Not Your Average Executive

Dave Nelson

John Pepper is living proof that even during these turbulent times in which we now live, the American dream of achieving corporate success is alive and well. However, spending time with Norwich resident John Pepper will quickly convince you that even with his history of overwhelming corporate success, he has broken the mold for a top executive. No fancy board room for John. His Norwich home serves as his corporate headquarters, as well as a single desk in shared office space across the river.

Reflections on the Women’s March

Publisher’s Note: The Norwich Times’ mission is to uplift, inspire and build positive community through the printed page. We do not publish anything pertaining to national or even local politics or any other sensationalist or potentially divisive content.

While running this article, seemingly about the Women’s March, could be construed as political, my intention is not about politics at all. What inspired me to walk this fine line, and to tell the stories of local people who attended one March or another, was the overwhelming

Elder Profile: The Silberfarbs

Ruth Sylvester

Let us know what time you’re coming, and we’ll pick you up. Don’t try to drive up our driveway!” say Peter and Anne Silberfarb on the phone, their hospitality shining through their repeated warnings. And sure enough, the driveway up from Bragg Hill Road to their charmingly private house site has enough hills and curves to warrant the requirement of four-wheel drive. Even as a visitor watches the footing because of one of this winter’s less lovely weather events, it’s clear that the house nestles into a gently shaped landscape as though it has always been there.

In some ways the house is indeed very old, though Peter and Anne completed it in 1975. They copied the center-chimney 1750 colonial design from a friend’s historic house in Rockingham, NH, and they tracked down period building materials. Boards in the ceiling show the marks of a pit saw—the up and down working of an earlier system than the circular saws now in use. Wood wall paneling, as velvety to the touch as to the eye, was planed by hand from rough boards by Peter. The center chimney contains nine flues, serving hearths in three

“We want all our employees to excel,” says Boloco’s John Pepper.

Cindy Pierce of Etna, NH; Norwich resident, Kristin Brown; Elizabeth Keene of Springfield, NH; Laurie Harrington of Walpole, NH; and Andrea Johnstone of Plainfield, NH unite as women with a voice.
When most of us think of bees, our minds go to Apis mellifera, the familiar, non-native European honey bee. We envision busy, perennial colonies filled with hundreds, even thousands of diligent workers. We imagine honeycombs and waggle dances; maybe we remember the thrill of watching a museum colony through glass—a glimpse into their hidden society absent the fear of being stung.

But what about the 3,000+ species of native bees that inhabit North America? Or the roughly 250 species right here in Vermont? Our Upper Valley gardens teem with a surprisingly diverse array of pollinators. Bumblebees, sweat bees, mason bees, and yes, even the dreaded carpenter bees all play an important role, often providing pollination services that honey bees cannot. Many are solitary, some even stingless; all are integral to our complex, interdependent natural communities.

Sadly, like their non-native cousin, many native bee species are suffering declines. And while research and funding have flooded to the aid of the European honey bee, scant resources have been directed to the study of native bees, leaving few advocates to help them overcome their own suite of maladies.

With that in mind, in 2012, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) launched a two-year bumblebee monitoring project, the Vermont Bumblebee Survey. With precious little known about native pollinators in the state, our aim was to elucidate the status of Vermont bumblebees and to make available essential information to landowners, land-use planners, policy-makers, municipalities, and others who make conservation or management decisions.

Over the course of this two-year project, and with the help of many dedicated volunteers, VCE amassed more than 10,000 observations from nearly every town and eco-region in Vermont. After much sorting, identifying, entering of data, and comparing our field results to those in historic collections, we found that of 15 historically common bumblebee species in Vermont, only 12 can now be found in the state. The rusty-patched bumblebee, once fourth in abundance among the 15, has entirely disappeared from Vermont, and was last observed in 1999. Overall, results were discouraging, to say the least.

Despite these ominous findings, there is reason for optimism. Thanks in part to data from this survey, three bumblebee species were added to Vermont’s Endangered/Threatened species list in 2015: the rusty-patched bumblebee (also now federally Endangered) and Ashton’s cuckoo bumblebee were listed as Endangered, and the yellow-banded bumblebee as Threatened. Though these designations hardly guarantee recovery of our native bumblebee populations, the added legal protection and enhanced public awareness they provide are certainly positive steps.

At the local and individual level, each of us can take action to help pollinators like the rusty-patched Bumblebee. Plant a variety of native flowers, even in small patches, which will bloom from spring through fall. Avoid using pesticides or herbicides if possible, and foster natural landscapes. Leave grass and garden plants uncut after summer to provide habitat for overwintering bees. As spring unfolds, spend some time looking for bumblebees and other native pollinators around Norwich and elsewhere in the Upper Valley. Watch them as they collect pollen and nectar for their colonies, pollinating our flowers in the process. You just might gain a new appreciation for these charismatic, ecologically vital insects!

~ Sara Zahendra , Vermont Center for Ecostudies
NORWICH WOMEN’S CLUB NEWS

Spring Calendar
• Monday, March 6th, 10-11am
  Coffee and Conversation, Norwich Inn
• Friday, March 17th, 6pm
  Spring Gala
• Monday, April 3rd, 10-11am
  Coffee and Conversation, Norwich Inn
• Monday, May 1st
  Community Project application forms due
• Friday-Sunday, May 5-7th
  Spring Nearly New Sale
• Thursday, May 11th, 2pm
  Mamma Mia! Northern Stage and Elixir dinner

For more information on these events, find us on Facebook or www.norwichwomensclub.org.

All welcome!

SPRING GALA
Honoring
Jay Van Arman
Citizen of the Year
March 17, 6pm
Tracy Hall, Norwich

Reserve your ticket norwichwomensclub.org
EDITOR’S NOTE

Welcome to early spring in the upper valley! Days are getting longer and the extra hours of sunlight convey a re-awakening from a long winter of hibernation. We are charting a course through an unsettled climate, both political and environmental these days, and it’s important to find instances of inspiration in things close to home, under rocks, around the corner or wherever you can.

In this issue, we highlight some inspiring experiences such as those of several women who traveled to some of the Women’s March cities. This event showed the power of collaboration and the need for activism to renew hope in our grand community of people in our country. We also celebrate people contributing in many ways to our local community and beyond. We have several people and organizations in our midst who maintain and beautify our trails and other green spaces for us all to enjoy. We have people finding creative ways to provide critical needs to refugees, both locally and abroad. John Pepper’s innovative approach to empowering and valuing employees is a great model to set for businesses everywhere.

We also highlight various individuals who really make a difference in our town. Mr. Bill’s commitment to excellence shines through in his participation in the leadership training program, serving to provide the best educational experience for our children. Jay Van Arman, the Norwich Women’s Club’s citizen of the year, provides services to our town in myriad ways. The Silberfarbs have been active leaders in Norwich organizations for decades – influencing causes from medical treatment to the environment to historical preservation in our town.

As you read and reflect on these individuals and experiences, it’s important to see that positive change can happen at many levels – from the micro level in your own house or family, to the macro level affecting those in your town, state and country. You can really see how the effects of people’s generous actions can snowball. So, take some time as the days get longer and warmer to search around town for signs of inspiration. You won’t have to look very far!

– Justine Fahey
Norwich Springs Into Volunteer Season

Lauren Whittlesey

With spring just around the corner, Norwich residents are looking forward to the return of greenery and spending time outdoors. As the weather warms, the volunteers who keep Norwich green are rolling up their sleeves and ready to get to work maintaining the town’s trails, forests, parks, and conservation easements. These eager volunteers are supported by a large network of organizations both in Norwich and across the Upper Valley.

The new pump track at Huntley Meadow is maintained by a wide range of volunteers, including Emily Biolsi’s class at the Marion Cross School. This fall, the students worked together with community volunteers and Ryan Johnson, a member of the Norwich Recreation Council. Johnson showed the students what work needed to be done and gave them instructions on how to use the tools, which were supplied by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance. Jill Kearney, Director of the Norwich Recreation Department, says of the student volunteer day: “Days like that just are a highlight. It’s fabulous to see that the kids have a teacher who is so excited about environmental stewardship. When the kids go back there they don’t want to leave trash on the side of the track because they worked on it. It’s great to see these values being passed on and see the kids caring for the community and being a steward.”

John Girard is a former teacher at the Marion Cross school and another member of the Norwich Recreation Council. When he isn’t coaching basketball and baseball, Girard leads an annual cleanup of the baseball diamonds. He organizes a Saturday morning Green Up Day at the baseball diamond and invites all the parents of the season’s players. The Recreation Department supplies shovels, edgers, and wheelbarrows; the volunteers also care for the base pads and rake the infield. This all-volunteer annual event gets everyone (including the fields) ready for spring baseball.

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) works throughout the Upper Valley, but has a strong focus in Norwich due to its office location in town. UVTA works with the Norwich Trails Committee and the Norwich Fire District to assess trail maintenance needs, such as trail re-routes, bridge planning, and treadway clearing. Volunteers from UVTA recently completed a five-year-long project in Norwich on the beloved Gile Mountain trail, installing stone steps to make the trail more sustainable for the thousands of hikers who come annually. Over 100 volunteers worked with UVTA and the Norwich trails committee at Gile Mountain, averaging one to two volunteer groups working on the project per week during the trail season. UVTA has also worked with volunteers from King Arthur Flour to complete bog-bridge improvements on the “Spirit in Nature” path, as well as clearing portions of the King Arthur Trail. This spring, UVTA will be working on a trail project near the Dresden Athletic Field, connecting to the King Arthur field. They are also planning out a new mountain bike area for kids around the Dresden Athletic Field during the 2017 trail season.

The Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) manages several conservation easements in Norwich. They acquired the Norwich Gateway property in 2009, which had been previously abandoned and was overrun with invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle. With the help of over a thousand volunteer hours from Hypertherm and Norwich community members, there’s virtually no buckthorn or honeysuckle left on the property, giving native plants a chance to compete and thrive. Volunteers continue to maintain the habitat and remove the invasives each year, while educating the community about habitat restoration. UVLT also manages the Milton Frye Nature Area, which is connected to the Marion Cross School. The students use it as an outdoor classroom with the help of environmental education coordinator Lindsay Putnam. The students learn about invasive species as part of the curriculum and work alongside UVLT volunteers to keep the invasives at bay.

At the Brook Meadow Conservation Area, UVLT owns the land at Norwich Farms, which is used by Vermont Technical College as a teaching farm, as well as having forest areas and trails on the land. Every Earth Day, UVLT trains community volunteers to help with easement monitoring. There are 15 vernal pools on the property, and UVLT volunteers help collect natural resource data from the pools and submit the data to the state. UVLT is also partnering with a researcher at Dartmouth College who is conducting research on wood frogs and a reptile survey on the property. “The land is here to serve lots of values. The citizen science part is very important to us,” says Jason Berard, the Stewardship Director at UVLT. In coordination with Norwich Trails Committee, UVLT is also working to link the Brook Meadow trails to neighboring trails on Parcel 5 and the Blue Ribbon Trail on Gile Mountain.

Berard encourages community members to reach out to UVLT with ideas and suggestions for ways to better serve Norwich residents. “We’re always interested in hearing how we can be of use to the community.” he says. “Our portfolio is here to serve the whole community. We want to hear needs the community has for land we own.”

We’re All About Your Life Outside™

Norwich Times

Winter/Spring 2017

Page 5
I know a Norwich family that bought an Army surplus jeep in the 1950’s just to make it home to Bragg Hill. Even so, some March days those three and a half miles of mud were just too much for General MacArthur’s ride. Those were the days when people talked about roads with “no bottom” as if we lived on a vein of mud that didn’t stop until it came out the other side in China.

Since that time the world has changed just a little. Our cars park themselves, the seats are heated and cooled and the family van can climb Mount Fuji. And yet some people feel that that same Bragg Hill property which was such a slog to get to in the 50’s is still too far from town.

The first decision we help families make when considering real estate in Norwich is: in-town or out of town? According to the Census Bureau the average commute time for Norwich residents is 21.7 minutes compared to a national average of 25.4. Not only do most buyers coming from “away” want to claim their extra 3.7 minutes (or 7.4 if you consider the round trip) but many think how sweet life could be if that number was cut in half. Imagine lingering over breakfast for another 12.7 minutes! What about just adding a few minutes here and there – rub the dog’s ear for an additional 35 seconds, sit down while you put your socks on instead of leaping around the room on one foot, take another moment filling in the family calendar in the mud room with different color inks. It’s all possible!

Beyond shorter commutes, there is a harder to quantify desire for privacy or community. Most people, once they really consider these options, feel fairly strong about one or the other. They don’t want to see any house lights. Or, they want to be in the sightline of at least a few others. In the end this feeling probably trumps other concerns. The good news is that you can have it either way in Norwich.

Property values are clearly related to the distance from Dan and Whit’s. If you need it and they have it (of course they do) and you can walk there to get it, expect to pay 20% more for your home. Privacy, by some measures the most expensive commodity going, is by comparison relatively cheap in Norwich. It’s our pleasure helping people find the house that inspires them, makes them happy and keeps them safe regardless of the distance to town.

By the way, Airbus will debut its proto-type for the flying car in 2020. Self-driving vehicles will be commonplace in ten years making the soccer commute a whole new ball game. Kids will “drive” themselves to the playground as soon as they can see past the sippy cup. That Bragg Hill commute may not seem endless after all – Especially if you can rub the dog’s ears while he drives.

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The Ratliff Properties Group at Four Seasons Sotheby’s International Realty offers a unique team-based approach to the buying and selling of real estate in the Upper Valley. Since 2004 they have sold more on Main Street, Norwich than any other agents. Marcus Evan and Susan all live just a little too far to walk to Dan and Whit’s and have raised their kids in the Norwich and Hanover schools.
Lighting the Way for Upper Valley Refugees

Molly O’Hara

In the Upper Valley, members of various faith and secular communities have come together to form the Upper Valley Refugee Working Group. The Working Group focuses both on refugees coming to the immediate area, as well as helping the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program based in Rutland, VT. In January, The Upper Valley Refugee Working Group hosted Light the Way, a benefit for both the Upper Valley Haven and the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.

Light the Way announced goals, “on a practical level, every household needs a lamp or two to brighten the home! ...Light the Way will collect gently used table and floor lamps to be given to resettling refugee households to brighten the years ahead.” Also, Light the Way was intended to be “a space of refuge to raise community awareness of the needs of those seeking shelter among us: refugee families arriving in Vermont and New Hampshire during the coming year, as well as those families seeking refuge already present in our communities.”

I had the chance to speak to Julie Püttgen, the organizer of Light the Way, about the project and the Upper Valley Refugee Working Group. The Working Group was started, in part, by Paul Manganiello and Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hanover, NH. Julie wasn't part of the original group, but she joined when she saw a post on the listserv last year. It's amazing, she noted, "I'm a Buddhist, I didn't have much contact previously to being involved with this group, with the local church communities, and it's been terrific. I feel so glad to be connected to so many people of good will and good faith.”

There are members of many different area churches that come; there are Mormons, Jews, secular Atheists, and more. Julie was amazed by this mix of faiths, because, as she pointed out, we are quite good at hunkering down in our immediate worlds, and this group isn't like that.

For the Light the Way event, one of the members of the Working Group, Sarah Nordstrom, approached her church, The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, to see if they would be willing to donate their space for the event. And boy were they willing!

Julie said, “I felt like I kept pushing the envelope,” as thoughts grew. Through both her own ideas and suggestions from friends, it evolved from collecting lamps to a whole weekend event. After Friday’s opening events, Saturday was full of panel discussions, tai chi, a protest march, refugee yoga, a community dinner and dance, and Sunday held a closing event. Every time she approached the Church with more plans, they responded positively, further offering up their space.

“I felt like there were opportunities for people to show up to Light the Way with whatever their gifts were… some people donated just beautiful, beautiful things. One guy came in, and his mother-in-law had been a refugee from Czechoslovakia, and she had moved to this area, and she had made this beautiful ceramic lamp base and the lamp had on it this beautiful handmade lampshade.”

For Julie, Light the Way was significant for many reasons. Julie is a first-generation immigrant from Switzerland, and from 1974 to 2006 was a resident alien in this country. For some time, she went abroad and screwed up a bit; she reentered the country on a tourist visa which ended up making her deportable for a period. Julie noted that while she had less to worry about than others, as being sent back to Switzerland wasn’t going to be horrific, but it wasn’t where she wanted to be. She said “I had the tiniest taste of what it felt like to be an illegal immigrant in this country,” and, during that time, she met several families struggling to stay together which made a strong impact on her.

She also spent a good deal of time working with refugees in various countries, struggling to make it out of dangerous situations. “[Recently] I got a message from an Iranian woman I was working with in France last year, and she was writing to tell me that she and her husband had just been officially recognized as asylum seekers in the UK and they went the most scary, dangerous way possible in that they snuck onto a truck. They paid ‘people smugglers’ to take them from Gallé, France to the UK.

When I was there, they were trying every single night to do this, and she was pregnant, and she fell off a truck and had a miscarriage. So, in this really short time that I knew her, I just had this sense of the total desperation of their case, and I couldn’t believe it, they did it, through this completely perilous route, they found refuge.”

But as much as we might hear about those horrible experiences overseas and wonder what we can do, Julie wanted to make sure this event demonstrated that refugee work doesn’t have to be about international events. Refugees are also living among and coming to our community, and there is immediate work to be done.

See “Spotlight On Our Sponsor” on Page 27

Mascoma Savings Bank IS THE PROUD SPONSOR OF THE GOODNESS InDEED PAGE

Mascoma has a longstanding tradition of supporting local people and organizations doing good deeds for the community. www.mascomabank.com
Soon after the new President of the United States took office, Mr. Bill reflected on his own role as a leader in our community. “I never wanted to be an administrator. I loved being a teacher. I loved the direct communication and influence I could have on students, and they could have on me. But there is a point where you take a look at leadership and you say, ‘I think as a group we can do better.’ And then you toss your hat in the ring, I think [being a principal] is a really hard job. It doesn’t mesh entirely with my personality. I have the ham in me, but I also tend to like to be solo a lot.” Below Mr. Bill describes how MCS focuses on developing and sharpening the leadership skills of its administration, teachers, and students.

Leading & Learning

“This is my fifth year here at the school, and it is my ardent hope that I don’t get stale as a leader,” Mr. Bill says. “What the school needed five years ago, and what the community needed five years ago, is different from what is needed now. I ought to be able to have the ability to change how I do what I do.”

With this in mind, last year, Mr. Bill applied for, and received, a grant from the Margaret Waddington Leadership Initiative for School Administrators to participate in a leadership-training program designed by the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) for Vermont principals. A total of 48 principals from the state are currently participating in the nine-month program, which features a mix of face-to-face and virtual learning.

According to the CCL, self-knowledge is the most important factor in the practice of leadership. Over the course of the program, the individual strengths and developmental needs of each participating principal will be explored using various assessments tools, including a 360° evaluation in which confidential, anonymous feedback about each participant’s leadership style will be collected from staff, teachers, community members, other principals and administrators. Participants will also conduct a self-evaluation.

“I feel lucky to have been selected, and also fortunate to have this kind of thorough analysis, so if I’m neglecting something, I’ll get information about it and be able to respond,” says Mr. Bill.

Teachers Leading the Way

The School Leadership Team is a group of MCS teachers that meets monthly. There are five representatives: one from K-2, one from grades three and four, one from grades five and six, one from Special Education and one from the Specials. The group serves as both a communication forum and a decision-making forum. “We discuss everything from the budget, to bake sales, to whether helmets should be required on the ice rink, to homework, to report cards, to calling school off when weather is unsavory,” says Mr. Bill. “These ideas get bandied about and the committee decides which issues to bring up at the next faculty meeting.”

Mr. Bill attends the meetings but makes an effort not to act as the leader. “I am a participant and help coordinate but I want them to know that they are the leaders.” This is particularly important, says Mr. Bill, because administrators often have a higher turnover rate than teachers.

Tomorrow’s Leaders

The School Culture Team, now in its fourth year, is comprised of two randomly selected students from each grade, beginning with second. The group meets for 30 minutes once a month for three months. Within this time, they are tasked with coming up with and completing a project. Every three months, a new group of students is randomly chosen to serve on the team. “The message is that every one of you is capable of learning leadership,” says Mr. Bill.

“We get quite a bit done,” says Mr. Bill, who, along with Mr. Newton, facilitates the meetings. “At the first meeting, we brainstorm 15-20 ideas. Then they vote to whittle it down to about five choices, and talk more about those five before they vote to select just one. The second meeting is to figure out how we are going to do will look. At the third meeting, we decide how to execute our plan.”

Some projects launched by the School Culture Team include picking a school mascot, putting out a school newspaper, and a creative alternative to a yearbook that involved hanging photographs of students from the chandelier. Other projects that have been considered include Bring-Your-Pet-to-School-Day and an all-day recess. “Not all the ideas are feasible,” says Mr. Bill, “but we always end up with something, even if it’s not as grandiose as the original idea. Part of the exercise is trying to come up with an idea that can be accomplished. The students learn the concept of compromise.”
Animals, Contests, and Holiday Goodwill

Molly O’Hara

Campaign managers, underage voters, and donkeys? Yes, this year the “Pet Contest,” part of the 19 Days of Norwich, was full of surprises! It was a close race between the two donkeys, Thelma and Louise, Bosko, an English Springer Spaniel who was the winner the first year, Oscar, a sweet mix who belongs to two young girls, and even a dog Trixie, who had recently passed away.

The Pet Contest has been part of the 19 Days of Norwich for the past three years. The 19 Days of Norwich is a fundraiser during the first 19 days of December. Businesses throughout Norwich donate a percentage of their proceeds to the Upper Valley Haven. The 19 Days project grew out of the ideas of both buying local during the holiday season and giving back to the community by donating to the Haven.

Dan Fraser, of Dan & Whit’s in Norwich got the idea for the pet contest when he was re-evaluating the success of the first year. He felt like the first year seemed too focused on the commercial aspects of buying local and so, he said, “The second year I wanted just to do a bunch of different things that would hopefully involve all ages and different interests, you know because some people are very into their pets. [They might] pay $800-$1000 in votes for their pets that they wouldn’t necessarily donate in another way.” To apply, an owner submitted a picture and a check for $15 by the first of December, then each vote for a particular animal cost $1.

That year they also had other events such as a spaghetti dinner, a concert by the Bel Canto Chamber Singers, and more.

The first year of the pet contest, in 2014, was successful enough that Dan decided to continue it the following year. But in 2015, he hardly had enough entrants to spotlight on the listserv, and the question arose of whether to continue the contest the next year. Dan decided to see what happened in December of 2016 and that turned out to be an excellent call on his part. The Pet Contest “exploded,” he said. Among the other animals already listed, Dan & Whit’s received a last-minute write-in vote that would be perfect for those of us who don’t make it into Dan & Whit’s as often as we might like, especially around Contest time.

Over the last three years, Dan has learned a few things, and for this coming December, he has a couple of new ideas in the works. One of the most important things for him is to try and get the widest variety of mammals, reptiles, birds, etc. as possible. In calling out for cows, goats, horses, and more farm animals, farmers shared with Dan that they cannot submit pictures of their animals because calling any single one of their farm animals a pet puts them at risk of losing their agricultural tax status. One change will be to make sure the contest is called the Animal Contest.

Another big difference is that he is hoping to have an online polling website set up so that people can vote and donate from wherever they are. This option will be perfect for those of us who don’t make it into Dan & Whit’s as often as we might like, especially around Contest time.

Finally, while the proceeds from the rest of the 19 Days of December will continue to go to the Upper Valley Haven, the funds raised from the Animal Contest will be split 50/50 between the Haven and the Upper Valley Humane Society.

And, of course, even with changing the name to Animal Contest from Pet Contest, Dan still wants any entries. “We had a pet rock one year. That was great.”

Mali from Africa

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The Norwich Water Story: “Water is Life”

In 1925, the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, a group concerned about the destructive power of alcohol, built a granite drinking fountain which still stands today on the Norwich green. A plaque on the side of the fountain reads, “Water is Life.” Apparently, the newly formed Norwich Water Supply Company supported this adage. “It gives me great pleasure,” wrote the president of the company, “to state that the company will furnish water without charge for your recently completed fountain.” Indeed, without water, there would have been no village of Norwich. Fortunately, through its history, the town has been blessed with an abundant supply of water. But getting that water to flow to its citizens has been an ongoing community adventure since the town was founded.

Before there was a town water supply, the citizens along the Main Street area of Norwich just had to dig down ten feet to find water. People outside of town depended on gravity-fed springs. Many of the springs were found in the Hawk Pine area before it was developed. Often a springhouse was built above the spring to keep out leaves and animals. Because of the constant cool temperature in the springhouse, food that would spoil in the summer, such as milk and meat, was stored there. People who needed more water than a spring could provide would dig out a well with picks and shovels and line it with stone.

The earliest mention of any water system in Norwich came in 1797, when Colonel Jasper Murdock, a 1781 graduate of Dartmouth, erected a home at the intersection of the roads to Sharon, Thetford and Hanover. The home had gardens and a fishpond that required plenty of water. Murdock’s house, which later became the Norwich Inn, had a private water supply from a spring “high on the hill west of the Inn” (which would place it in a field west of Hillside Cemetery today). The water was “conveyed in bored logs,” and a few houses on Main Street and one or two on Elm Street were connected to the system. “It was very limited in volume of water and otherwise most unsatisfactory as the owner of the Inn would cut off all these houses when there was not ample water for his own need. These cut-offs were made without prior notice to the individual consumers.”

In 1832, several men, including Alden Partridge, the founder of Norwich University, started the Norwich Aqueduct Company with hopes of providing water for the village. Apparently, the company never got off the ground for there is no record of them ever building an aqueduct. A second Norwich Aqueduct Company was incorporated in 1855. But it also failed to build a water system. In 1906, a third Norwich Aqueduct Company was formed “for the purpose of furnishing the citizens of Norwich and vicinity a supply of water for the extinguishment of fires, and for domestic, sanitary and other purposes.” This outfit built a small wooden mains,” which damaged the sections of the ditches were filled up with rock, to the detriment of the wooden mains,” which damaged the line.

Finally, in 1921, the Norwich Water Supply Company was incorporated by several Norwich selectman. According to an article in the November 5, 1921 edition of the Burlington Free Press, “The company’s purpose is to construct and operate a water supply system for the village of Norwich.” A reservoir and dam were designed by a retired dean from the Thayer School of Engineering on land purchased from Eben P. Sargent, “an elderly farmer and a good citizen whose hobby was keeping weather records over a great many years.” Sargent had a farm a short distance out of town on Beaver Meadow Road; the Charles Brown Brook that flowed through his land-filled the reservoir. (The reservoir can be seen today after a 15-minute trek up the Ballard Trail from the old swimming area.)

The company wanted to raise $50,000 to pay for the new system and tried to sell 1,000 shares at $50 apiece. Stock for the company was sold in Hanover and Norwich. “It was an uphill job in both cases,” wrote Clarence Charles Hills, an early water company director. Corners had to be cut to save money.

From the beginning, problems surfaced with the firm that laid the pipe. “They came from somewhere down country,” wrote Hills, “and were a slippery bunch.” The water company asked that the ditches be filled in with loam, which was more expensive than rock. When the company’s inspector was on site this clause was followed, but when he took his lunch in the village “many sections of the ditches were filled up with rock, to the detriment of the wooden mains,” which damaged the line.

Not enough shares were sold to have the more expensive iron pipe laid from the reservoir to Main Street, so wooden pipe was used in this section of the line. This pipe was purchased from “The Michigan
Wood Pipe Company,” which claimed in a company brochure, “We have not heard of a single instance in which the pipe of the Company has failed to give satisfaction.” But they would have received a negative review from the Norwich Water Supply Company. The wooden pipes proved durable, but the metal bands holding the pipes together rusted and broke. This made the pipes leak “with the result that much water was wasted and much expense was incurred in correcting the trouble.” But as Hills noted, the wooden pipes were affordable. “We probably could not have had a water system as early as we did unless we had used these wooden pipes.”

Despite the troubles with finances, leaky pipes and shady construction practices, the Norwich Water Supply Company began to run water from the reservoir via a pipe along Turnpike Road to houses on Main Street, Mechanic and Elm Street in November of 1922. “The day the water was finally turned into the mains was an eventful one in the history of Norwich Village. The volunteer fire department was able to throw a stream of water over the main part of the Congregational Church and the fire insurance rates in the village benefitted accordingly.”

In November of 1927, a flood roared through Vermont and washed away roads, destroying 1,285 bridges and killing 84 people. On the night of the flood, wrote Hills, then the president of the water company, “Cliff Martin and I managed to get up what was left of the Beaver Meadow Road to our dam before the further side of it went out. I will never forget the thunderous roar of boulders gracefully

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as the water washed them down the brook." The left side of the dam completely washed out and the reservoir emptied.

The water company did not have the funds to rebuild. But Fred Howland, an 1887 Dartmouth graduate and an insurance company president in Montpelier, quickly formed “The Flood Credit Corporation of Vermont” and provided loans to those towns that needed to rebuild dams. The water company signed up for a loan and repaired the dam. “Without this corporation it would have been very difficult for us to survive,” wrote Hills.

As time passed, the water company grew. In 1933, water was piped into the new neighborhoods being developed along Cliff and Hazen Street. It’s not surprising that many members of the water company board were also involved in the real estate business. A new home with a guaranteed water supply was an attractive feature in the new developments and lots, many owned by board members, sold quickly.

Through the years, residents of Norwich and the water company occasionally bumped heads. In the spring, there were complaints that the drinking water looked a bit green. The green tint was caused by the growth of the algae blooms at the reservoir, and the water had to be treated and then the lines flushed. At a town meeting in the winter of 1963, the Norwich Water Company heard complaints about the “turbidity of the water”. There were also questions about a “20% increase” in dividends the water company had received during the year. Glenn Merrill, treasurer of the company, pointed out that actually between 1922 and 1940, the stockholders did not receive any dividend. The dividends only rose from two percent in 1940 to four percent in 1962. “The investors of the Norwich Water Supply Co. have received $57 back on their original investment of $50.”

No one was making money at the Norwich Water Supply Company. Before water meters were installed in the 1980s, the household water bill was based simply on the number of plumbing fixtures in a home. A rate chart from 1941 showed that the annual fee for the first faucet was $16.20 and a second faucet cost an additional $4.20. Each shower, tub or toilet in a home cost $4.20 more. But once the fees were paid, there was no gauge on how much water was used. In fact, by the summer of 1963, water consumption was up to 200,000 gallons a day, and the reservoir was dropping three inches a day. Even when restrictions were imposed, the reservoir just didn’t have the storage capacity to keep up with the town’s water demands. In 1965, the water company hired a drilling expert in an attempt to locate auxiliary sources of water from wells that could be pumped into the water lines. After making eighteen separate tests, no large water source was discovered.

By 1968, the stockholders could see the writing on the wall. They were done. The cost to repair and replace pipes was rising quickly. There wasn’t enough water to keep up with the growing population. And to make matters worse, an Army Corp of Engineers study revealed that the Norwich reservoir needed to be replaced. The spillway and dam were in need of repair and could not be counted on to hold back a 50 or 100-year storm.

The Norwich Fire District, a town department started in 1922, and really a sister organization to the Norwich Water Supply Company, was approached to see if they had interest in taking over the assets and liabilities of the struggling water company. Because the NFD operated the fire department, the sale seemed like a logical handoff.
In 1978, after nearly a decade of discussions, the NFD purchased the Norwich Water Supply Company from the shareholders for $55,000. By turning the water business over to the town, Norwich became eligible to receive approximately $1,000,000 in federal and state funding with a payback of only $200,000 to $300,000.

After the sale, the first order of business for the new water department was to find a bigger water source for the village. Test wells were drilled at the bottom of Dutton and Bragg Hills, along Beaver Meadow Road and in several places atop Hawk Pine. But the town struck gold—or water—when Anthony Farrell, who had a farm about three miles north of town on Route 5, and a well that produced 250 gallons a minute, offered to sell the town some land for a new well. The town drilled down 170’ and hit an aquifer, which according to many experts stretched from St. Johnsbury, Vermont to Middletown, Connecticut. So $50,000 was spent to purchase the Farrell land and a system was installed to pump the water five miles from Route 5 up to a holding tank on Dutton Hill.

Today, on average, Norwich uses 65,000 gallons of water a day. The aquifer has the capacity to provide a million gallons in a twenty-four hour period. In fact, according to the NFD, the aquifer could provide 350 gallons a minute for 120 days before the town would need to look elsewhere for water. To hold the water needed for its citizens and an ample supply for the fire department, a cement holding tank, 100 feet long, 50 feet wide and 12 feet deep was installed on Dutton Hill. The tank can hold 500,000 gallons. No one should go thirsty in Norwich!

“Water is Life” proclaims the fountain plaque the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union installed in 1922, and without water, where would Norwich be today? In a saga that has lasted over 200 years, ordinary citizens and then the Norwich Water Supply Company and the Norwich Fire District have battled droughts, floods, aging technology, crumbling reservoirs and balky pipes to bring water to the fire department, and life to the village of Norwich.

Thanks to Brion McMullen, a long-time District Administrator for Norwich Fire District for his detailed help with this article. Thanks also to Bill Aldrich for his information on the town’s water history. Finally, a tip of the cap goes to Sam Eaton, another NFD employee, who not only answered all of my questions but found my leaky spring house 15 years ago.

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“AROUND TOWN”

Anne Sargent Walker's Upside Down

Upside Down

On Saturday, January 14, Catamount Arts welcomed more than two hundred artists and supporters at an opening reception and awards ceremony for its second annual juried show Arts Connect at Catamount Arts. Norwich painter Anne Sargent Walker was among the artists whose work was awarded honorable mention. Her painting, Upide Down, will be on exhibit at Catamount Arts through March 12th. Anne Sargent Walker was born and raised in the Boston area and maintains a studio in Framingham, Massachusetts. She received a BA from Connecticut College with a Studio Art major and an MEd from Tufts University. Anne has had residencies in Ireland; Italy; and Norwich, Vermont, and received a Berkshire Taconic Foundation Artists’ Resource Trust Grant.

“A Norwich Tradition For Over 80 Years”

This is a recently completed extensive remodeling renovation project in Hanover which nearly doubled the square footage. G.R. Porter originally constructed the oak-post-and-beam home in 1978. The builders worked with Haynes and Garthwaite Architects in Norwich on the project.
move on in their lives and earn a wage that supports their families. We offer food service safety courses, ESOL classes, and leadership retreats that allow them to move forward and take management positions at Boloco or elsewhere. We believe in a higher wage not just as the right thing to do but as an effective long-term business strategy. Our average wage in Hanover, for example, comes to around $14.50 an hour, double the minimum wage,” John said. Today, Boloco is also one of the few restaurant companies in the country that is a certified B-Corporation, joining the likes of King Arthur Flour in legally recognizing a triple bottom line – people, environment and profits – as a company’s fiduciary responsibility.

Studying John’s self-written résumé will explain his passion for his workers and his dedication to the cause. Here is how he once described himself. “Passionate about finding and developing technology that aids the restaurant business and most importantly its hourly workers. Working on new technology start-up as of late 2014. Part-time Lyft/Uber driver, drone pilot, wannabe try-to-be writer, inconsistent blogger, nervous but passionate speaker and enthusiastic adventurer. Got lucky one year and won the 2012 Regional Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year.” John Pepper is not your average executive. He is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and his wife Maggie was born in San Francisco, CA. They have established Norwich as their home base and have three children, daughters Tibby, age 13, and Izzy, age 11, and newest addition son Bo is three years old. At age 47, John hopes to add another challenge to that résumé.

“I just announced that I will run for the Selectboard here in Norwich. I am hopeful I can bring some new ideas and creative concepts to that position.”

Giving to the Community

_Boloco donates food on a regular basis to support small and large community efforts to support good causes._

**Prouty**: Boloco has donated cash and product-in-kind over the years. Their biggest years were likely in 2012 and 2013 when Team Boloco (the team members) made over $10,000 in burritos, while the ‘other’ Team Boloco (the bikers) raised over $50,000 toward beating cancer. This year, they are committed to another $15,000 to get things started.

**CHaD**: In late 2016, Boloco held a special event with Positive Tracks benefiting CHaD. They gave away free burritos to anyone who donated to CHaD, raising well over $3,000 in a few hours.

**The Haven**: Boloco participated in 1% for The Haven this past year and donated over $500 in cash to their important mission.
**AROUND TOWN**

**Citizen of the Year**

The Norwich Citizen of the Year Committee is pleased to announce the 2017 winner, Jay Van Arman. Jay will be honored at the 6th Annual Spring Gala on Friday, March 17th, at Tracy Hall, and receive the $500 Ledyard Grant to give to the non-profit organization of his choice.

Small towns like Norwich couldn’t exist without people like Jay. Or rather, they could exist, but they’d be far less civil, agreeable, and rooted. We’d be a different town – and a different Upper Valley – without him.

Jay has been a farmer, a postal worker, and now (for the second time around) a school bus driver. He’s a mainstay of the Lions Club and the Lyman G. Pell Post of the American Legion. He’s served on the select board, the Marion Cross school board, and for many years on the fire department. He’s been a driver for Meals on Wheels and Willing Hands, and serves on that organization’s board. Those holiday mornings when you go down Main Street and see the twin lines of flags stretching into the distance? That’s Jay’s work – along with Demo Sofronis. The lights on the Christmas tree in the bandstand? Yes, that’s Jay. He checks up on the houses of people who are away. He hays fields all over town. And here’s the thing: We’re willing to bet that many of you had no clue. He avoids the limelight. Instead, he just goes about his business, making Norwich and the communities around us better places to live.

Nominations for this annual recognition are open to all during January. The winner is chosen by committee, which this year included Cheryl Hermann (chair), Lisa Christie, Dan DeMars, Gina C. des Cognets, Rob Gurwitt, Don McCabe, and Signe Taylor. This year, the group decided they wanted to recognize four other people. So in the best tradition of small-town committees, they created a second award on the spot, the Unexpected Hero Award.

The Unexpected Hero Award goes to David Seigne and Marcus Helble, and Madonna Gordon and Sari Galanes. David and Marcus were the clerks on duty at Dan and Whit’s on the Wednesday night in January when it was robbed. Together, the two kept a traumatic event, which could easily have escalated, from getting out of hand. Quick thinking by Madonna and Sari saved the life of a 10-year-old boy who collapsed on the basketball court at the Lyme Basketball Tournament in December. In the face of unexpected crises, all exhibited bravery, calm, and the kind of common sense that makes small Vermont towns strong.

You can thank and recognize each of these important people at the Spring Gala on March 17th at 6pm, Tracy Hall, Norwich, co-sponsored by Norwich Women’s Club and Ledyard National Bank. All proceeds go to the Norwich Women’s Club Community Projects Fund, which supports improvements across town life.

Reserve your ticket today at www.norwichwomensclub.org and support our town and all of these heroes!
rooms downstairs and three upstairs, and a bread oven and a smoker. Local mason Lee Ilsley built the chimney (and the garden’s stone walls). The bricks in the massive, heat-storing chimney date from the 1700s; one even has “1771” graven into it. “Most people don’t want a center chimney now,” notes Anne. “It takes so much space out of the middle of the house.” The chimney’s footprint is about ten feet on a side.

Peter jumps in with stories about the fireplaces. One time they decided to build a fire in each fireplace. They went from room to room restocking the fires—it was a full-time job, and the house got so warm they had to open windows.

The house construction was an engrossing project in its day, a time when the couple’s two children were young. Daughter Leah told Anne, “When I grow up I want to be a mommy just like you, but I never want to build a house.”

Attraction of Opposites

Peter and Anne met at Bucknell. Their backgrounds were very different: Peter was from Jersey City, “living in poverty,” he laughs, while Anne came from wealthy Darien, CT. “I was an Aryan from Darien,” she jokes, but her family was initially not pleased when she introduced Peter, her Jewish boyfriend. Anne and Peter overcame such objections, and are obviously highly compatible, pointing out each other’s talents and successes, and sharing interests that include travel and maintaining the fabulous gardens that surround their home.

Cutting Edge Work

Anne stayed home with the children for nine years, during which time she started the first Jewish Sunday School in Norwich/Hanover. She then returned to elementary school teaching, which she had begun at Friends Select School in Philadelphia when Peter was in medical school. “I was lucky to begin my career there,” Anne says. “It made a lifelong impression, teaching at a Quaker school.” After a year of teaching at the Ray School in Hanover, she turned to working with students with learning disabilities, a field that drew her because she herself is dyslexic. “In sixth grade the teacher sent a note home saying ‘Anne can’t read,’ and it was true,” she recalls. “It used to be, kids with severe learning disabilities were kept shuttered at home.” Federal laws mandating a “free appropriate public education” for children with disabilities began in 1975 and have since been reauthorized. When she returned to teaching in 1975, Anne earned a Masters as a Learning
Disabilities Specialist from Goddard College. She worked in several local schools, including Dartmouth, where she found students whose disabilities had never been diagnosed. Directing much of her considerable energy to training teachers, she spread understanding of learning disabilities and techniques to help students overcome them.

Meanwhile, Peter, who initially trained as an internist, had returned to his early love, psychiatry. He had turned away from the field when analysis seemed the only arrow in the doctor’s quiver, but advances in available treatments and Robert Weiss, a compelling mentor, led him to switch fields. “I noticed in med school, when I was making rounds on the cancer ward, patients had a positive attitude, while cardiac and GI (gastrointestinal) patients were less upbeat.” Why on earth would that be? Peter became eager to probe the question, and others like it. He joined the DMS faculty in 1972, and two years later became the first psychiatrist in the US to work full time in a Comprehensive Cancer Center. He noticed that people getting chemotherapy often had a slight cognitive impairment. “They didn’t like to talk about it,” he recalls, “but they’d say things like ‘I don’t feel as sharp as I used to.’” Now the phenomenon is referred to casually as “chemo brain.” Peter was the first to publish articles about it.

Peter chaired the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth Medical School for 18 years. He amassed an impressive list of service on international, national, and regional boards, including the board that sets standards for certifying psychiatrists, thus ensuring a high level of clinical skill as well as medical knowledge in newly minted psychiatrists. He has worked to bring the insights of psychiatry into many fields, including forensic work, and neurological, and geriatric care. He, like Anne, has multiplied his influence by changing the training of practitioners in the field.

Efforts for Norwich
Anne has devoted serious amounts of time to causes in Norwich, joining—and usually chairing—boards such as the Montshire, Upper Valley United Way, Norwich Special Places, the Vermont Nature Conservancy, and the Norwich Historical Society. While running the Historical Society, she succeeded in having the town recognized as a Historic Town on the Federal Register of Historic Places. While she was the chair of the Hitchcock Foundation, which gives research grants to researchers at the hospital, “I became the most hated person at DHMC,” she recalls with a pained expression. “We were running out of money and I had to tell people they wouldn’t be getting their promised grants.” With typical Anne-energy, she went on to fix the problem, enlisting the aid of fundraiser extraordinaire Lilla McLane-Bradley, and coming up with the necessary funds both short and long term.

“You can see, Anne’s enthusiastic about everything,” says Peter with the obvious pride they each take in the other. The couple is also proud of their children, local filmmaker Ben, and teacher of karate and mindfulness-educator, Leah.
Where in Norwich do you spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?
I definitely spend most of my time at Dan & Whit’s. I set my record recently for five visits in one day. The library is a close second for two reasons. First, I have a child who is an avid reader, and Beth is an invaluable resource in keeping her supply of books moving. And second, my son is at the age where he loves the freedom of walking to the library with his friends after school. While I love both of these spots, I would prefer to be at Parcel 5 and the Ballard Trail!

Which super powers would you choose and what good would you do with them?
The power to heal. At my stage of life, I see a lot of friends with aging parents – myself included – and it can be quite challenging. The power to heal not only the physical body, but emotional wellbeing would be a gift. Life is a cycle, but if I could take any of the suffering out of the process, that’s what I’d want.

What is your favorite quote?
My daughter made a sign in woodworking at the middle school with Muhammad Ali’s simple but powerful quote, a regular reminder to all of us that reads, “Don’t count the days, make the days count.”

Nordic or downhill skiing or snowboarding or winter mountain biking?
Nordic skiing. To me, the freedom of throwing on those comfortable boots, grabbing a lightweight set of skis and heading out somewhere beautiful can’t be beat. Of course, the last two winters have been less than ideal for nordic skiers and it will be normal as hell.

In which stage of life would you prefer to spend the most time and why?
If I could freeze myself at my current age (almost-middle age), I would. This is a great stage of life. My kids are old enough to be self-sufficient, but still need me (which I must admit I will miss). They are at the age where we can have real conversations, and we can do a variety of activities together as a family, from sports to theater to eating at good restaurants to travel. I have my physical and mental health and I appreciate both equally every day.

Where would you prefer to spend the most time?
Where would you prefer to spend the most time?
The pavement. Either in sneakers, running with friends or in my car, driving kids to school or extracurricular activities. I would rather be on the beautiful trails that connect the entire town.

Describe Norwich in a word or short phrase.
Just looking at the rink at night with the Norwich square glowing in lights equates to a Rockwell painting.

Do you see the forest or the trees?
In the forest, I see the trees but try to hear the birds and avoid stepping on nature’s beauty.

To which local business are you most loyal and why?
Dan and Whit’s, Bookstore, ZuZu’s – actually I love all of Norwich’s businesses. Buy local!

If you could choose to have super powers for a day, which ones would you choose and what good would you do with them?
Right now, I would love to be Superman from the epic film in 1978 and reverse time to allow Bernie into office. But I would settle with eliminating hate for one day.

What is your favorite quote?
As listed in my high school year book: “I am woman, hear me roar.” Helen Reddy. Nothing has changed.

Invisibility – I would like to hear firsthand what is going on in DC.

What is your favorite quote?
Reuse, Reduce, Recycle.

If you could go anywhere in the world on vacation, where would it be?
Costa Brava, Spain and/or Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, if I need to stay local.

Which local institution do you believe has the most positive impact on the Norwich community?
Dan & Whit’s is so supportive of our local community in addition to Aging in Place Norwich for the senior citizens of Norwich.

Nordic or downhill skiing or snowboarding or winter mountain biking?
Nordic skiing or downhill skiing or snowboarding or winter mountain biking?

Who is your favorite actor or actress of all time?
Isabelle Huppert

To which local arts organization is your favorite?
The Hopkins Center

Which local arts organization is your favorite?
The amazing and talented educators at Marion Cross School have the most important job in our community and society. They are helping guide the future stars of Norwich and our nation.

In which stage of life would you prefer to spend the most time and why?
“I love you, all of you.” Winnie the Pooh. Life is only available in the present. I am blessed with a wonderful family who constantly remind me that I am needed NOW.
A fascinating aspect of wine is the changing nature of what is in fashion over the course of the year. While it is certainly true that some people drink the same wine all the time, whether it is snowing or hot and humid, with lobster or burgers, most people tend to enjoy different wines during our diverse seasons. Rich, hearty reds seem best in the cooler months, while crisp, dry whites seem more at home with warm days and the lighter fare of summer.

One of the best examples of this is rosé. Throughout the year, we have a nice selection of rosé wines at the store, and some people buy them all year long for their bright fruit, crisp acidity, and refreshing flavors. When the weather gets warmer, though, the real excitement for these wines suddenly appears. Daffodils bloom, snowbanks melt, and the back roads get muddy, and along with this people start thinking of longer days, warm evenings, and spending time near their favorite lake, river, or ocean.

As we enjoy this change of seasons here in Norwich, there is no better way to celebrate than a nice rosé. Produced in almost every region of the world, and from grape varieties too numerous to count, dry pink wines are made in a great range of styles, shades of color, and price ranges. As you celebrate the arrival of sunshine and outdoor dining, remember to come ask us what rosés we can suggest to make every event just a little more festive!
WOMEN’S MARCH — continued from page 1

takeaway for each was peace and love. No matter which side of an issue one is on, it’s hard not to agree that peace and love are common values among all humans.

When reaching out to some of the women whom we knew had attended, we specifically asked them to focus on the inspiring stories and positive feelings they felt during the whole experience outside their political views. While some of their agendas are embedded in their stories, our intention is not to promote their viewpoints, but rather to let their voices speak to the power they felt by taking action for something in which they believe strongly, and in the overall uplifting and inspiring experiences they each had.

~ Jen MacMillen

Ann Marie Smith, Norwich VT

I knew from the time the March in DC was announced that I had to participate. I needed to do something. I worried that I couldn’t get to DC, and was delighted when Marches were announced for other cities; I knew then that I would go, I didn’t know where, but I knew I had to be at one. When I read that Elizabeth Warren would speak at the Boston rally, I was hopeful to go there. Being a displaced New York suburbanite, I was lucky my friend Allegra Lubrano (of Hanover, NH) who knows Boston, also wished to go. We were very glad to be there early to witness the ease at which everything unfolded that day. People simply flowed into the city all morning; they kept coming and coming. There were no bullhorns or sirens, no need for direction. Everyone was polite, cheerful, supportive, and to our pleasant surprise, there were no counter protestors, just one lone elderly man standing on a street corner with a sign and a ‘you know what’ hat. There were women and men of all ages, carrying children of all ages. It was wonderful to see every generation, gender, color, and culture represented. The synergy was palpable; you truly could feel the power of the people. We were lucky enough to be standing in the right spot when Elizabeth Warren’s car entered the Boston Commons. She rolled down her window and I reached out to shake her hand, she took it. I said “thank you,” to which she replied, “No, thank you!” Her speech brought roars from the already energized crowd and that heightened the preexisting feeling of unity and pride. The Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh, spoke next and although it didn’t seem possible, he was even more spirited than Senator Warren. The crowd was ebullient, yet at the same time, the moment and the occasion itself, was bittersweet. As happy as I was to be there, I was filled with conflicting feelings. That we, in 2017, have to rally and prepare to defend the reproductive rights and equality for women is truly astonishing to me. That we are still fighting for equality, for women, people of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community makes me very sad. I saw so many women who were there rallying for the same causes they had spent their youth rallying for.

Team March by Cindy Pierce

When our friend, Norwich resident, Kristin Brown booked rooms right after the Women’s March was announced, our plans for a road trip were set. Elizabeth Keene of Springfield, NH, Laurie Harrington of Walpole, NH, and Andrea Johnstone of Plainfield, NH (three Hanover High School guidance counselors), Kristin, and I started our drive at Laurie’s on a Friday afternoon.

Unified to step up to a whole new level of activism was sparked by the fact that we felt our country had hit rock bottom. Laurie explained her motivation to join the March, “Activist is not a word I would have ever used for myself. I went to DC to show solidarity...and to show that our country values compassion and tolerance over isolationism and fear.”

We felt the unity expanding beyond our group every time someone honked or waved in response to the “HEAR OUR VOICE” sign taped to the back of our car. Five educators driving for eleven hours...
provided ample opportunity to catch up on our families and work, as well as discuss how the changes in laws and policies would impact marginalized people in the country. We did acknowledge our own privilege to be able to make the trip and stand together for issues important to us.

From the moment we entered the crowded subway in the morning, until we were walking away from the dispersing march, we were overwhelmed by the positive energy, warmth, and openness of all the participants. We were bolstered throughout the day by the meaningful (and hilarious) signs, the powerful speeches, and being surrounded by wildly interesting people. By the time we were getting off the subway, we knew that change and hope would prevail if we could avoid divisive anger. When we saw the news of marches around the world, it was clear that the revolution had begun.

Elizabeth described what inspired her to carry on with activism, "The March was inspiring and powerful, but what stood out for me was a renewed hope. It felt good to be doing something and being around the hundreds of thousands of people who were all there for a similar cause – a shared concern that our country might go backward."

Laurie reminded us that showing up isn't enough and that we need to respond to the call for action by the inspirational speakers like Gloria Steinem, Scarlett Johansson, Michael Moore, and the organizers of the March. Laurie has committed to make letter-writing, phone calls to her representatives, and finding ways to be involved in local politics a regular part of her life. "We all need to be activists now!"

As we got closer to home, Kristin reflected, "The March experience was like an ocean. We were a wave that crashed into DC. Our journey home was the wave retreating but with renewed energy and life picked up along the way, which will energize us through these next four years.”

Maggie Tiblier Pepper, Norwich, VT
Thinking of friends around the world, I booked one of the very last seats on a round-trip overnight bus from Lebanon, NH to DC. Ten pm departure, 9am arrival. Eight pm departure, 7am arrival.

I took to the streets wearing my hand-knit pussyhat to stand united with the people. To protect each other, locally and globally. Other choice for me but to "represent," set an example for our children, and question today's leadership in America.

As history shows us, the people united will never be defeated.
In the Upper Valley, we are lucky to have large forested areas that harbor wide-ranging forest-interior mammals, like moose, bobcat, bear, gray fox, and fisher. These iconic wildlife species are a pleasure to see, and the carnivores are signs of functional ecosystems. We fortunately have these animals around because we still have effective connectivity among our large forest tracts across multiple towns. Despite our forested areas being comprised of many parcels, many of them remain un-fragmented and relatively undisturbed. Examples in Norwich include the Gile Mountain to Brookmead Conservation Area, Gile Mountain to Griggs Mountain, and Griggs Mountain to Appalachian Trail ridgelines. Their undisturbed centers greater than 300 feet from human development are known as core forests, giving us the three C’s of healthy forest ecosystems: Core areas, Connectivity, and Carnivores.

We are also lucky to have Norwich residents, including schools and civic organizations, who value these forests to which we have much access despite almost all local forested parcels being privately owned. We also, fortunately, have access to forest experiences via a thoughtfully designed trail network. The Norwich Trails Committee, landowners, and other volunteers have done outstanding work building and maintaining the existing trails. Such well-stewarded access to forests provides health benefits, both physical and psychological, while still providing wildlife with vital habitats for foraging, mating, denning, and rearing offspring. We should not take any of these forest values for granted.

If we do not remain thoughtful and diligent about forest stewardship, forest fragmentation, incursion, and disturbance will lead to habitat loss. Each time an incursion of development or frequent human activity occurs, we push what are called “edge effects” deeper into the core forest. Invasive plants, like honeysuckle and buckthorn, invade the forest edge and out-compete valuable indigenous plants. Animals like skunks and raccoons, that flourish around human activities, prey on ground-nesting birds and other native wildlife. Even we, and our dogs, can bring a great deal of disturbance to an area.

“Tennis has been a part of my life for many years, but I never really competed. After taking private lessons with Mark Lewis, my game improved and I started to enjoy playing again. I feel much better physically and mentally. My game has improved and I feel much better since starting these lessons.”

Club Member Rich Atherton
with Tennis Director Mark Lewis

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RiverValleyClub.com
of forest, enough to cause sensitive species to stop using the area entirely. Dogs not leashed or under control often attack ground-nesting birds, prey upon other young animals in the spring, and stress wildlife of all ages, especially in winter when caloric energy budgets are tight. Controlling your dog is simply responsible trail etiquette.

During discussions of core forest disturbances, timber harvests often are accused of being the biggest culprit, but this accusation is not true. Forestry activities are ephemeral. When done not too frequently and not too expansively, their effects more often than not provide enhancements to wildlife habitats by setting back forest succession and creating canopy gaps, both of which facilitate the growth of wildlife foods in the forms of young browse-able shoots and desirable fruits. The wildlife species that eat those shoots and fruits are often important prey species for forest carnivores. Granted, because they stand out so starkly on the landscape, irresponsible harvests (i.e. where the canopy is obliterated, the soils are eroded, and the stream banks are exposed) are easy to point out; however, they are not the norm. The vast majority of foresters and loggers are working the landscape responsibly and conscientiously, thereby benefiting forest wildlife.

Over the years, there have been several efforts by landowners and the town to maintain and protect our treasured core forests. As one can imagine, a frequently used recreational trail through a core forest would not be of benefit to wildlife relying on undisturbed habitats. Instead, establishing appropriately sited new trails that get from point A to point B without a corresponding network of inter-connecting trails, will call upon interactive planning by individual landowners and town committees using “sustainability best practices”. Examples of such best practices would include developing trails in areas already used by recreation, utilizing Class 3 and Class 4 roads, using old logging roads, and making informed decisions by using landscape data when considering trail placement trade-offs, instead of by ‘a desire to have a trail here’ or simply ‘connecting two points on a map’. Norwich residents who are considering establishing a trail are encouraged to contact the Norwich Trails Committee and Conservation Commission for advice regarding trails and trail siting. We should “minimize our impact and leave no trace” as we experience and steward our forests.

Stay tuned for future articles focused on forest fragmentation and trail etiquette.
G. R. Porter & Sons, Inc.

For most of us, the investment in our home is the most substantial investment we will make in life. That investment not only includes our initial purchase, but also upgrades and renovations we make to that home over time. That means, of course, selecting a contractor for home renovations is an important consideration.

Upper Valley homeowners have a great resource for home building and renovation in G. R. Porter & Sons of Norwich. The company, owned and operated by brothers Tom and Tim Porter, has served area homeowners as custom builders for decades. The Porter brothers are the fourth generation of Porters operating the building and renovation business.

Tom Porter says he and his brother began working in the business at an early age, and bought the business from their father in 1988. Besides their background in building and construction, Tom studied architectural engineering and his brother Tim studied business management, both areas of study critical in operating their construction business.

Though they do some commercial work, Porter says residential work with homeowners is the heart and soul of their business. “The residential customer is who we serve best,” says Tom Porter.

New construction accounts for about 35% of their work, with the majority of the work comprised of remodeling work. “We love renovation and remodeling work,” Porter says. He adds that when working on older and historic homes, even though these homes may have quirky, unusual building characteristics, problems with old homes are often easily solved.

In handling their construction projects, Tom Porter says his firm works with several Upper Valley architects to come up with the best plan for the homeowner. “We work with great area architects… we form a good team,” Porter says.

Tom Porter says one of the keys to his company’s success is communication with the homeowner before and during the project. “Our weekly job meetings are paramount,” says Porter, adding that daily communication via email with the client is another important factor.

G. R. Porter employs a strong cadre of building professionals. “We have 30 employees, including fine finish carpenters,” Porter says. He adds that the area homeowners with whom G. R. Porter works “appreciate fine finish work.”

G. R. Porter boasts a full woodworking shop at the Norwich facility, where they can design and build custom components, such as kitchen cabinetry.

The business’ longevity means that they are now performing renovation and remodeling work on homes the company first built decades ago, says Tom Porter.


River Road Veterinary Clinic

Americans increasingly devote a great deal of time, and money, on their pets. Pet food, toys, lodging, and care accounts for an ever-increasing part of our budgets. Keeping pets healthy is an important part of having a pet, and fortunately, we have many great veterinarians in the Upper Valley, dedicated to the care and health of our animals.

One area vet devoted to caring for our pets is Dr. Christine Pinello, owner of the River Road Veterinary Clinic in Norwich. For over 30 years, Dr. Pinello has taken care of all kinds of Upper Valley animals, both large and small. The fact that Dr. Pinello takes care of large and small animals makes her somewhat rare in the veterinary profession. Many vets specialize in either large animals, such as horses and cattle, or smaller house pets, including dogs and cats.

Dr. Pinello began her veterinary practice in Norwich in 1985, working from her home. In 1988, Dr. Pinello constructed her clinic building next to her home, as she realized “working out of your home is tough.” Over the years, Dr. Pinello constructed additions to the clinic, as the business grew.

Having a great interest in architecture, Dr. Pinello was very involved in the design of the clinic, and the additions. This was a great help in having a clinic building that works extremely well and efficiently for animal care.

Of course, often the treatment of many large animals must take place at the farm. “Large animal problems are often emergencies,” says Dr. Pinello, meaning the veterinarian must travel to the farm. As such, Dr. Pinello has a special truck equipped with everything needed for farm visits. Offering a full range of services, Dr. Pinello also stresses preventative animal care, including annual wellness exams.

With fewer working farms in Norwich and vicinities, Dr. Pinello finds she is handling fewer dairy cattle cases. On the other hand, many area residents have one or two goats, pigs, or alpacas, and care for these of animals is growing.

Another group of pet owners Dr. Pinello often sees are those with exotic pets, such as birds and reptiles.

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Caring for these pets requires time and patience, says Dr. Pinello, as a good deal of research and study is required for providing health care for exotic pets.

The River Road Veterinary Clinic is located at 445 Route 5 N. in Norwich. Contact them at 802-649-3877, or visit their website at www.riverroadveterinary.com.

Toby Kravitz Dentistry

Operating a business, any business, for close to 30 years is a tough proposition. This level of longevity requires consistent performance, stamina, and a good reputation. Norwich seems to have more than its share of long-running businesses, including the dental practice of Toby Kravitz.

Dr. Kravitz began working as a dentist in the Upper Valley in Woodstock in 1984. After spending a two-year stint in the Peace Corps, which he describes as “a wonderful experience,” Dr. Kravitz returned to the area and opened his Norwich practice in 1989. Starting up one’s own dental practice was a challenge at the time, though even more so today. “It’s a rare experience today to hang up your shingle,” Kravitz says.

As is true with many businesses, the first five or six years were tough getting established, says Dr. Kravitz. “We started slow,” he says. Dr. Kravitz credits the retired executives from the SCORE organization with helping him develop a good business plan, which paid off in establishing the business.

Persistence paid off for Dr. Kravitz, and over the years, the business grew, both in clients served, and the physical size of the clinic. In 2004, the clinic space expanded a great deal, by taking over additional space at the Route 5 location. This expansion allowed Dr. Kravitz to offer seven treatment rooms; when he first opened, there was one treatment room at the clinic.

Dr. Kravitz says he specializes in performing comprehensive restorative dentistry. He explains that this involves a long-term dental plan for the patient, taking in account a plan for the patient’s entire mouth, not simply treating one tooth at a time. This treatment form requires a long commitment, but tends to result in a lower incidence of procedures such as root canals, Dr. Kravitz explains.

Dr. Kravitz employs a staff of six at the practice; “All but one have been here over 10 years,” he says. Not surprisingly, providing great customer service is an important factor to Dr. Kravitz and his staff. “We like to spend a lot of time with our patients,” he says. Dr. Kravitz says his patients come from “all over the Upper Valley,” and he happily accepts new patients.

Dr. Kravitz’s office is at 303 S. Route 5 in Norwich. Contact them at 802-649-2630, or email drkravitz@tkravitzdds.com.

~ Frank Orlowski
**UVMC Launches Capital Campaign for New Home**

The Upper Valley Music Center (UVMC) has launched a capital campaign to fund the purchase of the former Downs Rachlin Martin law firm building at 8 South Park Street in Lebanon, NH. The building is currently under contract.

Founded in 1995, the UVMC has grown from a collection of friends making music together into a community music school helping nearly 700 Upper Valley residents learn to make music every year and sharing that music with thousands of audience members.

As the organization has grown, so have facility needs. After careful exploration and consideration, UVMC’s Board of Directors sees a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to establish a permanent home for the UVMC and to solidify music education as a vital component in the heart of Lebanon’s arts district.

UVMC offers year round music education programming for students of all ages and ability levels. Programs include individual lessons, group classes (including summer camps), ensembles and workshops/master classes. Students can find a social music making experience or intensive one-on-one instruction. In the UVMC Chamber Orchestra and the Juneberry Community Chorus, adults from a wide variety of backgrounds come together to make music on a weekly basis.

As envisioned, the new facility will provide additional teaching space for UVMC’s 35 faculty members, as well as a safe drop-off and pick-up area for our young musicians. It will house large group instruction spaces, a small performance space, and studios for individual or small group lessons. Visit www.uvmusic.org/future for more information.

**Eagle Scout Project**

In November, Roger Danilek, an Eagle Scout from Norwich, fixed the Norwich Tennis Court fence for his Eagle Scout project. He started working on the idea in May with the Norwich Recreation Dept. He arranged some assistance and had 16 people working from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, November 23rd. He chose to lay down pipes at the base of the fence and used ties to strap the fence to the poles. Norwich tennis players of all ages are so appreciative of the fully functioning fence. Thanks, Roger!

**A Record Year for Willing Hands**

Willing Hands, an Upper Valley non-profit dedicated to supplying fresh and wholesome food to those in need, collected more than 500,000 pounds of fresh produce and nutritious food in 2016, surpassing all previous records. This half million pounds of food, mostly surplus fruit and vegetables from local distributors and farms, represents a 22 percent increase over food donations in 2015. Willing Hands distributed this wholesome, high quality produce and perishable food, free of charge, to more than 60 Upper Valley groups, including food-shelves, community meals, rehabilitation programs, and to families and seniors in subsidized housing. One recipient, who picks up Willing Hands produce at the VA Hospital in White River Junction said: “I have been coming to the Veterans Free Market... for just over one year. How I love this market... We don’t have much of a monthly income and couldn’t afford fresh fruit most of the time...My doctor says my health for the past year is much better.” Visit www.willinghands.org for more information.
AROUND TOWN

Children, Mother Nature, and World Peace

Imagine helping the planet and connecting children to nature while also building peace in the Middle East? For the past ten years Upper Valley resident (formerly of Norwich) and author Michael Caduto (Keepers of the Earth) has been working on The Garden of Wisdom – a groundbreaking project that involves an inspiring group of partners from Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Michael’s mission is to foster peace in the Middle East – one person, one organization, and one story at a time.

For more information about the project visit his website www.p-e-a-c-e.net.

To view a short video and to learn more about donating to this cause, go to https://shinefund.org/funds/96.

~ Frank Orlowski

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPONSORS

Mascoma Savings Bank’s Alyssa Jackson

Patrons of Mascoma Savings’ Norwich branch are now well acquainted with Alyssa Jackson, head teller at the office. Jackson, who began working for Mascoma Savings in early 2014, took over as head teller at the Norwich branch in August of last year, after working at the bank’s Hanover and White River offices.

The Norwich office has quickly become “my favorite branch. They’re a great group of people,” says Jackson of the Norwich staff and customers. Many of the Norwich branch’s customers are those that live or work in town, including many small business clients. “We have a great customer base.”

Along with their responsibilities at the Norwich office, the staff of this branch also operates the South Strafford Mascoma branch. That branch has limited open hours (2pm to 5pm), and the Norwich staff rotates to operate the South Strafford office. Jackson says the change of scenery in working in South Strafford offers “a nice little break.”

Mascoma Saving is known for performing charitable work in the communities it serves. The staff at the Norwich branch is no different. One of their pet projects is helping out with the community senior lunch, held twice monthly in South Strafford. Bank staff helps with meal preparation and clean-up, and this work is “fun, and a nice little change,” from normal banking duties. In the winter, they serve around 20 at these community meals, while in the summer, the number of attendees swells to 40 or 50. Along with serving those that attend the meals, they also pack and deliver meals for those that can’t make the trip.

One of the great aspects of her bank branch, says Jackson, is the ability to match up banking services with the clients’ needs. For instance, a client in need of wealth management or mortgage services, will be put in touch with the right Mascoma banking professionals, even though her branch may not handle those services directly. “For anybody that walks in, we have the resources.”

The great thing about having so many local bank branches is the fact that she will often see clients from the other branches where she worked. She says many Mascoma clients do not necessarily identify with one branch as being ‘my branch,’ but will use different branches, depending on which is most convenient at the time.

Her working philosophy is simple and direct. “I focus on the customer... to make them as happy as possible,” says Jackson. At the same time, her goal is to have a great relationship with her colleagues, “making everything fair within our branch.”

~ Frank Orlowski

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