

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE NEWSLETTER BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"Thirty-one days of January are all about testing your stamina, patience, strength, and determination for the whole year." *Anonymous*

January 22, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025
E-911 ROAD NAMING & RENUMBERING CHANGES

The Board of Selectmen, pursuant to NH RSA 231:133 and 231:133-a, is implementing recommendations from the NH Division of Emergency Services and Communications (New Hampshire E-911) to rename/renumber certain addresses on the roads listed below which pose a safety concern. These changes will enable our public safety personnel (including mutual aid personnel responding from neighboring towns) to respond to critical situations in a more expedient time frame.

Park Street, Thompson Road, and True Road - have sections that are unpassable, whether by nature or town adopted layout. These unpassable sections create road segments (currently with the same name) that need to be accessed from different access roads, some of which are a significant distance from one entrance point to another. Each of the segments should have their own name, distinct from the other, to avoid confusion during emergency communications. One of the road segments may retain the current name which will be determined at the Board's meeting. Some of the road segments that retain the current name may need to be renumbered, still resulting in an address change.

Park Terrace - should have its own name, distinct from Park Street, to avoid confusion during emergency communications.

Wild Goose Pond Road - should have the same name as the roadway it continues from (Merrill Road) in the town it originates in, again, to avoid confusion during emergency communications.

All interested parties are invited, but are not required, to attend the public hearing. Official notification of the addressing changes being implemented after the public hearing will be mailed to the affected property owners.

The public hearing will be held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at the Town Office, 85 Main Street, Pittsfield, NH 03263.

PITTSFIELD POST www.PittsfieldNHCommunityCenter.org

The *Pittsfield Post* is a non-profit, free newsletter that serves Pittsfield citizens, businesses, town government, town schools and charitable organizations. The newsletter publishes relevant and important news, information, and special interest stories that impact residents, keeping the community informed and providing a forum for dialogue.

The *Pittsfield Post* is published bi-weekly, in both print and digital formats, through the efforts of a volunteer team of residents.

Please support your community newsletter. Checks should be made out to the non-profit: Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, memo: Pittsfield Post. P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. Donations may also be made on our website.

Send us your news! Individuals, community groups and businesses, email us your news, opinions and creative work. Details about submissions are on our website. Deadline is 9am on Friday.

Pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

Pittsfield Town Crier

Would you like an event listed? Contact Andi Riel at pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com or 603-435-6346

Globe Community Fund - For 501c3

organizations....Established by the former fourth-generation family owners of Globe Manufacturing Company in Pittsfield, the donor-advised fund is administered by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. The fund's purpose is to enhance community well-being with a focus on the towns of Pittsfield, Barnstead, Epsom, Northwood, Gilmanton, and Chichester. For more information and an application, email the fund at globecommunityfund@msasafety.com

Sun, Jan 26, 3-7pm: The Gabriel Douglas Anthony 21 Foundation is hosting a fundraiser at Diomede's Restaurant in Chichester. Diomede's Restaurant will graciously donate 40% of all profits that day to the GDA 21 Foundation. Diomede's is located at 346 Suncook Valley Road, Chichester. For reservations, please call 603-435-4072.

Mon, Jan 27: PHS Alumni Association meeting has been cancelled. If you were interested in joining the Alumni Association, please contact Tobi Chassie at tchassie@gmail.com or Andi Riel at pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com for information about future meetings.

Sat, Feb 1, 10am-2pm: Take Your Child to the Library Day. An International Day to encourage young people's reading and build a habit of lifelong reading. The Josiah Carpenter Library will be open from 10-2pm with Birthday Club signups, scavenger hunt, Rising Readers registration, snacks, crafts and games. **PJ STORYTIME - Join us at 6:30pm** for a story and craft followed by cookies & milk. Don't forget to leave your stuffed animal for JCL's Third Annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover!

The Pittsfield Youth Workshop (PYW), 5 Park Street is open for Drop-In Hours Mon, Tues, Thurs. The food pantry at PYW continues to be stocked with snacks, beverages, mealtime essentials, and basic toiletries/self-care products for PYW youth - open during Drop-In hours. ?'s contact Zach Powers or Ashley Perron at (603) 435-8272 or text at 603-234-9788.

The Gabriel Douglas Anthony 21 Foundation was established by Gabe's family after his death to provide roadside safety equipment to all high-school aged drivers. Website <https://gda21foundation.org> to read more about this wonderful foundation and to donate. You may also contact the foundation at GDA21 Foundation, 98 Main St., Pittsfield, NH 03263; 603-470-6927 or email gda21foundation@gmail.com

Senior Center Schedule: Monday & Thursdays 8-2pm; Wednesdays 8am-1pm. **Activities:** Senior Lunch: M & TH at 12pm; Bingo: M, W & TH at 10-11:45am; Cribbage & Games: Weds at 9-11am; Walking: M, W, TH at 8am-1pm; Sweatin to the Oldies: Mon at 9am; Chair Yoga: Thurs at 9am. ?'s call Anne at 603-435-8482.

Wed, Jan 22, 9:30-11:30am: Let's try something new. We will have various games put out: cards, Scrabble, Monopoly, etc. Or bring in a game you would like to share. Come have some fun at the Senior Center!

Senior Center Bingo is growing. Anne has been working very hard at keeping the center up and running. If you are interested in helping, please call Anne at 603-435-8482. We really could use some help with Bingo and to serve lunch. If you would like the Senior Center to remain in Pittsfield, then please show some support and have lunch at the Center. Our funding is based a lot on how many of you join us for lunch! Look at the menu and give Anne a call if you plan on attending one of the lunches.

Last but not least, the Senior Center coordinates the local Meals on Wheels program AND is looking for a Meals on Wheels driver. If you are interested in helping vulnerable people in our community...apply! <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/2756787>

Pittsfield Youth Baseball/Softball Association Bingo. Geat menu of food items along with games, and it all benefits the children of Pittsfield for the baseball/softball program. Doors open at 3:30pm and bingo starts at 6pm at Circle 9 Ranch in Epsom.

PES and End 68 Hours of Hunger are joining forces to create positive change! Are you eager to help our community bag and deliver groceries for families in need? This impactful program ensures groceries are available over the weekend. To sign up your family, go to <https://registration.end68hoursofhunger.org/> We're seeking community heroes to assist with

weekly bagging and delivery every Thursday morning. To learn more, contact Mike Curtin or Kate Price at mcurtin@sau51.org or kprice@sau51.org

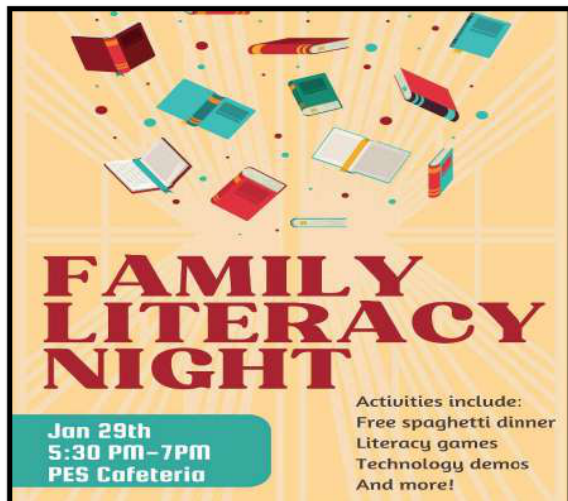
Josiah Carpenter Library is in need of the following items throughout the year and would greatly appreciate any and all donations from patrons and town residents: contact paper, small reward stickers, party favors/prizes, glue sticks, sticky-back googly eyes, construction paper, markers, pocket folders, card stock, cotton balls, apple juice, goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, microwave popcorn. All of these items benefit the staff and visitors who participate in programming provided by the library. Donations allow us to provide more for patrons throughout the year.

Josiah Carpenter Library is also collecting homemade mittens and hats (no scarves please) for Pittsfield Elementary School. They have plenty of yarn if you need some!

The Pittsfield Conservation Commission wants to hear from you! Please complete this anonymous survey to help us understand your joys, concerns and hopes regarding Pittsfield's natural spaces: <https://forms.gle/zyyFqpiWGBShEehs6>

Happy Birthday wishes to Bob Wharem and to my fabulous husband, Mark Riel on Sun, Jan. 19, and to Roger Metcalf on Thurs, Jan. 23. I hope you all enjoy your special day.

Andrea Riel
603.435.6346



Chunky Cheeseburger Soup



Yikes, we've been in a cold spell! Nothing tastes better than a hot, hearty soup on these frigid days. This soup is easy to make and so fun. The kiddos will love it. I like to serve this with toasted hamburger buns, cut into "sticks", or you could heat up a batch of waffle

- 1 to 1 & ½ lbs 90% lean ground beef
- 1 cup chopped celery
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 4 cups beef broth
- 1 cup water
- 4 cups diced, peeled potatoes
- 4 TBSP butter
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 & ½ cups milk
- 1 (6 oz) can tomato paste
- 2 TBSP ketchup
- 2 TBSP mustard (Dijon or French's yellow, your call)
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 TBSP fresh parsley, chopped
- Toppings for garnish: chopped tomatoes, chopped onion, and / or pickles.

Cook the beef in a large pot, crumbling with a spoon until no longer pink. Drain and return to the pot. Add celery and onion, cook, stirring until the vegetables are softened, about 3 minutes. Add broth, water and potatoes. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, partially cover and cook, stirring occasionally until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a medium saucepan. Whisk in flour and then slowly add the milk, whisking constantly and cook until thickened, about 2 minutes. Whisk in tomato paste, ketchup and mustard.

Slowly whisk the milk mixture into the soup and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer, add the Cheddar cheese a handful at a time and cook until melted. Remove from heat.

Serve topped with chopped tomatoes, onions and pickles.

PITTSFIELD TOWN FILING NOTICE

Declarations of Candidacy for elected Town Office positions will begin on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 and expire on Friday, January 31, 2025 at 5:00PM. You may file at the office of the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, 85 Main Street during regular business hours. The office will remain open until 5:00PM on January 31st. The declaration forms will also be available to download from the Town website: www.pittsfieldnh.gov.

Selectman	2 (3) year term
Selectman	1 (1) year term
Trustee of Trust Funds	1 (3) year term
Library Trustee	1 (3) year term
Cemetery Trustee	1 (3) year term
Planning Board	1 (3) year term
Zoning Board of Adjustment	1 (3) year term

PITTSFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT FILING NOTICE

Declarations of Candidacy for elected School District positions will begin on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 and expire on Friday, January 31, 2025 at 5:00pm. You may file at the office of the School District Clerk at the Town Hall, 85 Main Street during regular business hours. The office will remain open until 5PM on January 31st. The declaration form will also be available to download from the Town and School District websites – www.pittsfieldnh.gov and <https://www.sau51.org/>

School Board Member	2(3) year term
School Board Member	1(1) year term
School District Moderator	1(2) year term
School District Clerk	1(3) year term
School District Treasurer	1(1) year term

Josiah Carpenter Library Elevator Fund

The Elevator Fund was established in late 2024, to finance the replacement cost of the library's elevator without using taxpayer dollars. The estimated cost is \$45,000.

We are happy to announce there has been support from individuals, which brings the current total collected to just over \$5,000. All donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated. Your contributions qualify as a Federal Charitable Tax Donation.

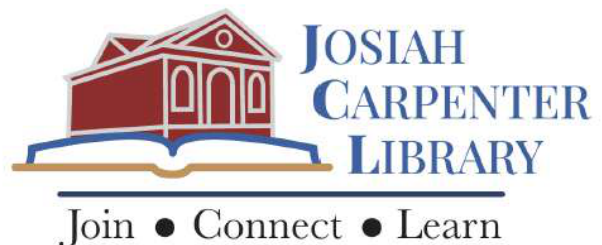
Please send your check payable to: "Josiah Carpenter Library," with notation "Elevator Fund" on the memo line.

Mail to: Josiah Carpenter Library , 41 Main St., Pittsfield, NH 03263

It's your library – please help.

Thank you,

Elevator Fund Committee



Over a Dozen Donations and Counting...

Submitted by Kelsey DiFranzo

Why 'knot' try something new this year? Josiah Carpenter Library received a wonderful large donation of yarn this past year and we are doing our best to see that it helps our community.

Whether you are a little rusty or just want to try something different, we have a great collection of knit & crochet books, as well as online magazines, at your fingertips. With that, and with free skeins of yarn, free printable patterns, plus hooks and needles to borrow, there has never been a greater time to try it out. If you are interested in crocheting but don't know where to start, you can also try out our Beginner Crochet Class every fourth Monday of the month at 5pm.

Since October, we have been collecting donations of homemade hats and mittens for the Pittsfield Elementary School. You can show you care by donating a spare. This winter wear will be kept in the nurse's office to replace wet or lost winter wear. So far we have received over a dozen donations and are continuing to collect them until February vacation.

If you want to help, but can't make anything more than a rectangle, no worries. We have a pattern that will show you how to turn your rectangle into a great hat! Whether you are looking to make a donation, try out a new hobby, or finally make that challenging pattern, we've got you covered. The only question now is: What yarn will you try first?

PUBLIC HEARING MEETING NOTICE

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

PUBLIC HEARING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Notice is hereby given in accordance with NH RSA 40:14 that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a hearing to receive public comment to consider rescinding the provisions of RSA 40:13 official ballot referendum form of meeting (known as SB 2) to return to a Traditional Town Meeting format.

The Board of Selectmen has placed the following question on the 2025 annual town warrant:

Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2), as adopted by the Town of Pittsfield on March 13, 2018, so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by state law, and return to traditional town meeting format?

(3/5-majority ballot vote required)

The public hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at the Town Office, 85 Main Street, Pittsfield, NH 03263.



NOTHING PROPER ABOUT THE PROPERTY TAX

Submitted by Bill Miskoe

There is a myth that reliance on local property taxes gives taxpayers local control of how the money is spent. That's not true. And New Hampshire's reliance on the property tax as a major revenue source contains many more problems.

The property tax came into being around here in the 18th century, when Pittsfield and many other towns were just getting going. At that time the tax made more sense than it does now. In the 1780's NH was a largely agrarian economy and the people were farmers, loggers and traders. Those who owned land or buildings made money by doing it, and the property tax functioned as an income tax.

Not so today. Real estate ownership has changed. Commercial real estate owners make money from their property, but residential owners do not. Single family houses provide shelter, but after costs such as insurance, maintenance and utilities are paid, owners do not get a good financial return on the money they have invested. New Hampshire taxes real estate investment in ways that apply to no other asset. The annual property tax, at about 2% of market value, applies only to real estate. Money invested in stocks or bonds or antique jewelry is not taxed, nor is money kept in banks or under the mattress. And it's even worse. Real estate is the only asset which New Hampshire taxes at 1.5% of value when ownership is transferred, regardless of acquisition cost or how long the property has been owned.

The result is that the property tax is, by definition, truly regressive because it hits the poorest people hardest. Those at the lowest level generally cannot afford to own real estate, so they rent. And rent passes property tax directly from the landlords to the tenants. They pay the property taxes without getting any benefit of any property ownership. Property taxes are also regressive on those who can buy real estate but who don't have any other significant investments, because compared to wealthy people who own several types of assets, they are taxed on all of what they own.

For many people, paying off a mortgage and owning a house are also a major part of their retirement savings plan. NH doesn't tax money put into 401k accounts or into insurance policies, but it takes a bite out of all the money that gets saved by means of home ownership. It even requires an owner to pay property tax on all the market value of a house at times during the mortgage period when the lender actually has majority ownership. And it grabs 1.5% of the final value when the owner cashes out. This is truly regressive taxation.

The property tax really works against the long term interests of those least able to afford it, while offering the totally false promise of local control of their tax dollars. The management of this newspaper does not allow me to mention any group having political aspirations, but I am aware that the upper levels of state leadership are on record as supporting the 'New Hampshire Advantage.' This concept relies entirely on convincing those paying the property tax that there is no other way to raise public funds to pay for education in New Hampshire. It is my opinion that there are other funding mechanisms and that it's time to consider them.



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PICKUP / DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Panther Updates: Pittsfield Elementary School

Bright Future Grant update: We are excited to share the progress of Pittsfield Elementary School implementing the Bright Future Grant of \$23,000. This funding has allowed us to advance our implementation of the Responsive Classroom approach and expand our Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavior.

As of January 1, our grant activities have been fully approved and we have begun working with Responsive Classroom consultant Erin Moore. Erin is serving as a practice-based coach, working directly with our teachers and staff to improve strategies that support students' behavioral health and learning engagement.

In addition to individual coaching, teachers and para-educators meet in mini-groups organized by grade level to collaborate, problem-solve, and dig deeper into specific behavior management strategies. Participants receive individualized coaching, group problem-solving opportunities, and demonstration sessions to ensure their efforts align with school-wide behavioral and instructional goals. These efforts are helping to establish clear distinctions between universal support for all students and targeted interventions for students who engage in more challenging behavior. This ensures consistent behavioral expectations for all students while providing additional support for those who need it. By layering support, we are creating a responsive environment that promotes both social-emotional and academic success.

The Bright Future Grant is helping us meet the current needs of our students and staff, but also paving the way for a stronger, more supportive environment for years to come.

Winter Reading Challenge: Over the winter break, Pittsfield Elementary School challenged students and families to participate in a Winter Reading Challenge, designed to emphasize the importance of reading 20 minutes a day. Research consistently shows that daily reading improves vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills.

The challenge encouraged students to complete engaging reading activities, such as reading a book with a snowman on the cover, reading while snuggled up in cozy pajamas, or reading a recipe and then making it. Each completed activity allowed students to cross off a square on their challenge card.

We are thrilled to share that 36 students completed the challenge by crossing off at least five squares! As a reward for their dedication, Mrs. White and Mrs. Davis hosted a special VIP lunch for these readers. Thank you to the families who encouraged their children to participate and to everyone who made this event such a meaningful success. Together, we are building a community of lifelong readers at PES, and we hope to have many of our families attend Literacy Night on January 29.

Dental clinic update: This year, we took a proactive approach to informing families about the Carried Away Dental Program. In the spring, Mrs. White and Nurse Laurie Clar met with members of Northeast Delta Dental to collaborate on strategies for increasing participation. Over the summer we set up booths at both Old Home Day and the Balloon Rally to share information with families. Additionally, during our Open House, we provided an information table where families received details about the program, as well as toothbrushes. Looking ahead, we are exploring the possibility of having members of Northeast Delta Dental join us during our summer Kindergarten Camp as another way to promote this valuable resource.

On January 6th and 7th, Audrey Johnston, a dental hygienist from Dr. Richard Niederman's office, visited PES to provide dental care for any student who signed up for this free program. Thanks to our proactive efforts, Ms. Johnston treated 47 students this year, almost doubling last year's total of 25 participants. This program will be offered again in April, and we hope to increase the number of participants.

Kristen Whiten and Kyle Hodsdon, Pittsfield Elementary School

Panther Updates: Pittsfield Middle High School

This past summer the School Board approved the Site Council's revisions to the Board's policy on Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy. The revisions tightened the definition of excused absences and included a new section on the consequences of attendance failures for students with 10 or more unexcused absences. We have realized the need to include criteria for an attendance failure in both semester and year-long courses. The Site Council has prepared a draft policy revision which was presented to the School Board on January 16 for their review. (Note to readers: The Site Council is the student-majority governing body of PMHS that has been empowered to make decisions regarding policies and procedures in the *Student and Family Handbook*. Any decision made by the Site Council, which includes student, staff, and community representation, goes to the School Board for review and approval.)

Our annual Learning Studios Winter Showcase was held on Friday, January 10. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their work-to-date in their first semester. This past semester our Learning Studios included Basic Cooking Techniques, Blackout Poetry, and Engineering and Robotics Programming. The following Friday, January 17, the topics for second semester Learning Studios were introduced and students selected a studio for enrollment.

One of the uses of our professional learning time on Wednesday afternoons is for PMHS educators to participate in focus groups to conduct research and work toward stated objectives. This year the focus groups have worked on four areas:

Creating a year-at-a-glance (month-by-month topics) for advisories. The year-at-a-glance is being customized by grade level and includes resources for advisors.

In recognition of good attendance and behavior habits, a team has established a quarterly Panther Pride Award. Teams of educators nominate students from each grade span, and then two middle school and two high school students are identified as winners. All nominees are acknowledged, and the winners receive a Ben's Beans (school store) gift card.

The System of Support for Behavioral Health team has completed an initial inventory of our school's internal supports available to students for management of their behavioral health. The team is stressing the need to collect behavior data to better inform decision making and is in the process of creating a strategies toolbox for teachers.

The Vision of the Learner team is consolidating categories and statements into a more visually appealing graphic for students, families, and staff members. Vision of the Learner is a requirement for PMHS to maintain its accreditation. The team held a staff workshop on January 15 for staff members to review the proposed revision. *Derek Hamilton, PMHS Principal*



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Panther Updates: Student Support Services

A Crotched Mountain Foundation *CMFKids* quick impact award of \$5,256.69 has been awarded to Pittsfield. We have ordered sensory equipment which includes indoor swings, a mini- trampoline, alternative seating, sensory bins, and a toileting system for the students at the elementary school.

The NH Department of Education offers a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grant. This grant is to offset the cost of transporting Pittsfield High School students to Concord Regional Technical Center. Two buses travel to Concord from Pittsfield each day at a cost of \$256.80 per day per bus. The total cost of transportation is \$92,448.00 for the 2024/25 school year. I am working with the district's financial manager to see if grant funding can pay a portion of the transportation cost.

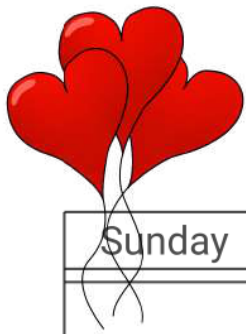
IMPACCT Academy is a program offered by Vocational Rehabilitation New Hampshire and Granite State Independent Living. To enroll, high school students with a disability commit to 15 hours per week and may earn academic credit through Extended Learning Opportunities. Students may earn up to 5 credits towards graduation in English, Career Exploration, Family and Consumer Science/Independent Living Skills, Health, Information & Communication Technology, Personal Finance/Consumer Math, and Personal Fitness. Students present their work to the Director of Student Services and College and Career Director to ensure that their credits earned from *IMPACCT* meet PMHS graduation requirements.

Pittsfield has one student completing their *IMPACCT Academy* credits this January. An additional two students have registered to begin the program this winter/spring. Over the last five years we have had several students attend and earn *IMPACCT Academy* credit towards graduation. *Charlene Vary, Director of Student Support Services*



Find the Hidden Pictures







FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 6:30pm Victory Workers 4-H meeting, PES 6:30pm American Legion, Town Hall	4 9-11am, Diaper Pantry, First Cong. Church 6pm Parks & Rec meeting, Community Center	5 6:30 pm Rotary Club, Historical Society 7 pm Sun. Valley Sno-Riders meeting	6 5:30pm School Board meeting, PMHS Media Center 6pm ZBA meeting, Town Hall	7	8
9 1-4 pm Pittsfield Historical Society Open House	10 6:30 pm Josiah Carpenter: Library Mead and Read Book Club Mtg. 7pm Greater Chamber of Commerce meeting	11 6pm Selectboard meeting, Town Hall	12 9:30am J. Carpenter Library Trustees meeting 4pm Community Development Com. meeting, Town Hall 7pm Sun. Valley Sno-Riders	13 5:30 pm PES PTO meeting, PES 7pm Planning Board meeting, Town Hall	14	15
16	17 5:30pm Community Supper, Congregational Church	18	19	20 5:30 PM Suncook Valley Rotary Club, Hist. Society 5:30pm School Board meeting, PMHS Media Center	21	22
23	24 6pm Old Home Day Com. Meeting	25 6pm Selectboard meeting, Town Hall	26 4pm Community Development Com. meeting, Town Hall	27 7pm Conservation Commission meeting, Town Hall	28	