

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Wreath making a sign of the season

By JOANNE BARGIONI

Nov. 29 was the first day of Advent and for many, heralded the coming of Christmas. St. Matthew's Parish in Limerick held an Advent Wreath class in the Parish Hall. Last year every seat was taken, but this year, it was decided to include a virtual class for those who could not attend in person. All the supplies were provided, and for those in the virtual class, a kit was prepared to take home.

The kit included a styrofoam wreath, ribbons, candles, candleholders, and pins to attach the evergreen boughs.

It was definitely a smaller group in person, and COVID-19 guidelines were in place. Each family occupied its own table in the hall. Father Bill Labbe in-

structed both virtual and in-person participants on how to create their wreath.

Advent wreaths traditionally consist of a circle of evergreen branches with four candles. Three of the candles are purple, and one is pink. On the first Sunday in Advent, candles are lit, beginning with a purple candle. The next Sunday, another purple candle is lit in addition to the last week's candle. This is followed by the third pink candle the following week, which symbolizes that Christmas is nearly here, and the final purple candle on the fourth week of Advent.

Each participant took home a completed advent wreath.

At right, Fr. Bill Labbe leads the wreath making class both in person and virtually.

PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI



Rick Olsen, CFO; Stacy Merrill, Manager of Client Relations; Nate Howell, President; and Sherry Van Joolen, Director of Client Relations presenting the SMHC Caregiver of the Year award. COURTESY PHOTO

SMHC names Caregiver of the Year

Stacy Merrill has been named Southern Maine Health Care's 2020 Caregiver of the Year. Merrill is a valuable member of the SMHC team and emanates SMHC's core values of patient centered, respect, integrity, excellence, ownership and innovation.

Merrill has been with the organization for 3 years. As the Manager of Client Relations, she han-

dles the resolution of all patient concerns that may not be resolved at a customer service level. She partners with the physician practices, risk management, billing and coding to identify the source of the patient's concern and helps to resolve those concerns. Merrill is dedicated to finding solutions for patients to receive the care they need regardless of their in-

surance or benefits plans, working to eliminate any barriers that patients may face.

"Many times patients start out extremely frustrated and by the time the call is completed, they are laughing and joking with Stacy," said Sherry Van Joolen, Director of Client Relations & Physician Revenue Integrity, Southern

(Continued on page 2)



Todd and Lisa LaCourse stand in front of the historic home on Maplewood Road and their truck, that they lost to a fire last summer.

PHOTO BY C.J. PIKE

A difficult struggle as winter approaches

By C.J. PIKE

Todd and Lisa LaCourse bought the 1835 home on Maplewood Road, back in November 2019 and planned to make this area their new home. They had always wanted a historic home

and paid for it in full. The moment that Lisa walked into the house, when they were house shopping, she knew immediately that she was home. She loved everything about it.

However, on July 10 of this (Continued on page 3)

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BUSINESS NEWS



Lisa Holt poses with a check for \$500 that will go to The Ryan Home Project as part of her selection through the Partners Bank Employee Donation Program. COURTESY PHOTO

The Ryan Home Project benefits from employee donation program

Partners Bank Training Manager, Lisa Holt is the 56th employee to be chosen for the Bank's Employee Donation Program to select a non-profit or charity of her choice to receive \$500. For the month of November, Holt chose The Ryan Home Project in North Berwick.

The Ryan Home Project is a movement to provide housing to homeless within the Maine School Administrative District No. 60 which consists of primarily Noble Middle and High School students who do not have a regular home to return to each day.

The Project aims to provide the security of a stable home to all young persons in North Berwick,

Berwick and Lebanon, which allows them to work on and develop the appropriate skills and knowledge that they will need as they enter the next phases of their lives.

Holt chose this organization because a close college friend of hers is currently serving as the "house family" for The Ryan Home Project.

"Not being from the immediate area, I had not heard of the Ryan Home until Meg [Fox] mentioned that she and her family would be moving in," Holt said. "Having been an educator in a similar demographic I've seen firsthand the effect that unstable housing can have on a student in their formative adult years. This is a resource

that is very much needed but relies heavily on donations. I am so happy to be able to make such a substantial donation with the help of Partners Bank."

The Project is completely funded by private donations. Funds help support the upkeep of the Ryan Home, furnishing the home, upkeep with the vegetable and flower garden and so much more. If you'd like to make a donation to The Ryan Home Project or learn more on how else you can help, contact Director Sue Austin at theryanhomeproject@gmail.com or by phone at (207) 651-1881.

OUR SCHOOLS



Mrs. Stephenson's advisory students at Massabesic High School recently won the annual Leadership Academy Food Drive. They collected 453 items besting Mrs. Pellegrino's class, who came in second with 392. Both amazing efforts and the food pantry was so grateful for the donation. Thanks to Mike and Rick Hendrix for helping with delivery and all of the SLA kids for making this a successful effort! In total they gathered just over 1,500 items that will go to help out needy families in our community! COURTESY PHOTO

Smart, safe storm cleanup tips and reminders

Everyone involved in storm cleanup can help keep Maine's forests healthy. After power and other utilities have been restored, property owners will be faced with the issue of what to do with storm-damaged trees.

Project Canopy guidance for home- and property owners about what to do with downed trees and limbs:

- **Trees and branches on homes and around power lines** — Homeowners need to find immediate solutions for trees and branches on their homes. Branches and trees on power lines should be dealt with by calling local power companies. Even if a hanging limb is clear of power and utility

wires, homeowners should rely on professionals to assess the damage's severity before trying to repair or remove the branch.

- **Injured trees requiring climbing or chainsaw work** — Call a licensed arborist for help. Arborists are tree care professionals who are trained to assess and correct storm-damaged trees. They also have the experience needed to diagnose how much of a tree can or should be saved. Homeowners should be wary of those offering fly-by-night, emergency tree-cutting services. Always ask for proof of licensing, insurance, and work references.

Project Canopy is Maine's urban and community forestry program. Reduce the Spread of Invasive Pests in Storm Debris

Woody debris created by storm damage may harbor insects or diseases harmful to our forests. Moving debris long distances can spread pests to new areas. Be aware that there are rules, known as quarantines, that impact transport of some woody storm debris:

- Movement of Pine (*Pinus* spp.) from parts of Maine within the Pine Shoot Beetle quarantine to Washington and Aroostook Counties.
- Movement of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) from areas within the Emerald Ash Borer Regulated Area. The restriction in this case extends to mixed hardwood chips.
- Movement of Larch (*Larix* spp., *Pseudolarix* spp.) from areas within the European Larch Canker quarantine.
- Movement of Hemlock (*Tsuga* spp.) branch/top material from areas within the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid quarantine.

Learn more about quarantines that affect woody storm debris

Report damage from an invasive insect such as emerald ash borer or Asian longhorned beetle.

You can subscribe to Maine.gov Citizen System for storm warnings/bulletins and other urgent or emergency updates by visiting <https://www.maine.gov/portal/CAS/> and providing a phone number or email address for alerts.

CAREGIVER AWARD

(Continued from page 1)

Maine Health Care, "She just has such a way of putting patients at ease."

"Stacy's unwavering dedication ensures that our community members have the basic resources they need, that are essential, but often taken for granted — access to health care, medications, food, shelter," added SMHC President, Nate Howell. "Stacy's continued exceptional efforts demonstrates her concern for the welfare for our patients and her commitment to our values. We're lucky to have Stacy as part of the SMHC family and she is very deserving of this

honor."

The Caregiver of the Year award is chosen based upon patient comments and peer recommendations throughout the organization. The recipient must meet the following criteria: exemplify extraordinary commitment to patients on a daily basis; show compassion, empathy and respect in the delivery of care to patients and their families; acknowledge and meet the unique physical, emotional and practical needs of patients and their families and; promote an environment of cooperation and collaboration in which the expertise and experience of all healthcare professionals are available to patients.

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SHAPLEIGH DOG OWNERS
2021 Dog Tags Now Available
Maine State Law requires each owner/keeper of a dog(s) at the age of six months or over be licensed in the Municipal Clerk's office in the Town where the dog is kept. You must provide a current rabies and spay/neuter certificates when licensing. On-line dog licensing is available by visiting www.doglicensing.com or via mail by telephoning 636-2843 ext. 1 or 6. **A \$25.00 LATE FEE WILL BE APPLIED AS OF FEBRUARY 1.**

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AFTER THE FIRE

(Continued from page 1)

year, a fire destroyed the entire home and truck that he used for his business, a 2009 International, which was parked in the yard near the house, for safety and convenience. They lost 30 years of cherished memories, and they have taken a set back with his business due to the loss of the truck; it has been a struggle for them.

The fire was discovered by one of the neighbors who said that the heat from it was so intense that they felt it from across the street. He called it in and the Newfield Fire and Rescue Departments were on the scene in record time. They fought the fire for hours before they were able to get it out. But, the house and truck were completely destroyed.

At 5 a.m., after the fire was out, the fire marshal called the La-Courses to tell them about it. They were on vacation out of state at the time, and rushed right home after they heard the news.

The insurance company hired a 'cause and origin' investigation into the fire and determined that it was caused by a wire that ran out to the addition on the side of the house.

Both the home and the truck were paid off, but it is now four months later and the fire marshal has still not closed the case, so therefore they are not able to rebuild and as the winter closes in on them, they are living in a camper trailer.

The value of the truck was \$28,000 and the home was valued at \$300,000.

"The only insurance we had was on the structure of the home and my truck. It will cost more to replace what we lost than we will ever get from the insurance and we will never have a historic home," they said.

They love the area and their neighbors and appreciate all that they have done to help out, along with the corner store K&D. They are also thankful to Stoney Road Septic for loaning them their camper to live in. "It's been a blessing to Lisa and me." Todd says. The Masons from Day Spring Lodge gave them gift cards, and two companies from Cornish let them use some of their equipment, to clean up the debris.

So, when all is settled, they can rebuild and try and get their lives back together, even though they can't replace the sentimental items, they have the memories.

But, there have been a few snags in getting the settlement that is due to them.

They applied for an abatement on their real estate taxes and the tax assessor said that they were not entitled to one. The property was basically assessed at the same value as if the house was standing, and LaCourse did not agree with that. He feels that he will have to take this a step further to get any satisfaction. He is willing to pay tax on the land, but didn't want to pay for a building that is no longer there.

According to state law, if a homeowner does not agree with the tax assessment, one option is "to challenge a perceived excessive property tax on how the tax assessor determined the property's value. Get a copy of your tax card from the town and review the methodology of the assessor."

As far as the insurance settlement goes, he feels strongly that he will have to write to the insurance commissioner in Augusta to get the settlement that is due to them.

Library raffle

Newfield Library has two items to be raffled off and the first is a large Christmas Basket, thanks to the Rock Haven Basket Company. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 13 for \$10. The drawing will be held on December 16.

The second is a painting of the old Moulton Mill, which was donated by artist, Linda Rankin, from Springvale. The raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, or 13 for \$10. Please place your money in an envelope with your contact information and leave in the library book drop at 637 Water Street.

The drawing for the painting will be next year. For more information, contact Cheryl Cause at the library at 809-7014.

Happy birthday!

Birthday wishes go to: Jimmy Ring, Wanda Neville, Nancy Wedgewood, Nichole Hubbard, Robbie Chamberlain, Allan Hodgkins, and Debbie Gilpatrick.

SPORTS
RSU 57 winter athletics update

-From Brendan Scully, RSU 57 Athletic & Activities Director

The Maine Principals Association has released its guidelines for winter athletics. Based on these guidelines each school district in Maine is planning for a safe start to winter athletics.

Practices are set to begin on Dec. 7 pending our counties Covid designation. Currently with York County in Yellow there are no in person meetings of students after school allowed. If we stay in yellow we will not be starting winter sports on Dec. 7. That said, we are preparing as though we will be Green on Dec. 7, so we are prepared.

It is important to remember we will not have activity busses running. Athletes will not be allowed to wait after school for later practices and must go home then return for practice. Students participating in winter athletics will need rides home after practices and games. We will do what we can with practice schedules to accommodate as best as possible while ensuring we meet state guidelines for indoor meeting sizes.

REVTRAK is open for sign up with no fee associated at this time. The fees will be evaluated based on how the seasons unfold. Fees were not assessed this fall based on the limited season. Everyone interested in participating in a winter sport should register now so we can process your registrations and clear athletes for participation.

Viewing games

The winter guidelines clearly state there will be no spectators at events. The indoor gathering limit is 50, which will create challenges to hold the competitions with only the athletes and game officials in the building. We cannot currently use volunteers at events here. Games will be streamed and that

information will be shared before the events.

We will be offering the following sports at MHS this Winter

COMPETITION CHEERING - There will be no sideline cheer for basketball this winter. This is an MPA Recommendation. Comp Cheering will practice after school and information on how competitions will be run is pending.

WRESTLING - The MPA has postponed Wrestling until Feb. 22. Wrestling is considered a high risk sport and the hope is that the delay will improve our chances of having a season.

BASKETBALL - Basketball will begin with our other sports on Dec assuming we are Green. We are planning to practice later using both MMS and MHS gyms. Or boys and girls will rotate between spaces. This will allow for players to go home after school and have rides to and from practice.

SWIMMING - This year we will be swimming at the Sanford YMCA. The pool time is 2-3 p.m. and there will be RSU 57 transportation to and from the pool with a return time of approximately 3:45 p.m. There are restrictions for the numbers of swimmers allowed in the pool at one time. We will be splitting our team into 2 groups with group A swimming on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and group B swimming Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. That would switch weekly. We are fortunate to have pool time and this model is what other schools are doing. The Saturday time is likely to be 7 a.m. and there will be RSU 57 transportation provided from MHS. We do not yet have a schedule or a clear model for how swim meets will be run.

INDOOR TRACK - The guidelines for Indoor Track do al-

low for training to begin on Dec. 7 but there is no confirmation that there will be a facility to hold track meets so the season is in question at this time. We will wait to begin indoor track and field practices until more information is available regarding our competitions, likely to begin after Jan. 1.

ICE HOCKEY - Our Cooperative agreements for Boys Ice Hockey with Biddeford and Girls Ice Hockey with Gorham are approved. Those interested in either should register now. Registrations must happen both with MHS and Biddeford (Boys) or Gorham (Girls) respectively. Registrations are required at each school and both are free of charge.

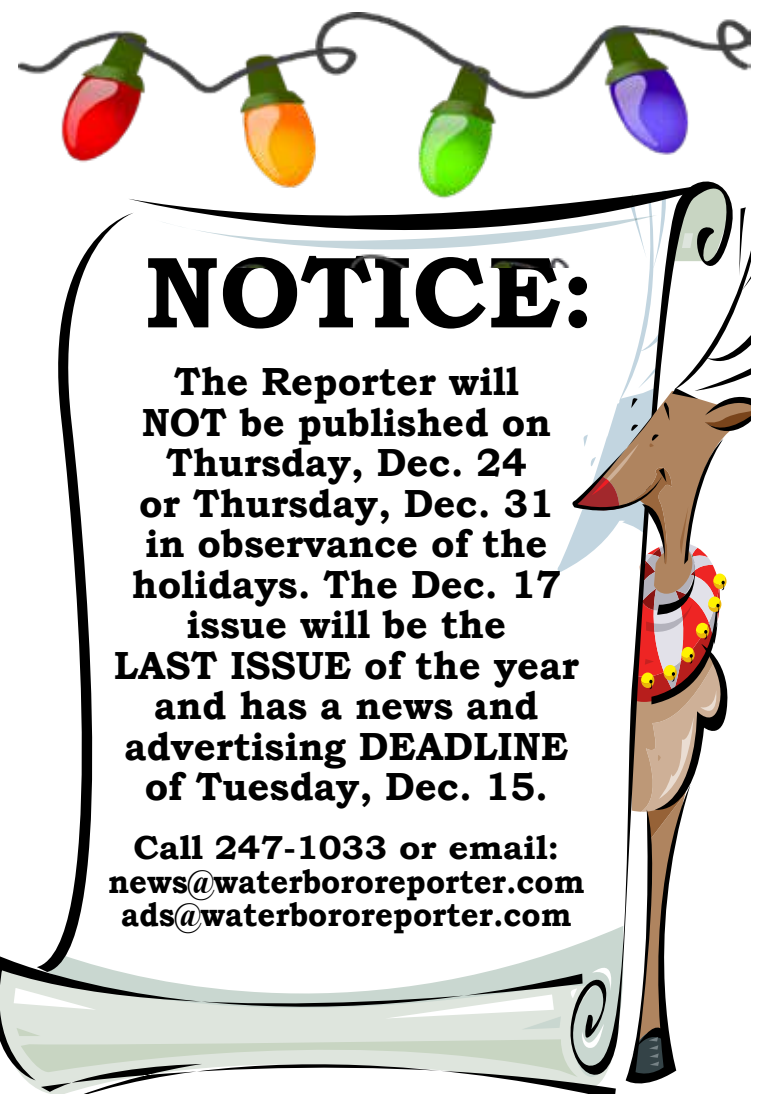
ALPINE SKI - Our cooperative agreement with Gorham for Alpine Ski is also approved. Similarly registrations must happen both at Gorham and at MHS and both are free of charge.

Masks

The current guidelines state that masks will be worn at all times, both during practice and competition. We will have disposable masks available for anyone who needs one but we ask athletes to have their own and to consider what they are most comfortable with for comfort etc.

Locker Rooms

We are planning such that our need for the use of locker rooms will be minimal. On game days locker room use will be allowed. Teams practicing directly after school will be allowed locker room use in small groups to change before practice only and will not be allowed back in to the locker rooms once they leave. The locker rooms will be disinfected after use.



NOTICE:

The Reporter will NOT be published on Thursday, Dec. 24 or Thursday, Dec. 31 in observance of the holidays. The Dec. 17 issue will be the LAST ISSUE of the year and has a news and advertising DEADLINE of Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Call 247-1033 or email: news@waterbororeporter.com ads@waterbororeporter.com

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ALFRED

Allison Williams

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Here and There

The Alfred Town Clerk statistics for October included two births, two deaths, 7 burial permits, four marriages, thirteen dogs licensed and one fishing license sold.

November fire calls

There was a total of 46 fire calls for November in 2020. These included 10 for medical transport by someone with advanced life support training, and 10 with basic life support training, 6 motor vehicle crashes, 6 medical non transport, 2 for smoke/co/odor investigation, 3 for a mutual aid fire, 1 for limbs or wires down, 2 for public assistance, 1 for medical assistance transported by mutual aid, 1 for medical code, 1 for a chimney fire, 1 for a lift assist, 1 which was cancelled.

Please recycle 

Notes from a flower shop

I was not surprised that so many people resisted wearing masks to keep from spreading the coronavirus. I remember when my little brother gave me the mumps. He ran all over the house just as he pleased while I was limited to lying on the couch. No one had explained to him that he could give anyone the mumps just by being near them. He probably would have run all over the house anyway but I did not appreciate it. My best friend and I talked endlessly on the telephone – what else was there to do? When my mother told me how long we had talked after one lengthy conversation, I was embarrassed. I knew the business depended on the public being able to call in orders and Ruthie and I should not have tied up the line. I did not do that again.

Many folks are now aware that the coronavirus can now be spread just by being near someone who has it. It interrupted a lot of Thanksgiving feasts, including ours. It was our decision not to join the family because one member had unknowingly been near a carrier of the virus. Indirectly the same problem happened to my husband many years ago. He was just a youngster with his father in the lumber camp (in

Aroostook County, the men would stay in camp to cut their winter's wood) when his mother sent word that he was to go home on the weekend with his father so he could catch the mumps. He recalls howling that he didn't want the mumps! But it was no use. His mother figured that it was better to get them then than after he started school.

Most of us over sixty remember how quickly all those contagious diseases would go through a classroom. If there was no vaccine to stop it, the only way to become immune was to get the disease. We survived measles, mumps, chicken pox and whooping cough the old-fashioned way – by getting the disease. I also survived pneumonia, but that was a little different. Because I couldn't stop coughing the doctor finally told my mother there was a new medicine being used on the battlefield which might help – it was called penicillin! And it did help. I stopped coughing and went back to school.

We didn't join the family on Thanksgiving but my husband made the pies and I did the squash casserole. If you don't like squash this is a recipe you should try. (You will like it.)

Combine 2 cups cooked, mashed butternut squash, 1 cup sugar, 2 eggs beaten, 1/3 cup orange juice, 1/3 cup nonfat dry milk, 1/2 cup raisins, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/4 cup melted butter. Combine and mix well. Pour into greased 1 1/2 qt. casserole. Bake in moderate oven (350 degrees) until set, 60 to 65 minutes. To serve

spoon out so every serving contains raisins (they sink to bottom). Makes six servings. From the "Farm Journal Best Vegetable Recipes."

How to pluck a duck

Some kind person gave our daughter five white ducks. They were very pretty, wandering about the premises and eluding the fox whom we very sure would end up with a duck dinner. But he didn't. He seemed to prefer hens. I believe he did have hens several times if they weren't penned up at night, or not confined until too late. Our daughter finally decided she had been feeding the ducks too long and winter was on the way. They would have to go.

Now when any problem arose having to do with a farming operation, my husband would be consulted. Did he know how to slaughter ducks? He assured her he did. Didn't he grow up in Aroostook County? He had never actually done it. His folks didn't raise ducks. But he knew how it was done. First you had to have a cone. A cone? Well, she didn't have a cone. But he could make one. That would not be a problem.

His shop contains about everything. He found a piece of stiff clear plastic and formed the cone. I believe that was the easiest part of the operation. You would poke the duck's head down into the cone and proceed from there, hanging the bird upside down with just the head sticking out down at the end of the cone. That gave you the free-

dom to cut off the head and proceed with the rest of the operation. No problem.

Now, when I arrived to take part in all this, he had previously beheaded the rest of the small flock, plucked them, removed the unwanted innards, (never having seen the insides of a duck I was rather interested in all this) and come home totally exhausted. Daughter lives in the next village so it wasn't as if this operation was happening on our own property. We are gardeners, not duck owners. But I could see he should not have been doing this by himself. It was too much. "I will help you tomorrow" I announced. "That is too much for one person."

Well, he had quite a lot to say about that. He stated quite emphatically that it would be too much for me. I was not to help. He would do it himself. I explained that I knew how to pluck a turkey and a duck could not be much worse. My father had raised turkeys during World War II and put us kids to work pulling out the pin feathers. (A job I really hated but I considered this one an emergency.) I would come and help. I didn't mention that grain cost so much during World War II that the turkey project wasn't all that profitable and finally, when my mother learned he had ordered the turkeys for the next year, she had hysterics. That ended the turkey project.

My spouse insisted that I not help, but I decided I had nothing else to do so I would follow him over in my car and give him a hand. First I filled a bag with whatever I might need – spare shoes, heavy sweatshirt, pliers for plucking those stubborn pinfeathers, a bottle of green tea. Only the shoes were actually needed.

By the time I had arrived at the site of the operation there was only one duck left in the pen. It had regarded him warily but he had no problem catching it. It would receive the full treatment. He had it by the feet. He quickly poked its head down into the killing cone which was hanging on the outside of the barn and turned to get his knife. By then the duck knew he was in trouble. And Somehow He Escaped From the Cone!

He did not hang around to see what was coming next. He ran for the pen with both my husband and myself in pursuit. If he had not decided the pen was a safe place we could never have caught him. But that pen spelled safety to the duck. The pen was large, actually more for horses than ducks. He didn't know that and by both my husband and I slowly moving forward my husband was able to catch the duck a second time. It was transported back to the cone and this time there was no escape for him. We still cannot figure out just how he had escaped from the cone in the first place!

We learned the duck was a drake and smaller than all the others had been. Why the drake was smaller I do not know. My husband says ducks are on his list of things to which he is allergic so he will not have to eat him. Our daughter had agreed to help someone move furniture that day which is why she wasn't involved in the demise of the ducks. If there is another occasion I don't think we will be available, however. One duck plucking is enough.

TOWN OF ALFRED
NOTICE

Due to the current COVID19 situation, the Town of Alfred will not be doing a community Christmas tree this year.

We realize this is disappointing to the many who have participated in past years. We would like to suggest a monetary donation, if you choose, that would go to our **Fueling February** heat assistance program. This program helps Alfred residents in need of heat who are having a tough time and can't afford it. You may either drop off your donation at the Town Hall during regular business hours or mail it to:

Town of Alfred, General Assistance Office
PO Box 850, Alfred, ME 04002

Alfred Dog Owners

2021 DOG TAGS NOW AVAILABLE

REMINDER - Dog Licenses expire annually on Dec. 31.

Maine State Law Chapter 721, 7§3922 requires that all owners/keepers of dogs 6 months of age or more shall obtain a license. You must provide current rabies and spay/neuter certificates when licensing your dog(s).

Office hours: M. W. 8:15-4:30; Tu. 12:15-6:45; Th. 8:15-2:30

Our office is currently conducting business by appointment only

You may also visit www.alfredme.gov, using the "on-line services" link, to re-license your dog.

A \$25.00 late fee will be assessed as of Feb. 1 (in addition to the regular licensing fees).

TOWN OF ALFRED
Snow Removal Policy
2020/2021 SEASON

It is important that all plowed right-of-ways within the town limits be kept clear of obstructions. Therefore, it is the obligation of all owners & occupants of property in Town to make sure that their mailboxes or any other structures within the town right-of-ways are there at the owner's risk. Neither the Town nor the Road Commissioner or Plow Contractor accepts any responsibility for damages to said structures by plows or sand trucks.

There is also a Town Ordinance prohibiting plowing snow across roads from driveways.

A ban on overnight parking on roadways and in municipal parking lots is in effect as of November 1st. There will be no parking on the sides of streets during the rest of the winter months. Vehicles restricting plowing and sanding will be towed at the owner's expense.

Board of Selectmen, Town of Alfred

TOWN OF ALFRED
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, December 14, 2020; 6:00pm
Alfred Town Hall, Upstairs meeting room
Masks and social distancing will be required.

The Alfred Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00pm** to review the Application for an Administrative Appeal by George Chamberlin to add a second dwelling unit. The property is located at 388 Gore Road, Tax Map 7, Lot 6-B. The property is located in the Rural Residential Zoning District. The application is available for review at the Code Enforcement Office at the Town Hall.

The Alfred Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:45pm** to review the Application for an Administrative Appeal by Megan Gean-Gendron and Zachary Gean for a Notice of Violation and Order to Correct. The property is located at 36 Saco Road, Tax Map 12, Lot 50. The property is located in the Center Village Zoning District. The application is available for review at the Code Enforcement Office at the Town Hall.

OPINION

A date which will live in infamy

On Dec. 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. We didn't have the internet in those days, or social media, or cable TV. There was no opportunity for anyone to call for the head of then President FDR for his failure to protect our forces in the same we called for the head of Clinton for her failure to foresee the sneak attack on Benghazi. In 1941, terms like false-flags and hoax weren't roadblocks to recruitment centers filled by Americans trading livelihoods for the battlefields overseas. A grand total of 420,000 Americans perished in a successful effort to defeat the greatest threat to Democracy.



by
Jon Simonds

On Sept. 11 of 2001, America suffered the shock of another attack from the air. This attack was pulled off by a terrorist organization resulting in the death of 2,977 Americans. Unlike the America the Japanese bombed, technology brought cable TV to homes across the country along with the internet. Social media ignited with claims of the attack being an inside job. Osama Bin Laden was a CIA operative. Al-Qaida was harmless. The events of the day were orchestrated by the Bush administration as an excuse to invade Iraq and seize all of their oil. Computer geeks gave us movies to further the false narrative. Could it be true? Maybe, but I love my country and history has taught me how nations like Russia, North Korea and Iran want to destroy this country through any means possible and in many ways the freedom we enjoy and the technology we possess has given them every opportunity to do so.

In March of 2020 another enemy began its assault on America. It's hit the country so hard and fast one would think we were a nation making a sequel to the movie Invasion of the Body Snatchers. But this is no movie. By the time this goes to print, 260,000 American lives lost will likely cross 265,000. That's over half the Americans killed in WWII. Our daily death nearly matches the loss of life we suffered in the attacks of September 11th. Our Commander in Chief insists it's just a bad flu. Cable news networks like Fox led by Sean Hannity assure us "this

Virus is another Democratic attempt at bludgeoning Trump with a Hoax." Steve Bannon, one of Trumps closest advisers, recently called for Dr. Anthony Faucis' head to be 'put on a pike outside the White House.'

During World War II, Winston Churchill ordered a nationwide blackout in an effort to make it impossible for German aircraft to target buildings during their nightly raids over England. The English did not complain about their rights being infringed upon. It was a temporary order for the good of the country and the safety of its citizenry. Ignorance of order was seen as aiding and abetting the enemy, an act akin to treason. Covid kills. The numbers illustrate the American lives the armies of Japan and Germany needed 4 years to take, COVID has taken in less than 10 months and the damage will continue long after the last vaccine is given.

Businesses are collapsing. Unemployment has reached levels matching the Great Recession. Hospital systems are buckling under with staffing shortages. The lines at food banks are so long, you would think were we viewing clips of a 3rd world nation. Eviction and home foreclosure protections are set to expire, promising an estimated 40% increase in homelessness. Our Presidents long refusal to acknowledge the invasion; to confront the enemy is a torch of honor carried by his supporters. Our enemies overseas couldn't be happier or busier, now flooding social media with voting fraud allegations not a single attorney has been able to produce a shred of evidence for a Judge to Try.

I saw a sign in a front yard today in Waterboro. It reads: Impeach Mills. A Republican House Member described her Mask Mandate as another order from "the regime." I suppose wearing a mask is too much a task for your country. I know lockdowns interfere with livelihoods. I have to ask; however how important a livelihood is when you're dead?

Jon Simonds lives in North Waterboro and is the author of "Brooklyn Encounters," a collection of short stories available on Kindle.

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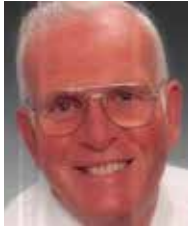
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Obituaries

Earle E. Doughty, Jr.

Earle E. Doughty, Jr., 79, of North Waterboro, passed away on Nov. 21, 2020. He was born on Feb. 5, 1941 in Portland, the son of Earle E. Sr., and Marion (Cole) Doughty.



Earle E. Doughty, Jr.

He recently celebrated his 60th anniversary with his wife, Joyce (Graffam) Doughty. He will be remembered as a great father, husband, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was a man who would talk to anyone and was a kind, caring and compassionate person who helped anyone in need. He worked for Sears for 43 years, as a warehouse manager in Portland, Scarborough, and South Portland. After retiring from Sears, he went on to work for Hannaford for 24 years. While at Hannaford he was employee of the month many times and was once selected as employee of the year. While working he was fond of saying "another day in paradise" which helped to keep morale high.

He was a fan of the Red Sox and would watch all of their games with his son, Michael. He even made several trips to Fenway to watch them play.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by his children, Julie Doughty of South Portland, Michael Doughty of North Waterboro, Kathy Dudley of Portland, and Helen Huntley of North Waterboro; grandchildren, Michael, Jennifer, David, Melissa, Marissa, Rebecca, and James, Jr.; great-granddaughters, Madeline Grace, and Cora Belle; and many nieces and nephews that he was very fond of.

Services will be private.

Robert E. Barnes

Robert E. Barnes, age 85, of Buxton and Gorham, passed away peacefully on Nov. 24, 2020 at The Barron Center, with his wife Christine at his side.



Robert E. Barnes

He was born in Portland on Nov. 11, 1935, a son of the late Samuel and Helene (Ellis) Barnes and served in the Maine National Guard. Bob worked as a service manager for 25 years at Morong Volkswagen and later as a builder.

Bob lived in Buxton for 56 years until moving to Gorham two years ago.

He was an avid water skier, enjoyed camping and fishing, and loved going on motorcycle rides with his wife.

Bob was a talented musician and played guitar and harmonica with his best friends and fellow bandmembers Robert Parette of Naples and the late Wendell Bickford in the band - The Malibu's.

He is predeceased by a son - Robert W. Barnes of Standish; and brother-in-law Eugene Thibodeau.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years Christine (Thibodeau) Barnes of Gorham; son - Richard "Ricky" Barnes and his wife Becky of Steep Falls; daughter-in-law Lynn Roy of Standish; brother-in-law Gary Paul Thibodeau and his wife Cindy of South Portland; his beloved sisters-in-law Gloria Ahern of South Portland and Pat Thibodeau of Mesa, Arizona; seven nieces and nephews; grandchildren April Rose and her husband Kyle of Newington, Connecticut, Marlene, Kevin and Eric of Ft. Smith, Arizona; and great grandchildren Jasmine, Blake, and

Braxton.

Bob's family would like to thank the staff at The Barron Center for their care, compassion and dedication.

Burial will be at a later date at Highland Cemetery in Buxton.

Online condolences can be submitted at the Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service website at www.maineFuneral.com.



In Memory

Jerry Carlson Jr.

May 29, 1984 -
December 5, 2015

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-Mom, Dad and Jen.

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Friday, Dec. 4

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Saturday, Dec. 5

4 p.m. Merry & Bright Parade of Lights

Parade participants meet on School Street at 3:30 p.m. to be lined up. All parade participants MUST be lit up with family-friendly Christmas lights for all to enjoy.

FMI call or text Deedee at 207-636-6723.

After the parade...

- Visit with Santa, Mrs. Clause, Rudolph, Elsa, Anna, Cinderella, Belle, Batman & Batgirl outside of the Brick Town Hall.
- Stroll through the **Happiest of Holidays Decorated Path** between the Brick Town Hall and Uptown Auto.

5 p.m. Pre-Tree Lighting Festivities

at Main Street Gazebo: Come sip on hot cocoa or coffee and eat delicious treats of the season, all while listening to the angelic voices of some of Santa's helpers! PLUS, the Award ceremony for the Outdoor Christmas Decoration Contest!

**5:30 p.m. Tree Lighting
at Main Street Gazebo**

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After the tree lighting...

- Reading of "The Night Before Christmas" with Santa & Mrs. Clause at the Main Street Gazebo.

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