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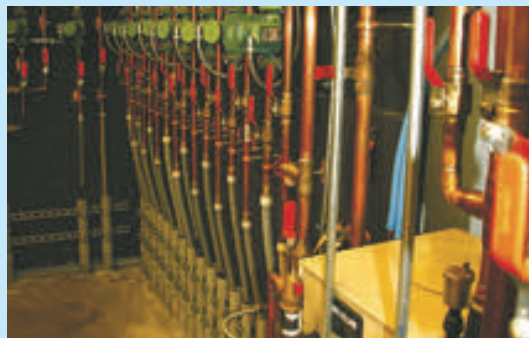
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12
Try
This

16
The
Sitdown

60
History

62
Poetry

64
Photos

66
Thousand
Words

20 Ruth Nemzoff writes about
suffrage, 100 years later

40 How a family built their
dreams in fields of lavender

44 A photo tour of The Fells, a place
designed for peaceful reflection

48 The Cappies: An annual listing
of the best of our region




FOOD & DRINK

26 Welcome to
The Kitchen
Andover

32 Keeping up
the spirits

ON THE COVER: Photo by Geoff Forester



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Seeing stars in Andover

More than a decade ago, I lived in the same California town as a young restaurateur who was starting to make a name for himself. His second creation in the city of Santa Rosa was Tex Wasabi, which combined two of my favorites – barbecue and sushi. It tasted about as good as it sounds, but it helped launch Guy Fieri to international fame.

I still find myself following Fieri's thriving career, though now it's as a fan of his Food Network show, "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." Each episode, I find myself wishing that quirky, fun restaurant he's visiting was within a short drive. So I guess I didn't need much convincing when we learned that a Portsmouth chef featured on that show a few years back had set up shop in Andover, about 20 minutes north of Concord.

So, we went to check out The Kitchen Andover, a tiny spot that punches way above its weight. The cover story that starts on Page 24 introduces you to Michael Prete and his assortment of high-end sandwiches, from the Vietnamese-style Bahn Mi to a Po Boy sub. And in case you're wondering, that's eggplant parmesan with roasted red peppers and pesto on the cover.

As Fieri himself would say, "that's outrageous!"

Steve Leone
Editor

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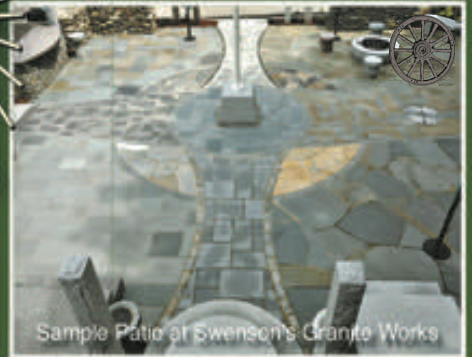
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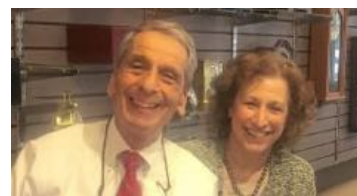
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READER CONTEST



Joe and Shelley Speer

TAKE A RIDE! WIN A WATCH!

There was a time when the best way around Concord was a ride in a Concord Coach. This issue we continue a reader contest: Find the four wheels of a Concord Coach hidden within four different ads in this magazine. All winning submissions received by November 13 will be entered into a random drawing for a New Hampshire Watch Company wristwatch, up to \$400 retail value, supplied by Speer's Fine Jewelry.



There are two ways to enter:

- Write down the page numbers of the ads in which the wheels appear on a sheet of paper with your name, address, phone number and email and mail to: Advertising Sales Manager, Around Concord, P.O. Box 1177, Concord, NH 03302-1177; or
- Go to the online form at aroundconcord.com/coach and submit the page numbers of the ads along with your name, address, phone number and email.

Limit one entry per household. The winner's name will appear in the fall issue. Good luck!

Employees of Newspapers of New England and their families are not eligible to enter.

READER CONTEST



Joe and Shelley Speer of Speer's Fine Jewelry congratulate Teresa Preston of Bow on winning a \$400 New Hampshire Watch Company watch as part of the Take A Ride! promotion in the summer issue of *Around Concord* magazine. The Concord Coach wheel was embedded in ads in the summer edition on pages 3, 11, 40 and 50.

The contest continues this issue. Details on the facing page.



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It's time to get picky

Please note that for the most part, all the farms require you to wear masks in their farm stands and when you are nearby other people, but allow you to remove them when you are away from others picking the fields and orchards. Each will have their own signs and guidance, so read up and be respectful on their property. And, as always, make sure the hours haven't changed before you head out.

Apple Hill Farm

580 Mountain Road, Concord
224-8862, applehillfarmnh.com

In addition to the apples, Apple Hill has a farm stand where you can grab doughnuts, cider, pies, jams and jellies, and produce.

Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Apple View Orchard

1226 Upper City Road, Pittsfield
435-3553, applevieworchard.com

A classic, kid-friendly orchard with friendly farm animals and playground. Seasonally there are hay rides, too. To top off your day, order some scoops of ice cream in homemade waffle cones.

Daily, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Carter Hill Orchard

73 Carter Hill Road, Concord
225-2625, carterhillapples.com

The 2020 Cappies winner for pick-your-own farm. You can also get New England Ciderworks apple cider, cider doughnuts and other bakery items, and much more from the farm stand. While you're there, you can also check out the raptor observatory platform and nearby hiking trails (7.5 miles that run from the back of the orchard toward the bike path at the Audubon). For the kids, there is a large sand and playground area and a tractor ride.

Daily, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Apple Hill Farm in Concord.

Gould Hill Farm

656 Gould Hill Road, Hopkinton
746-3811, gouldhillfarm.com

One of many farms with great views. You can get Granite State Candy Ice Cream, maple syrup, jams and jellies in the farm store. Adults can imbibe at the Contoocook Cider Company, with tastings noon to 5 p.m. on weekend days.

Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Smith Orchard

184 Leavitt Road, Belmont
524-9000, smithorchard.com

Smith Orchard is home to antique apple varieties planted in 1929. The farm says they may not look pretty, but they taste delicious.

Wednesday through Sunday,
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stone Mountain Farm

522 Laconia Road, Belmont
731-2493, facebook.com/StoneMountainFarm1

Stone Mountain Farm is a 2020 N.H. Farm of Distinction for its high-density apple tree orchard. You can pick apples and grab a pumpkin, too.

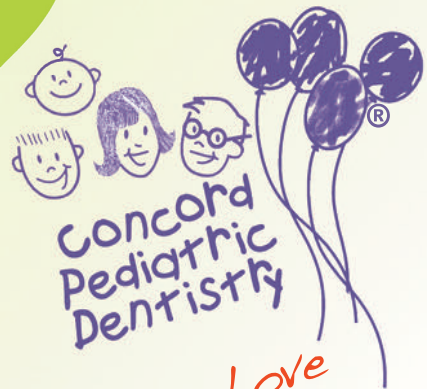
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286-4069, surowiecfarm.com

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TRY THIS, TOO

Get lost in the season

We're all looking for ways to hang onto our traditions during the most untraditional of years. Among your best options could be to throw yourself into one of the area's corn mazes. Plenty of fresh air and built-in social distancing make for a 2020-style excursion. Here's a sampling of some of the region's most popular mazes.

Beans and Greens

245 Intervale Road, Gilford
293-2853, beansandgreensfarm.com

A challenging multi-acre maze runs until Halloween, weather permitting. Hours are Sunday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. plus night mazes on Friday and Saturday nights.

Day rates are \$7; \$5 children 9 and younger; night rates are \$10 adults, \$8 children 9 or younger. (Children must be accompanied by an 18-or-older adult for the night mazes.)

Beech Hill Farm

107 Beech Hill Road, Hopkinton
223-0828, beechhillfarm.com/corn-mazes

Two mazes cover eight acres and feature puzzles and clues for Animal Olympics and Ocean Action. While there, you can also visit with the farm animals, like alpacas, donkeys, chickens, peacocks, a miniature pony, goats and others. Open daily 2 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$6 per person to do both mazes; children 3 and under are free.

Moulton Farm

18 Quarry Road, Meredith
279-3915, moultonfarm.com

There will be no corn maze in 2020 due to increased demand for locally-grown food, but the farm will offer a pick-your-own pumpkin patch and other fun fall activities at the farm.





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QA

Kris Blomback,
general manager at
Pats Peak Ski Resort
in Henniker, facing a
season like no other



Pats Peak opened for business Jan. 5, 1963, and Kris Blomback has been with them more than half the years since. “We are the longest [-held] and largest continually owned by the same family ski area in all of northern New England,” says Blomback, who lives in “the big city of Henniker” with his wife Jennifer and daughter Halle. John Mattes visited with him as he prepared for the new ski season with its myriad COVID-19 challenges.

John Mattes: I’ve done some research on you, Kris. By my math this September marks 29 years for you at Pats Peak. Is this your dream job?

Kris Blomback: My one-year stint is going on Year 29. [Laughing] I started here in fall ‘91-ish. It is a great organization, great family ownership. They’re really committed to the industry. They’re really committed to growing the ski area. They’ve been a fantastic family to work for. Yes, I’ve really enjoyed my

time here. Obviously. I’ve been here 29 years.

JM: That’s amazing. You don’t see that kind of longevity anymore, anywhere.

KB: No, especially with independent ski areas. There aren’t that many of us left out here. The corporate world has scooped up most of them. The family that controls the ski area here has always been about quality, and about putting out the best product every day. I remember a funny anecdotal story from when I was interviewing for the job and I asked them what the snow-making budget was, and they looked at me like I had three heads. They said, “There is no snowmaking budget. If the skiing is poor, you make snow. If the skiing is good, you don’t make snow.” Good old Yankee ingenuity. Sometimes I think we’ve engineered this business to death. Or a lot of businesses. But just good old common sense and frugality in running a first-class operation.

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JM: That's fantastic. Now, what time do you normally start the ski season? Do you think of it as mid-November, beginning of November? And will that be the same this year?

KB: So, anytime after the first or second week in November we'll start making snow in earnest. A lot of times if it's real early in the month we'll let it pile up so that there's less surface area to melt. Because we are in New England and being 60 miles from the Atlantic Ocean the maritime environment has a significant impact on running a ski area in New England. This has never been for the faint of heart. There were many years at the beginning of Pats Peak when they didn't open until the first or second week of January because there just wasn't any snow.

JM: Those years had to be tough. And I hate to jump right into COVID, but I'm going to: What percent of the season was lost to COVID last year in your mind?

KB: The best analogy we can come

up with is the ski season last year ended as if we hit a jersey barrier doing 30 MPH. [Laughs] We had 100 percent of our terrain open. The skiing was excellent. We had great crowds. And then we stopped. It had a significant financial impact on us because we were right in the middle of a season pass campaign and the last few weeks of ski season are fairly profitable for us. And then the bleed-over effect was that we had to cancel a number of weddings. We do a tremendous number of weddings in the off-season, and we had to cancel those and refund those as well.

JM: Did any of those weddings re-book? And did they take place either last month or this month?

KB: We've done a handful of weddings. We're abiding by the governor's order of keeping the social distancing compliance for the number [of people] at weddings that we can hold. So we've been doing a number of weddings of under a hundred. We've done, I think, about five so far. The nice

weather allows the crowds to spill out onto the deck and keeps everybody safely distant. In terms of weddings per se overall, we moved a lot of them to 2021. We did have a few cancellations, which resulted in refunds. But a lot of them rescheduled to later '20 and next year as well. And we've even had a few push out two years.

JM: What sort of measures, in addition to just the regular regulations imposed by the governor, what sort of special things have you done at the resort to accommodate for COVID?

KB: Well, it starts with protection of employees and our staff. We will not be successful in any way shape or form unless our staff feels comfortable coming into our facility every day. So, we have stockpiled tons of personal protective equipment. We have outlined multiple scenarios that we are designing around. So, for instance, here's a simple thing. And we are going to be outlining this to the public soon. Traditionally, here in New England, you buy a season pass and then you come into the office, you get your picture taken, and then we print out your pass and you go about your skiing. Well there's a touchpoint in there that you want to engineer out of the situation – walking into an office. So thankfully the technology has come a long way so that these days all our season pass holders can upload their photos. And because it's only August we have plenty of time to get that pass produced, printed and mailed to them. So that all of a sudden it takes thousands of people right out of our main office and we do it safely. That's just one example of things we're doing. We have a number of other protocols. You name any other part of our operation and COVID has touched upon it.

JM: Can you estimate what impact it will have on your restaurant business on a percentage basis?

KB: It's a little hard to say what that will be doing because we think we're being about as proactive as we can be. So, for instance, in our restaurant operation we're installing a to-go win-



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dow, so that if people want to eat outside they don't even have to go into our lodge. We are implementing technology in which you can place an order through your smartphone, which prints a receipt to the kitchen, the kitchen prepares it, and it's ready for pickup at the take-out window, and you have yourself a nice picnic lunch. Or, you could have lunch out in the parking lot. So we've really invested very heavily in technology to achieve a lot of these results. Thankfully, our technology partners, our third parties, if you will, are the R&D division of skiing. They've spent millions of dollars to implement these technologies so that we can operate as safely as possible.

So to answer the question directly about what it's going to do, I actually think we'll do just fine. The sport of skiing is fantastic. You're outdoors, you're having a grand old time and you're socially distant. And if the experience is anything like what happened to mountain biking and biking this past summer, I'd say we're going to have a great year.

JM: Can you estimate percentage-wise, compared to last year, what your season pass sales will be?

KB: Our season pass sales are right on target of where they need to be. Our guests are very understanding. It's presented a few different solutions for us. A lot of people have bought season passes because they're like, hey, you know, we're gonna be cramped up in a house all winter because of schools. Some schools in session, some schools out of session. So we think we're going to see a good part of the population playing outdoors.

JM: Let's hope so. It makes all the sense in the world. It's a lot like golf because you have your own social distancing built into the activity.

KB: Sure. We've got over 300 acres here that you can ski on. We have six chairlifts and four other surface lifts. You're out in the environment. It's usually pretty windy. It's cold. You're riding in an open chairlift. We have tremen-

dous uphill capacity. We have tremendous downhill capacity. And we're just taking steps to mitigate bathroom usage and things like that. We're going to be bringing in some portable, wedding-quality bathrooms, so that if people don't want to go into the lodge, they could just use these facilities as well. We're doing a bunch of stuff like that. We've watched a lot of other industries and we're basically stealing the best ideas from all of them.

JM: Has there been any reduction in staff due to the influence of last year?

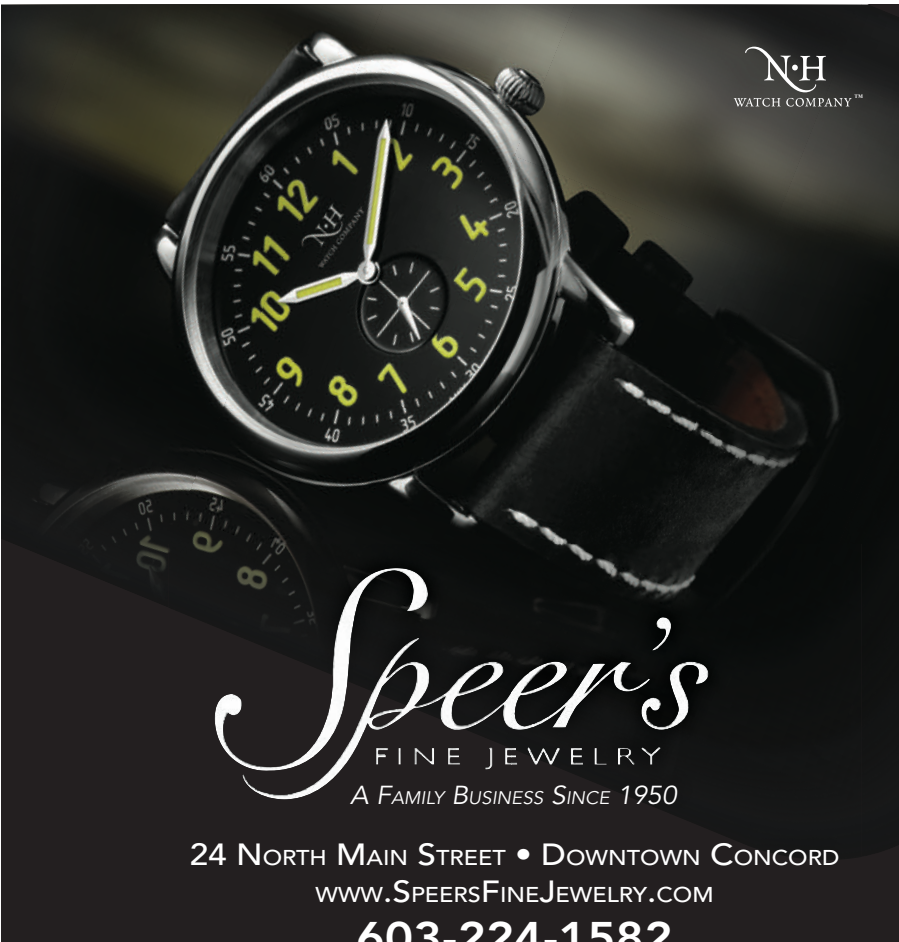
KB: Thankfully, no. Pats Peak definitely took advantage of some government programs that were out there. We were able to keep all of our staff on despite hitting next to zero in revenue. So we participated in some of the government programs and we're thankful that we kept on 95 percent of our staff.

JM: Do you guys have a slogan, or a credo, that you use inside, looking forward to the season?

KB: There are a number of them floating out in the ski business right now. There's "SOS," "Save Our Ski Season." . . . "Be Well, Ski Well." . . . "Mask Up." . . . One that just came out the other day was "Don't Be A Reason To Kill Our Season."

JM: Ha! I love it

KB: I know that a lot of people have a lot of questions about the upcoming ski season. But rest assured our ski area along with every other ski area is developing a plan A, B, C, and D for each possible scenario. So we're very confident that there will be skiing. It may look a little different, but you're gonna be out enjoying the slopes whether you're skiing, cross-country skiing or snow-tubing, you're going to be out there on the ski slopes. And the ski slopes are working very diligently to provide as safe as possible an opportunity for all those concerned. We're spending many, many thousands of dollars on every aspect of our operation to make it enjoyable and safe. ♦



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A poster printed by Forbes Lithograph Manufacturing Company, Boston, 1919, after an original painting by Howard Chandler Christy (1873–1952).

Celebrating those whose names aren't in the history books

By RUTH NEMZOFF

When I left New Hampshire in the mid-1980s, both the New Hampshire Historical Society and the Schlesinger Library at Harvard wanted my papers. I had been the assistant minority leader in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, deputy commissioner of Health and Welfare, and I had been one of the first organizers of the women's movement in southern New Hampshire. The anniversary of suffrage – and, frankly, my hurt and anger at the denigration of my generation's work by young feminists – propelled me to rediscover the story contained in the old boxes.

In 1970, I moved to New Hampshire and, looking for community, I responded to a two-line ad posted by women looking to form a consciousness-raising group. The ad had been posted by two women who worked in a factory and did not have high school degrees. Our first meeting consisted of them, me, and another doctor's wife – though if I wanted

All photos courtesy New Hampshire Historical Society



to check all the boxes, I could describe her as an immigrant of color with a GED. Before long, we each had reached out to many women in our various circles, which led to the formation of consciousness-raising groups across the region.

As I revisited my papers, I realized the historical narrative simplifies the movement I was part of. Women of all classes and creeds came together in New Hampshire; pretending poor women were not part of the movement devalues their contributions. Just as we are reevaluating the suffrage movement and finding the widespread participation, I have realized that every

movement chooses its heroes. At this centennial, I am finding it powerful to think about the forgotten members of the second-wave feminist movement. Our heroes should be lauded, but so should those whose names aren't in the history books.

In these groups, we learned about low pay for women, because even the middle-class women who did work outside the home had much lower salaries than their husbands. We learned how society had socialized us to put our family's needs way before our own, often at the demise of our own dreams. Working together was not always painless, of course. Some women were afraid

to be identified with lesbians, fearing it would weaken their cause, while others felt liberation had to be total. As in so many revolutionary movements, there was the tension between working from within the system and overthrowing the status quo.

Gender became a tool for critical thinking. We understood that we needed to change ourselves, because oppression is an interaction between the self and society's mores. At the same time, we tried to change society and the world of work. We built support networks to enhance our individual work, and a counseling center and nursery school for mutual support. Independence was not our goal. Interdependence was! We examined economic power and political power, and that examination helped us see that many of our concerns were not based on personal inadequacy but societal structures.

In a sense, the image of the second-wave feminists is correct. Over time, many of the working-class women stopped attending meetings because they were overwhelmed by work and the emotional and mental energy poverty requires. However, many of the working-class women set the agenda for our organizing, and they deserve credit. They left many of us changed. They taught me – us – about rape in marriage, violence against women, and the many indignities associated with being a working parent. Over



Sarah Elizabeth Haley Burley (1833–1912) of Epping (seated, center), with members of the Rockingham County Woman's Christian Temperance Union at the organization's 1896 convention in Fremont.



time, we realized that middle-class women too endured abuse and worked jobs with low wages and no benefits. Similar to the #MeToo movement, it took some brave women speaking out first for many more to come forward. In this case, it fell across class lines, with the working-class women seeing domestic violence as a fact of womanhood, not something to be ashamed of. In a sense, those women also opened the eyes of the middle- and upper-class women to the implications of economic inequality, and helped form the agenda for action. From the beginning, they showed us that the focus must not be only on self-improvement, but also on collective and individual action.

In 1974, I was asked to run for the Legislature. When I look at the legislation my peers and I worked on at the time, it is clear to me that our legislation was informed by the women we met in consciousness-raising groups. We passed the first laws declaring that rape in marriage was rape. Before that, it was considered the women's duty. I sponsored legislation for equal pay for equal work, prorated benefits for part-time workers, and to grant scholarships for women who've been married less than 20 years but had no rights to their husbands' pensions. I also sponsored legislation to open adoption records. Why? A group called the Concerned United Birth Mothers called and pleaded with me that they had been told that they would never think of their babies again but in fact, they thought about them every day of their lives. Elected

women gave access and credence to those who formerly had no access.

Reading my papers from those days, I was horrified to learn that feminists in the '60s and '70s were no more grateful to our forebears than the current feminists are to us. We took the suffragists' work for granted. We used Susan B. Anthony Day not to celebrate Susan or the vote, but to highlight our own concerns.

It was not until I had the hindsight of time, and the knowledge of just how hard, how iterative and how long it takes to change hearts, minds and the law, that I realized what a debt we all owe to those who labored with glory and those who labored quietly to help women, men and all humanity. I see that the activism of the labor movement women in the early part of the 20th century was an outgrowth of the suffrage movement. The Women's Christian Temperance Union pioneered fighting the abuse of women. I now see there is not a clear line of recognition linking various movements, and that the historical narrative has simplified the movement I was a part of. I want to take a moment here to repair my past obliviousness and thank the suffragists and the labor organizers and those who protect voting for all they did for me, giving me the franchise. I was so busy and full of my own power and sacrifices that I did not notice the platform on which I built my own work. I hope I have repaid them by using the vote well.

Looking at the primary sources, I could see clearly how the complex story of the second-wave feminist movement has been simplified. The participant list has been narrowed, and the amount of cultural change we produced has been so successful that it is now taken for



Dueling equal vote and anti-suffrage buttons, circa 1916.

All photos courtesy New Hampshire Historical Society



granted, just as we take for granted the vote.

Historians can analyze and re-analyze a given moment in time, but I believe there is nothing more informative than living through it firsthand. Looking through papers, I'd see that I wrote on the back of envelopes. I wondered how that might be interpreted by future historians: Would they think I was poor and could not waste paper, or perhaps that I was environmentally conscious. For me, the envelopes brought a visceral memory to the fore. Looking at them, I was again in my mid-30s and frantically juggling two young kids while taking an important phone call. My muscles remembered grabbing the nearest writing surface – often an envelope left on the table – to jot notes one-handed. My mind remembers the stress I was under literally balancing three roles. How could someone who didn't live through it understand?

Looking at my papers also brings me back to the adrenaline I felt in those days. When we were young and organizing, it felt sexy, energizing. Similarly, the energy I see among young people in politics today is built on righteous anger at injustice. Sometimes anger is necessary. It gets attention! But if we get stuck in anger, nothing gets done. While anger can tear down the walls, compromise and hard, detailed work rebuild society. To young activists, I will say this: Voting and protesting go hand in hand. Using your voice and your feet for justice is time-honored and admirable. It is the American way: Vote and organize!

(Ruth Nemzoff is a former assistant minority leader of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and served from 1975-1981. She lives in Massachusetts.)


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BIG TASTE IN A SMALL TOWN

Story, Page 26

ABOVE: Michael Prete, the chef/owner at The Kitchen Andover.

LEFT: Prete puts the finishing touches on a Po Boy Sub with crispy fried Creole cod and pickled red onions.

Photos by Geoff Forester

“I think we got labeled as, ‘the Portsmouth people,’ or people thought our food was too fancy.

But once they came in here and tried it, they liked it, and then they kept coming back.”

BY TIM O’SULLIVAN

After driving 20 minutes north of Concord, through the woods of Salisbury and into Andover, you might not expect to find a lunch spot that serves a Vietnamese-style Bahn Mi sandwich with 12-hour roasted pulled pork and liverwurst. Or a Po Boy Sub with crispy fried Creole cod and pickled red onions. Or an award-winning chef who has drawn attention from the national media.

But that’s exactly what you’ll find at The Kitchen Andover.

“When you get a turkey club from us, we roast the turkey, we hand slice it, it’s roasted shallot mayonnaise, we do fried tomatoes and we use fried pork belly instead of the bacon,” said Michael Prete, the chef/owner at The Kitchen Andover.

Prete, 50, grew up in New Jersey but spent his summers at Lake Winnetka. He eventually moved to New Hampshire in 1987 and began working in restaurants, and later as a private chef, in the Seacoast region. In 2011, he and former business partner Matt Greco opened the original The Kitchen in Portsmouth.

“We were going to open a burger restaurant, but the place we found had been a sandwich shop for like 27 years, it was called Celebrity Sandwich, so we thought, let’s do a sandwich shop, but just take it to another level, so that’s what we did,” Prete said.

Eggplant parmesan with roasted red peppers is topped with a pesto outdoors as Michael Prete, the chef/owner at The Kitchen Andover, recounts how he came to town.

Geoff Forester



The next level lunch was a hit. *New Hampshire Magazine* named it Best Seacoast Restaurant in 2017 and Prete won the People's Choice Best Chef award from *TASTE of the Seacoast* in 2018. When regulars began asking for catering, Prete and Grecco said yes and started Portsmouth Catering Co., which has won six straight *TASTE* People's Choice Caterer of the Year awards, from 2014 to 2019.

On air

Word eventually spread beyond the Seacoast and The Kitchen was featured on the Food Network's popular show "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives." Being on the show was great exposure for the restaurant and Prete, who has a T-shirt signed by the show's host, Guy Fieri, displayed on a wall at The Kitchen Andover. It also gave him a peak behind the television curtain.

"The crew was in our restaurant for three days and the first day I walk in and there's a guy ironing (Fieri's) button-down shirt, and another guy brought in this giant juice machine and he's juicing (Fieri's) juice and then this truck pulls up and they offload the red car (a 1967 Camaro Fieri drives in most episodes) and push it into a parking spot and start waxing the crap out of it," Prete said. "And then all of a sudden it's, 'Ok, everybody, he's coming, everybody be ready, he's coming.'"

"So, he comes in and it's like (Prete pretends to play a trumpet), but during those three days he was only there for like three hours, so it's a lot of smoke and mirrors."

Prete had a similar experience with

"During those three days he was only there for like three hours, so it's a lot of smoke and mirrors."

MICHAEL PRETE,
about Guy Fieri's visit



Geoff Forester

The new seating inside The Kitchen Andover.

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Geoff Forester

The sign along Route 4 in Andover for The Kitchen.



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Fox's reality competition show "Hell's Kitchen" back in 2006. The network flew him to New York and Los Angeles for interviews, but eventually Prete changed his mind about wanting to be on the show. He would have to spend more than two months away from his wife and newborn son, and he was worried about the "smoke and mirrors" side of things he later saw with "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives."

"I was reading the contract and it said things like, they could use a shot of any of your facial expressions with any conversation, or take something you said and use it with something else," Prete said. "And then I found out they have remote controls to shut off ovens and stuff like that, so no matter how well you're doing they can make you look bad, so I was worried about all that and just decided to back out."

Out to the country

Prete moved to Salisbury in June 2018 with his wife, Stephanie, and their three boys – 14-year-old Colby,

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who washed dishes at The Kitchen, 13-year-old Marcus and 8-year-old Noah. Just a few months later, Prete (amicably) parted ways with Greco, sold his share of The Kitchen in Portsmouth and moved Portsmouth Catering Co. into a space at the Bear Hollow Trading Post in Andover. As catering season began to wind down in the fall, Prete decided to transform the front part of his space at the Trad-

ing Post into a sandwich shop, and The Kitchen Andover opened in December 2018.

The sandwich shop did decent business its first year, but in a strange turn the coronavirus pandemic has actually led to more customers.

After the initial stay-at-home orders in March, Prete pivoted and turned The Kitchen Andover into a make-shift grocery store. He cut his

bulk orders of chicken and beef into smaller packages and sold them for almost no profit. He and Stephanie, who runs the front of The Kitchen Andover, sold masks, toilet paper, flour, beans and anything else they had and the community needed.

"It was gangbusters, and the biggest thing was the appreciation from everybody. It was like we were the best thing since sliced Wonder Bread, and we were happy to be giving back to the community, and then that all worked out for us," Prete explained. "I think we got labeled as, 'the Portsmouth people,' or people thought our food was too fancy. But once they came in here and tried it, they liked it, and then they kept coming back.

"Last year, we were open from 7:30 to 7:30. This year, we're open from 11 to 3 and we're doing the same amount of business. And I'd say 85 to 90 percent of our business is local."

While COVID may have helped Prete's restaurant business, it decimated the catering business, which was always the primary source of income in his financial plan. He had 28 events scheduled for this catering season, but 22 of them were post-

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Geoff Forester

Potato puffs are a staple.

"Last year, we were open from 7:30 to 7:30. This year, we're open from 11 to 3 and we're doing the same amount of business."

**MICHAEL PRETE,
about the pandemic**



Geoff Forester

Michael Prete, the chef/owner at The Kitchen Andover, prepares meals in the full kitchen.

poned or canceled. And of the six that did happen, only one ended up being more than 100 people.

Prete moved most of his big 2020 events to 2021, so his weekend schedule for next year is pretty packed, but he's still looking for clients that need catering this year or next year. It can be a small event in the middle of the week, a dinner at home for two, stocking your fridge for a weekend party or anything else that needs creative, fresh and delicious food options made on site – Prete has mobile wood fired grills, chargrills, frialators and whatever else he needs to bring his kitchen to you.

“With what’s going on right now, I’ll do whatever,” Prete said. “If you want me to come to your house and grill hot dogs, I’ll grill hot dogs.”

Asking Prete to grill dogs would probably be a waste of his talent and your money. Unless, of course, you ask him for his own take on the hot dog, and then you’ll probably get the kind of fresh and innovative food that feels unexpected in Andover but tastes just right after that first bite. ♦

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a willingness
to adapt are
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**RIGHT: CJ Lundergan, owner
and head distiller of Steadfast
Spirits in Concord, opens the
hatch on the specially designed
copper distiller.**

Geoff Forester

Keeping up the **SPIRITS**

Story, Page 35







"I've always been proud to say
I don't have to make a million dollars on it.
 If it benefits everybody, then let's do it."

By ANN GEHAN

When CJ Lundergan signed a lease on an old Office Depot warehouse two years ago, planning to turn the space into a distillery, he hadn't included a provision for a global pandemic in his business plan.

Lundergan opened Steadfast Spirits Distillery in Concord this year at the end of January, a month and a half before COVID-19 brought the world to a halt. When Gov. Chris Sununu announced the state's stay-at-home order on March 27, Lundergan had one major thought: "What the hell do we do?"

Fortunately, Lundergan thrives in situations of uncertainty. As a full-time fireman in the town of Windham, his firehouse schedule allowed him to work on developing Steadfast Spirits during his time off. Lundergan had dreamed of opening his own distillery since his teenage years and starting his own business

in a new industry didn't intimidate him, but getting Steadfast Spirits up and running still proved challenging.

Steadfast Spirits is one of only a handful of craft distilleries in the state and the only one in Concord proper. After developing a business plan with the help of his wife, Lori, a former adjunct instructor at UNH's business school, Lundergan began turning the warehouse into what it is today.

Lundergan picked up industrial tables, rolling carts, and storage containers that now fill the distillery, which now includes countertops taken out of houses about to be torn down, showing both his ingenuity and his style.

"That's something I'm proud of, because we spent every dollar that we had to do this. We had to find a way to do it."

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Geoff Forester

Some of the varieties of Troubles Moonshire at the Steadfast Spirits distillery in Concord.

Lundergan's scrappy mentality may be his business's greatest asset. Although he never could have planned for a pandemic to upend his business's first few months, resourceful-

ness and creativity have allowed him to adapt.

The distilling process Steadfast Spirits uses produces excess alcohol that is perfectly safe, but isn't up to

Lundergan's exacting standards. "I don't want to call it a byproduct, because most distillers would use it," he says. "I just didn't personally like the flavor in my product, so I didn't use it for product."

As a fireman, Lundergan regularly interacts with various police and fire departments, as well as hospital and emergency workers. He recognized an opportunity to do some good while promoting his business by handing out small bottles of hand sanitizer made from the excess alcohol to first responders he met on the job. When COVID-19 began to hit, he knew it was the right thing to do.

Lundergan was waiting for small bottles and labels to arrive when he pulled in to the parking lot one morning and was greeted by a line of people waiting for free hand sanitizer. Lundergan had mentioned to a friend who also works in the distillery business that he was planning to make sanitizer, which inadvertently led to a misleading mention in a news article that Steadfast would be giving away hand sanitizer to the public for free.

The bottles and labels wouldn't arrive for another two weeks, so Lundergan told the line of people that they could come back later that day for free sanitizer – if they brought

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ABOVE: A card lists all the cocktails available at Steadfast Spirits in Concord.

LEFT: CJ Lundergan, owner and head distiller of Steadfast Spirits in Concord, pours his Troubles product.

Geoff Forester

their own containers. He scrambled the rest of the morning to get the sanitizer ready for distribution and spent the afternoon filling baby food jars and old milk cartons with the freshly made first batch of Steadfast Spirits hand sanitizer.

Eventually, the bottles and labels arrived, and since then, Lundergan has given a free four-ounce bottle to anyone who stops by the distillery. Steadfast Spirits is also supplying fire and police departments across the state, as well as several state agencies, with sanitizer, selling it to them for only the cost of production. Lundergan estimates he's given out over 5,000 individual bottles and dozens of bulk containers.

"It's not our job here to give everybody's employees free hand sanitizer, but I'm also not doing it to make money," he says. "I've always been proud to say I don't have to make a million dollars on it. If it benefits everybody, then let's do it."

Although Lundergan has been using his own excess alcohol as the base of the sanitizer, the project – and its costs – have rapidly ballooned. As the pandemic slowed supply chains around the world to a crawl, the other

ingredients needed for the sanitizer became increasingly hard to come by. Glycerin, which is combined with the

alcohol to produce sanitizer, proved to be both hard to come by and expensive. Lundergan paid \$600 for his first

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File

Greg Meeh of Cold Garden Spirits smells some of the fruit collection that is in a barrel at his facility in Canterbury.

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drum, but by the time he needed to purchase a second, the price had more than doubled to over \$1,500.

Lundergan also quickly surpassed his own capacity to produce the ethanol needed to make sanitizer. The Steadfast distillery setup isn't designed to produce alcohol with a high enough proof to be used for sanitizer in such large quantities, so Lundergan has been supplementing what he is able to make by purchasing alcohol as well. "I can't make it fast enough," he said. "None of us can."

Greg Meeh, founder and owner of Cold Garden Spirits in Canterbury, has felt similar pressure since the pandemic forced the closure of his distillery in March. Meeh, who only sells his products at the distillery itself, was shut down completely for three months, but lifted restrictions have since allowed him to resume outdoor tastings.

Meeh is currently making sanitizer out of what should be used to make bourbon. Pivoting to making hand

sanitizer was easier for Meeh than other distillers, thanks to a supply of glycerin left over from Meeh's work as a special effects designer. Cold Garden has donated sanitizer to Concord Hospital, as well as homeless shelters in the Concord area. "The homeless population is really a vulnerable one, so we're just trying to chip in and do our part," Meeh says.

Plymouth State University, which welcomed students back to campus in late August called Meeh to ask if he could supply sanitizer. He initially supplied 100 gallons, and they drove to Canterbury to pick up 50 or 60 more gallons before the school year started. Meeh has also hosted "bring your own container" events, giving away sanitizer to the public as he is able to, although it's been hard to keep up with demand at times.

He resupplies Concord Hospital whenever they're running low, and Plymouth State wants enough sanitizer to make it through the whole semester. Meeh has also had to supplement his ethanol production with commercial-grade materials, which has forced him to raise prices.

Despite the difficulties of the past few months, Meeh is hoping that the fall leaf season, normally his busiest time of year, will provide a boost to Cold Garden. Lundergan, on the other hand, is still trying to spread the word about Steadfast Spirits.

COVID-19 has made it difficult for Lundergan to expand his business's reach – some bars are closed, restaurants have reduced capacities, and licensing products for distribution in other states is time-consuming and

"The homeless population is really a vulnerable one, so we're just trying to chip in and do our part."

GREG MEEH,
Cold Garden distillery
in Canterbury about
sanitizer donations

expensive. It's even hard to tell whether sales have been good or bad – the numbers are simply too unpredictable. Fortunately, Steadfast's numbers through the end of May were impressive enough for the New Hampshire Liquor Commission to begin stocking two Steadfast Spirits products in 20 stores around the state.

As Lundergan attempts to plan for

his business's post-COVID future, he expects the sanitizer to remain part of the Steadfast Spirits lineup. Whatever business benefits may come from the increased visibility the bottles provide, Lundergan feels compelled to continue to pay it forward. "I don't want people to think that this was a sales pitch – it wasn't," he says. "It was just the right thing to do." ♦

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At **Pumpkin Blossom Farm**
in Warner, visitors enter
a world carefully grown
to feed their senses

Fields of lavender & respite

By ELLE JONES

At the edge of Warner sits a quaint, cool gray house. A few yards away is a warm, well-loved barn surrounded by fields of purple bushes. In the middle of the field, an old pastel yellow truck glows in the early morning light. The delicate, sweet aroma of lavender instills a sense of calm in all who visit the Pumpkin Blossom Farm.

Although calm and peaceful now, by 10 a.m. the farm will buzz with the excitement of a full day ahead.

Pumpkin Blossom Farm, owned by Missy and Mike Biagiotti, had its grand opening July 10. After moving more than 1,500 miles four years ago, the Biagiottis finally made their dream of opening a lavender farm a reality.

Whether it was sipping their morning coffee on the porch or watching the sunset, they always daydreamed of creating a family business that made a positive impact on the world.

"It's been a decade-plus of dreaming and a couple years of hard work to get to this point, but it's about experience," Mike said.

Originally serving as a vacation home for the Biagiottis, Pumpkin Blossom Farm was always a respite for their family.

"This was such a way for us to decompress and to find

Colleen Syron

During the height of the lavender growing season, visitors can roam the fields and pick their own bundles.







Co-founders Missy and Mike Biagiotti and their family in front of their lavender fields on Pumpkin Blossom Farm in Warner.

Pumpkin Blossom Farm

some peace and we wanted to share that with people,” Missy said.

Wanting to spread this joy, Missy searched for ways to share the beauty of their home with the world. It wasn’t until Missy’s sister was diagnosed with cancer that Missy discovered the perfect solution.

“When my sister was diagnosed with cancer, we searched around for cancer respite for women, and they came with such a huge price tag,” Missy said. With enormous medical bills, millions of ill men and women can’t afford to travel to Europe or California for a retreat.

So, the Biagiottis came up with a solution: lavender fields for everyone. Pumpkin Blossom Farm gives everyone the trip to Southern France that they have always dreamed of without the price tag.

“I sort of always envisioned a place where people could come and just enjoy the fields,” Missy said. And lavender was “a natural solution” with so many incredible benefits mentally, physically and spiritually, there was

no competition.

Lavender is so much more than a smell, Missy said. “There’s something about the peace and tranquility that it brings, and trying to create a sort of a lifestyle that is very simplistic and just peaceful. And that is what people are longing for right now. They’re just longing for just a little bit of peace in the chaos. And hopefully we can bring that to people,” Missy continued.

Because of her family experience with cancer, the Pumpkin Blossom Farm works hard to create a safe space for cancer patients. Because of the pandemic, the Biagiottis have expanded their hours to every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Additionally, if anyone is ill or immunocompromised, Mike and Missy open up after hours to give everyone the ability to experience the wonders of their farm.

“We actually have a gal coming with two of her friends after hours this weekend. She is going through undergoing some treatment for cancer right now, and she’s had a horrible

“There’s something about the peace and tranquility that it brings, and trying to create a sort of a lifestyle that is very simplistic and just peaceful. And that is what people are longing for right now.”

MISSY BIAGIOTTI

five years. I mean she’s lost her husband to cancer, and she’s really struggling... [So,] her and her two friends are going to bring some drinks and sit in a lawn chair, and sit back and just relax,” Mike said.

Even if these women were their only customers, “that would still make me happy.” Just being able to help one person makes all of their work worth it, Missy said.

Reflecting on their opening weekend, Mike said “it just couldn’t have gone any better.”

Only expecting five or 10 people a day, the Biagiottis were blown away recently when they had hundreds of customers. To meet the needs of their customers, they opened up their entire farm to the public.

“There really truly is something about lavender that makes people flock to it [...] This is the next pumpkin spice,” Missy said chuckling.

The Pumpkin Blossom Farm is unique in many ways. For the short time that lavender is in bloom, the Biagiottis have opened up a “U-Pick” feature to their farm. For \$10, customers can graze the endless purple fields, and pick their own lavender bundles to take home. Not only do customers get the experience of the lavender farm, but they can bring it home.

“A lot of guests tell us, ‘I’m rolling up the windows on the way home so that my car is filled with [the lavender smell].’ So, guests take the experi-



Colleen Syron

“We love our town. So, [we use] all local partners. That’s very important to us. ... Our vision is now becoming a reality.”

MIKE BIAGIOTTI

ence with them,” replicating the same “calming benefits when they’re at home,” Mike said.

However, this U-Pick feature doesn’t last all year. Lavender has a short harvest window to ensure the oils and smells are captured. Once that time is up, the public won’t be able to pick lavender until the next harvesting season.

But, this doesn’t mean that Pumpkin Blossom Farm will close for the season. With a whole range of lavender flavored and scented products, the Biagiottis will spend the rest of the year making their host of other features available to the public. With lavender cupcakes, ice cream, macaroons and lemonade, maple-lavender cotton candy, lavender honey and maple syrup, soaps and bath products, the Pumpkin Blossom Farm has endless products, features and future events planned.

With these products, Missy and Mike highlight the importance of Warner for Pumpkin Blossom Farm.

“We love our town. So, [we use] all local partners. That’s very important to us.” So, to be able to share this amazing experience with the town of Warner has been a dream. “Our vision is now becoming a reality,” Mike said. ♦



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& Hatfield** LLP
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PHOTO TOUR



Peaceful reflections

Welcome to The Fells in Newbury, a 19th-century summer estate open to the public for stunning strolls



Monitor photos

ABOVE: The Main House and its connected cottages were built in 1891 and 1897 in the Colonial Revival style and served as the summer estate of John Milton Hay, who was private secretary to Abraham Lincoln.

LEFT: A view of Minute Island from the half-mile Lake Loop along the shore of Lake Sunapee. "I was greatly pleased with the air, the water, and the scenery," Hay said of the estate. "I have nowhere found a more beautiful spot."



One of several vernal pools on the property, often used by frogs and salamanders as breeding sites.



John Milton Hay gave The Fells its name, which is a Scottish term for “rocky upland pastures.”



One of several fountains on the 83-acre Newbury property. This one is located just off the Main House.



The Fairy Village features a fountain, benches and areas for children to run wild with their imaginations.



Best of Concord

ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF TOP PLACES IN AND AROUND THE CITY

ABOUT THE CAPPIES

We all have our favorite spots in the city. Each spring, the "Concord Insider" asks the community to weigh in on the best Concord has to offer across a host of categories. Full list of winners at theconcordinsider.com

FOOD

BEST RESTAURANT

1. The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub

72 Manchester St., Concord
224-4101
theredblazer.com

2. The Barley House

132 N. Main St., Concord
228-6363
thebarleyhouse.com

3. Angelina's Ristorante Italiano

11 Depot St., Concord
228-3313
angelinasrestaurant.com

BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

1. Hermanos

11 Hills Ave, Concord
224-5669
heranosmexican.com

2. El Rodeo

22 Loudon Road, Concord
224-9600
el-rodeo-nh.com

3. Margaritas

1 Bicentennial Square, Concord
224-2821
margs.com



BEST BREAKFAST: Molly Labelle at Tucker's in Concord's South End.

BEST BREAKFAST

1. Tucker's

80 South St., Concord
413-5884
tuckersnh.com

2. Newell Post

125 Fisherville Road, Concord
228-0522
newellpostrestaurant.com

3. Windmill

172 Loudon Road, Concord
225-0600
windmillfamilyrestaurantinc.com

BEST ASIAN RESTAURANT

1. Siam Orchid

12 N. Main St., Concord
228-1529
siamorchid.net

2. Tea Garden

184 N. Main St., Concord
228-4420
teagarden-nh.com

3. Moritomo Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar

32 Fort Eddy Road, Concord; 224-8363
moritomonh.com

BEST BURGER

1. The Barley House

132 N. Main St., Concord
228-6363
thebarleyhouse.com

5. Five Guys

56 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
856-8107; fiveguys.com

3. Vibes

25 S. Main St., Concord
856-8671
vibesgourmetburgers.com

BEST PIZZA

1. Constantly Pizza

39 S. Main St., Concord, 224-9366
108 Fisherville Road, Penacook, 227-1117
constantlypizza.net

2. Sal's

80 Storrs St., Concord
226-0297
sals-pizza.com

3. Vinnies

200 S. Main St., Concord
224-7727
facebook.com/VinniesPizzeria1958



BEST SEAFOOD: Locals have always loved the lobster. Makris also fared well in the Best Fried Food category.

BEST SEAFOOD

1. Makris Lobster & Steak House

354 Sheep Davis Road, Concord
225-7665
eatalobster.com

2. Newick's

317 Loudon Road, Concord
(888)579-7576
newicks.com

3. Weathervane

379 Dover Road, Chichester
225-4044
weathervane-seafoods.com

BEST ICE CREAM

1. Arnie's Place

164 Loudon Road, Concord
228-3225
arniesplace.com

2. Beech Hill Farm

107 Beech Hill Road, Hopkinton
223-0828
beechhillfarm.com

3. Jordan's

894 Laconia Road, Belmont
262-1900

BEST FRIED FOOD

1. Beefside

106 Manchester St., Concord; 228-0208
beefsiderestaurant.net

2. Makris Lobster & Steak House

354 Sheep Davis Road, Concord
225-7665; eatlobster.com

3. Newick's

317 Loudon Road, Concord; 225-2424
newicks.com

BEST SUSHI

1. Moritomo Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar

32 Fort Eddy Road, Concord; 224-8363
moritomonh.com

2. Ichiban

118 Manchester St., Concord; 223-3301
ichibanconcord.com

3. Splendid Sushi

26 Pleasant St., Concord
715-5346

BEST VEGETARIAN FARE

1. Willows Plant-Based Eatery

55 S. Main St., Concord
715-1095
facebook.com/Willows-Plant-Based-Eatery-736875819753632/

2. Concord Food Co-op

24 S. Main St., Concord
225-6840
concordfoodcoop.coop

3. Live Juice

5 S. Main St., Concord
226-3024
livejuicenh.com

BEST BAKERY

1. Bread & Chocolate

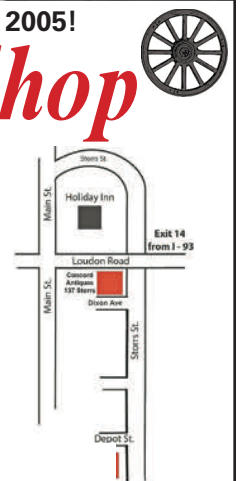
29 S. Main St., Concord
228-3330
facebook.com/Bread-And-Chocolate-442613189105357



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- Centrally Located in Historic Downtown Concord
- Close to the Capital Building, Restaurants, Hotels, with nearly 100 experienced dealers.
- Two Showrooms with a diverse selection of Antiques, Fine Art, Furniture, Vintage, Ephemera, and More.
- A Fun Place to Shop and Discover Unique Treasures
- Relaxing music and climate control
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- Member NHADA



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137 Storrs Street, Concord, NH
603.225.6100

www.ConcordAntiquesGallery.com

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NE-320204

2. Crust & Crumb

126 N. Main St., Concord
219-0763
thecrustandcrumb.com

3. Cannoli Stop

239 Loudon Road, Concord
224-9706
the-cannoli-stop-the-candy-shop.business.site

BEST TAKEOUT

1. Beefside

106 Manchester St., Concord
603-228-0208
beefsidenh.com

2. Dos Amigos

26 N. Main St., Concord
410-4161
dosamigosburritos.com

3. Georgia's Northside

394 N. State St., Concord
715-9189
georgiasnorthside.com

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

1. Cheers Grille & Bar

17 Depot St. #1, Concord
228-0180; cheersnh.com

2. El Rodeo

22 Loudon Road, Concord
224-9600
el-rodeo-nh.com

3. The Barley House

132 N. Main St., Concord
228-6363
thebarleyhouse.com

BEST BREWERY

1. Concord Craft Brewing

117 Storrs St., Concord
856-7625
concordcraftbrewing.com

2. Litherman's Limited Brewery

126 Hall St., Concord
818-9102
lithermans.beer

3. Henniker Brewing Company

129 Centerville Road, Henniker
428-3579
hennikerbrewing.com

BEST CATERER

1. Washington Street Cafe

88 Washington St., Concord
226-2699
washingtonstreetcatering.com

1. The Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub

72 Manchester St., Concord
224-4101
theredblazer.com

2. Alan's of Boscawen Inc.

133 N. Main St., Boscawen
753-6631
alansofboscawen.com

3. Concord Food Co-op

24 S. Main St., Concord
225-6840
concordfoodcoop.coop

BEST COCKTAIL

1. O Steaks & Seafood

11 S. Main St., Concord
856-7925
magicfoodsrestaurantgroup.com/osteaks

2. Hermano's

11 Hi IIs Ave., Concord
224-5669
hermanosmexican.com

3. Chuck's BARbershop

90 Low Ave., Concord
856-7520
chucks-barbershop-bar.business.site

BEST BUTCHER SHOP

1. Concord Beef & Seafood

75 S. Main St., Concord
226-3474
concordbeefandseafood.com

2. Wine'ing Butcher

16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke
856-8855
wineingbutchernh.com

3. Tuckaway Tavern

58 Route 27, Raymond
244-2431
thetuckaway.com

BEST FINE DINING

1. O Steaks & Seafood

11 S. Main St., Concord
856-7925
magicfoodsrestaurantgroup.com/osteaks

2. Angelina's Ristorante Italiano

11 Depot St., Concord
228-3313
angeliansrestaurant.com

3. Granite Restaurant & Bar

96 Pleasant St., Concord
227-9005
graniterestaurant.com

BEST LOCAL WINERY

1. Mermaid Hill

82 Currier Road, Concord
836-9077
mermaidhillvineyard.com

2. Labelle Winery

345 Route 101, Amherst
672-9898
labellewinerynh.com

3. Gilmanton Winery

528 Meadow Pond Road, Gilmanton
267-8251
gilmantonwinery.com

BEST BARBECUE

1. Smokeshow Barbecue

89 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
227-6399
smokeshowbbq.com

2. Georgia's Northside

394 N. State St., Concord
715-9189
georgiasnorthside.com

3. Arnie's Place

164 Loudon Road, Concord
228-3225
arniesplace.com

LIVING

BEST LANDSCAPER

1. Kyle Poirier Landscaping

303 Queen St., Boscawen
783-1783

2. Tasker Landscaping

286 Chichester Road, Loudon
798-5048

taskerlandscaping.com

3. Thompson Lawn Care

15 Freedom Acres Drive, Concord
226-2783

thomsonlawncare.com

BEST CONTRACTOR

1. Cobb Hill Construction

206 N. State St., Concord
224-8373

cobhill.com

2. Jim Duval Construction

724-5398

3. Milestone Construction

1 Horseshoe Pond Lane, Concord
226-3877

milestoneengcon.com

BEST ROOFER

1. New Heights Roofing

117 Hall St., Concord
548-4484
newheightsroofingnh.com

2. G Ray Colby & Sons

27 S. Curtisville Road, Concord
224-2834

3. Queen City Roofing

1 Hardy Road, Bedford
289-4663; queencityroofingnh.com

BEST LOCAL PRIVATE SCHOOL

1. Shaker Road School

131 Shaker Road, Concord
224-0161

shakerroadschool.org

2. St. Paul's School

325 Pleasant St., Concord
sps.edu



BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL: Gov. Sununu taps a tree with Shaker Road students.

3. Bishop Brady High School

25 Columbus Ave, Concord
224-7418

bishopbrady.edu

BEST LIMO SERVICE

1. Grace Limo

995 Goffstown Road, Manchester
666-0203

gracelimo.com

2. Lakes Region Limo

115 Shane Way, Laconia
848-4954

lakesregionlimotaxi.com

3. Primo Limo

219-3055
nhprimolimo.com

BEST CAR WASH

1. Uno's Car Wash

165 Loudon Road, Concord
225-4758

unoscarwash.com

2. Golden Nozzle Car Wash

24 Loudon Road, Concord
856-8462

goldennozzlecarwash.com

3. Integra Car Wash

5 Integra Drive, Concord
225-1124

BEST CREDIT UNION

1. NH Federal Credit Union

70 Airport Road, Concord
224-7731

nhfcu.org

2. Granite State Credit Union

311 Sheep Davis Road, Concord
668-2221; gscu.org

3. Service Credit Union

344 Loudon Road, Concord
225-0601
servicecu.org

BEST BANK

1. Merrimack County Savings Bank

Multiple locations, Concord
(888)224-6272

mcsbnh.com

2. TD Bank

143 N. Main St. #101, Concord
229-5717

tdbank.com

3. Citizens Bank

Multiple locations, Concord
229-3650
citizensbank.com

BEST FINANCIAL ADVISER

1. NH Trust (Millriver)

PO Box 209, Concord
223-2712
millriverwealth.com

2. Edward Jones

95 N. State St., Concord
223-4012
edwardjones.com

3. Ameriprise

101 N. State St., Concord
226-3537
ameripriseadvisors.com

BEST PLUMBER

1. Bow Plumbing & Heating Corporation

3 Bow Bog Road, Bow
225-6929
bowph.com

2. Braydin Plumbing and Heating, LLC

Pembroke
568-1869
braydinph.com

3. Otis Plumbing & Heating

6 Bean St., Concord
753-4391

BEST ELECTRICIAN

1. R&T Electric Incorporated

315 S. Main St., Concord
224-4782
rtelec.com

2. Blay Electric

20 Becky Lane, Concord
340-5526
blayelectric.com

3. Irish Electric

659 Currier Road, Hopkinton
224-7474
irishelectric.net



BEST WEDDING VENUE: The wedding gazebo comes with expansive views at Dell-Lea in Chichester.

BEST CAR REPAIR

1. Carlson's Motor Sales

13 Manchester St., Concord
224-2304
carlsonsmotors.com

2. Weed Family Auto

124 Storrs St., Concord
225-7988
weedfamily.automotive.com

3. Next Level Auto

3 Industrial Park Drive, Concord
227-6845
nextlevelnh.com

BEST VETERINARIAN

1. Cilley Vet Clinic

37 Iron Works Road, Concord
224-9549
cilleyvetclinic.com

2. Russell Animal Hospital

286 Pleasant St., Concord
(844)369-7747
rahpa.com

3. Pembroke Animal Hospital

13 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke
228-0019
pembroke-animal-hospital.com

BEST LAW FIRM

1. Annis & Zellers PLLC

2 S. State St., Concord
224-5800
annisandzellers.com

2. Orr & Reno

45 S. Main St., Concord
224-2381
orr-reno.com

3. Shaheen & Gordon

107 Storrs St., Concord
819-4231
shaheengordon.com

BEST INSURANCE AGENCY

1. Davis & Towle Insurance Group

115 Airport Road, Concord
225-6611
davistowle.com

2. State Farm

(800)782-8332
statefarm.com

2. Allied Insurance

105 Loudon Road, Concord
228-6300
nationwide.com

BEST WEDDING VENUE

1. Dell-Lea Weddings & Events

81 Pleasant St., Chichester
435-8479
dell-lea.com

2. Pats Peak

686 Flanders Road, Henniker
428-3245
patspeak.com

3. Kimball Jenkins Estate

266 N. Main St., Concord
225-3932
kimballjenkins.com

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

1. Solare Wedding Photography

913 Elm St., Manchester
(978)968-4063
solareweddingphotography.com

2. Forester Photography

58 N. State St., Concord
783-1614

3. Margaret Clara Photography

margaretclara photography.com

3. Joanna Puza Photography

58 Main St., Henniker
491-9645; jpuzaphoto.com

BEST CHILD CARE

1. East Side Learning Center

164 East Side Drive, Concord
224-2717
eastsidlearningcenter.net

2. Shaker Road School

131 Shaker Road, Concord
224-0161
shakerroadschool.org

3. First Choice for Children

304 Pembroke St., Pembroke
485-8613

BEST HOTEL

1. Hotel Concord

11 S. Main St., Concord
504-3500
hotelconcordnh.com

2. The Centennial Hotel

96 Pleasant St., Concord
227-9000
thecentennialhotel.com

3. Holiday Inn

172 N. Main St., Concord
224-9534; ihg.com

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY

1. Century 21 - Destefano

46 Pleasant St., Concord
224-3377
c21nh.com

2. Cowan & Zellers

30 S. Main St., Concord
225-3333
cowanandzellers.com

3. April Dunn & Associates

154 N. Main St., Concord
344-9605



BEST PLACE TO SKI: Pats Peak in Henniker also has sledding.

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT

1. April Dunn

154 N. Main St., Concord
565-5921
adunndealnh.com

2. Rick Wagner

4 Park St., Concord
228-0151
rickwagner.masiello.com

3. Casey DeStefano

46 Pleasant St., Concord
224-3377
century21.com

BEST RETIREMENT HOME

1. Havenwood Heritage Heights

33 Christian Ave., Concord
227-1343
hhhinfo.com

2. Granite Ledges

151 Langley Parkway, Concord
224-0777
genesishcc.com/ GraniteLedgesofConcord

3. Presidential Oaks

200 Pleasant St., Concord
225-6644
presidentialoaks.org

BEST PLACE TO SKI

1. Pats Peak

686 Flanders Road, Henniker
428-3245; patspeak.com

2. Gunstock

719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford
293-4341; gunstock.com

3. Sunapee Mountain

1398 Route 103, Newbury
763-3500
mountsunapee.com

BEST DOG GROOMER

1. Pawtopia Pet Grooming Salon and Boutique

244 Sheep Davis Road, Concord
227-6140
pawtopiapets.com

2. Bark Now

237 S. Main St., Concord
229-3700
barknow.com

3. A Furry Affair

248 Sheep Davis Road #7, Concord
856-8001
afurryaffair.myonline appointment.com

BEST PLACE TO WORK

1. New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp

89 N. Main St., Concord
225-2793
mcsbnh.com

2. Concord Hospital

250 Pleasant St., Concord
225-2711
concordhospital.org

3. Northeast Delta Dental

1 Delta Drive, Concord
223-1000
nedelta.com

BEST DOG TRAINER

1. No Monkey Business Dog Training

254 North State St. Unit J, Concord
856-7509
nomonkeybusiness dogtraining.com

2. Finlayson's

14 King Road, Chichester
224-8846
finlaysonspetcare center.com

3. Petagree

12 Donovan Road, Candia
483-8775
petagree-nh.com

SHOPPING

BEST FURNITURE STORE

1. Endicott

Furniture Co. Inc.

12 S. Main St., Concord

224-1421

endicottfurniture.com

2. Harris Family Furniture

74 Dover Road, Chichester

798-4607

harrisfamilyfurniture.com

3. Apple House Furniture

191 Village St., Concord

753-6200

nhfurniturestore.com

BEST FLORIST

1. Cobblestone Design Company

81 North Main St., Concord

228-5980

cobblestoneflorist.com

2. D. McLeod's

49 S. State St., Concord

225-3721

dmflowers.com

3. Nicole's Greenhouse

91 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke

228-8294

nicolesgreenhouse andflorist.com

BEST GIFT SHOP

1. Caring Gifts Inc.

18 N. Main St. # 101, Concord

228-8496

caringgifts.com

2. Viking House

19 N. Main St., Concord

228-1198

vikinghouse.com

3. Paper Store

30 Fort Eddy Road, Concord

225-6767

thepaperstore.com



BEST HOME DECOR: Walter and Christine Chapin of Company C.

BEST HOME DECOR

1. Company C

97 Storrs St., Concord

(800) 818-8288

companyc.com

2. Cobblestone Design

81 N. Main St., Concord

228-5980

cobblestoneflorist.com

3. Amish Homestead

80 S. Main St., Concord

715-1680

3. Homegoods

1458 Lake Shore Road, Gilford

528-9601; homegoods.com

BEST JEWELRY STORE

1. Capitol Craftsman & Romance Jewelers

16 & 18 N. Main St., Concord

224-6166

capitolcraftsman.com

2. Speers Fine Jewelry

24 N. Main St., Concord

224-1582

speersfinejewelry.com

3. Jared

297 Loudon Road, Concord

223-6847; stores.jared.com

BEST SPORTS STORE

1. Dick's Sporting Goods

295 Loudon Road, Concord

224-1564

dickssportinggoods.com

2. S&W Sports

296 S. Main St., Concord

228-1441; swsports.net

3. Runner's Alley

142 N. Main St., Concord

715-5854; runnersalley.com

BEST ANTIQUE STORE

1. Concord Antique Gallery Inc.

137 Storrs St., Concord

225-6100

concordantiques gallery.com

2. Hilltop Consignment

56 N. Main St., Concord

856-0110

hilltopconsignment gallery.com

3. Showcase Consignment

332 Dover Road, Chichester

798-4199

showcase consignments.com

3. Prospect Hill Antiques

242 Prospect Hill Road, Sunapee

763-9676

prospecthillantiques.com

BEST BOOK STORE

1. Gibson's Bookstore

45 S. Main St., Concord
224-0562

gibsonsbookstore.com

2. Books A Million

76 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
223-5913; booksamillion.com

3. MainStreet BookEnds of Warner

16 E. Main St, Warner
456-2700; mainstreetbookends.com

BEST POWER EQUIPMENT/RENTAL

1. Taylor True Value Rental

276 N. State St., Concord
224-1931

taylorrentalconcord.com

2. Greenlands Outdoor Power Equipment

105 Manchester St., Concord
225-3387

greenlandsequip.com

3. Home Depot

42 D'Amante Drive, Concord
227-0580; homedepot.com

BEST CANDY STORE

1. Granite State Candy Shoppe

13 Warren St., Concord
225-2591

granitestatecandyshoppe.com

2. True Confections

270 Loudon Road #1146, Concord
226-3536

trueconfectionsoh.com

3. Van Otis Chocolates

341 Elm St., Manchester
627-1611
vanotis.com

BEST GREENHOUSE

1. Murray Farms

115 River Road, Penacook
753-6781

facebook.com/Murrays-Greenhouse-112882115399383



BEST LOCAL STOREFRONT DISPLAY:
Cobblestone Design

2. Cole Gardens

430 Loudon Road, Concord
229-0655

colegardens.com

3. Nicole's Greenhouse

91 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke
228-8294

nicolesgreenhouseandflorist.com

BEST NEW CAR DEALERSHIP

1. Grappone Automotive Group

594 Route 3A, Bow
(800)528-8993

grappone.com

2. Banks Chevrolet

137 Manchester St., Concord
(866)275-8431

banksautos.com

3. Bob Mariano CJDR

146 Manchester St., Concord
556-8616

bobmariano.com

3. Ed Reilly Subaru

150 Manchester St., Concord
225-0200

edreillysubaru.com

BEST USED CAR DEALERSHIP

1. Grappone Automotive Group

594 Route 3A, Bow
(800)528-8993

grappone.com

2. Carlson's Motors Sales

13 Manchester St., Concord
224-2304

carlsonsmotors.com

3. Banks Chevrolet

137 Manchester St., Concord
(866)275-8431; banksautos.com

BEST LOCAL STOREFRONT DISPLAY

1. Cobblestone Design

81 N. Main St., Concord
228-5980

cobblestoneflorist.com

2. Gondwana & Divine Clothing

13 N. Main St., Concord
228-1101

gondwanaclothing.com

3. Viking House

19 N. Main St., Concord
228-1198; vikinghouse.com

BEST SHOE STORE

1. Joe King's Shoe Shop

45 N. Main St., Concord
225-6012; joekings.com

2. Runner's Alley

142 N. Main St., Concord
715-5854; runnersalley.com

3. Simply Birkenstock

8 S. Main St., Concord
715-2259

simplybirkenstock.com

BEST CLOTHING STORE

1. Gondwana & Divine Clothing

13 N. Main St., Concord
228-1101; clothingnh.com

2. Fabulous Looks

86 N. Main St., Concord
228-8434
fabulouslooksboutique.com

3. JCPenney

270 Loudon Road, Concord
225-6463; stores.jcpenny.com

BEST CONSIGNMENT STORE

1. Hilltop Consignment Gallery

56 N. Main St., Concord
856-0110
hilltopconsignmentgallery.com

2. Lilise

7 N. Main St., Concord
715-2009
liliseresale.com

3. Goodwill

204 Loudon Road, Concord
226-4448
goodwillnne.org

BEST PET SUPPLY STORE

1. Sandy's Pet Supply Center

141 Old Turnpike Road, Concord
225-1177
sandyspetfood.com

2. Petco

35 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
225-7355
stores.petco.com

3. Petsmart

299 Loudon Road, Concord
224-1028
petsmart.com

**BEST BRIDAL
AND FORMAL WEAR**

1. A Day to Remember

1 N. Main St., Concord
228-8031
adaytorememberbridalboutique.com

2. Men's Wearhouse

64 D'Amante Drive, Concord
224-9823
menswearhouse.com

3. Marry & Tux Bridal

100 Daniel Webster Hwy, Nashua
883-6999
marryandtuxbridal.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY

BEST FITNESS CENTER

1. Planet Fitness

89 Fort Eddy Road, Concord
228-8680; planetfitness.com

2. Concord Family YMCA

15 N. State St., Concord
228-9622; concordymca.org

3. Goodlife Programs & Activities

254 N. State St., Concord
228-6630; goodlifenh.org

BEST MANICURE OR PEDICURE

1. Soak Day Spa

211 Loudon Road, Concord
224-2211; soakandbreathe.com

2. Roy Nails

31 S. Main St., Concord
715-1013; roynailsandspa.com

3. Serendipity Day Spa

23 Sheep Davis Road, Concord
229-0400; serendipitydayspa.com

BEST YOGA STUDIO

1. At Om Yoga

51 S. Main St., Concord
545-7380

2. Hot House Yoga

254 N. State St. Unit A, Concord
715-5891; hothousenh.com

3. Sharing Yoga

15 Pleasant St., Concord
630-5576; sharingyoga.com

BEST DENTIST

1. Generations Dental Care

9 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
225-6331
generationsdental.com

2. Grace Family Dentistry

143 Airport Road, Concord
225-6650; gracefamilydentistry.com

3. Caring Family Dentistry

93 N. State St., Concord
230-9719
caringfamilydentistry.com



**BEST FITNESS CENTER:
Planet Fitness**

BEST PEDIATRIC DENTIST

1. Concord Pediatric Dentistry

16 Foundry St. #101, Concord
224-3339
concordpediatricdentistry.com

2. Grace Family Dental

143 Airport Road, Concord
225-6650
gracefamilydentistry.com

**3. Generations
Dental Care**

9 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
225-6331
generationsdental.com

BEST EYE DOCTOR

1. Concord Eye Center

248 Pleasant St. #1600, Concord
224-2020
concordeyecare.com

2. Concord Family Vision

8 N. State St., Concord
225-2512
concordfamilyvision.com

3. Hogan Eye Associates

133 Loudon Road, Concord
224-3351
hoganeye.com

BEST DOCTOR PRACTICE

1. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Concord

253 Pleasant St., Concord
226-2200

dartmouth-hitchcock.org

2. Concord Internal Medicine

248 Pleasant St. #2800, Concord
224-4003

concordhospital.org

3. Concord Family Medicine

18 Foundry St. #201, Concord
228-0071

concordhospital.org

BEST PHYSICAL THERAPIST

1. Foothills Physical Therapy

28 Commercial St. # 4, Concord
225-5132

foothillspysicaltherapy.com

2. Coppola Physical Therapy

171 Pleasant St., Concord
228-7500

coppolapt.com

3. Granite State Physical Therapy

6 Loudon Road #5, Concord
410-6309; granitestatept.com

BEST ACUPUNCTURIST

1. Trend Acupuncture

1 Pillsbury St., Suite 204, Concord
428-3330

trendacupuncture.com

2. 5 Seasons Acupuncture

188 N. Main St. # 4, Concord
226-4644

fiveseasonsacupuncturenh.com

3. Concord Family Acupuncture

79A South St., Concord
715-5609

grantacupuncture.com

BEST CHIROPRACTOR

1. Sellar Chiropractic Clinic, John Sellar DC

35 West St., Concord
224-3883

concordnhchiropractor.com



BEST SPA: The zero-gravity float therapy treatment is among the options at Serendipity Day Spa in Concord

2. Crossroads Chiropractic

556 Pembroke St., Pembroke
224-4281

crossroadschiropractic.com

3. Splendore Family Chiropractic

211 Loudon Road, Concord; 223-0680
splendorefamilychiropractic.com

BEST AUDIOLOGIST

1. Better Hearing Center

1, 2 Industrial Park Drive, Concord
224-9043

betterhearingnh.net

2. Alliance Audiology

194 Pleasant St. # 2, Concord
415-3277

allianceaudiologyllc.com

3. New England Audiology

1 Pillsbury St., Concord
856-8275

newenglandaudiology.com

BEST SPA

1. Serendipity Day Spa

23 Sheep Davis Road, Concord
229-0400

serendipitydayspa.com

2. Soak Day Spa

211 Loudon Road, Concord
224-2211; soakandbreathe.com

3. Pure Indulgence Day Spa

244 N. Main St., Concord
228-7873

pureindulgencespa.com

BEST TANNING

1. Turbo Tan

133 Loudon Road, Concord
223-6665

turbotan.org

2. Sun Tan City

80 Storrs St., Concord
856-7841

suntancity.com

3. Misty's Magic Mist

270 Loudon Road, Concord
738-5316

mistysmagicmist.com

BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST

1. Chichester Massage

114 Dover Road, Chichester
798-4669

chichestermassage.com

2. Soak Day Spa

211 Loudon Road, Concord
224-2211

soakandbreathe.com

3. Peters' Images

12 North State St., Concord
224-2875

petersimagesalon.com

BEST HAIR SALON

1. Flora's Hair Salon

76 Airport Road, Concord
225-4772

facebook.com/Floras-Hair-Salons-137754366270282

2. Anjou Hair Salon

287 S. Main St. # 302, Concord
225-2828

anjouhair.com

3. Simplicity Hair Salon

27 S. Main St., Concord
219-0243
simplicityconcord.com

BEST BARBERSHOP

1. Lucky's Barber Shop

50 S. State St., Concord
715-5470
luckysbarbershop.biz

2. American Barber Studios

4 Park St. # 2, Concord
225-3052
americanbarberstudios.com

3. Dick's Barber Shop

3 Thorndike St., Concord
224-9211

BEST TATTOO PARLOR

1. Capital City Tattoo

8 N. Main St., Concord
224-2600
capital-city-tattoo-and-supply.business.site

2. Arrows and Embers Custom Tattoo

117 Manchester St., Concord; 988-6067
arrowsand
emberstattoo.com

3. Buzz Ink Tattoo and Barber Shop

85 Manchester St., Concord
715-1808
buzzinkshop.com

BEST NATURAL SUPPLEMENTS

1. Granite State Natural Foods

164 N. State St., Concord
224-9341
granitestatenaturals.com

2. Natural Wellness Corner

239 Loudon Road Suite 1A, Concord
225-2747
naturalwellnesscorner.com

3. Concord Food Co-op

24 S. Main St., Concord
225-6840
concordfoodcoop.coop

FOR FUN

BEST MOVIE THEATER

1. Red River Theatres

11 S. Main St., Concord
224-4600; redrivertheatres.org

2. Regal Cinemas

282 Loudon Road, Concord
(844)462-7342; regmovies.com

3. Cinemagic

1226 Hooksett Road, Hooksett
644-4629; cinemagicmovies.com

BEST PLACE TO SEE LIVE THEATER

1. Capitol Center for the Arts

44 S. Main St., Concord
225-1111; ccanh.com

2. Palace Theatre

80 Hanover St., Manchester
668-5588; palacetheatre.org

3. Hatbox Theatre

270 Loudon Road, Concord
715-2315; hatboxnh.com

BEST AFTER-WORK HANGOUT

1. Cheers

17 Depot St. #1, Concord
228-0180; cheersnh.com

2. The Barley House

132 N. Main St., Concord
228-6363; thebarleyhouse.com

3. Tandy's

1 Eagle Square, Concord
856-7614; tandyspub.com

BEST GOLF COURSE

1. Beaver Meadow Golf Course

1 Beaver Meadow Drive, Concord
228-8954
beavermeadowgolfcourse.com

2. Concord Country Club

22 Country Club Lane, Concord
228-8936; concordcountryclub.org

3. Canterbury Woods

15 West Road, Canterbury
783-9400; canterburywoodsgcc.com



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Carter Hill Orchard

BEST PICK YOUR OWN FARM

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73 Carter Hill Road, Concord
225-2625
carterhillapples.com

2. Apple Hill Farm

580 Mountain Road, Concord
224-8862
applehillfarmnh.com

3. Rossview Farm

85 District 5 Road, Concord
228-4872
rossviewfarm.com

BEST FARMSTAND

1. LaValley Farms

1801 Hooksett Road, Hooksett
485-3541
lavalleyfarms.com

2. Apple Hill Farm

580 Mountain Road, Concord
224-8862
applehillfarmnh.com

3. Dimond Hill Farm

314 Hopkinton Road, Concord
496-8218
dimondhillfarm.com

BEST MUSEUM

1. Currier Museum of the Arts

150 Ash St., Manchester

669-6144

currier.org

2. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center

2 Institute Drive, Concord

271-7827

starhop.com

3. New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park St., Concord

228-6688

nhhistory.org

BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE

1. Capitol Center for the Arts

44 S. Main St., Concord

225-1111

ccanh.com

2. Bank of N.H. Pavilion

72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford

293-4700

banknhpavilion.com



BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE: Capitol Center for the Arts

3. Bank of N.H. Stage

16 S. Main St., Concord

225-1111

banknhstage.com

BEST PLACE TO HAVE A KIDS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

1. Crazy Kids Indoor Play & Party Center

60 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke

228-7529

krazykids.com

2. Altitude Trampoline Park

270 Loudon Road, Concord

664-4444; altitudeconcord.com

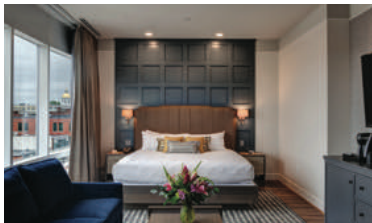
3. Funspot

579 Endicott St., Laconia

366-4377; funspotnh.com

BEST COMMUNITY EVENT

1. Market Days
2. Rock 'n Race
3. Midnight Merriment



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Rumford School students perform calisthenics in the classroom.

Concord Public Library

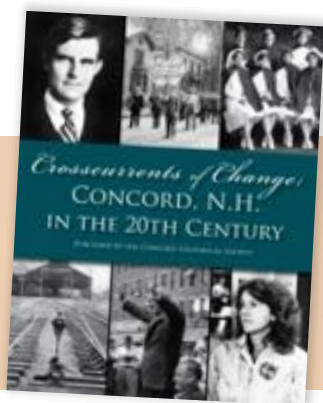
New schools of thought

If only a person could view the Concord School District at the beginning and end of the twentieth century, she would see the same challenges confronting the district. As the century opened and closed, Concord had too many elementary schools, many of them no longer capable of meeting the needs of the population.

The high school, newly rebuilt as the century opened, would not be adequate much longer. It was relocated twice and expanded time and again. Housing all of the city's students was only part of the problem: classifying them into grades presented yet another challenge, with the district adopting new formulas for doing so throughout the century.

As was only fitting for a school system striving for excellence, the district continually sought ways of

meeting the needs of all students, from the academically gifted to those with special needs. In the early decades of the century, educational policy dictated that students with comparable abilities should be grouped together, even in the primary grades. At the end of the century, an equally widely accepted educational policy called for classes of students with heterogeneous abilities. While at the beginning of the century, few students who were not



Learn More

'Crosscurrents of Change' Concord, N.H. in the 20th Century'

This 400-plus page hardcover edition introduces you to the people who helped shape a city, and it takes you through tragedy and triumph with some of the defining moments in Concord history. To purchase a copy or to learn more, visit concordhistoricalsociety.org/store.



Concord Public Library

Concord High Principal John Kent teaches Greek in 1900. Latin was also offered.

bound for college finished high school, by the 1950s this was no longer true.

The district moved full circle in one other way; just as a wave of immigrants changed Concord in the early years of the twentieth century, so too would a new wave impact the schools as the century ended. Concord was selected as one of four cities in New Hampshire for refugee resettlement. The first group, primarily from Bosnia and Croatia, entered the schools in 1999. Between 1999 and 2009, the city changed from 98 percent white to 90 percent white. For the first time in generations, children native to Concord have the chance to interact with other children from vastly different backgrounds.

Much of the way education was delivered in 2000 would have shocked an observer from 1900; bus transportation, computers in classrooms, girls and boys going on to high school together, even if they do



Concord Public Library

Sixth-graders pose for their class picture at Concord Kimball School in 1900.

not attend college. Yet so much has not changed. Overcrowding is still an issue. Buildings, even newly remodeled ones, are inadequate. Other buildings have outgrown their usefulness. The culture of youth still unsettles adults. And the educators in the

Concord School District continue their quest for the next innovation.

This excerpt written by Cheryl Bourassa appears in the chapter "Repeating the Course" in "Crosscurrents of Change."

Imaginary Art

New Hampshire is rich with wonderful colors
For the entire world to consume
Step into my imagination
A spiritual experience will bloom

My brush will sweep the canvas
The sky a pretty shade of blue
Generating a graceful outline
Of Mt. Washington's panoramic view

Gray will shape the gray stone face
Placed upon that mountain wall
A gift from God, for many years
Until mother nature caused its fall

I'll dip my brush in titanium white
Shaping, that beautiful tree
New Hampshire's handsome birch
A mesmeric gift, for all to see

Purple, will take an artily form
That Lilac, we will always treasure
The color, that magnetic scent
A fragrance, far beyond measure

A dusting of tan, on the ocean's edge
At Hampton Beach or Rye
Sand castles built by children
Beneath a blue cloudless sky

Now, I visualize a golden frame
To give my painting a lift
Without a ribbon, or a bow
New Hampshire, shall ever be a gift

Frank Hildreth

(Hildreth, 88, was born in Holderness and lived in Belmont until moving to Florida.)



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A TIME TO REMEMBER



Geoff Forester photos

The Merrimack Valley High School graduation on June 13 included a ceremony around the track at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon. Graduate Katelyn Orsini called the ceremony "more fun, more exciting."

They found a way



Luke Bedard celebrates after scoring the winning run in extra innings to give Kiwanis a 7-6 win against Davis & Towle in the Concord Little League championship game on July 28 at Grappone Park.

Left: Concord High School graduate Hamza Abdulrahman tosses his cap inside his cubicle at the 2020 graduation at Memorial Field on June 13. Abdulrahman said he strives to be a collaborator. "I want to be involved in the community and make everybody happy."



Geoff Forester photos

Dave McLaughlin of Allenstown and co-owner fiancé Tiffani McIntosh stand at the steps outside of the former Quality Cash Market in East Concord on August 5. The owners hope to open a new neighborhood market at the site this fall. "We want to be the face of the store so people can recognize that it's McLaughlin's Country Market who they are coming to see," McLaughlin said.



Connor Baldwin walks through Riverside Park in Penacook as he leads his group of friends on the cleanup of the area on August 11. "I've been coming here since I was able to walk," Baldwin said.

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Ameriprise	p. 38	HR Clough	p. 18
Annis and Zellers.....	p. 36	Hudson Quarry	Inside Back Cover
Belletetes	Back Cover	Johnny Prescott Heating Oil & Propane.....	p. 4
Better Hearing Center	p. 31	Landforms.....	p. 10
Bow Plumbing & Heating	p. 35	Laurie A. Rosato, DMC.....	p. 7
Capital Kids Occupational Therapy.....	p. 30	Maid For You	p. 30
Charter Trust.....	p. 11	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center	p. 31
Company C	p. 37	NH Saves	p. 17
Concord Antiques.....	p. 49	Northeast Delta Dental	p. 11
Concord Orthodontics	p. 5	Pine Rock Manor	p. 39
Concord Pediatric Dentistry	p. 13	Revival Kitchen & Bar	p. 63
Constantly Pizza	p. 63	Rowley Agency	p. 15
El Rodeo	p. 63	Rumford Stone	Inside Front Cover
Endicott Furniture.....	p. 3	Speers Fine Jewelry	p. 19
Epic Travel LLC.....	p. 27	Sugar River Bank.....	p. 23
FW Webb.....	p. 28	Tasker Landscaping.....	p. 9
Goldsmiths Gallery LLC.....	p. 39	Taylor True Value	p. 8
Hotel Concord	p. 59	Upton & Hatfield	p. 43

NE-335197



Geoff Forester

Graham Porter, left, and Ethan Broas trick or treat along Abbott Road in Penacook last year on Gatenight, which is traditionally held the night before Halloween.

Night of the ... distanced?

Some holidays hang onto their traditions better than others. Count Halloween in and around Concord as the type of event that seemingly sends you back decades. This year will likely break many of those traditions. Will we see kids trudging overstuffed pails of candy from door to door? (Sadly, maybe not.) Will we see neighbors deck out their front lawns with ghoulish props resurrected from their basements? (Hopefully, yes!) It's far too early to tell what it will look like on Oct. 31, 2020, but here's hoping that we all find a way to celebrate in the most communal of all our holidays and perhaps even invent new traditions that will carry into a much safer and predictable 2021.

Contribute >>

Welcome to 'A Thousand Words,' a quarterly feature that ends the magazine with an iconic photo. Share your image with us, and we may be able to use it in a coming issue. Only high-resolution photos are accepted, and despite the intent of the feature, we will need to accompany your image with a few words. So please send your photo and a brief description to editor@aroundconcord.com.

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