pittsfield

435-6222

Turkey or Ham

***Stuffing*Veggie*Biscuit*Scallop Potato*Dessert**

\$19.95

Pies for Sale

Pumpkin*Apple*Lemon Meringue*Chocolate Cream

\$16.00 per

