The Henniker selectmen halved a preliminary budget proposal with a 17.49 percent increase last week, bringing down the first-round tally that had a $647,666 increase to approximately 50 percent of that number.

The percentage increase now stands roughly at 8.5 percent.

“The board is working diligently to reduce that even more,” said chairman Kris Blomback. “This is just the first bite at the apple. And we’ll have a chance at other bites record 43 minutes. Not a single comment or question was offered by the public. All of the warrant items put before the towns were recommended by both the Board and the Municipal Budget Committee, which isn’t always the case. Voting takes place on March 12.

The first item on the warrant is the district budget in the amount of $43,278,985, an increase of 1.26% over the 2018-19 budget, or $538,384.

Kearsarge up 1.26%

By Lucy Pivonka
Stone Bridge Post

On January 5th about 70 members of the public and the School Board, representing 7 towns, zipped through the warrant of just 4 items in a record 43 minutes. Not a single comment or question was offered by the public. All of the warrant items put before the towns were recommended by both the Board and the Municipal Budget Committee, which isn’t always the case. Voting takes place on March 12.

The first item on the warrant is the district budget in the amount of $43,278,985, an increase of 1.26% over the 2018-19 budget, or $538,384.

See KEARSARGE, Page 2

Hillsborough Charrette approved!

Brainstorming session about downtown coming in May

By Michael Pon
Stone Bridge Post

The Plan New Hampshire organization has approved the Charrette the Town of Hillsborough applied for. Town Planner Robyn Payson received the news last week. Now the planning for the brainstorming event begins. Lodging must be found for the specialists who will be coming to town to brainstorm about what may be done with the Town Square area where Bridge and School Streets intersect with West Main, Depot and Henniker Streets.

Payson said on Tuesday that she believes the event will take place in May and will begin with a public discussion to gather suggestions after the specialists have toured the area. Then they will huddle in a brainstorming session to lay out their proposal for the town to consider.

“Congratulations,” Robin LeBlanc wrote in an email to Payson. “This was pretty much a slam dunk. First comments were that your application is one of the best we have seen in a long time. Nice work.”

See BUDGET, Page 8

See KEARSARGE, Page 2
The ‘heat is on’ with a new wood chip fired boiler at Stark

By John Segedy
Stone Bridge Post

The John Stark Regional School District held an Open House last Friday night to celebrate the conclusion of its construction project installing its new wood chip fired boiler. Members of the public joined administrators, School Board members and those involved in the project to celebrate the occasion. The boiler was in operation heating the school to a comfortable temperature in spite of the bitter winter temperatures outside.

It was explained that the project was partially paid for by a state grant of $200,000 and due to its efficiency will be tax neutral in effect paying for itself. It was also noted that the boiler qualifies for and will be earning Renewable Energy Credits on an ongoing basis helping to make the lease payments. The Credits are currently valued at about $20 each. Local resident Neal Kurk pointed out that the credits are funded by rate payers.

A cake was provided for the occasion with cake toppers in the shape of the boiler and wood chip storage tank designed by Senior Josh Savoy. He modeled them and then printed them on the high school’s 3-D printer in Colin Stone’s class. Music Teacher Dan Williams gathered some of his students to provide music for those gathered, including an adaptation of “The Heat Is On.”

Keeping the budget increase down is a reduction in health premiums to the tune of $367,000. Warner School Board Representative and Chair Ken Bartholomew said “we are very fortunate in regards to our health insurance.”

Bartholomew also pointed out that although the New Hampshire Retirement System this year has raised the rates that employers must contribute to retirement plans, the savings in health benefits offsets it. There will also be a special education teacher added to the staff and more hours given to three current part-time teachers.

More than a half-million dollars ($533,568) is included to renovate the final portion of the SAU office building, the cafeteria section. Bartholomew said “this is the final phase” of a long process. Plans are in place to create a professional development center and district meeting space with work on the project to begin July first.

The second warrant article seeks to implement a new three-year collective bargaining agreement with an increase in salaries and benefits of $423,178; over the final two years that number will decrease by just over $10,000 annually.

Finally, the Board is asking that money be put into two trust funds, a Special Education Expendable fund to be used in case of emergencies in the amount of $15,000, and $50,000 of surplus funds added to the School Buildings Maintenance Fund for unanticipated repairs, equipment, and utility costs.

SAU# 34
PUBLIC NOTICE
WINDSOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARRANT ARTICLES

Persons wishing to submit warrant articles for inclusion in the 2019 Windsor School District Warrant must submit such warrants to the School Board, or one of its members, no later than February 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Persons wishing additional information may contact the Superintendent of School’s office at 464-4466.
Bringing Historical District into town zoning

BY MICHAEL PON
Stone Bridge Post

Hillsborough’s Historic Commission (HDC) has long been considered an independent body that oversees the Historic District in the Old Center of Hillsborough, where there is one of the Town’s oldest one room school houses and two historical churches. This scenic locale has been a source of pride for many in town, especially those who live there. Members of the HDC have long taken pride in their efforts to keep up the historical appearance of the district.

However, according to Town Planner Robyn Payson, State statute does not agree with their interpretation of their authority. The HDC has been the body to which homeowners in the district have gone to receive guidance on zoning issues and building permits for decades. But Payson points out they have no State or town-granted authority beyond issuing building permits.

Payson notes that no zoning updates have been applied to the district since 1979. And Payson is working toward bringing the district up to date in regards to the authority it actually has, as far as the State is concerned.

“Through no fault of their own, the Historic District Commission has been under the impression that they have regulatory power over activities in the district other than building permits,” Payson commented on Tuesday. “But their authority is exclusively limited to granting certificates of approval for anything that requires a building permit in the historic district. Somewhere along the line the HDC developed the perception that they had more authority than is granted to them by the State.”

In order to make the State guidelines clear, there will be an amendment to the town’s zoning ordinance on the official ballot in March. However, no matter what the outcome of the vote, Payson points out that the State statutes are clear.

“These changes are driven by State statute, which preempts any local zoning or ordinances,” Payson explained. “The Historic District ordinance has to be in compliance with the State. So regardless of the ballot vote, it is out of our hands. The State is the ultimate source for this. The HDC ordinance cannot conflict with the town zoning ordinance and the Master Plan. This amendment to the zoning ordinance will bring them back into compliance with State statutes that recognize the town as the enforcement authority, as it is with every other zoning ordinance in town.”

Although some HDC members do not agree with the notion that State Statute pre-empts their own authority, Payson sees that there are positives that will come with the change.

“The update of the ordinance ensures all of the RSA citations are updated and the language is correct. It is located with all of the other land use ordinances and is included in all of the use charts and lot dimension charts so people have one place to get information,” she offered. “As much of the original ordinance and permissions have been translated over to the new ordinance. Chapter 147 will now be reserved for the building standards regulation that need to be developed by the Historic District Commission. The Planning Board has offered to assist in the writing of it and we will also be receiving help from the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Alliance.”

Payson also observed that “This regulation does not need to wait for town meeting to be adopted. It will give people wanting to build in the district guidelines and the ability to clearly understand what the commission is looking for when they consider granting a Certificate of Approval for a building permit.”

Selectmen back annual Grapevine $4K request

BY MICHAEL PON
Stone Bridge Post

Although there has been no formal vote to fund the Grapevine’s effort in Hillsborough, each of the selectmen made statements at Tuesday’s meeting that profess support for giving the organization the $4,000 request they have received for several years.

In an attempt to tighten the municipal budget proposal, the Grapevine request had been cut down to $2,000. But support for the non-profit runs high in Hillsborough.

District Representative Marjorie Porter shared her sentiment that the selectmen continue with the $4,000 request they have granted in the past. She appeared early in the meeting to urge the selectmen to do so.

The Grapevine is a non-profit organization that is centered in Antrim, where they have been supporting community needs for years, and has for some years been reaching out to Hillsborough residents. Its mission is to promote family and community health and well-being through support, education and the sharing of resources.

Gallagher pointed out that the Grapevine has seen a 48 percent increase in how many Hillsborough residents they serve, which is an increase of 175 to 259 over the last year. They provide two parent/child play groups in town and a tax preparation volunteer, who holds hours in the library.

Significantly, Gallagher is part of a group of service providers who meet once a month in Hillsborough, which include representatives and officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, Riverbend Community Mental Health Services, Hillsborough Family Health Clinic, Hillsborough Youth Services, Concord Hospital, Catholic Family Services, the local schools and the local Fire and Police.

These organization leaders meet and discuss different topics each month and get to know each other, so that when there is a need for them it isn’t a “cold call.” There is familiarity between them. Gallagher said this coming month the topic is Mental Health Services. A speaker will present the various aspects and challenges and field questions.

“We give everyone an opportunity to ask questions or share what they are up to. It’s been a really helpful way for people to not just become aware of the organizations, but the actual people who do the work,” Gallagher explained. “When someone comes to the Grapevine who is at risk of losing their housing, for example, we can call Southern NH Services for help, and we know each other, so it isn’t a cold call.”

Gallagher is also inter-supportive with Hillsborough’s needs. For example, she is working with a group who offered to drop some wood off for the Grapevine woodbank, but Gallagher is hopeful that he will drop it off in Hillsborough instead, where there is currently a greater need.

Selectman David Fullerton pointed out that the $2,000 more to make fulfill the request of $4,000 is only 0.00052 of the Hillsborough budget.

The Grapevine also provides highly trained professionals for a home visiting program. In Hillsborough, 19 residents have benefitted from this program over the past year.

“What we do is assess what is happening

See GRAPEVINE, Page 8
Hillsborough seeks aquifer protection

BY MICHAEL PON
Stone Bridge Post

A Groundwater Protection ordinance will be on the official ballot in March for Hillsborough voters to consider. There are several aquifers in town the ordinance would cover, but the prohibitions for homeowners are practically nil, leaving only some commercial uses to be disallowed.

“This would protect groundwater from really the most egregious possible pollution risks,” Town Planner Robyn Payson observed. “It’s important that people know that this does not prohibit people from using their property in a residential way, such as tarring your driveway, or putting up a shed, or anything you would ordinarily do. It doesn’t affect that in any way.”

The only uses that would be prohibited in the Groundwater Protection District are landfills, hazardous materials, uncovered storage of road salt, junk yards, snow dumps, dry cleaners, petroleum plants, floor drains without oil and water separators, and cemeteries.

And there are Conditional Uses that cover things like gasoline service stations and excavation in the area.

“Those Conditional Uses would be part of a Planning Board process to grant permission,” Payson explained. “This is something I’ve been told has been accepted in the past. I think the recent drought has put a focus on available groundwater for people. It’s important to protect the aquifers from contamination.”

Although there is a map of where the aquifers are located, they are not delineated by property lines or any particular sections of town. The borders of the aquifers are not entirely known and are somewhat ambiguous, leaving room for speculation.

“The aquifers are not considered zoning districts. Considering that this is determined by soils, it is not something that neatly fits into property lines,” Payson pointed out. “There is a process in the ordinance if someone disagrees with the map. They can find out if their property is in an aquifer area by having soil testing done. This would be for people on the edge of the aquifer with questions about whether they would have to be aware of the ordinance regulations. They would have to pay for the testing themselves to see if they need to avoid the Prohibited Uses.”

Considering that aquifers and groundwater in general is the source of people’s wells and drinking water, unless they are on town water, finding out whether your area is inside or outside of an aquifer area would be prudent. However, this is only an issue if someone is pursuing a Conditional Use.

“The most important thing is that this will not affect a person with a house who wants to do any building or tarring on their property, as long as it is not one of the Prohibited or Conditional Uses, which are not residential uses,” Payson confirmed.

By Courtney Ford

Students’ Perspective

Something smells a little fishy
(That would be sharks)

This past week at the Hillsboro-Deering middle school it was shark week. What this means is that in almost every class the eighth graders participated in a shark related project. In ELA students picked an ocean related TED Talk to watch and then created a visual about what they learned. In writing, the eighth graders made an argument on whether sharks need more protection or not. During social studies they watched a video on the worst shark attack ever recorded. Then as a grand finale, the eighth graders got to dissect a Dogfish Shark.

All of these lessons were enjoyable and informative, but when students were asked what their favorite project was and why all replied with the shark dissection.

When Katie Connarn was asked what her favorite project was she replied with, “My favorite project was dissecting the shark because it was cool to see all the internal organs.”

When Alexis Ledvina was asked the same question she answered with, “I really enjoyed the dissection because it was an experience you never really get to have that much so it was a blast.”

The same goes for Madison Ledvina. When asked what her favorite project was and why she replied with, “Probably the dissection because it was interesting to look through the stereoscope and see all the different organs up close.”

A stereoscope is similar to a microscope except it has a shorter zoom and light does not need to pass through the object to be seen.

All in all, the past week was a very enjoyable, engaging, and informative time for the eighth grade at the middle school. They looked into the inner workings of a shark. They argued for or against the protection of endangered sharks. TED Talks were watched and analyzed. The worst ever recorded shark attack shown as a documentary. It was a good week to be in the eighth grade at the middle school!
GHSS needs a new bus!

Greater Hillsborough Senior Services has grown, our bus has become a vital part of our senior community. Alas, our current bus will be decommissioned as of April 2019 and needs to be replaced. We are initiating a new fundraising effort to purchase a new bus. A new sign has been erected at Shaw’s in Hillsborough by John Shaw and Debernie Carpenter to track all the contributions to our New GHSS Bus Fund. (Photo submitted)

Hillsborough town up 5%

By Michael Pon
Stone Bridge Post

For the first time in some years the Town of Hillsborough proposed budget is seeing something of an increase rather than remaining near flat, as the selectmen and Town Administrator Laura Buono have maintained it. As of this week the proposal for the entire budget is up 5 percent, approximately $319,000. However, the selectmen have not finished with minor adjustments that may change that number somewhat.

The proposed operating budget currently stands at $7,632,356, compared to last year’s $7,313,013.

This $319,000 increase from the town, combined with the Hillsboro-Deering school district’s $173,885 proposed increase from last year, are likely to cause an increase in taxation in general for the community.

Some of the department budget changes sit at zero percent change or even drop below last year’s approved department budgets. Land Use is flat at zero, Cemeteries is at negative 16 or $6,000 less, General Government Buildings is at negative 2 or $861 less, Emergency Management is at negative 9 percent or $1,001 less, Insurance is at negative 20 percent or $35,150 less, and Parks are seeing a 23 percent drop at $14,790 less.

But increases in other departments are driving the numbers up. The Police Department is proposing an 11 percent or a $222,763 increase, Dispatch is up 9 percent or a $42,454 increase, and Highway is up 5 percent or a $58,112 increase. The Fire Department is up 2 percent or $11,928 and Youth Services is up 7 percent or $9,263.

The Public Budget Hearing will be held on Feb. 12 at 6:15 at the Town Offices.

Warner budget up 2.94%

Town administrator demands civility from Budget Committee

By Lucy Pivonka
Stone Bridge Post

Warner’s town operating budget is up 2.94%. When debt payments like the first loan payment on the new fire station of $164,000 and other debts are added, it’s up 8% to about $3,375,000. While the Budget Committee and the Selectmen are in agreement on most of the budget, there has been a lot of back-and-forth on the wage adjustments which have now been implemented after almost a year-and-a-half.

Friction between the Selectmen and the Budget Committee came to a head at the last Budget Committee meeting when an email from Town Administrator Jim Bingham, was read.

“The Board has provided again a well-thought-out, responsible and thoroughly vetted budget. The Board feels it will allow the town to receive a high quality of service and allow the employees to work efficiently and cost effectively. It is now your operating budget.” Bingham wrote.

He went on, “When civility is the norm and discussions are considerate and respectful to all involved, then I will attend and stay present at these meetings. As soon as I experience a deterioration of such reasonable standards, I will excuse myself and spend my time in more productive ways.”

He explained that he felt the previous meeting had a hostile, tone and personal attacks were made on town employees.

When contacted for an update, Bingham said his email was in response to a member of the Budget Committee who made unfounded allegations toward him during a public meeting, which he considers “a clear attack on my professional integrity.” He added that complaints about a town employee should be made to the Board of Selectmen and discussed in a non-public meeting.

The first part of the meeting was spent discussing Bingham’s email, with Selectman Alfred Hanson saying the email was “way out of order” and no matter how hot it gets in the kitchen “he should be here.”

Selectman John Leavitt said when he learned from the Selectman’s representative that the wage adjustments had already been made he was told “there’s nothing you can do about it”. He added that he thought Bingham’s email was “an attempt to shut the Board up” but it’s the Budget Committee’s job to question expenditures.

In 2017 voters approved $10,000 to fund a wage study, which was completed shortly afterward. It includes 24 steps with a 2 percent raise between each. The selectman finally instituted the matrix in December, which adds just under $40,000 to the budget.

The Budget Committee spent considerable time during their meeting discussing how the wage increases were made, and many members felt the Committee was cut out of the discussion. Some members thought that communication was the biggest problem, some thought the Selectmen didn’t follow policies, and others that they are taking things too personally.

Both the Committee and the Selectmen have spent a lot of time considering how to replace an aging fire truck, and Fire Chief Ed Raymond has looked into buying, leasing, or getting a loan to pay for the half-million dollar truck. Currently there is about $444,000 in the capital reserve fund for a new vehicle, but another truck will be needed in 2022, which means saving $280,000 for two years to purchase the second truck. Leasing has an annual fee, so the final cost of the truck would be about $700,000. Raymond will continue to look into the best funding options and report back to the Committee.

Along with the budget increase of just under 3 percent, the warrant includes more than 15 capital reserve fund requests for new and ongoing projects, equipment, and a contingency fund.

Selectman Kimberley Edelmann explained why Warner has so many capital reserve funds, unlike some other towns.

“School taxes increase every year. We make more of an effort to keep municipal taxes level,” Edelmann said. “By spreading future expenses out over the years instead of asking for a huge outlay in one single year, taxpayers don’t see a huge spike in their town taxes.”

The two largest capital reserve requests are for Pumpkin Hill Road construction and to replace a Highway Department dump truck. Sprinkler systems for the town hall and the highway department/transfer station, library renovations, a town revaluation and preservation and storage of town records are also on the warrant.

The Selectmen and the Budget Committee are having a joint public hearing on the budget at 7 p.m. on January 31st at the town hall.
The Tucker Free Library:
The Next Chapter Info Session

The Trustees of the Tucker Free Library invite Henniker residents to an information session on Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 6:30 PM at the library. (Snow date: Thursday, January 31, 2019, at 6:30 PM).

The Trustees will share the preliminary results of the feasibility study regarding the future uses and needs of the library building. Last March at Town Meeting, Henniker voters approved an appropriation for a feasibility study to determine how best to replace the failing, obsolete handicap access lift (Garavanta) in the library and how best to provide a fully accessible building with handicapped accessible/ADA compliant public bathrooms. The study shall also include ideas on how to best address the potential use of the last open space in the library, the currently unfinished attic on the top floor.

Earlier this year, the Trustees released an architectural Request for Qualifications and selected SMP Architecture of Concord to undertake the feasibility study of the Tucker Free Library. Representatives from SMP Architecture will present their preliminary findings, engage the community in an open discussion, and answer questions.

HCS holds Latin-American lunch

Students at the Henniker Community School enjoyed a Latin American-inspired lunch this week in celebration of the 6th Grade Artist in Residence program highlighting the culture of Latin America.

On January 10, the 6th graders got a special treat during their lunch period as Executive Chef Matt Pierce of Cafe Services prepared a special tasting table just for the 6th graders that included a wide variety of Latin American dishes to sample. The 6th grade students were also able to invite their parents in to have the special Latin American lunch.

HCS Spelling Bee winners

The Henniker Community School Spelling Bee winner is 7th-grade student Lauren Meade, left. The runner up is Ella Smith, right, who is also in the 7th grade. The 2019 Union Leader State Spelling Bee will be at the Capital Center for the Arts on Saturday, February 23. Nearly 200 of the state’s top spellers will compete in this state bee. The public is encouraged to attend this free event at the CCA beginning at 1 p.m. The student to emerge as the top speller will represent the Granite State at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in May in Washington, D.C.

(Carol Sweny photo)
Compare Our CD Rates

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Antrin town down $23K

By Michael Pon
Stone Bridge Post

The Town of Antrim is not just proposing a flat budget this year, but one that is $23,863 less than last year’s – a small percentage decrease of 0.659 percent.

This year’s proposal, so far, considering the selectmen are still reviewing and adjusting the numbers, currently sits at $3,598,911, compared to the previous year’s $3,622,774.

The biggest increase in the budget is for Highway at $48,132, a 5.7 percent difference. Highway culverts and bridges are seeing an increase of $32,000, from $6,000 to $38,000. Landfill monitoring is also up $5,680 from $5,000 to $10,680. Police overtime is up $7,500, but general salaries are down $9,655. And the Transfer Station is up $8,672.

The Town Clerk and Tax Collector lines are each up 13.9 and 13 percent respectively, which is $4,326 and $4,596 respectively.

But Administration is down $8,650, Assessment down $8,000, Legal down $10,000, Planning down $7,175, Insurance down $24,747, and Welfare is down $4,399. Workers’ Compensation is down $12,108, from $32,700 to $20,592.

The Antrim Public Budget Hearing is on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. at Little Town Hall.

Stark proposal up $227K

By John Segedy
Stone Bridge Post

The John Stark Regional High School (JSRHS) School Board held a public hearing last Friday night at which they presented their proposed 2019-2020 Budget. Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Taconi-Moore walked the Board and public through items contained in the proposed budget of $13,645,903 which is an increase of $227,674 over last years approved budget.

The corrected amount of the default budget is $13,549,871.00. The difference between the proposed and default budgets is ($106,032.00).

A new collective bargaining agreement with the school’s support staff has also been proposed. Board member Deb Urbaites spoke about the importance of this article to help in hiring. The new contract will cost the district an additional $70,647 in the first year, another $26,538 in the second and then $27,163 more in the third. Resident Frank Campana spoke to this article (noting he had asked previously) asking that the total cost be included on the warrant. It was noted that the total increased cost of this contract is $292,180.00 over the three years.

The warrant article that evoked the most discussion was Article 5 proposing to pay for 1/3 of the cost of a school resource officer (SRO) ($28,353.00). Under the proposal the Weare School District, the Town of Weare and the John Stark School District will each pay 1/3. The article will have to be passed by all three parties to create the position, however there was talk about the possibility that under the current wording if it were to pass in the JS district but not one of the others the JSRHS district would have to collect the amount in taxes and then return it the following year.

Marjorie Burke, Chair of the Weare School Board spoke in favor of the SRO. Resident Neal Kurk suggested that the district have clear criteria for determining if having an SRO is having an effect.

During their business meeting the Board approved the budgets and warrant to go forward. Next stop is the deliberative session of the District Meeting on February 8th at 7:00.

Grapevine, continued from page 3

with a family and whether home visits would be appropriate,” she explained. “There has to be a level of trust and a relationship that makes the people feel comfortable letting someone come into their home and work with them, because home can be a vulnerable place. Typically we serve families in crisis, isolation, with mental health issues, or perhaps a really difficult baby that is not sleeping and a parent can’t get the house for a break.”

The selectmen observed that Riverbend Community Mental Health Services were on the list for a $2,000 donation by Hillsborough. Selectman Jon Daley said he was good with seeing that line zeroed out and adding it to the Grapevine donation.

Town administrator Laura Buono and Dana Brien of Senior Services brought up Riverbend’s funding through Medicaid, which the Grapevine does not have. Selectman Jim Bailey suggested trimming some other lines in the budget to meet the $4,000 request.
Obituaries

Norma (Judy) Lois Blanchette Andrus

Norma (Judy) Lois Blanchette Andrus 85, passed away peacefully on January 5, 2019 at the Merrimack County Nursing Home.

Norma was born on April 3, 1933 in Hopkinton, NH, the daughter of Phillip and Evelyn Blanchette. She lived in West Hopkinton until 1964, when she and her family moved to the home she and her husband Roger built in Contoocook.

She enjoyed time doing crafts, gardening, flowers, knitting, crocheting, cooking and taking care of her family. She and Roger enjoyed traveling, and some of their favorite trips were to Alaska, Idaho, Florida, Tennessee and Pennsylvania. She worked for 17 years in the food service for the Hopkinton High School before retiring.

Judy was predeceased by her parents, and husband of 63 years Roger M. Andrus and her son Ray Andrus, three brothers Freddie, Donivan and Raymond Blanchett also one step-brother Phillip Blanchette.

She is survived by her children, Dianne Cooper and her husband Roger of Contoocook, NH, Roger J. Andrus and Leona Raymond of Penacook, NH, Roland (Ruban) Andrus and Wendy Weeks of Tufonboro, NH, Gene Andrus and Linda Ogden of Contoocook, Rocky Andrus and his wife Cheryl of Andover, Sherry Andrus of West Hopkinton, NH, and Vicki Doubleday and her husband Dan of Northfield, NH., She also leaves grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and her sisters, Pauline Kienia, Beverly Andrus, Phyllis Bane and Linda Witham.

Calling hours will be held May 1, 2019 from 10 to 11 am in the Holt-Woodbury Funeral Home Henniker NH, followed by a service at 11 am.

Burial will follow in Henniker New Cemetery, Henniker, NH.

In Lieu of flowers donations may be made in her name to the Alzheimer Association, act.alz.org

For more log on to www.holtwoodburyfh.com

June Elizabeth (Blake) Merrill

June Elizabeth (Blake) Merrill, 87, of Hopkinton, passed away Tuesday morning, January 8, 2019 after a sudden illness.

Daughter of Martha (Gillingham) Blake and Harry C. Blake, June was born November 30, 1931 in Bradford, NH and raised in South Newbury. She graduated from Simonds Free High School in Warner, NH. June continued her studies at Plymouth State College where she met the love of her life, Malcolm Merrill. They married in the Union Church in South Newbury. June postponed her studies to personally help build their home in Hopkinton, NH, to live and raise her family.

In May 1973, June completed her education and graduated with a B.A. in Education. She taught nursery school, kindergarten and first grade, all to ensure that her children could attend college.

June was a loving, dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She faithfully attended countless school activities in which her family participated.

Most notably, June always worked side-by-side with Malcolm. They spent endless hours at the camp they built in Dorchester, NH. She also enjoyed bird watching, gardening, splitting, stacking and cobbing the wood pile. Her favorite indoor activity was playing the computer game, Free Cell.

June is survived by Malcolm A. Merrill, her husband of 66 years; her children, Brian Merrill and his wife Bonnie, of Lewes, Delaware; Susan Smith and her husband Paul of Concord, NH, Sandra and Arthur LaCombe of Barton, NY, and predeceased daughter Sally, and Scott Sutcliffe of Trumansburg, NY. She also leaves ten grandchildren and one deceased grandchild, and eight great-grandchildren.

June is also survived by her sisters Katherine Sanborn, Patricia Chambers, and Marion DeRoche. She also had a previously deceased sister, Shirley Blake.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to New Hampshire Audubon.

The Holt-Woodbury Funeral Home & Cremation Service Henniker, NH is assisting the family.

For more log on to www.holtwoodburyfh.com

Thomas W. Laffin

Tom W Laffin 78, of Hillsborough, died at home on January 8, 2019.

He was born in Concord, MA. He studied mathematics at the Institute of Technology. As many will remember he was the radio maintenance man for Hillsborough dispatch and many area police and fire departments, as well as the highway departments. He also was a licensed commercial radio telephone operator and opened his own radio repair and sales business in 1970 called Communication Systems Center in Hillsborough. He ran the business there until the mid-eighties. He had two part-time employees at the time the business closed. Tom was also an amateur radio operator - General class and has been involved in ham radio since the 1960’s.

He was also member of air force mars (military affiliate radio system) for the last 48 years. Much of that time involved passing messages from military personal deployed around the world back to loved ones here was back in the us. He was very involved with af-mars and held many local, regional, and national positions within the organization. Recently he was working with other mars members experimenting with remote control of mars radios from distant locations to improve national communications. He also loved his music and spending time on Facebook with family and friends.

He is predeceased by his father Donald Laffin, mother Ruth Peterson.

He is survived by his daughter Colleen Mossey of Hillsborough, NH, son Ray Laffin of Grafton, NH, step-son George Belloir of Northfield, NH, step-son Lester Belloir of Ravenna, OH, Sister D. Candice Cutting of Warner, NH, loving ex-wife Shirley Duefield of Bradford, NH, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in the spring at the family’s discretion.

The Holt-Woodbury Funeral Home & Cremation Service Hillsborough is assisting the family.

For more log on to www.holtwoodburyfh.com

John R. Hendrickson Sr.


He married in 1954 to Yvonne (St. John) for 64 years.

He attended Bromfield High in Harvard, MA. He also served his country in the Navy for two years. He worked as a contractor for many years. He was an avid NASCAR fan and enjoyed snowmobiling.

He was pre-deceased by his son John (Jay) Jr.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne, daughter Rita and her husband Robert Joy, and grandchildren Katie and Ryan Joy.

There will be no services at this time. A celebration of life to come at a later date.
Contractors’ Corner
Local Professionals to Help You When You Need Them

To submit your photos and/or articles to the Stone Bridge Post please email them to stonebridgepost@gmail.com
High School Sports

And then there was one

By John Segedy
Stone Bridge Post

The Hopkinton Hawks Boys Basketball Team played two of the top teams in Division III. Last Friday they were pitted against the Conant Orioles and came away with a 43-40 come back win in the final minutes of the game. Tuesday saw them matched against the Campbell Cougars, in a game between the last two undefeated in the Division. After a 66-56 win over the Hawks, Campbell was left at the top of the standings, still undefeated.

In Friday’s game the Orioles took the early lead, 16-9 at the end of the first quarter. In the second quarter the Hawks defense adjusted and the teams added five points each heading into the locker room with Conant still up 21-14.

At halftime Coach Steve Signor said he “urged the team to focus on the defense and the offense will hit … and it did.” In the third quarter the Hawks closed the gap to four points (31-27). Hopkinton kept the pressure on and with three and a half minutes left in the game Caleb Yianakopolos hit a three pointer to put the Hawks ahead 35-33. The teams continued to battle, tied up 38-38 at the two-minute mark. With the Hawks up by one with thirty seconds left, Dan Miner hit a pair of foul shots to seal the Hawks victory, though not without the Orioles making a last ditch try in the last seconds.

Leading Hopkinton’s scoring was Caleb Yianakopolos with fifteen points followed by Kevin Newton-Delgado with twelve and Daniel Miner contributing nine. Coach Signor commented after the game that he was “proud how the team quickly adapted to a different defense.”

The boys play next at Monadnock on Friday night.

Nordic Skiing

Both the boys and girls Nordic Ski Team had a great first race of the season. Girls showed that they are ready to be a force in Division IV this season, winning the meet in Sandwich over the divisions defending champs, Interlakes HS. They put four skiers in the top 6 and were led by Emma Rothe (1st) and Lily Sabol (3rd). Also scoring was Freshman Francie Trafton (5th) and Lillian Eckberg (6th).

The boys also had a strong showing and finished only a few points out of second place. Theodore Mollano (2nd) led the team scoring with Michael Eggers(5th), Ryan Hughes(12th) and Parker Wuellenweber(18th).
What’s Happening

Please send us your calendar events to stonebridgepost@gmail.com

Friday, January 18
HILLSBOROUGH — Meditation/Mindfulness group, 7 to 8 pm, all levels welcome. At Dubbin House next door to Smith Church. Information Mike 464-4033.

Sunday, January 20
ANTRIM — The Antrim Baptist Church will be offering a free pancake breakfast on from 8:30-10 am. Menu includes plain and blueberry pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, orange juice and coffee.

Thursday, January 24
HENNIKER — The Tucker Free Library: The Next Chapter Information Session, 6:30 pm at the library (Snow date: Thursday, January 31 at 6:30 PM). The Trustees will share the preliminary results of the feasibility study regarding the future uses and needs of the library building. March at Town Meeting, Henniker voters approved an appropriation for a feasibility study to determine how best to replace the failing, obsolete handicap access lift (Garavanta) in the library and how best to provide a fully accessible building with handicapped accessible/ADA compliant public bathrooms.

HILLSBOROUGH — Scrabble Group (they will be playing other games) meets every Thursday at 1 pm, at the Fuller Public Library. Call for more information, 464-3595.

Saturday, January 26
HILLSBOROUGH — STEAM for Kids! Reserve your spot, limited space is available for building Scribble Bots at the Fuller Public Library, starting at 10 am. Build a robot that will bounce and wiggle and color on your paper! Call 464-3595 to sign up.

Sunday, January 27
HENNIKER — The Acoustic Café Series returns from 5-7 pm. Torrington Arms Pub, Simon Center, New England College for a concert by Decatur Creek and an Open Mic session for local acoustic musicians. No cover. Donations for musicians gratefully accepted. Beverages and food available for purchase. Sponsored by Town of Henniker and New England College. For more information contact hennikerconcerts@henniker.org

HENNIKER — Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki will be presenting his renowned program. NH Humanities to Go program “Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music” at the Tucker Free Library from 2-3 pm. Free and open to all. Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave. Questions? 428-3471 or www.tuckerfreelibrary.org

Monday, January 28
HILLSBOROUGH — Knitting Purls group meets each week at 1 pm, at the Fuller Public Library. Call for more information, 464-3595.

HILLSBOROUGH — The Hillsboro Historical Society will be hosting a series of “Do You Remember?” round table discussions in the Heritage Museum on 5 Central Street. The first topic is on Mary and Susan Pierce who were the grand-nieces of President Franklin Pierce. All are welcome, especially those of you who remember these sisters and would like to share your memories of them. Please join us on Jan. 28th at 11 a.m. (snow date is Jan. 30th at 11 am). If you are unable to attend but have memories to share, please contact the Society at 464-3637.

Freyler’s Driving School
Five Week Driver Education Courses

Start – 02/18/19 – Ends 03/20/19
Turn 16 by April 3, 2019

Start – April 1, 2019 – Ends May 1, 2019
Turn 16 by May 15, 2019

Start – May 13, 2019 – Ends June 12, 2019
Turn 16 by June 26, 2019

Start – June 17, 2019 – Ends July 17, 2019
Turn 16 by July 31, 2019

Classroom sessions held in Bradford at Community Center from 4 to 6 p.m., Mon. Tues. & Wed.
Website: freylerdriverschool.net
Email: gfreyler@tds.net to request forms
Phone 938-2530

Robin Hill Farm is a residential treatment facility for adults with acquired brain injury. We are looking for people that are enthusiastic, problem solvers, and want to make a difference in people’s lives.

No experience necessary, will train on the job!

We currently have full time openings for 1st, 2nd and 3rd shift in our Deering and Peterborough locations. We also have part time, flexible hours/shifting and weekend employment opportunities within all locations in Hillsborough, Deering and Peterborough.

Sign on Bonus for FT 2nd shift!!

Applicants must have a High School Diploma or GED and a valid NH driver’s license.

Robin Hill Farm is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer.
Contact: Keri Skillings at 603-464-3841 or Keri.Skillings@robinhillfarm.com
www.robinhillfarm.com
A Different Perspective

Well, I am beginning my second term as Representative for Hillsborough District One which includes the Towns of Hillsborough, Antrim and Windsor. As a Republican, I am now in the minority party, but that does not change a lot for me because when I look at a bill, I ask the following questions: Is it constitutional? How will it meet the needs of my district and my State? And, how will the cost of the bill impact the working people of my district, and the elderly on fixed incomes? Then I vote accordingly.

A Democrat once wrote that the republicans do a poor job of getting their members to back their leadership in forming a bloc of votes on bills and that Democrats do a much better job at that. The inference was that a member of a political party should always vote the way the leadership tells them to. Well I disagree with that premise, and I like the fact that the Republican party is very diverse in its makeup, and members are allowed to draw their own conclusions. In the long run, this is what makes us strong. If our leadership ever threatened political repercussions for not obeying leadership dictates, I would never acquiesce and I would work to change that leadership.

The far left Democrats who are moving towards Socialism as the best answer to all our problems are living in a dream world. They think that if only we could tax the rich up to say 70%, that will solve all our problems. Wrong, you could tax all the rich at 100%, and you would still have to raise more taxes on the working middle class substantially, and it would still not be enough. Next comes the government taking over businesses and determining what you should buy, because they know better. Even Sweden tried it for a while, and they were smart enough to scrap that idea and return to capitalism. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH!!! If you receive something for free, someone else is paying for it.

It is my belief that political parties were meant to be inclusive and that people would join these parties based on the ideas and principles put forth in the platform of those parties. But understand one thing, the party you choose belongs to you as a member, not the transitory leadership.

From time to time I will report on specific bills before the House and if you would like periodic updates from me, please send me your Email addresses especially if you live in my district.

Respectfully,
Jim Fedolfi,
jimfornh@gmail.com

SLICES OF LIFE

by Jill Pertler

Carpet Stains

It was a simple spot on the carpet. Well, if we are being honest it was three spots on the carpet, but who’s counting?

They weren’t the only spots you’d spot on my carpet – if you were looking – but they were in a public spot. Obvious to any visitor entering the living room. Sadly, they’d taken up residence for quite some time. It wasn’t due to lack of diligence on my part. I’d tried carpet spot and stain remover on a few occasions and all that seemed to accomplish was to make the spot disappear for a short time only to return bigger and bolder within a few days.

My spots kept re-inventing themselves by performing a reappearing act worthy of Houdini. They were persistent little buggers, I’d give them that. I might have been proud of them, had they been something other than a spot on the carpet. I enjoy magic and value persistence – in people, not carpet stains.

My work thus far had not yielded the results I wanted. It was time to get tough – to eschew the commercial cleaners and go rogue. I went to my go-to: Google. Lots of blogs have lots of advice about stubborn carpet stains but many of them had a common thread: baking soda and vinegar.

When combined, baking soda and vinegar have a chemical reaction, which apparently removes stains and can refresh everything from your dishwasher to coffee pot. In my case, I needed them to work on my carpet.

Different bloggers had different techniques for application of the vinegar and soda. Some said to sprinkle the soda first; others advised starting with vinegar and a third group suggested making a paste of the two and scrubbing that into the stain. I randomly picked the soda-first method and went to work.

I covered the stains with the soda and then sprinkled with a vinegar and water mixture until the area was damp. Then – according to the expert blogger – I waited for the area to dry. Supposedly I would simply vacuum up the residue (and stain) in a few hours.

If you know me, you know that didn’t work. Nothing is ever that easy. When dry, my patches were hard clumps of dried baking soda stuck to my carpet. I decided to go completely off the grid and follow my gut by re-dousing the area with more vinegar-water solution. I set to fill my spray bottle and grabbed the vinegar. Except it wasn’t vinegar.

It was ammonia.

I sprayed ammonia onto the soda on my carpet. That explains things, Lucy.

So.

I took another looksy under the kitchen sink and found the real vinegar and dampened my stains with the right stuff. Rinse. Repeat. I’m on round three – so far. The vinegar is working – I think, I hope. The spots are relenting – I think I hope. I’ll know in a day or two, after another round or two. In the meantime I’m spraying and blotting. Spraying and blotting.

And thinking about replacing the carpet – with hardwood.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don’t miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

TOWN OF ANTRIM
PUBLIC NOTICE

Town Officers – Vote March 12, 2019 Election – Open Positions

Filing Period – Vote March 12, 2019 Election – Open Positions

Filing Period – Wednesday January 23 to February 1 – If you cannot file in person, you may send the “Filing for Town Office” form to the Town Clerk. The form must be in the hands of the Town Clerk by January 31. Filing on February 1st (3PM – 5PM) must be done in person.

Questions – call Diane Chauncey, 588-6785 x 223 or email – antrimatcvtds.net

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TOWN OF DEERING
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Supervisors of the Deering Checklist will be in session on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 from 7 – 7:30 p.m. at the Deering Town Hall, 2nd floor to update/correct the checklist for the upcoming Town Election. Change of party will be accepted.
**WOW Cookies**

Of course the recipe is based on true Peanut Butter cookies, but so many are avoiding nuts nowadays that an alternative was needed. After tasting at least 4 different alternatives to peanut butter, I have found the best of the best is WowButter. This stuff is sooo good! It is a soy spread but you would never know it. We have completely switched here at home just for the taste alone. Although we will always have peanut butter in the house (and who doesn’t with kids?), this substitute is killer!!

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter or margarine, soft  
1/2 cup WowButter  
egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 1/2 cups flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  

Preheat oven to 350-degrees F. In a large bowl, mix brown sugar, butter and WowButter using an electric mixer until smooth. Add egg and vanilla and continue beating until well mixed.

In a separate bowl, blend flour, baking powder and baking soda. Add to cookie batter and beat on low speed until well combined.

Pinching off a 2 tablespoon measure of dough, roll between your palms until round. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and continue with remainder of cookie dough, leaving about 2-inches in between cookies. With the tines of a fork, press halfway down one way and halfway down the opposite direction.

Bake 8-9 minutes, or until starting to get slightly brown around the edges. The cookies will still be soft, but that is perfect!

Remove from oven to cool for a few minutes before transferring to platter to completely cool.

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**NOW HIRING!**
Seeking compassionate, hard working, reliable individuals who are looking to make a difference.

- **Resident Assistant**  
  (License not required)  
  *Sign on bonus for all Full-Time RA positions!*

- **Med-Tech**  
  (License required)

- **Cook**  
  Part Time-Temporary

3 Denny Hill Rd., Warner NH  
603-456-3181

Call today to find out more!

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**TOWN OF DEERING**

PUBLIC HEARING

Under the provisions of RSA 33:8-a, the Town of Deering will hold a public hearing on January 24, 2019 at 7:15pm in the Town Offices located on 762 Deering Center Road to discuss and solicit public input on the planned issuance by the Town of $200,000 of debt via a lease purchase agreement for the purchase of a new Fire Apparatus.

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**TOWN OF WINDSOR**

REQUEST FOR QUOTES

The Windsor Selectmen are looking for quotes to extend the parking lot at the Windsor Town Hall, 14 White Pond Road. Interested parties must call the town hall at 603-478-3292 extension 0, and leave a message. The town secretary will call you back to arrange an appointment to meet with the Selectmen. All appointments will be made prior to January 31, 2019.

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**HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SAU# 34**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Hillsboro-Deering School Board will conduct a Deliberative Session on its 2019-2020 Budget and Warrant Articles, Monday, February 4, 2019 (snow date 2/5/19) at 7:00pm in the Hillsboro-Deering Middle School Cafeteria.

The deliberative session is the first part of the School District Meeting process as defined under SB 2. It is conducted for discussion and possible amendment of warrant articles which will then be put on the official ballot for a vote at the second session, Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

Hillsboro-Deering School Board

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**Letters to Editor**

To the Editor:

The Town Budget Advisory Committee does not support the line item of $65,000, to the White Birch Community Center. Seniors in Henniker who own their homes pay more in taxes than they receive in services. I live in Henniker and attending the many programs offered at White Birch keeps me physically and mentally active. I enjoy yoga, movies, knitwits, senior luncheons, trivia, and many day trips. I live in a three-bedroom home and I pay my taxes. I think that the programs at White Birch benefit not only me but other seniors in Henniker. Please voice your opinion that the town should continue to fund White Birch Center for Active Living.

Marlene Kriester, Henniker

To the Editor,

I have felt great sadness learning the recent news concerning George and the Villager. I was there in the beginning. George and I started the paper on a wing and a prayer. I did the news and features and he did sports and ad sales, as well as layout for the first year or so, until we could afford someone to help with putting together ads. I remember many all-nighters!

We did it all in a bedroom in a condo he had rented in Bennington. I commuted daily from Milford. I remember how excited the communities were about the paper.

Deborah Thornblad

To the editor,

Should I be comforted when I read that a lawmaker (Marjorie Porter) is but one of a majority in the New Hampshire legislature who maintains that they feel safer in a room of 400 unarmed people with one individual intent at shooting them than they would feel with that same armed individual being fired upon by “50? 75?” armed law abiding fellow legislatures? Why it just boggles my mind.

And to top it all off she makes everything all right by saying... “there will be lawmakers breaking these rules the next two years.” I get the feeling she is hoping that will be the case should the unthinkable happen. Go figure.

Just my opinion,

Don West, Hillsborough

When we delivered (yes we did that too!) them to Cricenti’ (now gone I understand), people grabbed them out of our hands. We’d leave hundreds and by the next day have to go back and completely restock-again hundreds.

I left after a couple of years to do my own thing, which included starting my own paper just over the border in Townsend/Pepperell, MA. In 2005 I sold that paper and moved north to Berlin. Still I called George occasionally to see how things were going. It was when I couldn’t reach him during the holidays that I became concerned and learned about his medical issues.

It’s unfortunate that George was too sick to be able to make arrangements to keep the Villager going until he was well. I wish I had known. I am semi-retired now and could have helped. Still, George has been down before (remember the Contender?). I wouldn’t count him out yet!
**SAU# 34**
**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**HILLSBORO-DEERING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FILING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES**
Persons interested in being a candidate for the following school district offices may file for these positions starting on January 23, 2019. The deadline for filing is 4:30 pm on February 1, 2019. Persons wishing to file should contact the Superintendent of School's office at 464-4466.

- 1 School Board Member—3 year term At Large seat
- 1 School Board Member—3 year term Deering seat
- 1 School District Moderator—1 year term

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**SAU# 34**
**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WARRANT ARTICLES**
Persons wishing to submit warrant articles for inclusion in the 2019 Washington School District Warrant must submit such warrants to the School Board, or one of its members, no later than February 7, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. Persons wishing additional information may contact the Superintendent of School’s office at 464-4466.

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**SAU# 34**
**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**WINDSOR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FILING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES**
Persons interested in being a candidate for the following school district offices may file for these positions starting on January 23, 2019. The deadline for filing is 5:00 pm on February 1, 2019. Persons wishing to file should contact Darlene Cuddy, 478-0431.

- 1 School Board Member—3 year term
- 1 School District Treasurer—1 year term
- 1 School District Moderator—1 year term
- 1 School District Clerk—1 year term
- 1 School District Auditor—1 year term

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**SAU# 34**
**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Persons interested in being a candidate for the following school district offices may file for these positions starting on January 23, 2019. The deadline for filing is 5:00 pm on February 1, 2019. Persons wishing to file should contact the Town Clerk, Jane Barkie at the Washington Town Office, 495-3667 (Thursday 1:00-7:45pm, Friday 9:00am-2:45pm or Saturday, 9:00-11:45am).

- 2 School Board Members - 3 year terms
- 1 School District Moderator - 1 year term
- 1 School District Clerk - 1 year term
- 1 School District Treasurer - 1 year term

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**TOWN OF HENNIKER**
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Seeking – Heavy Equipment Operator

Henniker Highway Department is currently hiring a full-time Heavy Equipment Operator. Duties include, but not limited to: operating heavy equipment involved in highway maintenance and construction projects, including backhoe, grader, snow plow and wing, roadside mowers, wood chipper, roller, paving drag box, shoulder machine, and similar heavy equipment. High school diploma with CDL-B with Air Brake endorsement required. This position will remain open until filled with interviews beginning the week of May 29, 2018. The Town of Henniker offers an excellent benefit package including health.

Job description and application can be found at www.henniker.org/jobs.

Send resume and application to: Town of Henniker, 18 Depot Hill Rd, Henniker, N.H. 03242. Attention: Leo Aucoin, Highway Superintendent or E-mail to roadagent@henniker.org.