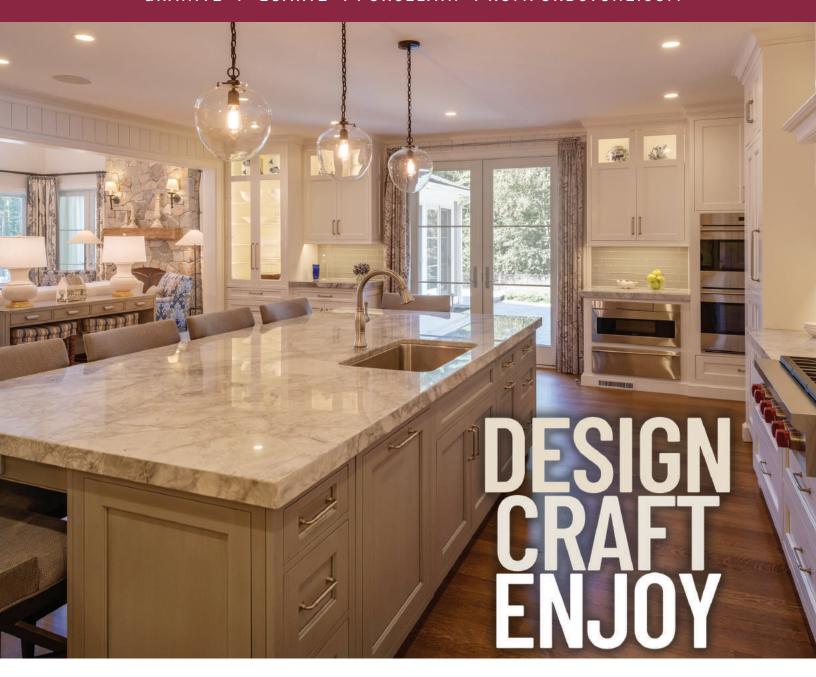


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Always paying it forward

Clement Kigugu, above, and Jim Snodgrass discuss their connection and how it is building a better world around them.

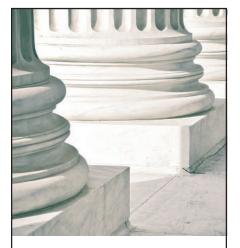
Cover photograph by Geoff Forester

Last-minute and local: Having trouble buying gifts? Some ideas.

The annual Cappies winners can spur ideas for local holiday shopping and resources.

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The gift of Luke

His name was Luke and he was perfect in every way.

He loved to dig holes in the yard, which led to hours of refilling, replanting grass seed, and repeating.

He had such a cat obsession that he'd chase any feline at every chance and practically pull your arm off if he saw one passing by.

He needed constant encouragement to eat and would outright refuse to touch plain old dog food. As he grew older, he ate chicken, rice and mixed

veggies each night, and just like one of the kids, he'd spit out his lima beans.

"He's so pretty" everyone said when they saw him, and he'd arch his back and fluff up his tail, his way of saying "I know."

Unlike other Border Collies, he never took to Frisbee or fetch, but he was always eager for a hike or a ride in the canoe wearing his life jacket.

He made it two months shy of 17 years old last Thanksgiving when we had to say goodbye.

One of the themes of this edition of Around Concord magazine is how to give gifts that can be appreciated over

time. So many gifts can't be purchased by clicking "add to cart" and waiting for an Amazon truck to arrive. Last year, Americans spent more than \$850 billion over the holiday season.

Finding the right gifts for the ones we love can be a challenge, especially for those of us fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to have too much stuff.

In this issue, you'll find suggestions of locally sourced gifts that support neighborhood businesses instead of billion-dollar corporations, as well as the Cappies, our reader choice awards of the best things the region has to offer. You'll discover a program that plays Santa to seniors, where a simple pair of socks delivers joy. Plus, a full calendar of events that brighten the season even as daylight shortens.

Last year, our friend Luke found his way under our Christmas tree. We collected all the best photos of him and had Concord Photo Service turn the best ones into life-sized framed posters.

Luke was at the rocks by the ocean, snowshoeing with his booties in winter, gazing at the view on top of treeless Mount Madison and sitting near the shore of Turkey Pond in Concord.

He's still there in our home every day and even if we can't pet him or hug him, we have the privilege of remembering his love and friendship. In his final gift, Luke helped us get Christmas right.

Jonathan Van Fleet

Editor







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Joe and Shelley Speer of Speer's Fine Jewelry congratulate David Scharlotte of Concord on winning a \$400 New Hampshire Watch Company watch as part of the Take A Ride! promotion in the fall issue of Around Concord magazine. The Concord Coach wheel was embedded in ads in the fall edition on pages 18, 34, 55 and 65. This concludes the watch give-away contest.



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Gena Cohen Moses

Winter blossoms

Annual Art & Bloom exhibit always brightens the mood

By GENA COHEN MOSES

The Concord Garden Club's annual Art & Bloom exhibit is a Concord mid-winter tradition attracting art and flower lovers to enjoy creative floral arrangements paired with works of art. After a year's hiatus, the Garden Club is returning with the 19th annual Art & Bloom exhibit in partnership with the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen.

Garden Club members and local floral professionals will create floral arrangements inspired by works of art and craft on display during the League's winter exhibition: "Inspired Again." The exhibit offers visitors a break from the snowy landscape with bright flowers

and beautiful art.

Art & Bloom is free and open to the public at the League's headquarters located at 49 S. Main St, Suite 100, in Concord. It will be open Jan. 20 from 1 to 6:30 p.m. and Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

COVID protocols will be in place with proof of vaccination or masks required.

For more information visit the Garden Club at concordgardenclubnh.com or the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen at nhcrafts.org.

(Gena Cohen Moses is a member of the Concord Garden Club.)

THE TIP LIST

Fast faves

As the executive director of Five Rivers Conservation Trust, the Concord area's nonprofit land trust, Liz Short knows the importance of conserving wild places, open spaces and working lands in local communities. So we asked Liz to tell us some of her favorite outdoor activities, and indoor treats, that she, her husband and their two daughters look forward to in the Concord area during the snowy season.





White Park

White Park is the backyard that we don't have. It's the go-to spot for sledding and ice skating in the winter, made even better by the addition of the Merrimack Lodge skatehouse in recent years. Plus, we've enjoyed watching the Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament for years. The kids especially enjoy the bonfire, big snow mounds for climbing and watching the energy of play close-up.

Outdoor hockey

More details on the annual 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships scheduled for January on page 66.



A night out

We like to grab a bite to eat at any of our favorite downtown Concord restaurants (like Revival Kitchen and Bar) and then enjoy a show at Capitol Center for the Arts. We've enjoyed many a Nutcracker performance there.

Out for a stroll

The Jim Hill River Walk is a fantastic spot for a kid-friendly snowshoe. Make sure to bring a thermos of hot cocoa to warm up while enjoying the scenic views along the banks of the Contoocook River. We're thankful for the extensive network of trails in and around Concord that offer access to nature and winter adventures so close to home.

Sweatt Preserve, a 2-mile loop trail in Hopkinton, is owned and maintained by Five Rivers. It's a beautiful spot for a winter walk. And the brook is a big hit, great for kid adventurers.



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HOT on the TRAIL

Fundraising efforts are inching closer to turning Concord into a destination for cross country skiing

A winter wonderland for cross country skiing at city-owned Beaver Meadow Golf Course is close to reaching its first phase this season, but isn't quite there.

The first step to bring top notch Nordic skiing to the city was to purchase a small snow groomer – a machine that could move snow around trails and break up icy spots. The fundraising goal was set at \$150,000 to cover the cost of a new groomer.

The fundraising campaign to get the groomer on the snow this winter, including buying \$25 "Ski the Beav" stickers, has reached about \$80,000. That's a healthy amount of money, but it's \$20,000 short of the total to trigger a \$50,000 matching grant from the city of Concord.

"Someone could put us over the finish line tomorrow," said Concord High School Nordic skiing coach Sam Evans-Brown. "If someone really wants to make this possible, they should email us."

Without the new machine, grooming will be done again with the use of a snowmobile, which is less than ideal since it often gets stuck and doesn't do the best job.

Former Concord High cross country coach and former city councilman Allan Hershlag on the Beaver Meadow cross country course.



Courtesy

The phases of development include buying a new groomer, getting a snowmaker and installing lights.

As the plan progresses, phases two and three include snow-making equipment and lights for night skiing.

The project got its start a few years ago when the City's Parks and Recreation department wanted to explore making Beaver Meadow a vearround destination for community recreation. This push led to an outdoor skating pond and indoor golf simulators, and an uptick in community use of the course for cross country skiing. After local ski teams started to use the trails more, attention quickly turned to improving the conditions.

Joe Ayotte, who coaches with the Concord Nordic Bill Koch Youth Ski League, moved the league's regular meeting area to Beaver Meadow. The switch was a hit because parents could hang out in the clubhouse while their kids learned their skills on rolling terrain.

Concord High's Nordic ski team started practicing at Beaver Meadow for similar reasons. Other trails, such as Memorial Field, were "pancake flat," Evans-Brown said.

"Race courses have hills," Evans-Brown said.

Additionally, Evans-Brown is continually looking for locations with good conditions that don't require his skiers to travel far distances to practice.

Evans-Brown has his eyes on a used groomer located in New Hampshire that could be available at a lesser price, which could quickly spur the evolution of skiing at Beaver Meadow. Additional phases could be

funded through grants and community development funds.

Once winter hits, the golf course offers a solid five kilometers of skiing, which is the perfect distance for Nordic races. In time, there is an opportunity to extend the trail network into nearby places like the Sewalls Falls recreation area to create something larger and special for the Concord community, Evans-Brown said.

"There's really a lot of potential to

string together a whole trail network," Evans-Brown said. "But that's a longer conversation."

Donations can be made at sites.google.com/view/skithebeav, or by writing a check to the city of Concord with "Groomer" written in the memo line.

"Ski the Beav" stickers are currently available at Concord Parks and Recreation, Beaver Meadow Golf Course, and S&W Sports.



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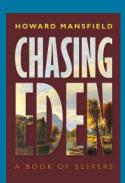
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Off the shelf compiled by SARAH PEARS



Canterbury Shaker Village in Canterbury.

'Chasing Eden: A Book of Seekers'



Seekers are all around us. They are seeking God, seeking freedom, seeking peace. "Chasing Eden: A Book of Seekers" (Bauhan Publishing) by Howard Mansfield is about this pursuit, about Americans seeking their Promised Land, their utopia out on the horizon – which by definition, is ever receding before us. In "Chasing Eden," we meet a gathering of Americans – the Shakers in the twilight of their utopia; the Wampanoags confronting the Pilgrims; the God-besotted landscape painters who taught Americans that in wilderness was Eden; and 40,000 Africans newly freed

from slavery granted 40 acres and a mule – only to be swiftly dispossessed. These and other seekers were on the road to find out, all united by their longing to find in America "a revolution of the spirit."



'The Green House'

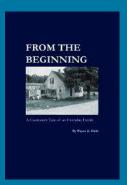
Dan Lawton's "The Green House" (Black Rose Writing) is the 2021 fiction winner of the New Hampshire Writer's Project Literary Award.

The green house is more than a greenhouse.

Seven flowers, seven colors, seven meanings, and one 37-yearold secret - the green house is the keeper of it all. Its creator, Girard Remington, is a fragile elderly man whose life was shattered by a tragedy nearly four decades ago. And when tragedy strikes again this time to his beloved wife. Miriam – he struggles to cope.

The pain of the two interwoven tragedies drives Girard to places of his psyche he desperately tries but is unable to escape. As the only place that offers him solace and tranquility, he turns to the green house as his savior from the regret and the agony and the heartache and with it, he discovers the power behind it not even he knew existed. And if he listens closely enough, he may be offered the greatest miracle of all - hope for a second chance.

'From the Beginning: A Cautionary Tale of an Everyday Family'

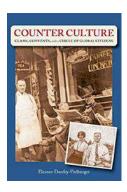


Author Wayne E. Held was born in Plymouth, Mass., in 1950, living his formative years in South Boston. His family moved to New Hampshire in 1962, where he graduated from Kingswood Regional High School. With the Vietnam War still in progress, Held enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He later returned to New Hampshire, settling in Hillsborough.

"From the Beginning" (Dorrance Publishing) is a novel based on actual events of Held's life growing up in a family that faced abusive and financial hardships.

Character Nathan Anderson grows up in a family that expressed all the human emotions, including the seven deadly sins. They experienced love of family, matched with the financial and social struggles of raising one. There were rewards, disciplines, and abuses that weaved into the family fabric of those struggles.

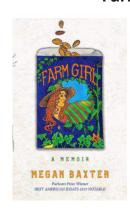
'Counter Culture: Claims, Convents, and a Circle of Global Citizens'



Eleanor Dunfey-Freiburger, the 2021 New Hampshire People's Choice Award for nonfiction winner, recently published an account of the 100-year saga of her very large family – the Dunfevs. "Counter Culture: Claims, Convents, and a Circle of Global Citizens" (Peter E. Randall Publishing) portrays the story of a hard-working Irish-American pair, LeRoy "Roy" Dunfey and Catherine "Kate" Manning Dunfey

and their 12 offspring - yes, a full dozen children. Kate and Roy wed in Lowell, Mass., along with 24 other couples at the rectory of St. Patrick parish. None could afford a church wedding. With little formal education or resources, they turned to their store of humor, entrepreneurial zest and spiritual roots and with those, collared the American dream. That dream began in 1915 with Dunfey's orchestra, a luncheonette and a baby every two years through the Great Depression to the doorstep of World War II. Written by the youngest, Dunfey-Freiburger reveals the lasting influence her parents had on each of their children. After three sons returned from WWII, the family opened a clam stand in Hampton. The Dunfeys who had digested much political fare around the kitchen table in their early years, went on to make their mark in New Hampshire and national Democratic politics, while the four sisters entered religious life and became educators until each moved beyond that formal service. The Dunfey Family Corporation eventually became Omni International Hotels and, in 1968, purchased the then bankrupt historic Parker House. It became the base from which they responded to the many national and global crises of that era, and they did so by doing what they did best: Hospitality -welcoming and including people, diverse in age, economic status, gender, and race to gather around tables of conversation building trust and common ground, the roots of any sustainable community change.

'Farm Girl'



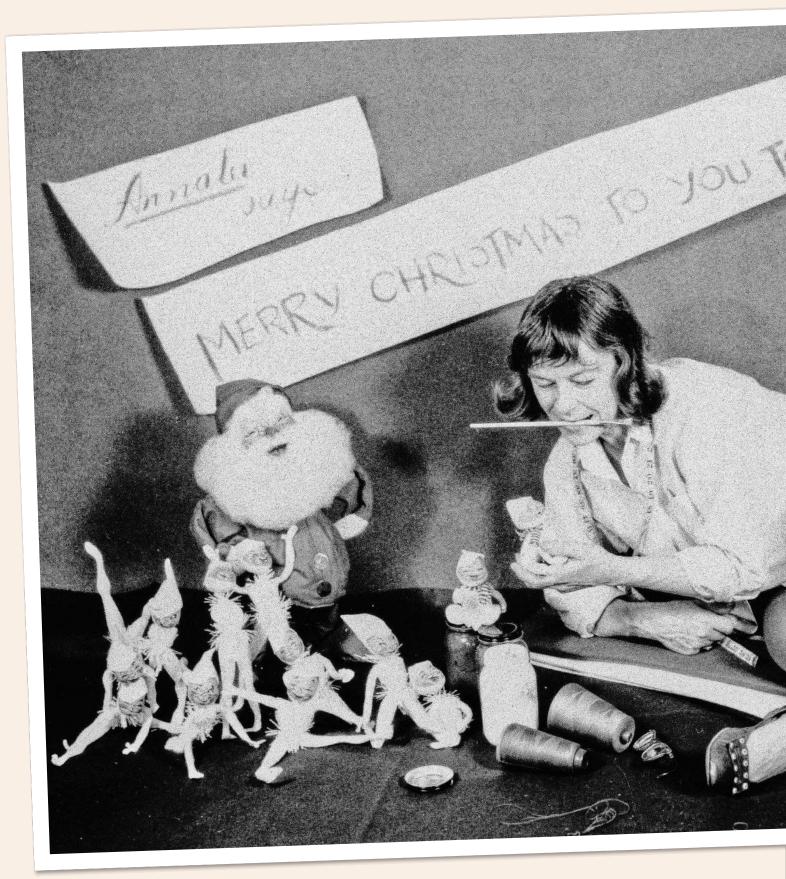
Two years into college, bonded to a lover spiraling into addiction and 2,000 miles away from her heart's home - a stretch of 40 certified-organic acres along the banks of the Connecticut River -Megan Baxter finds herself in starkly unfa-

miliar territory. She longs for the reassuring, cyclical clock of farming. It grounds her and reinforces her connection to something bigger. Hers is a profound devotion to Mother Earth; a tactile relationship with the life-giving powers of the soil. A form of worship.

And in the crucible of a rainy Portland winter, with her desire oscillating between a troubled boyfriend and the fertile fields of Vermont, Baxter chooses to embrace the future she was always meant to inhabit.

Baxter shares her stirring coming-of-age story in "Farm Girl: A Memoir" (Green Writers Press). Part drama, part ode, "Farm Girl" raises the earth up as a character and expresses Baxter's deep love for the landscape - but she doesn't paint it pretty; she describes it raw and rough with all the honesty and daydream of a girl imagining herself grown. It's the story of redrawing the map of a life, of fixing a heart to 40 acres and of an outsider finding where she belongs.

(Book descriptions submitted by authors or publishers.)



Annalee dolls are known for their felt fabric, whimsical and mischievous faces, and creative positioning. Made for collectors and decorating around the home, Annalee fashioned her dolls from everyday life and the simpler times she knew in rural New Hampshire.



Courtesy

Whimsical elves and Santas have been a cornerstone of Annalee Thorndike's doll designs for almost a century. Annalee would hand paint all the faces on her dolls.

The face of a doll empire

Book delves inside the imagination, ingenuity and artistry of dollmaker **Annalee Thorndike**

Behind the Smile: The Story of Annalee Thorndike is the first-ever illustrated biography of the legendary doll maker. Her story is a tale of self-sufficiency, live-free-or-die resiliency, and a life-long passion to create. Her dolls would define her life, and many say that each of her dolls is in some way a reflection of the woman herself and her playful personality.

Annalee Thorndike began making dolls as a child in Concord in the 1920s. Her passion to create was inspired by her artist mother and the many creative people she associated with, but at its core was her vivid imagination. She was blessed with dexterous fingers, a love of design and color, and a quicksilver temperament and curiosity. She was only four or five when she began playing with fabrics, lace, colored pencils, and paper to design dolls. Her dreams of making dolls would lead to a lifelong career.

The dolls she created are recognized as among the most collected and loved dolls everywhere. She would also, along with her husband Chip, build a successful company that would become both a tourist destination as well as one of the largest employers in New

Hampshire. Today that company continues to share her legacy with new generations of doll collectors.

Annalee dolls are known for their felt fabric, whimsical

and mischievous faces, and creative positioning. Made for collectors and decorating around the home, Annalee fashioned her dolls from everyday life and the simpler times she knew in rural New Hampshire. They also reflect her wicked sense of humor. Her early dolls were about occupations, sports, and hobbies and then expanded to include her now-famous mice and elves. These little critters became a staple in the holiday and seasonal decorations for millions of people.

Behind the Smile: The Story of Annalee Thorndike is available at the Annalee Gift Shop, 339 Daniel Webster Highway, Meredith, or online at Annalee.com.

The Bottom Drops Out

Where once there were 32,000 Rhode Island Red chickens roaming around the Thorndike farm, the number eventually dwindled to a much, much smaller amount. In the

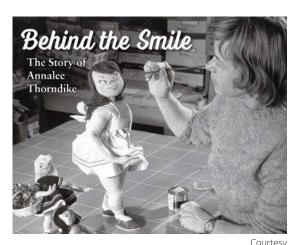
early 1950s, the bottom fell out of the poultry business. Chip and Annalee Thorndike could no longer make a decent living selling hatchlings and eggs. Faced with mount-

> ing debt, they began looking for new ways to make a living. The couple would sell the additional farm they had purchased, keeping only their primary residence at Reservoir Road. Chip would take a part-time job at a knitting machine manufacturing company in Laconia while also tending to his remaining chickens and auto supply store.

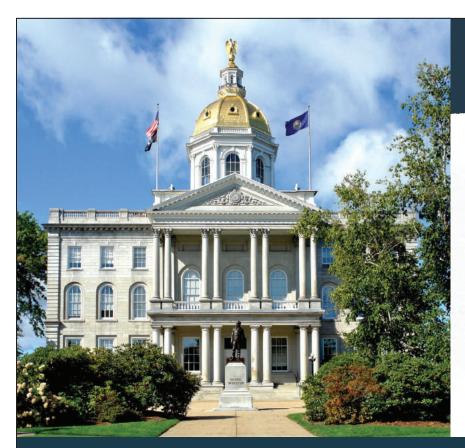
> It was not a happy, or warm, time for the Thorndikes. With no bank willing to lend them the money to finish some major home repairs, the family used a canvas tarp to cover an unfinished wall of

the house during the winter months. It was out of this cold that the seeds of new business would sprout. Out of necessity, Annalee would return full-time to doll-making.

That humble piece of furniture, the kitchen table, has served as the incubus for many a business. Certainly it did for Annalee Dolls. It was at the sunlit kitchen table in the Thorndike's farmhouse where Annalee would begin her



The front cover of the book "Behind the Smile: The Story of Annalee Thorndike."



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Starting in her childhood bedroom in Concord, Annalee Thorndike began designing artistic doll masterpieces made out of felt. She honed those skills throughout her life. Eventually, her family, including her husband Chip and sons Chuck and Town, would help make her designs known worldwide.

business in earnest. The operation expanded to the larger dining room table, then the living room, and then the upstairs, until dolls spilled out of every corner of the house. Annalee would make the dolls and Chip would find ways to sell them, delivering orders in the family Volkswagen. Annalee remembered: "It was quite a sight to see Chip barreling down the highway with a carload of dolls." She also remembered having to clear off her materials from Chuck's and Town's beds before they could go to sleep at night. The house was full of dolls and doll parts.

It was Chip who would make another major contribution to the dolls. Annalee firmly believed her dolls should always be in a permanent position. To do this she had to find ways, sometimes extremely difficult, to sew them into those positions. Chip devised the internal metal frame that is still used in the dolls so that each doll could stay in place, just as his wife envisioned them.



Word of the petite dollmaker's skill, and that of her enchanting dolls, slowly began to spread. It became necessary to hire a group of Meredith women to help in the production of the dolls. Both as homemakers and as friends who gathered around Annalee's tables, the women filled the expanding order list. Annalee continued to design and make faces for new dolls and expected her assistants to pass rigorous production standards. She established an inspection process to make sure all dolls were made to her high expectations. Work was informal — a coffee klatch atmosphere — yet even in those early days Annalee established clear work procedures. She knew the most economical way to utilize fabric and worked and reworked her designs. She became a perfectionist where her dolls were concerned. And if the truth be known, she sometimes became so attached to a particular doll that she was reluctant to pronounce it "finished" and release it.

There were discouragements and disagreements, as there usually are in a small business — especially one going from a hobby into a full-fledged operation. Chip continued creating new accessories for the dolls, and developed ways to market them, often on a door-to-door basis. The Thorndikes made presents of many of their early dolls to businesses in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, which displayed them on counters and in store windows, thus heightening their visibility. Friendships were established in those early years that Annalee and Chip would forever treasure.

Success and recognition came very slowly to the fledgling doll company. The company, thus the Thorndike family, struggled to make ends meet in those early years. But little by little, doll by doll, and with lots of persistence, Annalee dolls were finding their way in the marketplace.

Annalee focused on expanding her designs and collection of faces. She was continually experimenting with

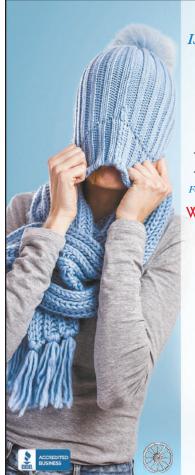


Christmasthemed **Annalee** dolls line the gift store in Meredith.

Sarah Pearson

how to paint faces on felt, and stretching the felt, to make sure the faces and every expression looked just right. She also agonized over the positioning of her dolls. Chip's wireframes gave Annalee more flexibility with her creations, but finding the right "position" for each doll became a painstaking process. If any company

could be called family-oriented, this was certainly the case with making the early Annalee dolls. Sons Chuck and Town even joined the family business as mere kids to help tie the shoelaces and fit their mother's ski boots and shoe gear to the many of the dolls' feet. In 1955, Annalee and Chip incorporated the company as



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Annalee Mobilitee Dolls. The creative name perfectly referenced the type of doll as well as Annalee's and Chip's contributions to their design and construction.

The company's dolls had their earliest success as promotional decorations and displays. Many department and specialty stores started featuring the dolls in their windows and sales displays. Jordan Marsh, then the largest department store in Boston, regularly featured the dolls. Annalee also returned to one of her earliest benefactors, the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, which resold dolls for many years. Chip and Annalee often sought out partnerships with other companies to market the dolls, but most of the marketing was done directly one-on-one with various retailers from the Thorndike home. Through rough-and-tumble determination, by 1960, Annalee dolls were being sold in stores in 40 states in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. The chicken farmers had become successful doll makers.

All About the Face

One of the most unique characteristics of an Annalee doll is its face. Impish features make the dolls immediately recognizable as "Annalee." What is even more fascinating, though, is the company's long tradition of creating not one, but many expressions for the doll put into the product line. This was Annalee's clever way of making the dolls appear to be interacting with one another. She would set up elaborate scenes with multiple characters such as swimmers at a beach and skiers making their way down the mountain. She wanted people to see an expression and be reminded of certain people in their lives.

A range of one to 26 faces are used on any given doll. Certain items, because of the subject they represent or the activity they are engaged in, are limited to one expression. Armed with this knowledge, the savvy collector may seek out the multi-expressions as a way to further enhance the enjoyment of a particular doll. As Annalee put it, "there are expressions to fit almost any position you want to put them in."

Those whimsical faces we've all come to know and love all started with Annalee herself. She painted her earliest faces to resemble her own cheery expression. (Some would say that all the faces are just the various moods of Annalee.) Annalee looked in a mirror to draw her own smiles, smirks, and grins. She would do this over and over again. She detailed each wrinkle, dimple, and squiggly brow hair in the mischievous expressions she made. The artwork was then finetuned and tweaked to create each mouse, elf, and animal face that was desired: freckles, whiskers, and a sparkle in the eye were added.

Annalee also looked beyond her own expressions to add more variety to her doll faces. She sought inspiration from her own children, Chuck and Town, as well as the people she worked with. She was an ardent student of people — their movements, their positions, their faces.



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Many people say that all Annalee dolls are a reflection of the artist Annalee **Thorndike** herself. This assortment of Annalee dolls provides a glimpse into her face designs, including a tribute doll of Annalee herself (center).

Courtesy

According to Gracie Blackey, who worked directly with Annalee for 10 years and currently serves as chief designer at Annalee Dolls, "Annalee studied herself in the mirror. She would go into the ladies' room and draw herself in the mirror. Once I even goaded her into photocopying her face. She studied proportions, shapes, how the eyes looked, how the mouth looked. She looked at babies' heads to watch how they grow and change. This helped develop the proportions for our dolls and their frameworks. She had a really good idea of what a face looked like. What was in the here and now."

Annalee would eagerly devour magazines, newspapers, and greeting cards, studying the facial expression of the people in the photographs and drawings. She also was inspired by the artists of her time, such as Norman Rockwell, Dr. Seuss, Tasha Tudor, Trina Schart Hyman, and many more.

A little-known fact about Annalee is that she greatly admired and was inspired by the unique and exaggerated illustrations featured in Mad

magazine, including the satirical cartoon character of Alfred E. Neuman, the boy with misaligned eyes and a gap-toothed smile. Annalee had piles of the magazine saved in her original design studio. When the studio was badly damaged by fire, one of Annalee's first concerns was to see if her copies of Mad had been destroyed. Luckily for Annalee, one of the company's employees had saved her magazines.

In the beginning, Annalee painstakingly painted her faces directly onto the felt used for each doll. After her dolls started becoming popular, a more efficient technique was needed to place faces on the dolls. With orders pouring into the Factory in the Woods, it became impossible for Annalee to hand paint each doll. Annalee and Chip turned to the silkscreen method and began printing the faces onto the felt in order to keep up with the demand for the dolls. All of the artwork used for each doll's face or other markings, like dots on a dog or stripes on a zebra or any of her trademark smiles, is Annalee's original hand-drawn work.

"The faces we use today are what Annalee actually approved," Gracie Blackey said. "We can adapt them to give us something new. But they are all Annalee. There are actually millions of ways to present the faces due to her designs." Whatever the expression, there's something special and undeniably clever and whimsical in all of Annalee's face designs. Most importantly, as Annalee always said, "If you smile someone else has got to smile back." There's magic in the smile of each and every one of the Annalee dolls.

"Behind the Smile: The Story of Annalee Thorndike" was produced by FirstTracks Marketing. Lou Waryncia is editor; Jessica Lynch Falkenham is director of marketing; Robert Dukette is creative director and designer. Many of the stories were researched and written by Rosemary H. Turner in the 1980s and '90s. Additional acknowledgments to Chuck and Karen Thorndike, Gracie Blackey, Sue Coffee and Bryan Horton.



home care

Manchester, packs gifts donated for

the holidays. Cassidy Jensen

Giving the gift of connection

For older recipients, program provides comfort

By CASSIDY JENSEN

During the second winter of a pandemic that has increased isolation for many older people, a long-standing program that provides holiday gifts to seniors has taken on new significance.

As shoppers search for gifts for friends and family this holiday season, they can also buy a present for an elderly adult as part of the Be A Santa to a Senior program run by home care agency Home Instead and the Community Action Program for Merrimack and Belknap counties.

In December, delivery trucks bringing meals to about 300 homebound people will also play Santa Claus, bringing gifts purchased for each senior.

"Usually at the holidays we see a lot of Toys for Tots,

toys for underprivileged kids, but often times older adults get forgotten in that mix," said Caitlin Cawley, a home care consultant at Home Instead in Manchester. "Sometimes getting that one gift from the Be A Santa to a Senior program may be the only gift they're going to get for the holidays."

Much like initiatives that match poor kids with gifts, shoppers can choose an ornament with a senior's first name and gift request from a Christmas tree at one of five locations, then drop an unwrapped gift back off at the tree with the ornament attached.

Gifts can be donated at John Whitaker Place at 30 Borough Road in Concord through Dec. 13. In Manchester, Chalifour's and Coldwell Banker on Elm Street, State Farm on Kelley Street and St. George's Greek







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Church on Hanover Street will also host trees.

The Community Action Program will gather the gifts together and hand them off to Meals on Wheels drivers for delivery to older homebound adults in Merrimack County.

CAP Community Service Coordinator Michelle Beaudin remembers a woman one year who was particularly thrilled by a pair of warm, fuzzy

"A lot of them get so excited, it means a lot to them. A lot of them don't have any family, the driver is the only one they see," Beaudin said.

The 300 or so seniors in Merrimack County who are matched with gifts through the program get food delivered via Meals on Wheels. These are people who could go hungry without those meals either because of mobility challenges, dementia or being unable to drive.

"A lot of them can't do public transportation, a lot of them can't get on the bus," Beaudin said. "Delivering those meals means a lot for them."

The gifts can be simple, and warm items like hats, gloves, scarves or blankets are appreciated. Coffee mugs, non-perishable snacks, and baking kits are other cozy gift options for the winter, while puzzle books can keep recipients entertained and stimulate their brains.

Since the pandemic started, isolation has increased for many people, but older adults were hit especially hard by the loss of social connection. Seniors are already more likely to experience loneliness, which can have consequences for cognitive decline and other health problems.

"The older adults we reach regardless of COVID are homebound, usually fairly lonely," Cawley said.

This is the 14th year that Home Instead has organized the program, and every year Cawley said the organization gets calls from grateful gift recipients.

The home care agency sends caregivers to older adults to provide companionship, do daily tasks like cook-

Seniors are more likely to experience loneliness, which can have consequences for cognitive decline and other health problems.

ing and housekeeping and assist those with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Due to recent labor shortages in rehabs, long-term care facilities and hospitals, Home Instead has been seeing more clients with more serious health needs requesting home services while they wait for a spot at a facility to open up.

"We collaborate with the community to make sure that they can be comfortable in their home as long as possible, if that's what they would like to do," Cawley said.

Cawley has worked at the home care agency for more than 6 years.

She was drawn to this work because of the important relationships she has always had with older people. Growing up, she was close with her greatgrandmother.

"Now, as I'm getting older, my grandmother's a big part of my life," Cawley said. "It's just something I've always been passionate about, bringing awareness to healthy aging issues and what older adults need."

In New Hampshire, the percentage of the population above 65 is growing, and older adults are estimated to make up more than one-third of the residents by 2030.

Be a Santa to a Senior is one way to make sure older adults aren't forgotten during the holidays, Cawley

"Especially with the state of the world right now with COVID and everything going on still, people are run down and they're tired. The holiday season is starting to lift them up a little bit more," she said.

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HE'S PAYING IT FORWARD

By EILEEN O'GRADY

Clement Kigugu was on an airplane in the winter of 2006, preparing to land in the United States for the very first time when he realized just how challenging the language barrier was going to be.

Kigugu, who was on his way to the U.S. from Rwanda as an asylum seeker, spoke French, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Kirundi and Lingala, but no English. So when the flight attendant handed him a form to fill out with his future U.S. address, he could only look at the paper with confusion. When the plane landed at the D.C. airport, his uncertainty only grew.

"I had thought it was only the flight attendant who didn't understand French, but it seemed the whole airport didn't as well," Kigugu said, addressing an audience of nearly 200 people at the Concord Chamber of Commerce 102nd Annual Meeting



Clement Kigugu, the executive director of Overcomers Refugee Services, provides guidance and assistance to members of the community.

gala in early November this year. "I thought the American people had conspired to pull a prank on me as a welcome to America. I had no idea

how to ask for help. The only words I knew were 'good morning' and 'how are vou."

Today, Kigugu is the founder and

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executive director of Overcomers Refugee Services, a resource center for Concord-area refugees and immigrants, that provides them with practical support, education and cultural orientation. They assist newcomers with applications for food stamps, Medicaid and housing, with resumé building and job interview prep. They also offer cultural orientation and conflict-resolution for people who fled countries torn apart by violence.

Kigugu already had a college degree and had a job running a nonprofit that aided victims of genocide, war, and HIV in Rwanda, so the language barrier when he first arrived in the U.S. felt like a huge career setback.

"It's putting you back again. The job, you start again from zero. You have to start learning the language, you have to have other people to help you while you know that you used to help other people," Kigugu said. "That's the real challenge, not only physically but also psychologically



Pastor Clement Kigugu and his wife, Esperance, sing at the Christmas Eve service of the Overcomers Church of God held at the United Baptist Church on **Fayette Street in Concord.**

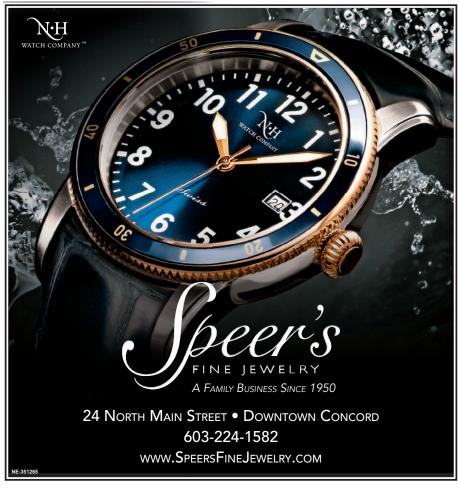
and emotionally. It really touched my life."

Kigugu credits much of his current success to Second Start, a Concord alternative education organization that

offers English language programs for adults, and the organization's longserving executive director, Jim Snod-

Snodgrass, who recently retired





from Second Start after 47 years, was named 2021 Citizen of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce gala. Kigugu spoke at the event about how Second Start gave him the English language skills he needed to be successful in New Hampshire, and the care that Snodgrass showed in wanting him to succeed.

"Jim is someone who is very near and dear to me," Kigugu told the audience. "He continuously inspires me not to look down on myself but to maintain courage and self confidence. He took me to different places to speak, building my public speaking skills....Jim, thank you for your support and always believing in me."

For Snodgrass, establishing English language and driving instruction programs for new Americans at Second Start was a way of giving people the skills to help them start their new lives in the U.S.

"You underestimate the language barrier," Snodgrass said. "I mean if you can't speak the language, you re-

The number of English Language Learners at Second Start has grown exponentially over the last decade, and now make up the majority of the organization's student population. When the school first launched in the 1970s, the ESL population consisted of a few students from Korea and Greece.

ally do feel like a middle-schooler or elementary-schooler. You got to kind of depend on everybody else. That's why I think what we do - we're trying to develop the language skills - is a critical piece. I also think that driving is a critical piece, which is why we have the driving school."

The number of English Language Learners at Second Start has grown exponentially over the last decade, and now make up the majority of the organization's student population. When the school first launched in the 1970s, Snodgrass said, the ESL population consisted of a few students from

Korea and Greece. In the 1990s the Balkan wars brought more refugees from Southeast Europe, and in 2001 the ESL population at the school almost doubled. Now, many of Second Start's ESL learners are from central-African countries and Bhutan. Snodgrass led the creation of the New American Driving School in 2018, to serve the large population of new Americans who don't have U.S. driving licenses.

"I've done this for a long time and I have seen a lot of success stories. It's one of the things I think that keeps me going," Snodgrass said. "Clement



is definitely one of those stories that keeps me going."

Snodgrass met Kigugu when he first arrived at Second Start as a student.

"I just saw him progress, really working hard on his English," Snodgrass said. "I'm not sure I would have the ability to do that, so I admire that tremendously in him. And he's always been a giving soul. I don't know how to phrase it, but he's for helping people. And I am too."

On a recent Friday morning, Kigugu gazed around the sunny thirdfloor classroom of the Second Start building on Knight Street - the same room he took his first ever English language class. The tables were arranged in a U shape, and he pointed out the central back-row chair he used to sit in.

"When I saw the class for the first time it was good experience for me, because when I meet with other people from different places, who also



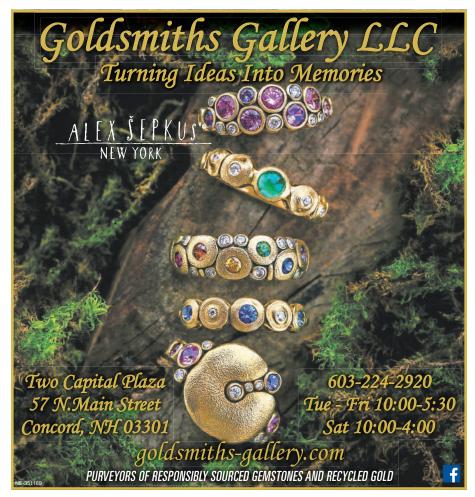
Jim Snodgrass retired this year after being executive director of Second Start for 47 years, shaping the school to assist underserved populations and creating an opportunity for alternative education.

struggled with the English like me," Kigugu said. "It gave me courage."

Kigugu worked in the early years, holding down two jobs at Concord

Litho and Walmart, while also attending Second Start. When his wife and their six children joined him in the U.S. in 2008, balancing the responsi-





bilities became tricky and he continued his studies at home with a volunteer tutor.

"I am a strong person due to the circumstance I passed through," Kigugu said. "From all the things that I went through, it helps me to be more strong. It's very, very stressful. But I was very strong to overcome."

Snodgrass began inviting Kigugu to speak at local events like Rotary Club gatherings, where he spoke about his experience with Second Start. For Kigugu, it was a chance to network, to improve his English and public speaking skills - but says he viewed it as a chance to promote Second Start and give back to the organization that helped him.

Kigugu became a medical interpreter, then a caseworker, an employment specialist, a church pastor and ultimately founded Overcomers Refugee Services in 2013 when he saw the high need for services among new Americans. The organization now serves about 243 families.

"I love to be part of the City of Concord and to feel like this is my home, and I have to contribute, I have to have to give back to what I receive. To do that, I also need my community to really feel that way."

CLEMENT KIGUGU

"It's daunting for people to come here and not know how anything works," Snodgrass said, "And he's been able to connect them with services, develop understandings about how it works in the United States, from applying for aid for certain things, or what you're eligible for, to completing paperwork that you need. I think he's provided a significant service."

At Overcomers Refugee Services, Kigugu says, they follow the rule of three 'E's' when thinking about how to serve their demographic: educate, empower and engage.

"Our goal is really to educate people, to teach them how to fish, so that way they can fish themselves and

kind of keep receiving what we give them, but they can also do by themselves and help other people who come after them," Kigugu said. "Like the Second Start did, to teach me English, so then also I can impact other people's life."

For Kigugu, who now sits on the Board of Directors at Second Start, it's important that the families they serve feel the same way he does about paying it forward.

"I love to be part of the City of Concord and to feel like this is my home, and I have to contribute, I have to give back to what I receive," Kigugu said. "To do that, I also need my community to really feel that way."





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Geoff Forester
ABOVE: Christmas decorations at Cobblestone Design Company on N. Main Street in Concord are always worth a look. LEFT: You can find holiday items of all sorts at Caring Gifts in downtown Concord.



Christmas decorations at D McLeod Inc. Florist on South State Street in Concord.

Not great at giving gifts? Some ideas

By DAVID BROOKS

For those of us who are lousy at thinking up Christmas presents for family and friends, the pandemic has a silver lining: Finally, we have a good excuse.

Some stores have closed, we don't feel safe shopping in person, supply chain snafus mean stuff isn't available, the postal slowdown interferes with shipping – so here's a gift card. Happy holidays!

Fair enough, but we don't have to take refuge in the lamest of presents, those corporate gift cards that are as impersonal as cash but much less convenient. Here are some other thoughts about ways to approach your second pandemic Christmas, courtesy of my family's worst present-giver. Which would be me.

Make a charity donation in their name

This is a great present in theory but has a big problem: There's nothing to unwrap. The popularity of "unboxing" videos online shows that the best part of presents is opening them.

But there's a work-around. Don't print out the charity's acknowledgment and shove it in an envelope. Learn a little origami - YouTube videos are perfect for this - and fold it into a swan or a beetle or, if you're adventurous, a hexaflexagon. (Look it up; you'll be glad you did.)

That will charm your loved one and be a lot more fun to open than a box covered in generic Santa paper. Plus, it makes you look smart.

If that's too intimidating, many charities are aware of the need-something-to-unwrap problem and will let you bundle donations with a teddy bear or tote bag or branded tchochke.

Buy local – a thing or an experience

You've heard this forever but the pandemic's blow to local stores and stages has made "buy local" even more important.

If you want to buy a gift, don't go to some gigantic e-commerce site named after a large river. A few

Consider a donation to a locally based charity. But don't just print out the charity's acknowledgment and shove it in an envelope. Learn a little origami, and fold your gift into your new artwork. That will charm your loved one and be a lot more fun to open than any other present.



Consider giving the gift of a night out on the town. Concord has plenty of spots to eat and drink (you can also stop by Litherman's Limited or Concord Craft and pick up a growler or a T-shirt!), or consider a gift certificate to a local theater like Hatbox, which has a season's worth of shows lined up.

minutes with Google will often find in-state crafters or manufacturers or distributors who could use a portion of your money.

Better yet, shed the work-from-home habit and go check local stores. A small funky item bought from a store on Main Street will mean more than the same funky item tossed on your doorstep by a harassed delivery contractor desperate to make their daily quota.

It may be slightly more expensive because massive conglomerates squeeze costs in often unpleasant ways. We don't see that unpleasantness when we click the "buy" button but they still exist and our shopping choices can help reduce them, which is a very Christmas-y thing to do. If you need a more self-centered reason, remember that local stores pay local taxes so that you don't have to!

This applies for "experience" presents such as pre-purchased tickets or promises for an outing. Whether it's all day at Santa's Village, a Red River Theater showing followed by dinner downtown, a play at Hatbox Theater, dance lessons (I know you're dying to learn the salsa) or a ski lift ticket, these are presents that show you care and also help New Hampshire folks.

Don't be afraid to regift

As I said at the beginning, the pandemic is the perfect excuse for the present-buying-challenged. You've finally got cover to unload the Uncle Floyd's thingamajig from Christmas 2018 that you never wanted!

Make something yourself

As a kid I hated it when my folks gave this answer when I asked what they wanted for Christmas, and my grown daughter hates it from me even today. But it's true.

It really does mean a lot when you give a loved one a drawing you made, or a corny poem you wrote or a little song you recorded, maybe a knitted scarf or a candle made from your earwax (OK, not that last one). Even if the creation is second-rate and amateurish, the time and thought that went into the gift is what counts.

Just make it clear that you won't be offended if they don't hang the picture in their living or wear the scarf to a job interview or turn your song into their ring tone. It was the thought that counts in the creation and it's the thought that counts in their acceptance.

Food or drink

No explanation needed. I've found that monthly subscriptions for items people don't explore much - cheese, ciders, sauces - are a hit.

And you can put the notice inside a hexaflexagon!

A small funky item bought from a store on Main Street will mean more than the same funky item tossed on your doorstep by a harassed delivery contractor desperate to make their daily quota.



Best of Concord

ANNUAL READER SURVEY OF TOP PLACES IN AND AROUND THE CITY

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ABOUT THE CAPPIES

We all have our favorite spots in the city. Each spring, the "Concord Monitor" asks the community to weigh in on the best Concord has to offer across a host of categories. We thought it'd be helpful for our "Around Concord" readers to use this as a guide for their holiday shopping and their year-end financial planning.

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Retirement Community

1. John H Whitaker Place:

30 Borough Road, Concord, 603-753-9100, whitakerplace.org

2. Havenwood Heritage Heights:

149 East Side Dr., Concord, 603-227-1343, hhhinfo.com

3. Granite Ledges of Concord:

151 Langley Pkwy, Concord, 603-224-0777, genesishcc.com/ graniteledgesofconcord

Assisted Living

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55+ Community

1. John H Whitaker Place:

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2. Freedom Village Cooperative:

24 Boanza Dr., Concord, 603-715-9364, freedomvillagenh.coop

3. Havenwood Heritage Heights:

149 East Side Dr., Concord. 603-227-1343, hhhinfo.com

ARTS

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Movie Theater

1. Red River Theatres:

11 S. Main St. Suite L1, Concord, 603-224-4600, redrivertheatres.org

2. BarnZ: Locations in Barrington and Meredith, barnzs.com

3. Chunky's Cinema Pub:

707 Huse Road, Manchester, 603-206-3888, chunkys.com/theatre/manchester

Live Theatre

1. Capitol Center for the Arts:

44 South Main St., Concord, 603-225-1111, ccanh.com

- 2. Hatbox Theatre: 270 Loudon Road, Suite 1161, Concord, 603-715-2315, hatboxnh.com
- 3. Winnipesaukee Playhouse: 33 Footlight Circle, Meredith, 603-279-0333, winnipesaukee playhouse.org

Music

- 1. SNHU Arena: 555 Elm St., Manchester. 603-644-5000. snhuarena.com
- 2. Hatbox Theatre: 270 Loudon Road, Suite 1161, Concord, 603-715-2315, hatboxnh.com
- 3. Bank of New Hampshire Pavilion: 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 603-293-4700, banknhpavilion.com

Art

1. Kimball Jenkins School of Art:

266 N. Main St., Concord, 603-225-3932, kimballjenkins.com

2. League of NH Craftsmen: 36 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-8171, nhcrafts.org

3. Currier Museum of Art: 150 Ash St., Manchester, 603-669-6144, currier.org

Museum

1. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center:

2 Institute Drive, Concord, 603-271-7827, starhop.com

2. New Hampshire Telephone Museum:

1 Depot St., Warner, 603-456-2234, nhtelephonemuseum.org

3. Canterbury Shaker Village:

288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, 603-783-9511, shakers.org

After Hours

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant:

22 Loudon Road, Concord. 603-224-9600, el-rodeo-nh.com

- 2. Cheers Grille & Bar: 17 Depot St. #1, Concord, 603-228-0180, cheersnh.com
- 3. Chuck's BARbershop: 90 Low Ave... Concord, 603-856-7071, facebook.com/ ChucksBARbershopNH

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129 Centervale Road, Henniker, 603-428-3579, hennikerbrewing.com

2. Kettlehead Brewing Company:

407 W. Main St., Tilton, 603-286-8100, kettleheadbrewing.com

3. Litherman's Limited Brewery: 126 Hall St. Unit B, Concord, 603-219-0784, lithermans.beer

Cocktails

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant:

22 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-9600, el-rodeo-nh.com 2. 0 Steaks & Seafood: 11 S. Main St.. Concord, 603-856-7925, osteaksconcord.com

3. Covered Bridge Restaurant:

16 Cedar St., Contoocook, 603-746-5191, coveredbridgerestaurant.com

Winery

- 1. Crazy Cat Winery: 365 Lake St., Bristol, 603-217-0192, crazycatwinery.com
- 2. Zorvino Vineyards: 226 Main St., Sandown, 603-887-8463, zorvino.com
- 3. LaBelle Winery: Locations in Amherst, Derry and Portsmouth, labellewinery.com

Comedy

- 1. Hatbox Theatre: 270 Loudon Road, Suite 1161, Concord, 603-715-2315, hatboxnh.com
- 2. Capitol Center for the Arts: 44 S. Main St., Concord, 603-225-1111, ccanh.com
- 3. Headliners Comedy Club: 700 Elm St., Manchester, 603-988-3673. facebook.com/headlinercomedyclubs

Night club

- 1. Tandy's Pub & Grille: 1 Eagle Square. Concord, 603-856-7614, tandyspub.com
- 2. Area 23: 254 N. State St. Unit H. Concord, 603-552-0137, thearea23.com

3. Bank of NH Stage: 16 S. Main St., Concord, 603-225-1111, ccanh.com

Community Event

1. Market Days: 603-226-2150. marketdaysfestival.com

2. Canterbury Fair: canterburyfair.com 3. Rock 'N Race: runsignup.com/Race/

NH/Concord/RockNRace

Margarita

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant:

22 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-9600, el-rodeo-nh.com

2. Hermanos Cocina Mexicana:

11 Hills Ave., Concord, 603-224-5669. hermanosmexican.com

3. Margaritas Mexican Restaurant:

1 Bicentennial Square, Concord, 603-224-2821, margs.com/concord

Birthday Venue

- 1. Chucksters: Locations in Chichester and Hooksett, chuckstersnh.com
- 2. Story Land: 850 NH-16, Glen, 603-383-4186, storylandnh.com
- 3. Beech Hill Farm & Ice Cream Barn: 107 Beech Hill Road, Hopkinton. 603-223-0828, beechhillfarm.com





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AUTOMOTIVE

Sponsored by Next Level Automotive

New Car

1. Grappone Automotive Group: 594 NH-3A. Bow. 800-528-8993, grappone.com

2. Banks Chevrolet: 137 Manchester St., Concord, 844-511-2874, banksautos.com

3 (tie) Ed Reilly Subaru: 150 Manchester St., Concord, 603-225-0200, edreillysubaru.com

3 (tie) Concord Nissan: 175 Manchester St.. Concord, 603-224-1300, concordnissan.com

Used car

1. Carlson's Motor Sales:

13 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-2304. carlsonsmotors.com

2. Tim's Truck Capital:

904 Suncook Valley Hwy S, Epsom, 603-736-8143, timstruckcapital.com

3. Grappone Automotive Group: 594 NH-3A, Bow, 800-528-8993, grappone.com

Car Wash

1. Uno's Car Wash: 165 Loudon Road. Concord, 603-225-4757

2. Winnisquam Car Wash:

276 Daniel Webster Hwy, Belmont, 603-528-6728, winnicarwash.com

3. Golden Nozzle Car: 24 Loudon Rd. Concord, 603-856-8462, goldennozzlecarwash.com

Auto Repair

1. Carlson's Motor Sales:

13 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-2304, carlsonsmotors.com

2. Next Level Automotive:

3 Industrial Park Dr., Concord. 603-227-6845, nextlevelnh.com

3. Weed Family Automotive:

124 Storrs St., Concord, 603-225-7988, weedfamilyautomotive.com

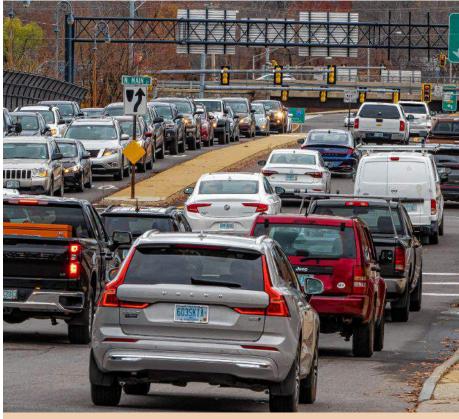
Auto Body

1. Guimond's Auto Body: 73 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-3751, guimondsautobody.com

2. Above All Collision:

45 Chenell Dr., Concord, 603-224-6065, aboveall collision, com

3. Banks Collision Center: 100 Airport Road, Concord, 603-410-2200, banksautos.com/collision-center



It's a jungle out there. Who's keeping your car running?

Detailing

1. Concord Auto Spa:

16 Water St., Concord, 603-225-8200, concordautospanh.com

2. Uno's Car Wash: 165 Loudon Road. Concord, 603-225-4757

3. Roscoe's Detailing: 3 Dail Drive, Epsom, 603-738-1190, roscoes-detailing.business.site

Auto Parts

1. Gilbert Driveline: 340 Massabesic St... Manchester, 603-623-3061, gilbertdriveline.com

2. Sanel Auto Parts: 219 S Main St... Concord, 603-225-4100, sanelnapa.com locations/concord-nh-2

3. Fisher Auto Parts: 120 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-228-0422, fisherautoparts.com

Oil & Lube

1. Carlson's Motor Sales: 13 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-2304, carlsonsmotors.com

2. Next Level Automotive:

3 Industrial Park Dr., Concord, 603-227-6845, nextlevelnh.com 3. Weed Family Automotive:

124 Storrs St., Concord, 603-225-7988, weedfamilyautomotive.com

Tires

1. Carlson's Motor Sales: 13 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-2304. carlsonsmotors.com

2. Next Level Automotive: 3 Industrial Park Dr., Concord, 603-227-6845. nextlevelnh.com

3. Town Fair Tire:

208 Loudon Road, Concord. 603-223-6950, townfairtire.com/store/ tires/new-hampshire/concord

1. Camping World of New Hampshire:

165 Dover Road, Chichester, 888-485-7284, rv.campingworld.com

2. Outdoor Sports Center: 79 Manchester St., Concord, 603-228-8600, outdoorsportscenter.net

3. Cold Springs RV:

530 S. Stark Hwy, Weare, 603-529-2222, coldspringsrv.com

DINING

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Mexican

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant:

22 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-9600. el-rodeo-nh.com/

2. Hermanos Cocina Mexicana:

11 Hills Ave, Concord, 603-224-5669, hermanosmexican.com

3. Dos Amigos Burritos:

26 N. Main St., Concord, 603-410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

Breakfast Fare

1. Tucker's: 80 South St, Concord, 603-413-5884, tuckersnh.com

2. J&J's Yolk & Co.: 936 Laconia Rd., Belmont, 603-267-7748, facebook.com/ TheBrokenYolkNH

3. Windmill Family Restaurant:

172 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-225-0600. windmillfamilyrestaurantinc.com

Buffet

1. Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub:

72 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-4101, theredblazer.com

2. Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant:

233 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith, 603-279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com

3. Concord Food Co-op: 24 S Main St, Concord, 603-225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop

Lunch

1. Washington Street Cafe:

88 Washington St, Concord, 603-226-2699, washingtonstreet catering.com

2. Constantly Pizza: 39 S Main St, Concord, 603-224-9366 and 108 Fisherville Rd #3, Penacook, 603-227-1117, constantlypizza.net

3. Beefside Restaurant:

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

Dinner

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant:

22 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-9600, el-rodeo-nh.com

2. Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub:

72 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-4101, theredblazer.com



Smokeshow is now on Fort Eddy, but will be moving to South Main Street.

3. Smokeshow Barbeque:

89 Fort Eddy Rd, Concord, 603-227-6399, smokeshowbbg.com

Seafood

1. Sanders Fish Market: At the Everett Arena Fridays, 367 Marcy St, Portsmouth, 603-436-4568, sandersfish.com/

2. Makris Lobster & Steak House:

354 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 603-225-7665, eatalobster.com

3. Johnsons Seafood & Steak:

1334 1st NH Turnpike, Northwood, 603-942-7300, Facebook

Vegetarian Fare

1. Live Juice: 5 S Main St., Concord, 603-226-3024, livejuicenh.com

2. Concord Food Co-op:

24 S Main St, Concord, 603-225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop

3. Dos Amigos Burritos:

26 N. Main St., Concord, 603-410-4161, dosamigosburritos.com

Take out

1. Brookside Pizza: 563 NH-106 north, Loudon, NH (603) 783-4550 & 151 Manchester St. Concord, NH brooksidepizza.com/

2. Sal's Pizza: 80 Storrs St., Concord, 603-226-0297, salspizzaconcord.com

3. Tilton House of Pizza: 289 Main St... Tilton, 603-286-7181, find on Facebook

Outdoor Dining

1. El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant:

22 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-9600, el-rodeo-nh.com

2. Cheers Grille & Bar: 17 Depot St. #1, Concord, 603-228-0180, cheersnh.com

3. Tandy's Pub & Grille: 1 Eagle Square, Concord, 603-856-7614, tandyspub.com

Fine Dining

1. Angelina's Ristorante Italiano:

11 Depot St., Concord, 603-228-3313, angelinasrestaurant.com

2. Copper Door Restaurant:

15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 603-488-2677, copperdoor.com

3. 0 Steaks & Seafood:

11 S. Main St. Concord. 603-856-7925. osteaksconcord.com

Asian Food

- 1. Green Ginger: 75 Laconia Road, Tilton, 03276, 603-286-9989, greenging: 520 South St., Bow, 603-228-8508. chenyangli-bow.com
- 3. Moritomo Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar: 32 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-224-8363, moritomonh.com

Barbecue

1. Smokeshow Barbeque:

89 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-227-6399, smokeshowbbg.com

2. Georgia's Northside:

394 N. State St., Concord, 603-715-9189, georgiasnorthside.com

3. Smoke Shack BBQ: 146 King St., Boscawen, 603-796-2046, ss-bbq.com

Family Friendly

- 1. Arnie's Place: 164 Loudon Road. Concord, 603-228-3225, arniesplace.com
- 2. Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant: 233 Daniel Webster Hwy. Meredith. 603-279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com
- 3. Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub: 72 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-4101, theredblazer.com

Romantic

1. Angelina's Ristorante Italiano:

11 Depot St., Concord, 603-228-3313, angelinasrestaurant.com

2. Copper Door Restaurant:

15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 603-488-2677, copperdoor.com

3. 0 Steaks & Seafood:

11 S. Main St., Concord, 603-856-7925, osteaksconcord.com

Steakhouse

1. 0 Steaks & Seafood:

11 S. Main St., Concord, 603-856-7925. osteaksconcord.com

2. Hanover Street Chophouse:

149 Hanover St., Manchester. 603-644-2467.

hanoverstreetchophouse.com

3. LongHorn Steakhouse: 217 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-228-0655, longhornsteakhouse.com

Italian

1. Angelina's Ristorante Italiano:

11 Depot St., Concord, 603-228-3313, angelinasrestaurant.com

2. Giuseppe's Pizzeria & Ristorante:

Mill Falls Marketplace,

312 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith, 603-279-3313, giuseppesnh.com

3. Veano's Italian Kitchen:

30 Manchester St. #3, Concord, 603-715-1695, veanositaliankitchen2.com

FUN FOOD

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Ice Cream

- 1. Jordan's Ice Creamery: 894 Laconia Road, Belmont, 603-267-1900, facebook.com/jordansic
- 2. Arnie's Place: 164 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-228-3225, arniesplace.com
- 3. Johnsons Seafood & Steak: 1334 1st NH Turnpike, Northwood, 603-942-7300, facebook.com/JohnsonsNorthwood

Bakery

- 1. Bread & Chocolate: 29 S. Main St., Concord, 603-228,3330, facebook.com/ BreadandChocolateConcordNH
- 2. Yum Yum Shoppe: 16 N. Main St., Wolfeboro, 603-569-1919, yumyumshop.com
- 3. The Crust and Crumb Baking Co.: 126 N. Main St., Concord, 603-219-0763, the crust and crumb.com

Subs

- 1. Brookside Pizza: 563 Route 106 N. Loudon, (603) 783-4550 and 151 Manchester St, Concord, brooksidepizza.com
- 2. Constantly Pizza: 39 S. Main St., Concord, 603-224-9366 and 108 Fisherville Road, Penacook, 603-227-1117, constantlypizza.net
- 3. Biederman's Deli: 83 Main St., Plymouth, 603-536-3354, biedermans.com

Doughnuts

1. Brothers Donuts & Deli Shop:

426 Central St., Franklin, 603-934-6678, facebook.com/brothersdonuts

2. NH Doughnut Co.: 2 Capital Plaza, Concord 603-715-5097 or 114 Dover Road, Chichester, 603-961-0352, nhdoughnutco.com



Brother's Donuts in Franklin

3. Chichester Country Store: 257 Main St., Chichester, 603-798-5081, chichestercountrystore.com

Chicken Wings/Tenders

1. Puritan Backroom:

245 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 603-669-6890, puritanbackroom.com

2. Wine'ing Butcher:

16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke. 603-856-8855, wineingbutcher.com/ pembroke-nh-butcher-shop

3. Covered Bridge Restaurant: 16 Cedar St., Contoocook, 603-746-5191, coveredbridgerestaurant.com

Coffee

- 1. Cafe Monte Alto: 83 Main St., Plymouth, 603-238-9218, montealto.com, montealto@roadrunner.com
- 2. True Confections Candies & Gifts: 211 Loudon Road, Ste D. Concord. 603-226-3536, trueconfectionsnh.com

Pizza

- 1. Brookside Pizza: 563 NH-106 North. Loudon, (603) 783-4550 & 151 Manchester St, Concord, brooksidepizza.com
- 2. Constantly Pizza: 39 S. Main St., Concord, 603-224-9366 and 108 Fisherville Road, Penacook, 603-227-1117, constantlypizza.net
- 3. Tilton House of Pizza: 289 Main St., Tilton, 603-286-7181, Find on Facebook

Burgers

- 1. The Barley House Restaurant & Tavern: 132 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com
- 2. Surfside Burger Bar:
- 41 Route 25, Meredith, 603-279-5554, surfsideburgerbar.com
- 3. Five Guys: 56 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-856-8107, restaurants.fiveguys.com/ 56-fort-eddy-road

Fried Food

- 1. Wander Roll Food Truck: Mobile location, wanderroll.com
- 2. Surfside Burger Bar:

41 Route 25, Meredith, 603-279-5554, surfsideburgerbar.com

3. Johnsons Seafood & Steak:

1334 1st NH Turnpike, Northwood, 603-942-7300,

facebook.com/JohnsonsNorthwood

Sushi

- 1. Moritomo Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar: 32 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-224-8363, moritomonh.com
- 2. Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar: 118 Manchester St., Concord, 603-223-3301, ichibanconcord.com
- 3. Green Ginger: 75 Laconia Road, Tilton, 03276, 603-286-9989, greengingerrestaurant.com

Dessert

- 1. The Crust and Crumb Baking Co.: 126 N. Main St., Concord, 603-219-0763, the crustand crumb.com
- 2. Yum Yum Shoppe: 16 N. Main St., Wolfeboro, 603-569-1919, yumyumshop.com
- 3. Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub: 72 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-4101, theredblazer.com



Arrows and Embers, Buzz Ink and Blood Oath top the tattoo list.

HEALTH

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Mani/Pedi

- 1. Platinum Salon & Spa: 222 Court St., Laconia, 603-524-7724, facebook.com
- 2. Roy Nails & Spa: 89 Storrs St., Concord, 603-715-1648, roynails.business.site
- 3. Boss Esthetics by Tulia: 85 Manchester St., Suite 2, 603-247-9617, facebook.com

Spa

- 1. Platinum Salon & Spa: 222 Court St., Laconia, 603-524-7724, facebook.com
- 2. Serendipity Day Spa: 23 Sheep Dayis Road, Pembroke, 603-229-0400, serendipitydayspa.shop
- 3. Common Man Inn & Spa: 231 Main St., Plymouth, 603-536-2200, thecmaninnplymouth.com

Tanning

- 1. Turbo Tan: 133 Loudon Road #5611, Concord, 603-223-6665, turbotan.org
- 2. Sun Tan City: 80 Storrs St., Concord, 603-856-7841, suntancity.com
- 3. Misty's Magic Mist: 270 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-738-5316, mistysmagicmist.com

Massage

- 1. Chichester Massage & Bodywork: 114 Dover Road, Chichester, 603-798-4669, chichestermassage.com
- 2. Muscular Wellness Treatment Center: 553 Roue 3A, Bow, 603-228-7711, muscularwellnesstc.com
- 3. Strength & Power Massage: 270 Loudon Road #6000B, Concord, 603-717-6640, strengthandpowermassage.com

Hair Salon

- 1. Flora's Hair Salon: 76 Airport Road, Concord, 603-225-4772, facebook.com
- 2. Platinum Salon & Spa: 222 Court St., Laconia, 603-524-7724, facebook.com
- 3. Salon K: 18 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-225-0099, salonkconcord.com

Barber

- 1. Buzz Ink Tattoo and Barber Shop: 85 Manchester St. #2. Concord. 603-715-1808, facebook.com/ BuzzInkShop
- 2. Lucky's Barbershop & Shave Parlor: 50 S. State St., Concord, 603-715-5470, luckysbarbershop.biz
- 3. A Corner Barber Shop: 58 NH-129 #104, Loudon, 603-798-4084

Tattoo

1. Arrows and Embers Custom Tattoo: 117 Manchester St., Suite #3, Concord. 603-988-6067.

arrowsandemberstattoo.com

- 2. Buzz Ink Tattoo and Barber Shop: 85 Manchester St. #2, Concord, 603-715-1808, facebook.com/ BuzzInkShop
- 3. Blood Oath Tattoo: 15 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-227-6912, facebook.com/ bloodoathtattoo

Gym

- 1. Get Fit NH: 41 Terrill Park Drive. Concord, 603-344-2651, getfitnh.com
- 2. Body Design by Joy: 25 Sawmill Drive, Gilford, 603-524-1860, bodydesignbyjoy.com
- 3. The Zoo Health Club: 270 Loudon Road #6000. 603-219-0036. zoogymnh.com/concord-club-info

MEDICAL

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Dentist

1. Generations Dental Care:

9 Triangle Park Drive, Ste 3, Concord. 603-225-6331, generations dental.com

- 2. Dr. David Frost: 75 Clinton St., Concord, 603-224-4061, concorddentalgroup.com/ doctor/david-c-frost
- 3. Children's Dentistry of the Lakes Region: 369 Hounsell Ave #1, Gilford, 603-527-2500, childrensdentistnh.com

Eye

- 1. Sacco Eyecare: 21 Green St., Concord, 603-224-0971, saccoeyecare.net
- 2. Concord Eve Center: 248 Pleasant St... Concord, 603-224-2020, concordeyecenternh.com
- 3. InFocus Eyecare: 320 Daniel Webster Hwy, Belmont, 603-527-2035, infocuseyecarenh.com

Physician

- 1. Patricia Clancy: 280 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-226-3400, concordhospital.org
- 2. Pleasant Street Family Medicine: 280 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-226-3400, concordhospital.org
- 3. Dartmouth-Hitchcock: 253 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-226-2200, dartmouth-hitchcock.org

Physical Therapy

- 1. Concord Ortho: Matthew.Johnson@ concordortho.com
- 2. Foothills Physical: 28 Commercial St. #4, Concord, 603-225-5132, foothillsphysicaltherapy.com
- 3. Coppola PT: 10 Ferry St., Concord. 603-715-9697, or 171 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-228-7500, coppolapt.com

Acupuncturist

1. Trend Acupuncture: 163 Manchester St., Unit 2, Concord, 603-456-8294, trendacupuncture.com



Dr. Laura Jones of Whole Health

2. Whole Health Concord:

7 Broadway, Concord, 603-369-4626, naturalmedicinenh.com

3. Five Seasons Acupuncture:

188 N. Main St., Concord, 603-226-4644, fiveseasonsacupuncturenh.com

Audiologist

- 1. Better Hearing Center, PLLC: 2 Industrial Park Drive, Concord, 603-224-9043, betterhearingnh.com
- 2. Audiology Specialists LLC: 211 S. Main St., Laconia, 603-528-7700, audiologyspecialists.com
- 3. Alliance Hearing Center: 194 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-415-3277, alliancehearingcenterllc.com

Cancer Care

- 1. Dartmouth-Hitchcock: 253 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-226-2200, dartmouth-hitchcock.org
- 2. Payson Center for Cancer Care: 250 Pleasant St., Concord. 603-230-6000, concordhospital.org
- 3. Massachusetts General Hospital: 55 Fruit St., Boston, MA, 617-726-2000, massgeneral.org

Cardiac Care

- 1. Catholic Medical Center: 100 McGregor St., Manchester, 603-668-3545, catholicmedicalcenter.org
- 2. Concord Hospital: 250 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-225-2711, concordhospital.org
- 3. Cardiac Associates: 246 Pleasant St. West, Concord, 603-224-6070, concordhospital.org

Birth

- 1. Concord Hospital: 250 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-225-2711, concordhospital.org
- 2. Elliot Hospital: 1 Elliot Way, Manchester, 603-669-5300, elliothospital.org



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Member: New Hampshire Antique Dealer Association and Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, www.concordantiquesgallery.com Like us on Facebook and Review us on Google



3. Catholic Medical Center: 100 McGregor St., Manchester, 603-668-3545, catholicmedicalcenter.org

Emergency Care

- 1. Concord Hospital: 250 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-225-2711, concordhospital.org
- 2. ClearChoiceMD Urgent Care: Belmont and Tilton, ccmdcenters.com
- 3. Concord Hospital Walk-In Urgent Center: 60 Commercial St., Concord, 603-230-1200, concordhospital.org

Hospital

- 1. Concord Hospital: 250 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-225-2711, concordhospital.org
- 2. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center: 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, 603-650-5000, dartmouth-hitchcock.org
- 3. Catholic Medical Center: 100 McGregor St., Manchester, 603-668-3545, catholic medicalcenter.org

Orthodontist

- 1. Generations Dental Care: 9 Triangle Park Drive Ste 3, Concord, 603-225-6331. generationsdental.com
- 2. Kennell Orthodontics: 94 Boulder Point Drive, Plymouth, 603-536-7404, kennellortho.com
- 3. Luba Richter Orthodontics: 155 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-225-5242, drlubaortho.com

Pediatric care Dentist

- 1. Generations Dental Care: 9 Triangle Park Drive Ste 3, Concord, 603-225-6331, generationsdental.com
- 2. Dr. David Frost: 75 Clinton St... Concord, 603-224-4061, concorddentalgroup.com
- 3. Children's Dentistry of the Lakes Region: 369 Hounsell Ave #1, Gilford, 603-527-2500, childrensdentistnh.com

Chiropractic care

1. Crossroads Chiropractic:

556 Pembroke St., Pembroke, 603-224-4281. crossroadschiropractic.com

- 2. Splendore Family Chiropractic: 211 Loudon Road, Ste G, Concord, 603-223-0680, splendorefamilychiropractic.com
- 3. Sellar Chiropractic Clinic: 35 West St., Concord, 603-224-3883, concordchiropractornh.com



Supplies, grooming and more

PETS

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Pet Supply

- 1. For the Love of Dogs Everywhere: 114 Dover Road, Unit 6, Chichester, 603-961-0037, luvallk9s.com
- 2. Pawtopia Pet Grooming Salon and Boutique: 244 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 603-227-6140, pawtopiapets.com
- 3. Petco: 35 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-225-7355, stores.petco.com

Boarding

- 1. Bark Now: 237 S. Main St., Concord, 603-229-3700, barknow.com/
- 2. Saddleback Pet Services:

150 Old Mountain Road, Northwood, 603-942-5988, saddlebackpet.com

3. VCA Russell Animal Hospital: 286B Pleasant St., Concord, 603-224-2361, vcahospitals.com/russell

Veterinarian

- 1. Henniker Veterinary Hospital: 262 Maple St., Henniker, 603-428-3441, hennikervet.com
- 2. Northwood Veterinary Hospital: 569 1st New Hampshire Turnpike, Northwood, 603-942-8368, northwoodveterinary.com
- 3 (tie). Fisherville Animal Hospital: 108 Fisherville Road, Concord, 603-229-0674, fishervilleanimalhospital.com
- 3 (tie), VCA Russell Animal Hospital: 286B Pleasant St., Concord, 603-224-2361, vcahospitals.com/russell

Groomer

1. Pawtopia Pet Grooming: 244 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, 603-227-6140,



pawtopiapets.com

2. Bark Now: 237 S. Main St., Concord, 603-229-3700, barknow.com

3. Finlayson's Pet Care Center: 14 King Road, Chichester, 603-961-0055, finlaysonspetcarecenter.com

Trainer

1. No Monkey Business Dog Training:

254 N. State St., Unit J, Concord, 603-856-7509,

nomonkeybusinessdogtraining.com

2. Davis Dog Training: 133 Mile Hill Road, Belmont, 603-393-9527, davisdogtraining.org

3. Saddleback Pet Services:

150 Old Mountain Road, Northwood, 603-942-5988, saddlebackpet.com/

SERVICES

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Credit Union

1. New Hampshire Federal Credit Union: 70 Airport Road or 47 N. Main St.,

Concord, 603-224-7731, nhfcu.org

2. Northeast Credit Union: 1 S. Main St... Concord, 888-436-1847, necu.org/ locations/concord-branch

3. Service Credit Union: 344 Loudon Road, Concord, 800-936-7730, servicecu.org

Bank

1. Merrimack County Savings Bank:

Locations in Concord, Bow and Contoocook, 800-541-0006. themerrimack.com

2. Ledyard National Bank: 74 S. Main St., Concord, 603-415-0877, ledvardbank.com

3. Franklin Savings Bank: Eight New Hampshire locations, fsbnh.bank

Financial Advisor

1. NHTrust Financial Advisors: 89 N. Main St., Concord, 603-223-2712, nhtrust.com

2. Valpey Financial Services:

100 N. Main St., Concord, 603-856-7945, ronvalpey.com

3. Ledyard Financial Advisors:

1 Pillsbury St., Concord, 603-513-4100, ledyardbank.com



Plumber

1. Bravdin Plumbing and Heating:

110 Curtisville Road, Concord, 603-568-1869, braydinph.com, email Service@braydinph.com

2. Bow Plumbing & Heating: 3 Bow Bog Road, Bow, 603-225-6929, bowph.com

3. Heritage Home Service:

603-371-0591, justcallheritage.com

Electrician

1. Blay Electric: 20 Becky Lane, Concord, 603-340-5526, blavelectric.com

2. Irish Electric: 659 Currier Road, Hopkinton, 603-224-7474, irishelectric.net

3. R&T Electric: 315 S. Main St., Concord, 603-224-4782, rtelec.com

Landscaper

1. Tasker Landscaping: 286 Chichester Road, Loudon, 603-798-5048, taskerlandscaping.com

2. Boucher's Tree Service: 603-249-6515, facebook.com

3. Saucier Scapes: 603-724-8507, facebook.com

Law Firm

1. Annis & Zellers PLLC:

2 S. State St., Concord, 603-224-5800, anniszellers.com

2. Orr & Reno: 45 S. Main St., Concord, 603-224-2381, orr-reno.com

3. Shaheen & Gordon: 107 Storrs St., Concord, 603-819-4231, shaheengordon.com/concord

Insurance Agency

1. The Rowley Agency: 45 Constitution Ave., Concord, 603-224-2562, rowleyagency.com

2. Davis & Towle Insurance Group:

115 Airport Road, Concord, 603-225-6611, davistowle.com

3. NHTrust Financial Advisors: 89 N. Main St., Concord, 603-223-2712, nhtrust.com

Travel Agency

1. Terrapin Tours: 603-348-7141. terrapintours.com

2. Epic Travel: 603-738-4404, epictravelbykathi.com

3. AAA Northern New England:

48 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-228-0301, aaa.com

Realty Agent

1. Nylora Bruleigh: Seekers and Sellers Realty Group, 603-340-0650, seekersandsellers.com

2. Casey Destefano: Century 21 The Destefano Group, 46 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-224-3377, c21nh.com/realestate/ agent/casey-destefano

3. Suzanne Zellers: Cowan & Zellers Real Estate, 30 S. Main St., Concord, 603-225-3333, cowanandzellers.com

Butcher Shop

1. Wine'ing Butcher: 16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 603-856-8855, wineingbutcher.com/ pembroke-nh-butcher-shop

2. Tuckaway Tavern and Butchery:

58 Route 27, Raymond,

603-244-2431, thetuckaway.com

3. Concord Beef & Seafood:

75 S. Main St., Concord, 603-226-3474. concordbeefandseafood.com

Power Equipment

1. MB Tractor: 10 Bittern Lane, Tilton. mbtractor.com

2. The Home Depot: 42 D'amante Drive, Concord, 603-227-0580, homedepot.com

3. Knoxland Equipment:

25 Old Warner Lane, Warner, 603-746-5260, knoxland.com

Contractor

1. RS Audley: 1113 Route 3A, Bow, 603-224-7724, audleyconstruction.com

2. Jim Duval Construction: 603-724-5398, facebook.com/jimduvalconstruction

3. Tepper Contractors: 104 Main St., Chichester, 603-798-5782

Roofer

1. New Heights Roofing:

117 Hall St., Concord, 603-548-4484, newheightsroofingnh.com

2. Energy Improvements of NH:

157 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 603-224-3340, energyimprovements.com

3. G. Ray Colby: 27 S. Curtisville Road, Concord, 603-224-2834, facebook.com/graycolby

Dry Cleaners

1. Arnos Cleaners: 267 S. Main St., Concord, 603-224-4461

2. Merrimack Cleaners: 96 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-226-4244

3. Cleary Cleaners: 228 Loudon Road, 603-226-0449 or 169 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-0623, clearycleaners.com

Flooring

1. ADF Flooring: 248 Sheep Davis Road, Ste 8, Concord, 603-856-8040, adfflooring.com

2. Concord Carpet Center: 43 Fisherville Road #1, Concord, 603-225-6600, facebook.com/concordcarpetcenterLLC

3. Konopka Floor Sanding: 160 Shaw Road, Pittsfield, 603-435-6129, konopkafloorsanding.com

HVAC

1. AJ Leblanc Heating, A/C, Plumbing & Electrical: 45 S. River Road, Bedford, 603-623-0412, leblanchvac.com

2. Heritage Home Service: 603-371-0591, justcallheritage.com

3. Bow Plumbing & Heating: 3 Bow Bog Road, Bow, 603-225-6929, bowph.com

Kitchen & Bath

1. All About Kitchens:

4 Pleasant St. Ext, Concord, 603-715-5881, allaboutkitchens.com

2. The Granite Group: 6 Storrs St., Concord, 603-545-3470, thegranitegroup.com

3. Capital Kitchens & Baths: 58 Hall St., Concord, 603-225-8300, capitalkitchenandbath.com

Best to Work

1. Annis & Zellers PLLC:

2 S. State St., Concord, 603-224-5800, anniszellers.com

2. NH Mutual Bancorp: nhmutual.com

3. The Rowley Agency:

45 Constitution Ave., Concord, 603-224-2562, rowleyagency.com

Private School

1. Shaker Road School:

131 Shaker Road, Concord, 603-224-0161, shakerroadschool.org

2. Tilton School: 30 School St., Tilton, 603-286-4342, tiltonschool.org

3. Bishop Brady High School: 25 Columbus Ave., Concord, 603-224-7418, bishopbrady.edu

Hotel

1. The Hotel Concord:

11 S. Main St., Concord, 603-504-3500, hotelconcordnh.com

2. Hampton Inn Concord/Bow: 515 South St., Bow, 603-224-5322,

hilton.com/en/hotels/ ccdnhhx-hampton-concord-bow

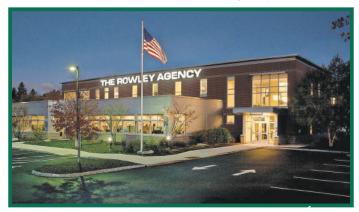
3. Inn at Mill Falls: 312 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith, 844-745-2931, millfalls.com

Thunk you

to all of our clients and friends in the Concord area and a special thanks to our employees for making this award possible.



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Real Estate Agency

- **1. Seekers & Sellers Realty Group:** 603-340-0650, seekersandsellers.com
- 2. Century 21 The Destefano Group: 46 Pleasant St., Concord, 603-224-3377 and 1033 Suncook Valley Hwy, Epsom, 603-736-9700, c21nh.com
- **3. Cowan & Zellers Real Estate:** 30 S. Main St. Ste 101, Concord, 603-225-3333, cowanandzellers.com

SHOPPING

Sponsored by Cowan & Zellers

Furniture

- **1. Endicott Furniture:** 12 S. Main St., Concord, 603-224-1421, endicottfurniture.com
- **2. Green Mountain Furniture:** 1050 NH-16, Ossipee, 603-539-2236, greenmountainfurniture.com
- **3. Cheney's Apple House Furniture:** 191 Village St., Concord, 603-753-6200, nhfurniturestore.com

Gift Shop

1. Marshall's Florist & Gifts:

151 King St., Boscawen, 603-796-2272, marshallsflowersandgifts.business.site

- **2. Penumbra:** 10 N. State St., Concord, penumbra.shop
- **3. Caring Gifts:** 18 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-8496, caringgifts.com

Home Decor

- 1. Budget Blinds of Concord, Hanover & Keene: 121 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-369-6597, budgetblinds.com
- 2. Amish Homestead:

80 S. Main St., Concord, 603-715-1680, facebook.com/amish.homestead

3. Cobblestone Design Company:

81 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-5980, cobblestoneflorist.com

Sporting goods

- **1. Runner's Alley:** 142 N. Main St., Concord, 603-715-5854, runnersalley.com
- **2. Millenium Running:** 138 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 603-472-7867, millenniumrunning.com

3. Dick's Sporting Goods:

295 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-1564, dickssportinggoods.com

Antiques

1. Hilltop Consignment Gallery:

56 N. Main St., Concord, 603-856-0110, facebook.com/HilltopConsignmentGallery

- **2. Concord Antiques:** 137 Storrs St., Concord, 603-225-6100, concordantiquesgallery.com
- 3. Laconia Antique Center: 601 Main St., Laconia, 603-524-9484, laconiaantiques.com

Book Store

- **1. Gibson's Bookstore:** 45 S Main St., Concord, 603-224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com
- **2. Innisfree Bookshop:** 312 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith, 603-279-3905, innisfreebookshop.com
- **3. Bookery Manchester:** 844 Elm St., Manchester, 603-836-6600, bookerymht.com

Chocolate store

- 1. Granite State Candy Shoppe:
- 13 Warren St., Concord, 603-225-2591, granitestatecandyshoppe.com
- **2. Kellerhaus:** 259 Endicott St. North, Laconia, 603-366-4466, kellerhaus.com
- 3. Lickee's & Chewy's Candies & Creamery: 53 Washington St., Suite 100, Dover, 603-343-1799, lickeesnchewys.com

Gourmet Food

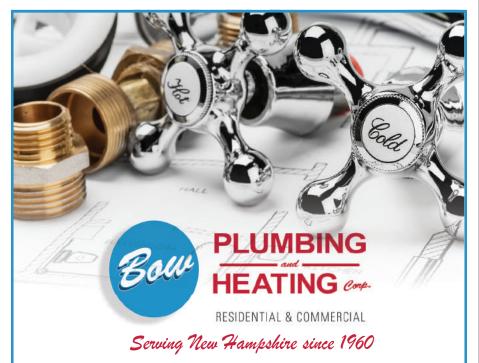
- **1. Wine'ing Butcher:** 16 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 603-856-8855, wineingbutcher.com/pembroke-nh-butcher-shop
- **2. Hungry Buffalo:** 58 NH 129-N, Loudon, 603-798-3737, hungrybuffalotavern.com
- **3. Monandock Oil and Vinegar:** 43 Grove St., Peterborough, 603-784-5175, monadnockoilandvinegar.com

Shoes

- **1. Runner's Alley:** 142 N Main St., Concord, 603-715-5854, runnersalley.com
- **2. Joe King's Shoe Shop:** 45 N. Main St., Concord, 603-225-6012, joekings.com
- **3. Millennium Running:** 138 Bedford Center Road, Bedford, 603-472-7867, millenniumrunning.com

Clothing

1. Gondwana & Divine Clothing Co.: 13 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-1101, gondwanaclothing.com



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- **2. Dressers Unlimited:** 77 Main St., Plymouth, 603-536-3066, dressers unlimited.com
- **3 (tie). Britches of Concord:** 1 Eagle Square #110, Concord, 603-225-4184, britchesconcord.com
- **3 (tie). JCPenney:** 270 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-225-6463, stores.jcpenney.com

Consignment

- **1. Lilise Designer Resale:** 7 N. Main St., Concord, 603-715-2009, liliseresale.com
- **2. Hilltop Consignment Gallery:** 56 N. Main St., Concord, 603-856-0110, facebook.com/HilltopConsignmentGallery
- **3. Ladders Thrift:** 16 Main St., Plymouth, 603-238-9016, facebook.com/LaddersThrift

Skincare

- **1. Serendipity Day Spa:** 23 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 603-229-0400, serendipitydayspa.shop
- **2. Roy Nails & Spa:** 89 Storrs St., Concord, 603-715-1648, roynails.business.site
- **3. Bath & Body Works:** 270 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-229-1845, bathandbodyworks.com

Beer Wine

1. NH State Liquor Store:

liquorandwineoutlets.com/

- **2. Case N Keg:** 855 Union Ave. #2554, Laconia, 603-524-7254, facebook.com/eyreeeeds
- **3. Capital Beverages:** 75 S. Main St., Concord, 603-856-8138, capital beverages.business.site

Grocery

- **1. Hannaford:** 73 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-228-2060, hannaford.com
- **2. Market Basket:** 108 Fort Eddy Road, 80 Storrs St., Concord, shopmarketbasket.com
- 3. Concord Food Co-op:

24 S. Main St., Concord, 603-225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop/

Natural Supplements

- **1. Granite State Naturals:** 164 N. State St., Concord, 603-224-9341, granitestatenaturals.com
- 2. Concord Food Co-op:

24 S. Main St., Concord, 603-225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop

3. Sunflower Natural Foods: 390 S. Main St #1, Laconia, 603-524-6334, sunflowernh.com

CBD Store

- **1. Your CBD Store:** 211 Loudon Road, Suite A, Concord, 603-715-1153, cbdrx4u.com
- **2. Clealy Balanced Days:** 833-223-4040, clearlybalanceddays.com
- 3. Concord Food Co-op:

24 S. Main St., Concord, 603-225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop/

SPORTS

Sponsored by Concord YMCA

Golf Course

- **1. Den Brae Golf Course:** 80 Prescott Road, Sanbornton, 603-934-9818, denbrae.com
- 2. Beaver Meadow Golf Course:
- 1 Beaver Meadow Drive, Concord, 603-228-8954, bmgc.golf
- **3. Concord Country Club:** 22 Country Club Lane, Concord, 603-228-8936, concordcountryclub.org

Fitness Center

- **1. YMCA of Concord:** 15 N. State St., Concord, 603-228-9622, concordymca.org
- 2. Body Design by Joy:

25 Sawmill Road, Gilford, 603-524-1860, bodydesignbyjoy.com

3. Planet Fitness:

89 Fort Eddy Road, Concord, 603-228-8680, planetfitness.com

Yoga

- **1. Body Design By Joy:** 25 Sawmill Road, Gilford, 603-524-1860, bodydesignbyjoy.com
- **2. Vibe & Revive Yoga:** 8 N. Main St. #1B, Concord, vibeandreviveyoga.com
- **3. Ohana Yoga:** 44 Cedar St., Contoocook, 603-748-1539, ohanayoganh.com

Ski Resort

- **1. Gunstock Mountain Resort:** 719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, 603-293-4341, gunstock.com
- **2. Pats Peak Ski Area:** 686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 603-428-3245, patspeak.com
- **3. Mount Sunapee Resort:** 1398 New Hampshire Rte 103, Newbury, 603-763-3576, mountsunapee.com

Campground

1. Friendly Beaver Campground: 88 Cochran Hill Road, New Boston, 603-487-5570, friendlybeaver.com

- 2. Bear Brook State Park: 157 Deerfield Road, Allenstown, 603-485-9874, nhstateparks.org
- **3. Moose Hillock Camping Resort:** 96 Batchelder Brook Road, Warren, 603-764-5294, moosehillock.com/new-hampshire

Bowling

1. Boutwell's Bowling Center:

152 N. State St., Concord, 603-224-0941. boutwellsbowl.com

- **2. Funspot:** 579 Endicott St. north, Laconia, 603-366-4377, funspotnh.com
- **3. Yankee Lanes:** 216 Maple St., Manchester, 603-625-9656, yankeelanes entertainment.com

Golf Equipment

- **1. Golf & Ski Warehouse:** Greenland and Hudson, golfskiwarehouse.com
- 2. Beaver Meadow Golf Course:
- 1 Beaver Meadow Drive, Concord, 603-228-8954, bmgc.golf
- **3. Dick's Sporting Goods:** 295 Loudon Road, Concord, 603-224-1564, dickssportinggoods.com

Indoor Sports

- **1 (tie). Fieldhouse Sports:** 12 Tallwood Drive, Bow, 603-226-4646, fieldhousesports.com
- 1 (tie). YMCA of Concord: 15 N. State St., Concord. 603-228-9622. concordymca.org
- **2. Concord Community Center:** 14 Canterbury Road, Concord, concordnh.gov

Marina

- **1. Winnisquam Marine:** 12 Sunset Drive, Belmont, 603-524-8380, winnisquammarine.com
- 2. Thurston Marine (now North Water Marine): 18 Endicott St. north, Laconia, 603-366-4811, northwatermarinenh.com
- 3. Fay's Boat Yard:

71 Varney Point Road, Gilford, 603-293-8000, faysboatyard.com

Pool

- **1. Blue Dolphin Pools & Spas:** 7 Bellemore Drive, Bedford, 603-627-2527, bdolphin.com
- **2. Empire Pools & Hot Tubs:** 105 Manchester St., Concord,

603-225-4592, empirepoolsnh.com

3. Paquette Pools & Spas: 1204 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 603-622-4941, paquettepools.com

Riding Stables

- 1. Townsend Training Farm: 536 4th Range Road, Pembroke, 603-224-9141, townsendstrainingfarm.com
- 2. Matt Mazza Training Stables: 40 Dunbarton Center Road, Bow, 603-512-

1346, mattmazzatrainingstables.com

3. Windswept Farm: 63 Old Schoolhouse Road, Canterbury, 603-848-1718, windsweptfarmnh.com

Martial Arts

- 1. SDSS Martial Arts of Concord: 124 Hall St. Suite E, Concord, 603-224-3777, sdsskungfu.com
- 2. Eastern Dragon Karate: 225 Daniel Webster Hwy, Belmont, 603-524-7268, easterndragonkarate.com
- 3. Body Works Martial Arts: 45 Chenell Drive, Concord, 603-225-5620, bodyworksnh.com

Summer Camp

- 1. Camp Shaker: 131 Shaker Road, Concord, 603-224-0161, shakerroadschool.org
- 2. Prescott Farm: 928 White Oaks Road, Laconia, 603-366-5695, prescottfarm.org
- 3. Concord Boys & Girls Club: 55 Bradley St., Concord, 603-224-1061, centralnhclubs.org

Farm Stand

- 1. Carter Hill Orchard: 73 Carter Hill Road. Concord, 603-225-2625, carterhillapples.com
- 2. Moulton Farm: 18 Quarry Road, Meredith, 603-279-3915, moultonfarm.com
- 3. Meadow Ledge Farm: 612 Route 129, Loudon, 603-798-5860, meadowledgefarm.com

Pick-your-own

- 1. Carter Hill Orchard: 73 Carter Hill Road, Concord, 603-225-2625, carterhillapples.com
- 2. Stone Mountain Farm: 522 Laconia Road, Belmont, 603-731-2493, stonemtnfarm.com
- 3. Meadow Ledge Farm: 612 NH-129, Loudon, 603-798-5860, meadowledgefarm.com

Greenhouse

- 1. Nicole's Greenhouse & Florist: 91 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, 603-228-8294, nicolesgreenhouseandflorist.com
- 2. Murray Farms Greenhouse: 115 River Road, Concord, 603-753-6781, murrayfarmgreenhouse.com

3. Black Forest Nursery: 209 King St... Boscawen, 603-796-2756, blackforestnurserv.com

Take visitors

- 1. McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center: 2 Institute Drive, Concord, 603-271-7827, starhop.com
- 2. White Mountains: fs.usda.gov/ whitemountain
- 3. Story Land: 850 NH-16, Glen, 603-383-4186, storylandnh.com



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WEDDINGS

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Bridal & Formal Wear

- 1. Britches of Concord:
- 1 Eagle Square #110, Concord, 603-225-4184, britchesconcord.com
- 2. Betty Dee Fashions: 87 Main St., Berlin, 603-752-5141, shopbettydeesonline.com
- 3. Country Bridals and Formal Wear: 17 Main St., Jaffrey, 603-532-7641, countrybridals.com

Venue

- 1. Dell-Lea Weddings & Events:
- 81 Pleasant St., Chichester, 603-435-8479, dell-lea.com
- 2. Castle in the Clouds:

Rt. 171, 455 Old Mountain Road, Moultonborough, 603-476-5900, castleintheclouds.org

3. The Barn at Bull Meadow:

63 Bog Road, Concord, 603-301-5121, barnatbullmeadow.com

Photographer

1. Photography by Nylora: 3 Partridge Road, Concord, 603-223-4145, facebook.com/PhotographyByNylora

- 2. Sam Morgan Photography: 603-345-0854, sammorganphotography.com
- 3. A Photographic Memory: 250 Commercial St., Ste 20010, Manchester, 888-436-8648, apmnh.com

Caterer

- 1. Washington Street Cafe: 88 Washington St., Concord, 603-226-2699, washingtonstreetcatering.com
- 2. Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant: 233 Daniel Webster Hwy, Meredith, 603-279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com
- 3. Red Blazer Restaurant & Pub: 72 Manchester St., Concord, 603-224-4101, theredblazer.com

Florist

- 1. Marshall's Florist & Gifts:
- 151 King St., Boscawen, 603-796-2272, marshallsflowersandgifts.business.site
- 2. Cobblestone Design Company: 81 N. Main St., Concord, 603-228-5980, cobblestoneflorist.com
- 3. D McLeod Inc.: 49 S. State St., Concord, 603-225-3721, dmflowers.com

Limo

1. Grace Limousine:

995 Goffstown Road, Manchester, 603-666-0203, gracelimo.com

2. ASL Limousine:

148 Pendleton Road, Laconia. 603-630-8229, asllimousineofnh.com

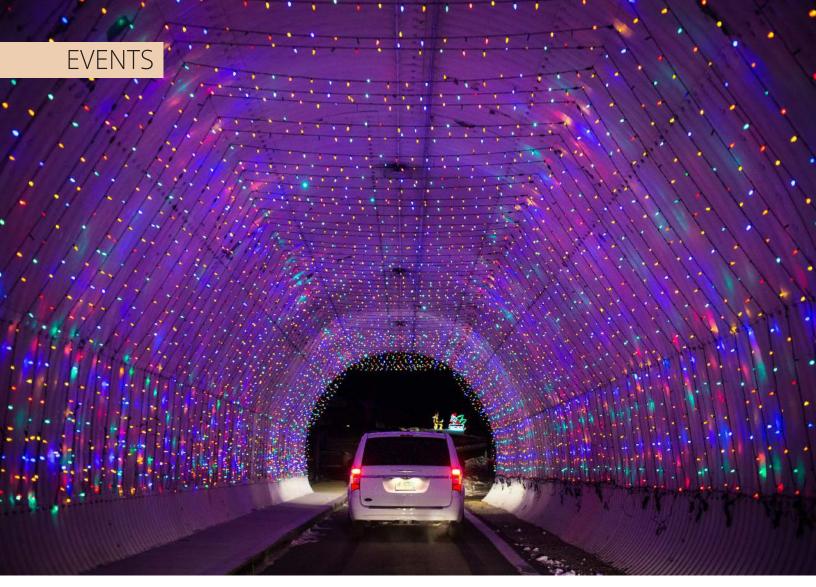
3. Lakes Region Airport Shuttle: 272 Tilton Road, Northfield, 603-286-8181, Irairportshuttle.com

Jeweler

- 1. Capitol Craftsman Romance Jewelers:
- 16 N. Main St., Concord, 603-224-6166. capitolcraftsman.com
- 2. Tates Gallery: 1 Maple St., New Boston, 603-487-3510, tatesgallery.com
- 3. Goldsmiths Gallery: 2 Capital Plaza, 57 N. Main St., Concord, 603-224-2920, goldsmiths-gallery.com

Cake

- 1. Ooo La La Creative Cakes:
- 58 Canal St., Laconia, 603-455-2989. ooolalacreativecakes.com
- 2. Jacques Pastry Shop: 128 Main St., Pembroke, 603-485-4035, jacquespastries.com
- 3. The Crust and Crumb Baking Co.: 126 N. Main St., Concord, 603-219-0763. thecrustandcrumb.com



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Gift of Lights

The 2.5-mile drive-thru light show shines bright with 3.5 million lights, a 150-foot tunnel of lights and fun scenes. Over 650 hours go into setting up more than 520 displays and 80 different scenes each year, which also includes the popular 12 Days of Christmas.

New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Loudon, Sundays through Thursdays 4:30 to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 4:30 to 10 p.m., weather dependant

nhms.com/events/gift-of-lights



DEC. 3 -19

Dickens' A **Christmas Carol**

In this original adaption of the holiday classic, Hatbox Theatre focuses on how the dream-like qualities of the ghost story aspect of Dickens' work can bring about redemption.

Hatbox Theatre, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com



The Nutcracker

Turning Pointe Center of Dance presents a familyfriendly production that is a magical experience for viewers of all ages complete with beautiful dancers, costumes and scenery along with a magical growing Christmas Tree and falling snow!

Concord City Auditorium, Saturday at 2 p.m.

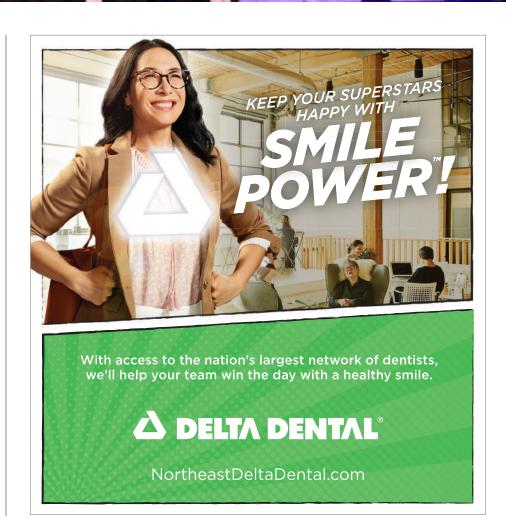
turningpointecenterofdance.com, theaudi.org

DEC. 11

An Evening with **Chevy Chase**

Take a holiday trip with the legendary Chevy Chase as he presents a screening of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" along with a moderated conversation and audience question and answer session.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Saturday at 7 p.m.





DEC. 12

Holiday Pops with Symphony NH

Music Director Roger Kalia and the Symphony NH orchestra celebrate the sounds of the season with holiday favorites such as selections from Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker, Sleigh Ride, and more. Concord City Auditorium, Sunday at 3 p.m.

symphonynh.org, theaudi.org

DEC. 12

Black Violin Give Thanks Holiday Tour

For 17 years, Black Violin has been merging string arrangements with modern beats and vocals and building bridges in communities along the way.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Sunday at 7

ccanh.com

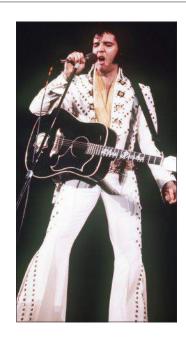
DEC. 16

Greg and the Morning Buzz Ball

Holiday variety show with live music, comedy and more.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Thursday at 7 p.m.

ccanh.com



DEC. 17 Million Dollar **Quartet Christmas**

Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley come together again to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Sun Records, now donned with a Christmas tree, garland, and mistletoe, rings with the sounds of the season and the chart-toppers that made these four famous. Follow along with the gang's usual antics as we journey through a story of Christmas past, present, and future. It's a jam-packed evening of holidays hits and classic characters you won't want to miss.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Friday at 8



DEC. 17

Winter Solstice Mini-Fest

Featuring Matt Flinner and Low Lily Bank of N.H. Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

DEC. 18

The Dickens Carolers on Tour

Piccola Opera will perform. Concord City Auditorium, Saturday at

piccolaopera.net

DEC. 18

Puddles Pity Party: UNSequestered Show

Recommended 14 and older. Capitol Center for the Arts, Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

DEC. 18 Ripe

Siphoning the spirits of rock, funk, R&B, jazz, and pop through a kaleidoscope of unpredictable and virtuosic improvisation, Boston-based Ripe consistently bring people to their feet.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Saturday at 8

ccanh.com

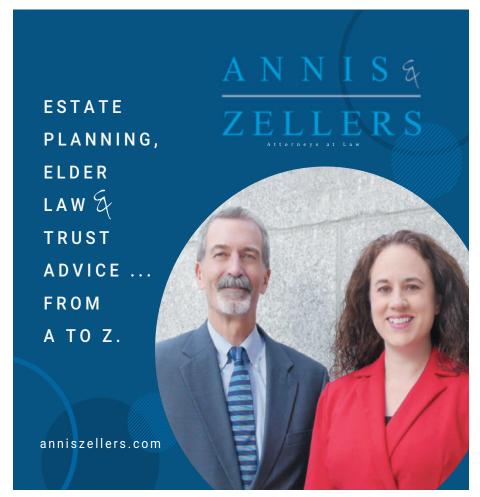
DEC. 19

Capital Jazz Orchestra: **Holiday Pops**

Ring in the holiday season with the annual yuletide program featuring the Capital Jazz Orchestra and guest vocalists CJ Poole, Laura Daigle, and Liz Saunders along with narrator Laura Knoy, who will be reciting her traditional version of "The Night Before Christmas."

Capitol Center for the Arts, Sunday at 4 p.m.

ccanh.com





DEC. 19 The Nutcracker

The New Hampshire School of Ballet's talented dancers will perform the show of the sea-

Concord City Auditorium, Sunday at 2 p.m.

nhschoolofballet.com, theaudi.org

DEC. 19

Bolshoi Ballet: The Nutcracker

A magical Christmas gift triggers a whirlwind adventure of dance.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Sunday at 12:55 p.m.

ccanh.com

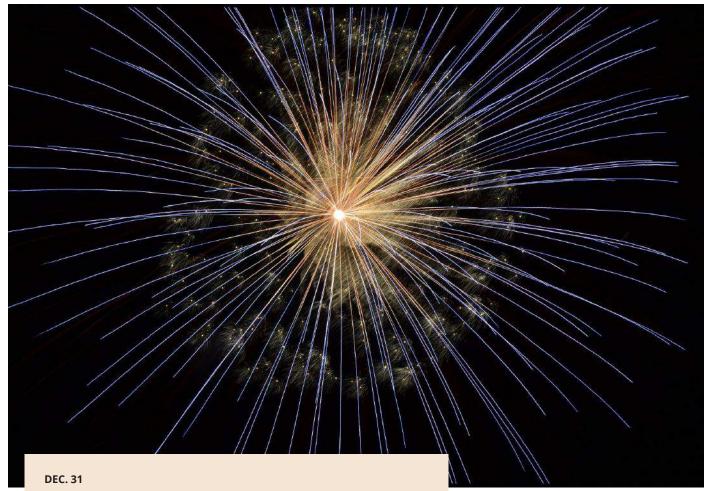
DEC. 23

Comedy out of the Box

Each month, talented comedians from around the Northeast come to the Capital City to make you think and make you laugh.

Hatbox Theatre, Thursday at 7:30

hatboxnh.com



New Year's Eve Spectacular

This New Year's Eve 2022, join Boston promoter Beth McGurr and her crew as they transform the Bank of New Hampshire Stage into a tribute to America's most extravagant nightclubs, inspired by the bold speakeasy's of the roaring 1920s to the iconic New York nightclubs of the 1970s, where people have long escaped to celebrate in inclusive, bold and glamorous worlds.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Friday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

JAN. 1

The Met Live: Cinderella

In this New Year's Day performance, Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's Cendrillon, a hit of the 2017–18 season, is presented with an all-new English translation in an abridged 90-minute adaptation, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches princess.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Saturday at 12:55 p.m.

ccanh.com

JAN. 6

Purging Sin and King's Petition

Deep rooted in thrash metal and classical, Purging Sin is fronted by singer/guitarist Anthony Nicastro joined by Brian Barksdale on bass and Zach King on drums. Kings Petition is a fivemember band that hails from Manchester. Blending all types of metal music together, they have brewed up a sound they think you'll drink and love to call it Sleaze-Core.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Thursday at 8

ccanh.com

JAN. 7 -23

Scene Changes

Samantha Wheelwright, a star of stage and film, has landed herself in the role of Mrs. Cratchit in a traveling production of "A Christmas Carol" as her career falters. Her co-star playing Bob Cratchit has taken ill and is in hospital in Burlington, Vt. When the show arrives in Concord, New Hampshire, the producer is forced to hire a young local actor. Enter Matthew Simmons, whose presence creates an unlikely pairing that immediately erupts into a colossal clash of wills as star-struck youthful enthusiasm slams headlong into mid-life cynical realism - and the scene changes.

Hatbox Theatre, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

JAN. 7

Brooks Young Band

Brooks Young and his band saturate their songs with rock and roll edge. Bank of N.H. Stage, Friday at 7 p.m.

JAN. 8

Get the Led Out

Get The Led Out is a group of professional musicians who are passionate about their love of the music of Led Zeppelin. This is not an impersonator act but rather a group of musicians who were fans first, striving to do justice to one of the greatest bands in rock his-

Capitol Center for the Arts, Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

IAN.8

DANCE New England

Bank of N.H. Stage, Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

JAN. 13

Queen City Improv

Hatbox Theatre, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

hatboxnh.com



JAN. 15

Paula Poundstone

Paula Poundstone is known for her smart, observational humor and spontaneous wit that has become the stuff of legends.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

ccanh.com

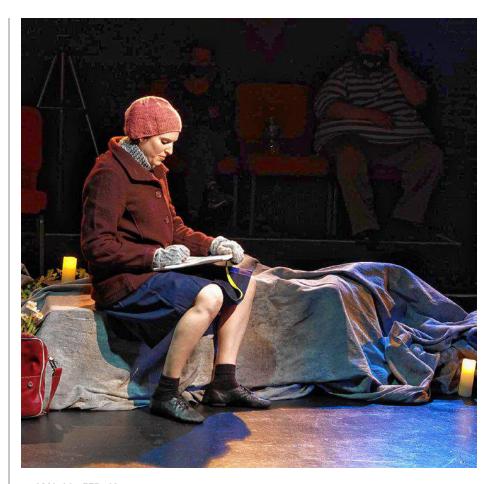
JAN. 20

BoomBox

A little house, a little blues, a little funk, a little rock, and a whole lot of soul blast through BoomBox.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Thursday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com



JAN. 28 - FEB. 13

Mary and Me

Ireland 1986. Fifteen-year-old Hannah Brennan lives in a claustrophobic small town. Sure, she has friends, but no one who understands her, no one she can confide in who will listen to her. And she is going to need a lot of understanding.

Hatbox Theatre, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

IAN. 20

Comedy Out of the Box

Hatbox Theatre, Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

JAN. 22

Beechwood

Beechwood is an acoustic duo/trio, playing a mix of originals and covers. Beechwood started in June of 1993 with the original line-up of Jerry Richardson (Guitar, Vocals), Dann Foster (Guitars), Steve Dutton (Vocals, Harmonica), Dave Foster (Drums), Dan Murphy (Bass). The band has gone through many changes in musicians over the years, but Jerry and Dann have always stuck together and they return in concert together.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Saturday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

JAN. 23

Bolshoi Ballet: Jewels

Emeralds for the elegance and sophistication of Paris, rubies for the speed and modernity of New York, and diamonds for an imperial St. Petersburg. Three sparkling scenes accompanied by the music of three essential composers feature the styles of the three dance schools that have contributed to making George Balanchine a legend of modern ballet.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Sunday at 12:55 p.m.

JAN. 29

The Met Live: Rigoletto

The Met rings in the new year with the gala premiere of a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy from Bartlett Sher. The Tony Award-winning director resets the opera's action in 1920s Europe, with Art Deco sets by Michael Yeargan and elegant costumes by Catherine Zuber.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Saturday at 12:55 p.m.

ccanh.com

FEB. 3

Enter the Haggis

For the better part of two decades, Toronto's Enter The Haggis has combined bagpipes and fiddles with a rock rhythm section to create a distinctively eclectic sound.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Thursday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

Cash Unchained: The Ultimate Johnny Cash **Experience**

Capitol Center for the Arts, Saturday at 7 p.m.

ccanh.com



Andrew North and the Rangers

New Hampshire jammers Andrew North and the Rangers just released their debut full-length LP, Phosphorescent Snack. The 12 song release showcases the band's genre-bending style and whimsical sense of humor.

Bank of N.H. Stage, Thursday at 8 p.m.

ccanh.com

FEB. 11 TO 13

'Last Gas'

The Community Players of Concord presents a play about people from rural way-northern Maine. Nat Paradis is a Red Sox-loving part-time dad who manages Paradis' Last Convenient Store, the



last convenient place to get gas or anything — before the Canadian border to the north and the North Maine

Woods to the west. When an old flame returns to town, Nat gets a chance to rekindle a romance he gave up on years ago. But sparks fly as he's forced to choose between new love and old.

Concord City Auditorium, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2

communityplayersofconcord.org

FEB. 18 - MARCH 6

The Lifespan of a Fact

'The Lifespan of a Fact' is a comedic yet gripping battle over facts versus

truth. Jim Fingal is a fresh-out-of-Harvard fact-checker for a prominent but sinking New York magazine. John D'Agata is a talented writer with a transcendent essay about the suicide of a teenage boy — an essay that could save the magazine from collapse. Jim is assigned to fact-check D'Agata's essay, but when discrepancies emerge, the two come head to head.

Hatbox Theatre, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

hatboxnh.com

FEB. 24

Alton Brown: Beyond the Eats

Alton Brown is hitting the road with a new culinary variety show. Audiences can expect more comedy, more music, more highly unusual cooking demos, and more potentially dangerous sciencey stuff. Prepare for an evening unlike any other and if Brown calls for volunteers... think twice.

Capitol Center for the Arts, Thursday at 7 p.m.







First Acts

Filling the teapot at the tap, turning on the burner—

praise be for the day's first acts requiring no imagination, no choices of consequence.

You can be half asleep and already a success at life,

draw encouragement mastering the rituals of morning—

parting the curtains, reuniting with your eyeglasses.

The looming hurdles of the day begin to loom possible,

the heavy head of the earth

will not today spin off on its orbit without you.

The water boils and you know what to do, your cold feet

anchored again to the map of the world.

L.R. Berger is a Contoocook poet. Her latest collection is Indebted to Wind



(Deerbrook Editions),
which is available at local bookstores and online. Her work has been
supported by the National Endowment for
the Arts, the PEN New
England Discovery
Award and the New
Hampshire State Coun-

cil on the Arts. She was a Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome, and has been granted residencies at The Mac-Dowell Colony, The Blue Mountain Center, Hedgebrook, Wellspring House and The Hermitage. Her collection of poems, The Unexpected Aviary, received the Jane Kenyon Award for Outstanding Book of Poetry.

Share with us >>

Do you have poetry or scenic images you'd like to share? Send them to editor@aroundconcord.com.



Concord Historical Society

From left, Sally Lewis and Pat Plante help serve a meal with Friendly Kitchen co-founder Hope Butterworth.

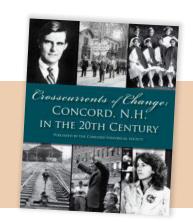
Weaving the safety net

The safety net in Concord would be frayed without organizations such as the Friendly Kitchen, which fed Concord's hungry. The Friendly Kitchen began in the food pantries operated by the St. Vincent de Paul

St. Peter's Church had volunteered in the pantries, but when she and a few others from the St. Vincent de Paul Society visited a program in Manchester, Bell was shocked to learn the number of truly hungry people who were lining up for a warm meal, prepared in a trailer kitchen and served out of the back.

Society. In the late 1970s, Polly Bell of

Women from local Catholic churches met to discuss how to alleviate hunger in Concord, and Bell recalls that only she was willing to lead the effort. All Concord churches, regardless of denomination, were asked to serve a meal once a month; most churches immediately agreed, and meals first were served in 1980. The first night, three people came. During



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's Friendly Kitchen has never met the kind of organized opposition that plaqued other localities.



Pastor Cindy prepares dinner with parishioners Bill Zeller, left, and Phyllis Thanner, right, at The Friendly Kitchen on Dec. 3, 2013. The Friendly Kitchen has long relied on its dedicated volunteers.

the first year, the group served an average of four people, three times a week. Volunteer Jim Ceriello coordinated supplies and group schedules.

In 1982, the group combined with Riverbend Community Mental Health, then housed in the old Wonolancet Club building, where the Friendly Kitchen remained for seventeen years. The group gained financial stability, in part because Riverbend did not charge rent. Slowly, enough churches participated to allow the Friendly Kitchen to operate four nights a

week, and then five. When Riverbend had a fire in 1998, the Friendly Kitchen served meals in South Church's parking lot. When the kitchen needed renovation, both South Congregational Church and Sacred Heart Church let the Friendly Kitchen use their facility.

Concord's Friendly Kitchen has never met the kind of organized opposition that plagued other localities. Director Hope Butterworth said that because the Friendly Kitchen worked with Riverbend for so long, often sharing clients, it was not perceived as threatening. Even when the Friendly Kitchen moved into larger quarters on Montgomery Street early in the 21st century, neighbors offered no opposition. Guests at the Friendly Kitchen have long felt quite at home, put at ease by the warmth of the many volunteers.

The following excerpt was written by Cheryl Bourassa and appeared in "Chapter 9: To Help Those in Need" of "Crosscurrents of Change."



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THE SCENE



Geoff Forester photos

Jessa Heckerman, 6, of Deerfield points up to her sister who was on an amusement ride on Oct. 1, the second day of the annual Deerfield Fair.

Things are looking up



ABOVE: The Abbot-Downing Historical Society moves 19th century coaches and carriages into the Rolfe Barn in Penacook on Oct. 27.

RIGHT: A buffalo at the Yankee Farmer's **Market in Warner** enjoys a beautiful autumn day.





A participant makes an offering during the Hindu purification ceremony called Tirtha Snan, or ritual bath, on the shores of the Merrimack River in late September. Several families from around the region gathered for the weeklong celebration.



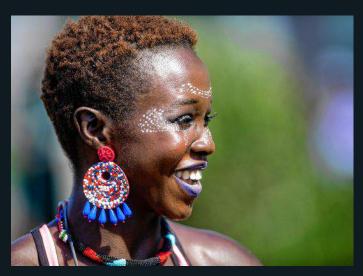


ABOVE: Becca Meinecke, 4, picks out a pumpkin at the Bow Mills United Methodist Church Pumpkin Patch on Oct. 15.

LEFT: Hopkinton field hockey players celebrate a state title.



Lakes Region Marine Corps League member Ryan Connor looks up at the flag at the celebration of the 246th birthday of United States Marine Corp at the New Hampshire State House in Concord on Nov. 10.

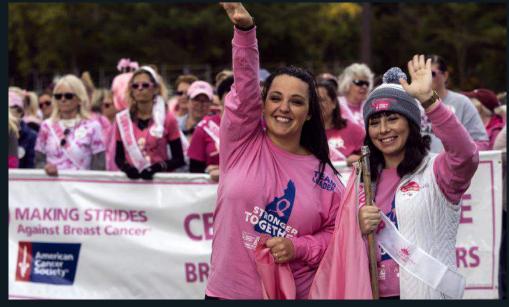


Jane Yen of Concord warms up backstage before she and her dance group perform at the annual Multicultural Festival at Keach Park in Concord on Sept. 19. It was the first time the festival was held in the Heights.



ABOVE: Josh Charlton rode his bike in downtown Concord with a carved pumpkin on his head.

RIGHT: This year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk raised more than \$370,000.



A THOUSAND WORDS



Geoff Forester

Players compete on the White Park pond during last year's 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships. St. Paul's in Concord is known as having been the site of the first organized hockey game in the United States in 1883.

A big weekend in January

Each winter, weather permitting, hockey enthusiasts from across New England and beyond flock to Concord for the city's annual 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships in White Park. There, they find hockey rinks neatly segmented on the ice where players of all ages and skills compete in a range of divisions. The three-day event will also become home to hundreds of hockey fans, who come for the camaraderie, the food and the fireworks. They'll also gather in the heated tents and around the bonfire. The event, held Jan. 28-30 is part of a packed Winter Fest weekend throughout Concord. When you're not watching a game, head downtown to witness an ice sculpture competition.

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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