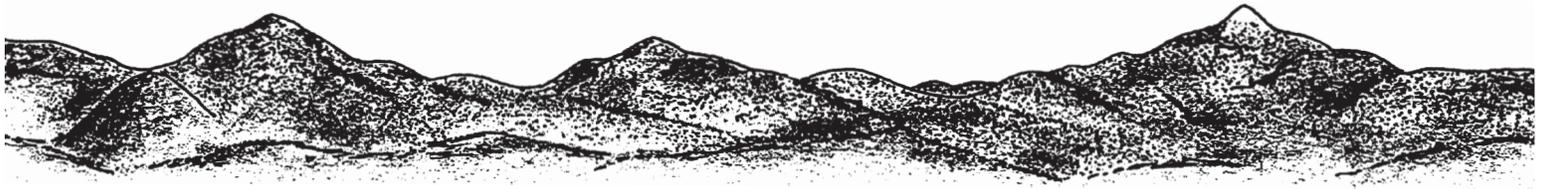


THE TAMWORTH CIVIC NEWS

Volume XXI, Number 6 A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Tamworth Civic Association

October 1st, 2016



TAMWORTH 250 CELEBRATION BY THE NUMBERS

On Saturday, July 30th, Tamworth residents came together on the fields of the Behr family's farm to take part in a town-wide celebration of our 250th birthday. It was a terrific show of community and of organization. The weather couldn't have been kinder for the occasion, and everything came together perfectly. When Chris Buerk (pilot) and Thad Berrier (aerial photographer) flew overhead, the crowd was standing in position, forming the numbers two, five, and zero to spell out our town's age. Just to be extra sure we didn't miss the moment to document our formation, Carl Tyler of West Ossipee manned a drone from the ground, while Jason Noyes used his bucket-truck to hoist Greg Farnum into the air to make a time lapse video. You can see the videos and photos on the Tamworth 250 Facebook page or by searching "Tamworth 250 YouTube" on line. On this sunny day, people of all ages from every corner of town showed up to pose for an historic town-wide aerial photograph and enjoy a chicken barbecue together.

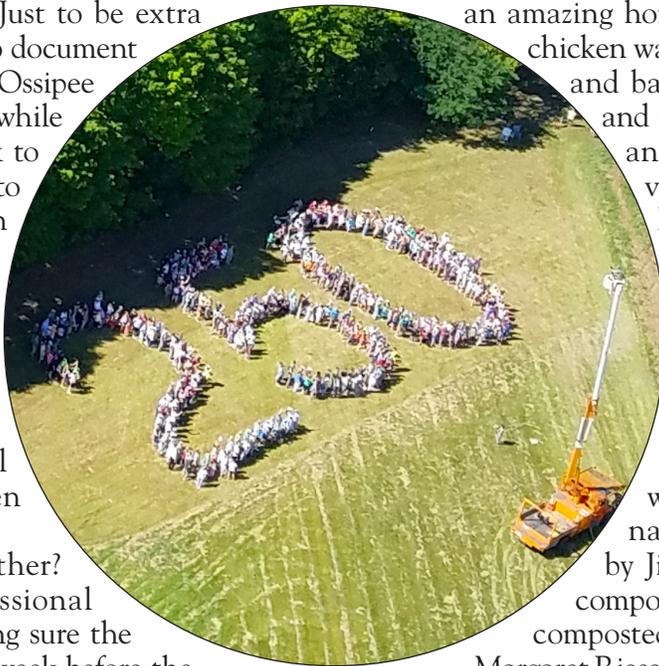
So how did it all come together? There was actually some professional engineering that went into making sure the numbers looked just right. In the week before the event, surveyor Paul King did some calculating for laying out the giant numbers. With Paul's help, Dave Halpin and I were able to spray-paint huge, white figures on the newly-mowed field. All we needed then was to have people stand on the lines. But, in order to make sure that the human numbers looked uniform from above, we did some calculating to get everyone positioned just so. The estimating involved Amy Carter using the library's counter/clicker to get a headcount as people arrived for the photo. We used that total to figure out how many people would stand in each number. Folks waited in the shade, and, at exactly 3:30 with the help of group leaders and a bullhorn, people were escorted to their position on those spray-painted lines. By 3:45 the group stood ready for our close-up, and when the 1940, yellow, Piper Cub flew overhead, we all cheered! While still assembled in

position, Peggy Johnson and Mark Albee led the group in singing the first stanza of America the Beautiful. 'O beautiful for spacious skies' and 'brotherhood' really did seem to describe that moment as we stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our neighbors and everything came together just as planned.

While the photos were being organized and shot, a banquet was being prepared a few feet away. By 4:00, just about everyone had made a beeline from the field to the tent, where an amazing homemade, local meal awaited. The chicken was raised by Karl Behr, then smoked and barbecued by Karl, Will Robinson, and their crew. The salad was prepared and served by Lianne Prentice and volunteers. The corn was grown at Moulton Farm then shucked and cooked by Tim Brown and his Boy Scout troop. The soda fountain was set up by Will Robinson and run by dedicated volunteers. The desserts were made by anyone and everyone, with Cathy Baybutt and Altrusa making sure the sweets were set and served. Cups, plates, napkins and utensils were donated by Jim Harrison and were completely compostable! All waste was gathered and composted by Mark Albee, with help from Margaret Rieser. The scrumptious meal was served with a smile, right on time, and was seemingly enjoyed by all.

The day was about celebrating an important number: 250. But there were other numbers that were important that day, too. Here's a rundown of some of the more interesting ones: Each digit in the 250 was fifty feet tall, giving 396 feet total length of standing room. The drone flew at 150 feet, the plane at about 500 feet, and the cherry-picker was about sixty-five feet in the air. There were 150 chickens prepared for the event. Forty-seven dozen ears of corn were shucked by ten people. That's about fifty-six ears per shucker! There were two, fifty-five-gallon trash barrels full of salad and ten full bulbs (not cloves!) of garlic used in the salad dressing. Ten pounds of butter were melted over the corn. There was one cubic foot of compost brought to the Community School farm after our meal. There were

Continued on page 5



Thursday, June 2nd

Nine tax abatements were approved, two denied. ♦ In a non-public meeting, board discussed a personnel matter with retired Police Chief Dan Poirier. The board will seek legal advice on how to close the issue.

Thursday, June 16th

The EDC and the Farmer's Market will be receiving the LRPC Award of Excellence. ♦ Checkmate Payroll Service will begin doing payroll with the July 7th payroll. ♦ Beginning with the July 14th meeting, the board will meet in a public work session at 6:30PM and go directly into the regular board meeting at 7PM. Department heads that attend will be compensated. Board hopes this change will allow more participation from the public. ♦ Reporting on behalf of the 250th Celebration Committee, Selectman Jim Hidden said that on Saturday, June 17th, he, Bruno Siniscalchi, and Betty Wasson will open the time capsule that is at the town house to determine the year it was sealed. ♦ Norm Cloutier, representing Tamworth Village Association Sewer System, explained to the board that in April 2016 the leach field beds failed. The association retained two engineering firms to assist in design and implementing repairs. The estimated cost for repairs will be \$300,000. They have found a grant that the town can apply for. Board will schedule a public hearing prior to applying.

Thursday, June 30th

The payroll manifest that is being signed tonight is the first one prepared by Checkmate. ♦ Members of the 250th Celebration committee verified that the capsule at the town house is from 1976; they are not sure where the 1966 capsule is, and are still researching. ♦ Jack Waldron, chairman for the Capital Improvement Plan, discussed items the board wishes to include in the CIP. Brief discussion regarding a town office addition or possible renovation. More estimates will be collected. CIP committee recommended the selectmen form a committee to move forward with a needs assessment for a public safety building. ♦ Reviewed information from the town attorney regarding ownership of Irene's Way. Requested surveyor Paul King be invited to the next meeting to discuss the issue with him.

Thursday, July 7th

Mike Ames of FineLine Carpentry and the selectmen discussed an invoice for work on the town office building renovations which were not approved at town meeting 2015 or 2016. Ames will prepare and submit an invoice for materials and labor. A brief discussion was held regarding costs and planning for other possible renovation projects at the town office.

Thursday, July 14th

With the new meeting format, instead of asking the department heads to attend the selectmen's meeting, board members will meet individually and submit a report on behalf of the department heads. Selectman John Roberts will meet with the police chief, Selectman Jim Hidden will meet with

parks and rec director and Selectman Steve Gray will meet with transfer station supervisor and road agent.

Thursday July 28th

Board formed a Municipal Safety Building Committee (MSBC). ♦ William Farnum came before the board to question oversight of the police department in two specific areas: mileage and availability. Farnum shared concerns about the number of miles accumulated when police drive the cars to and from home (greater) versus the number of miles driven while patrolling (fewer). He also voiced his concern regarding the number of calls being responded to by our officers versus the number that go to the sheriff's office. Roberts stated that the board will discuss his concerns and respond at a later date. ♦ Bruno Siniscalchi suggested that the board think about having a forensic audit performed due to the recent changes in town administrative personnel.

Wednesday, August 10th, (at the police department)

Chairman Roberts, Selectmen Hidden & Gray, Police Chief Penny Colby, Peg Poirier, and Coey Littlefield were present. Roberts reviewed all the comments by Farnum as presented at the July 28th meeting. Colby was asked to respond to all these items at the August 25th meeting. ♦ Gray asked that Colby also have travel times and mileage for herself and Sergeant Cooper to discuss at the next meeting. ♦ Littlefield asked Colby what the busy time is. Colby stated that it varies each day. Littlefield did comment that at town meeting the residents cut the budget for a new vehicle, not a third officer. Roberts stated that after the cuts made to the police budget at town meeting, there is not enough money to hire an additional officer.

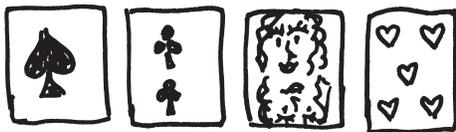
Thursday, August 11th

In a non-public meeting, the board voted to extend the probationary period for Colby to October 20th, 2016. As the liaison to the police department, Roberts will discuss this with Colby. ♦ Board will review RFPs for legal and auditing services. ♦ The new town administrator reported that the backlog of cash receipts deposits has been made current. All warrants that have been issued this year are in the process of being entered. Once that is complete, revenues will be current and up-to-date in BMSI. Within the next few weeks, bank reconciliation process will begin. ♦ The draft audit was received. ♦ John Paven came before the board to discuss the police department. He is concerned about response time of the officers and the mileage being put on the police vehicles because they are going out of town. ♦ Surveyor Paul King brought a number of maps dating back to 1930, which clearly show that Irene's Way or Fisherman's Alley as it has been known, is definitely a road. As far back as residents can remember, this road has been maintained by the town. King's opinion is that the road should be Tamworth's by prescription. ♦ John Evans lives on Deer Hill Road and is a part time officer in Freedom. He reported that other towns in our area, with smaller populations, have more police officers. It was mentioned that there was only one applicant for the sergeant's position and that there are not many people

entering law enforcement at this time. ♦ In public comment, the discussion regarding the police department continued.

Thursday, August 25th

Opened two bids for the 2009 Crown Victoria police cruiser. Vehicle went to the highest bid of \$1,050. Agreed to review RFPs provided for IT services from five vendors. ♦ Will ask surveyor Paul King to prepare formal paperwork to present to NH DOT to take Irene's Way by prescription. ♦ Resident Michael Stepien came before the board to request more police presence on Whittier Road to deter speeders. Resident Marilyn Indelicato discussed dangerous ATV activity in Candle Pine Village and the Turkey Street area. Chief Colby reminded residents that, in an emergency, instead of leaving a message, to contact Carroll County Sheriff's Office if Tamworth officers are not available. ♦ Colby presented her response to concerns voiced to the board at a previous meeting. ♦ 250th Celebration Committee will host a closing ceremony October 14th. ♦ After a lengthy discussion regarding police department personnel taking cars home for on-call duty, mileage on vehicles, where/when they are signing on for duty, and more, the board voted to no longer provide Sergeant Cooper a vehicle to commute to and from Wolfeboro, effective August 30th, 2016. Discussion continued regarding how call-outs for police will be handled. ♦ Rebecca Mason inquired about a request she had made regarding bills for architects or builders regarding a proposed addition to the town office. To date the office has not received or paid any bills for this work. Gray said that in the past he mistakenly believed that some bills had been paid. ♦ There was more discussion about lack of response from the police department. Chief Colby explained current staffing issues and future plans.



THINGS TO DO AS
FALL TURNS TO
[scribbles]

A USED BOOK'S JOURNEY

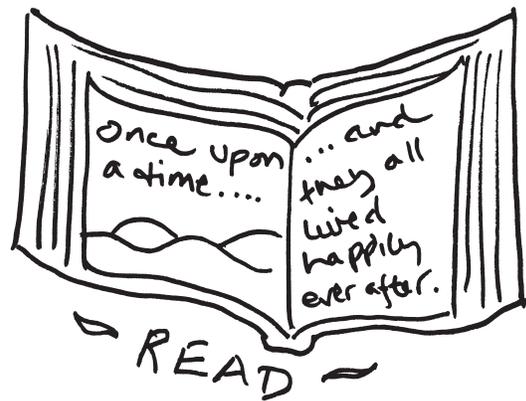
Anyone who has been to one of the Friends of Cook Memorial Library monthly book sales knows that there is a seemingly endless supply of good used books in Tamworth. Books are brought to the library singly or in armfuls, often packed in cartons, sometimes by the carload. Library staff members go through the donations, selecting a few to add to the library's collection.

The majority of the books head downstairs to the Annex, the oldest section of the library's basement, which the Friends have turned into a well-organized bookstore. There, Marge and Cathy (and Jim and John) sort books at least once a week, keeping some for the monthly book sale, and setting special-interest books aside for book dealer Brian Wiggin to sell on the Friends' behalf. Textbooks and academic titles

CHOCORUA, CHOCORUA!

How that word resonates!
Its lordly rhythms permeate my dreams
With sigh of winds through flinty creviced grates
With falcon's cry and splash of rushing streams.
The Indian chief whose storied name you bear
Leapt from your heights with curse-pronouncing cries
Are you, in abject pity, crouching there
Alone and friendless, doomed to gnash the skies?
No! Great eminence, sharp against the blue
You stand, a chiseled granite god of stone
Head bared, unthwarted, steadfast, faithful, true
Defying those who'd brand your fissured cone.
That upthrust pinnacle through winter's cold
Maintains its patient gaze thro' blizzards' wails;
Yet summer finds your cheeks ablaze with gold,
And liberally summons hikers to your trails.
Shall I listen as your vastness speaks,
So soundlessly it makes me feel more whole?
Shall I always find your rugged peaks
Perpetually uplifting to my soul?
Bastion of hope, your heav'nward grasp can teach
My stumbling thoughts to dream toward the sky
If, for centuries, you sustain your reach,
Then by the good God's mercy, so can I!

—James Ballard



are sold to online book resellers. Some books are brought to Hannaford's community group donation table, others to the Big Hearted Books donation container that benefits Bearcamp Valley Children's Center. Sue takes children's books to give away at the food pantry. Ruth takes books to fill the Little Free Libraries. Once a month, Lorraine takes a fresh bag of paperbacks to Remick Acres' community room for the residents' little library.

One of the Friends' best book sale customers, who comes from a nearby town, tells us "Tamworth has the best books." On the next first Saturday, come to the book sale at the library from 10AM to noon. There you are likely to find a book to take home so it can start its journey all over again.

—Mary Cronin, CML librarian



The first annual Tamworth Street Fair, on Saturday August 6th, sponsored by the Tamworth Economic Development Commission and presented as part of Tamworth's 250th celebration, was an unqualified success, bringing throngs of townspeople and tourists to Main Street. Over forty Tamworth residents and businesses set up booths stretching from the Farmer's Market all the way to the Distillery. Adding to the festivities, WMWV did a live broadcast in front of The Lyceum, interspersing their music with interviews of local residents.

Look for this new tradition to continue next year on the first weekend in August, possibly as a return of Tamworth Old Home Day.

OASIS INTERGENERATIONAL TUTORING

Linking adults in the community with students at Brett School and Madison Elementary School to share a weekly "literary experience" has been the goal of the OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring program for the past eight years. The program trains adults who have an hour to give each week during the school year to develop a relationship with a student who can benefit from extra time reading, writing, and enjoying words together. Program coordinators Sue Colten and Margaret Rieser are seeking new and returning tutors to work with this year's students. Training for new tutors will be in early October. Please contact Sue Colten, 323-9717, scolten2@gmail.com or Margaret Rieser at 323-9430, riesermargaret@gmail.com for more information.

Allow me to introduce myself, Jennifer Mashiak, as the new Health Insurance Navigator at White Mountain Community Health Center. Open enrollment for health insurance is just around the corner, and I am here to help residents in Tamworth and all other towns in Carroll County with the process.

What is a Health Insurance Navigator?

A Navigator's job is to provide outreach and free enrollment assistance to individuals, families, and small businesses seeking to obtain health insurance coverage through the Marketplace or with New Hampshire's Health Protection Program (Medicaid). I'm here to help guide you step-by-step, from helping you through the online application, to explaining what financial assistance you're eligible for, to helping you understand all of your health coverage options before you make your choice.

When is open enrollment, and why do I need to know that?

Open enrollment this year is from November 1st through January 31st. Open enrollment is the only time of year that you can enroll in or change your health insurance plan under normal circumstances. Exceptions: you can enroll in Medicaid any time of the year, and, if something big changes in your life, such as losing your existing coverage or having a big income change, you might qualify for a special enrollment period.

What can I do now to get ready for open enrollment?

If you get health insurance through the Marketplace (Obamacare), find your username and password or call 1-800-318-2596 to have them reset. Estimate your household income for 2017, and any other household changes. Think about whether you like your current plan and if you'll want to change it. What medical care do you anticipate needing next year?

If you don't have insurance, consider making an appointment with me to go over your options. You can also browse healthcare.gov for more information. The tax credits and other financial assistance can be confusing, and I can help you make sure you have the right info about what your insurance would cost before you decide.

What does a Navigator do the rest of the year?

Our job doesn't end after open enrollment. I'm available post-enrollment to help with any insurance issue that may arise, to help you understand your health insurance, and with re-enrollment next year.

You can make an appointment with me year-round at White Mountain Community Health Center, which is on Route 16 just north of Conway Village. You can also learn more about the health center at whitemountainhealth.org. Please contact me with any questions or to make an appointment at 603-447-8900 x323 or jmashiak@whitemountainhealth.org. I look forward to helping you!

—Jennifer Mashiak

On July 21st, Club Motorsports (CMI) completed paving the road and karting courses at the new facility on Route 25 in Tamworth. After letting the new asphalt cure, the club has been conducting test laps, where a member or guest follows a CMI pace car around the course. CMI has received many positive comments from those who have driven the course this summer.

Continental Paving completed the paving work and a total of 28,500 tons of asphalt was laid over fourteen days. The effort and time required to build a project like this has been slightly greater and taken longer than originally estimated.

The goal was to pave in 2015. However, the decision was made to allow the gravel to go through at least one full winter before paving. This allowed CMI to take more time on the construction and earth moving and not rush to try and pave the road course in the fall of 2015, instead waiting for ideal summer weather in 2016. This will provide several additional years of use of the asphalt on the road course before needing to resurface.

Over the last three years, the majority of the site construction has been completed. The following provides a brief recap of the construction activity done by site contractor, Sargent Corporation.

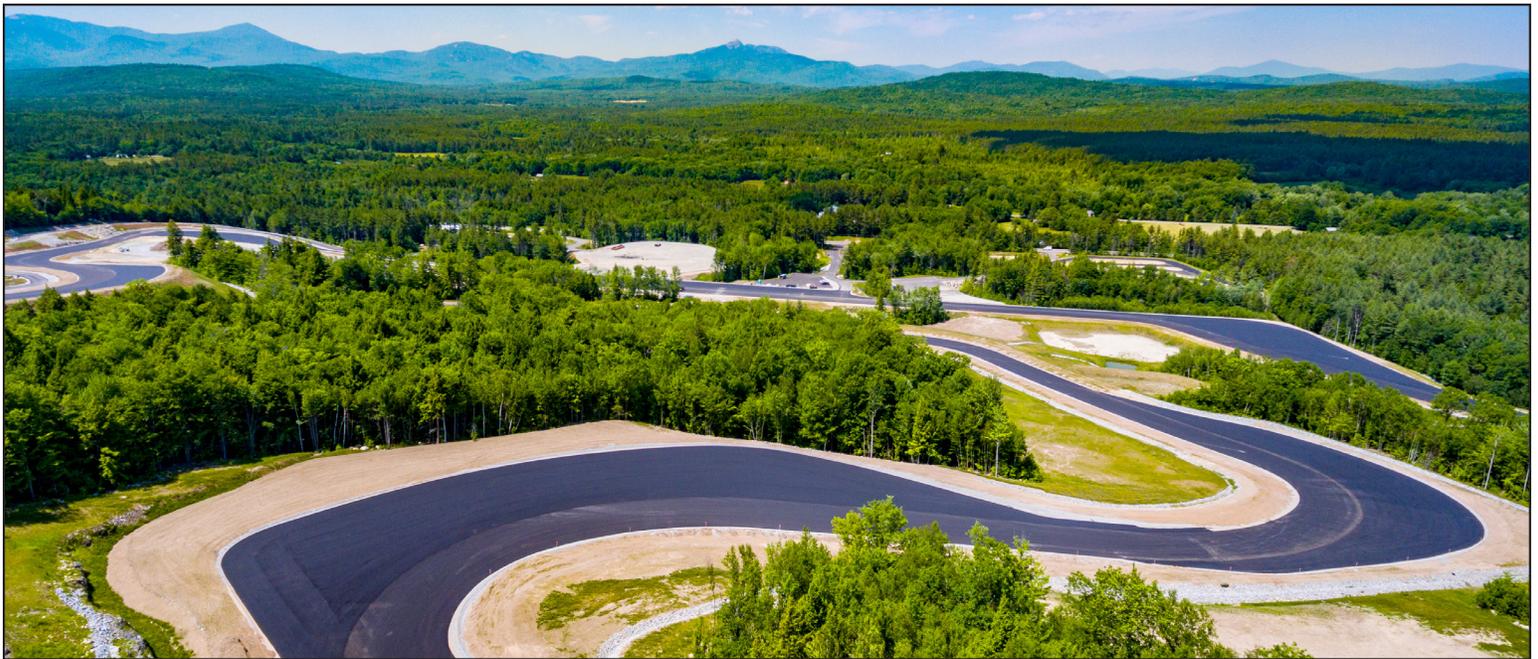
- Moved 875,000 cubic yards of earth for the cut/fill.
- Drilled, blasted, and processed 145,000 cubic yards of ledge for gravel.
- Reached the final grade on the entire 2.5-mile road course, verge areas, access roads, and parking areas.
- Placed 130,000 cubic yards of gravel on the road course, access roads, and parking areas.
- Installed all underground electrical and course drainage systems.
- Paved over two miles of access roads and several parking areas.

Before the official opening, some critical items still need to be completed. This includes final grading next to the course, striping the road course, pouring the special curbs located in all the corners, and installing the safety systems (catch fence, guardrail, and tire barriers). The current goal is to have the road course fully operational in the spring/summer of 2017. At that time, CMI will begin to hire additional staff to support the club.

Until then, the club is “open” for members and their guests to drive the course by following a CMI car. The total number of members is nearing 250.

For more information about CMI, visit www.clubmotorsports.com or www.Facebook.com/ClubMotorsports.

—Jim Hoenscheid



BY THE NUMBERS, continued from page 1

about seventy-five wooden stakes in the ground with signs or pink ribbon directing people where to park or stand. There were three vehicles shuttling folks around the fields from the parking area. The giant white tent gave us 40×100 feet of shade. There were two fabulous performances that entertained us: Doug Hazard and Blue Bus. The temperature was a sweet seventy-seven degrees. The one number that people have been most curious about: How many of us were there? Amy's clicker tallied about 475 people gathered for the photo. Probably about the same for the meal, although some people skipped the photo

and came for just the meal, good company, and music. The following morning at church, I heard someone say that there had been 800 people there! Also, there was one parrot. One of the numbers we are truly proud of is ZERO, as in zero waste . . . meaning that no bags of trash had to be brought to the dump. An amazing number for such a large crowd! An elusive figure was the number of volunteers who showed up to make it all happen. I can report, though, that there was no shortage of help as people came together for this fantastic event.

—Annie Provenzano

TAMWORTH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- October**
Art exhibit by Robert DeMario at Cook Library.
- November–December**
Art exhibit by Jay Rancourt at CML.
- Mid-October–mid-November**
Four-week balance workshop, sponsored by the Tamworth Community Nurse Association. Call 323-8511 for details and to pre-register.
- Sundays**
Live from the Lyceum. Featured musician at 1:30PM, followed by song circle & jam session at 2:30PM. Free. Dinner Bell community meal. 5PM at St. Andrew's.
- Weekdays**
The Mug Club Café at Chocorua Community Church is open, serving free coffee and baked goods to the public. Monday–Friday, 9–11:30AM.
- Monday–Saturday, through October 8th**
Captain Enoch Remick House guided tours, 11AM. \$5 admission. Call 323-7591 for details.
- Tuesdays & Fridays**
Community food center at St. Andrews open 10AM–noon. Call 960-4067.
- First three Tuesdays of the month**
Storytime for young children, 10:30AM, CML.
- Fourth Tuesday of the month**
Coffee & creativity series: sip and color or draw. 9:30–11AM at the Chocorua Community church Mug Club Café. Free; bring your own project.
- Tuesdays**
Tech Tuesday, 1–2PM, CML. Bring your technology questions for one-on-one assistance. Other times available by appointment. Call 323-8510.
- Second Wednesday of the month**
Movie Matinee, 2–3:30PM, Chocorua Community Church. Free; call for movie choice.
- First two Wednesdays of the month**
Lego Club for school-age children, 3:45–4:45, CML. Call 323-8510 FMI.
- Thursdays**
Farmers' Table Lunch. The Community School. Starts at noon; by donation. Reservations helpful: Call 323-7000.
- Saturdays through October 22nd**
Tamworth Farmers' Market and UUFES Thrift Shop, 9–1, rain or shine. Unitarian Universalist Church.
- Saturday, October 1st**
Cemetery Trustees fall restoration project. 9–noon at Riverside Cemetery on Old Route 25. Call 323-8510 to sign up or just show up to help. Some tools will be available, but additional shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows are welcome.
- Saturdays, October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd**
Friends of Cook Memorial Library monthly book sale in the Annex, 10–12, CML.
- Saturdays, October 1st & November 5th**
Bean Supper. Settings at 5PM and 5:45PM. Cost \$8. Union Hall, South Tamworth.
- Tuesdays, Oct. 4th & 18th; Nov. 1st, 15th, & 29th; Dec. 13th & 27th**
Fiber arts group meets at Remick Museum, 9:30–noon. Free. Call 323-7591 for details.
- Tuesdays, October 4th–November 8th**
Mindfulness Meditation led by Diane Johnson, 5:30–7PM. Hosted by Tamworth Community Nurse. Register at 323-8511. Free to Tamworth residents.
- Wednesday, October 5th**
“Anatomy of a Mountain Rescue” – a talk by Mountain Rescue Service team leader Bill Kane. A One Book One Valley program, 7PM, CML.
- Thursday, October 6th**
Flatbread Fundraiser from 4–9PM. A portion of all Flatbreads sold that night go directly to the Tamworth Outing Club, including take-out. Call 356-4470.
- Tuesdays, October 11th, November 8th, & December 13th**
Monthly Writers' Group, 5PM, Cook Memorial Library. Call Ed Martinez FMI, 730-4482.
- Thursday, October 13th**
Sing-a-long with pianist Bob Kroepel, 7–9PM at the Chocorua Community Church. Rock and roll, Broadway, old time hymns, standards, requests. Free and open to the public of all ages.
- Thursdays, October 13th, November 10th, & December 8th**
Hillsdale Dairy 4-H Club of Carroll County meets at Remick Museum & Farm, 7–9PM. Free. Ages 8–18. Call 323-7591 for details.
- Fridays, October 14th & 28th**
“Plants of Field & Forest” outdoor walks at Remick Museum, 10AM. Included with \$5 museum admission.
- Saturdays, October 15th; November 14th, & December 13th**
Full Moon Campfire & Walk at Remick Museum & Farm, 7–8:30PM. Stories, s'mores, and more! FREE; donations gratefully accepted.
- Mondays, October 17th, November 21st, & December 19th**
Remick Museum home school classes, 10AM–noon. \$5/participant; pre-registration required one week in advance. Call 323-7591.
- Monday, October 17th**
Candidates' Night, 7PM, Brett School cafeteria. Sponsored by the Chocorua Community Association.
- Wednesday, October 19th**
Dan Blakeslee as Dr. Gasp! at The Tamworth Lyceum. \$15, 7PM. Costumes highly encouraged; prizes for most scary, creative, and more!
- Wednesday, October 19th**
“Privacy & Truth Telling – A Balance” presented by Louise Taylor, author of *Nantucket Sleighride*. Louise will talk about writing her newest book and sign copies. 7PM, CML.

Thursday, October 20th

NH Humanities Council Program, *That Reminds Me of a Story*, with storyteller Rebecca Rule. 6:30PM, Chocorua Church. Call 323-7186 for details.

Friday, October 21st

South African singer/songwriter Tuelo Minah with her band, Tuelo & Her Cousins. Mini-concert with Q&A at the K. A. Brett School, 2PM, public welcome. Choose-Your-Own-Ticket-Price concert at The Barnstormers Theatre, 7PM. For more info, email artstamworth@gmail.com.

Fridays, October 28th, November 18th, & December 16th

Small Farmers Club at Remick Museum, 10AM. "Little House" for Little Ones: Dance at Grandpa's (10/28); Winter Days in the Big Woods (11/18); Christmas in the Big Woods (12/16). \$5/child, ages 2-6. Reservations suggested. Call 323-7591 for details.

Wednesday, November 2nd

"History of the U.S. Coast Guard" – a talk by John Galluzzo from the Foundation for Coast Guard History. A One Book One Valley program, 7PM, CML.

Saturday, November 5th

Sewing Craft: Learn English Paper Piecing. 1-3PM, CML.

Saturdays, Nov. 5th, 12th, 19th; Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 31st.

Tamworth Farmers' Market, 9AM-1PM. Brett School (November & December); Town House (every other week, starting January 14th)

Friday, November 11th

Tamworth Veterans Day Ceremony, 11AM at the Veterans Memorial (junction of 113, 113A, & Main St.).

Wednesday, November 16th

Night-time storytime with Amy. Wear pajamas. 6:30PM, CML.

Wednesday, November 23rd

Giving Thanks Feast, by donation, from 11:30AM-1PM at The Community School. FMI: 323-7000.

Friday, December 2nd

TCNA Annual Holiday Gala, 6PM at The Preserve at Chocorua. FMI or to reserve tickets call 323-8511.

Saturday, December 3rd

The Community School Holiday Fair, 10-2. Crafters call 323-7000 to reserve tables.

Saturday, December 3rd

Homestead Christmas at the Remick Museum, 12-3. \$5/person. FMI: 323-7591 or www.remickmuseum.org.

Saturday, December 3rd

Paper Craft: Greeting Cards. 1-3PM, CML.

Sunday, December 4th

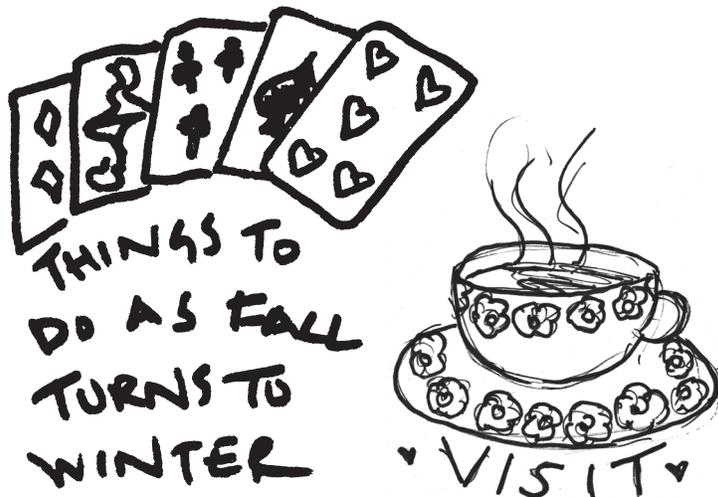
Live from the Lyceum, Mark Erelli. Tickets are \$20, Doors open at 6PM, show starts 7PM.

Tuesday, December 13th

Holiday Open House with Brett School Chorus and Potluck Singers. 6-7:30PM, Cook Memorial Library.

Saturday, December 31st

New Year's Eve Contra Dance, starts at 8PM. Tamworth Town House. FMI: 323-7001.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TAMWORTH!

Mid-October marks the 250th anniversary of Tamworth's town charter, signed on October 14th, 1766. Make note on your calendars:

Friday, October 14th

Commemorative service at Ordination Rock on Cleveland Hill Road, 5PM. This will be followed by a birthday cake reception at the Tamworth Town House, with music by Vincent Amara.

Saturday, October 15th

"Celebrate Tamworth, Then and Now" variety show at The Barnstormers, 7PM. Help toast our town in music, dance, poetry, skits, readings, or whatever medium you choose! George Cleveland, emcee; Belle Stafford, stage manager. To sign up, please contact: Melanie Streeter (323-8905), Belle Stafford (733-7402), or Kate Thompson (323-7762). This event is free and there is no reserved seating.

Note: If we must choose among acts due to limited time, Tamworth-relatedness and overall show variety will be our two criteria.

THE TAMWORTH CIVIC NEWS

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Tuesday, the 8th of November, 1892, belongs to history now, but when it began it was only an ordinary 'lection day. Floods of night rain had washed the high peaks clear of snow, and at dawn the golden clouds swept eastward, and the fairest of November days began its course. All the horses and all the men turned their noses towards the wooden town-house in Tamworth village; and by nine o'clock long lines of wagons streamed under the two campaign flags, across the bridge over rushing Paugus River [aka the Swift River. -Ed.], and up to the stores where the smoke of pipes and the sound of laughter proclaimed the swarming of man. It was an occasion of more than usual interest, for not only was the great ex-president to test his tariff-reform lance against the silver shield of his once successful rival, but New Hampshire in general, and Tamworth in particular, were to try the Australian ballot system.

"Now, Jim," said the committee-man, "remember to make a cross against the name of every Democrat. Take your time, and look for the letter D. Wherever you see D, put down your cross." Then a sample ballot was displayed to Jim, and the worthy child of Quebec proved the truth of his assertion that he could "read D in English evvy time, sir."

Just before ten, the three stores gave up their crowds in favor of the growing swarm in front of the town-house. It was a strange comingling of men. The bone and sinew of rural New England were there, and so were the gristle, the fat, and the lean. Men well past ninety tottered feebly to the benches which flanked the broad open floor of the hall. Young fellows, just of age, stepped briskly in and went to the platform to see that their names had been duly added to the printed check-list of voters. Gaunt, loose-jointed, thin-faced men, in worn shoddy, the modern successor of honest homespun, dragged themselves through the crowd, answering salutations with grim indifference. Big, burly men with broad, gray felt hats and scarlet flannel leggings strode in more confidently, fresh from the spruce woods. Well-dressed, clean-shaven men with city hats and big watch-chains shook hands with everybody, and with a hand on John's shoulder or Edson's elbow whispered a word in the young voter's ear. The New England farmer or lumberman does not ride horseback. He probably knows how well enough, but his roads have no clay mud, his wagon runs easily, so he drives instead of riding. Not one man in fifty owns a saddle. Who is it, then, that comes up the long street at a breakneck pace, with flapping hat, trailing whip, and rattling spurs? He rides well, and has a dashing air about him strangely in contrast to the slouch of the man who always drives, with shoulders hunched and back curved. He proves to be a city man who has enough of a ranch and is now extracting occupation from a farm and summer boarders.

Now a silk hat and a satin necktie loom up in the throng. They grace a sleek son of the town who has a store "down country," but who comes home to vote. The silk hat looks strangely out of place among the well-worn felts and woolen caps which cover most of the heads in the crowd.

The bell in the meeting-house tower moves, and then its

clang strikes harshly on the ear. Half a mile away it would be sweet-toned; here it is merely discordant. The men straggle into the town-house in large groups, and soon the room is crowded. Good air goes out by the chimney when the smokers come in by the door. The supervisors are in their seats, and an excited discussion is taking place in which they and many in the crowd join. An oldish man and a foreigner who served in the late civil war has just produced his naturalization papers and demanded to have his name placed upon the check-list. The officers object, and point to the book of statutes open before them, where a section states that no name shall be added to the list at this late hour except by way of restoring a name wrongfully dropped from an earlier list. The claimant declares that his name was or ought to have been on an earlier list; a candidate for office springs upon a chair and shouts to the supervisors that he will "make it hot" for them if they refuse the veteran his suffrage; the crowd cheers, and the officers yield. Then the warrant for the meeting is read, and immediately after an elder offers prayer, the hats and caps being doffed in obedience to a loud call of "hats off." The prayer is simple and earnest, asking for help in a freeman's highest duty. A moderator is chosen, and he delivers a brief and clear lecture upon the machinery of the new ballot law. Then a resolution is passed with a shout, allowing the old men to vote first, and the greybeards are pushed gently forward to the enclosed space in which the five little voting booths are built.

The voters are kept waiting half an hour, because at first no one can open the patent ballot box, but at last it gives way to some persuasive touch and the day's work is fairly begun. By noon about fifty men have passed the guard, taken their folded ballots, entered the little booths, and spent from two to ten minutes each in marking or trying to mark for their favorite candidates.

"This is a great thing for the fools," said an old farmer; "they can look just as wise as the wisest of us, but they nor nobody else will ever know just who they voted for."

One man, after entering the booth, came out and said he wanted someone to mark for him. "Step this way," shouted the moderator, "and take your solemn oath that you cannot read your ballot and must have help in marking it." "I won't swear to anything of the kind," said the man indignantly, and he went back to his booth. The crowd became impatient at the delay, and began to push hard for the narrow entrance. Strong men cried out in pain or anger; the stove tottered and part of the pipe fell, scattering soot on the nearest heads; the moderator thumped rebukes, and several men went home disgusted with the new-fangled system, only to be dragged back later by the committees of their respective parties.

Back of the town-house, Paugus River, well filled by the night's rain and the melted snow from the mountains, rushed noisily thorough its rock-choked bed. I escaped from the hustling crowd in the hot hall, and watched the eager current till my eyes and ears were cleared of smoke and empty laughter, and a taste of something sweeter than politics was left on my tongue. The river, with its bright water, was following

TAMWORTH'S AMAZING BALLOT BOX

That “patent ballot box” that Frank Bolles refers to in his wonderful essay is still with us! It’s not tucked away in a basement or an attic. That ballot box has appeared in probably every Tamworth town meeting and election since Mr. Bolles deposited his ballot in November 1892.

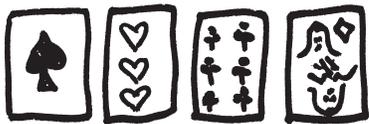
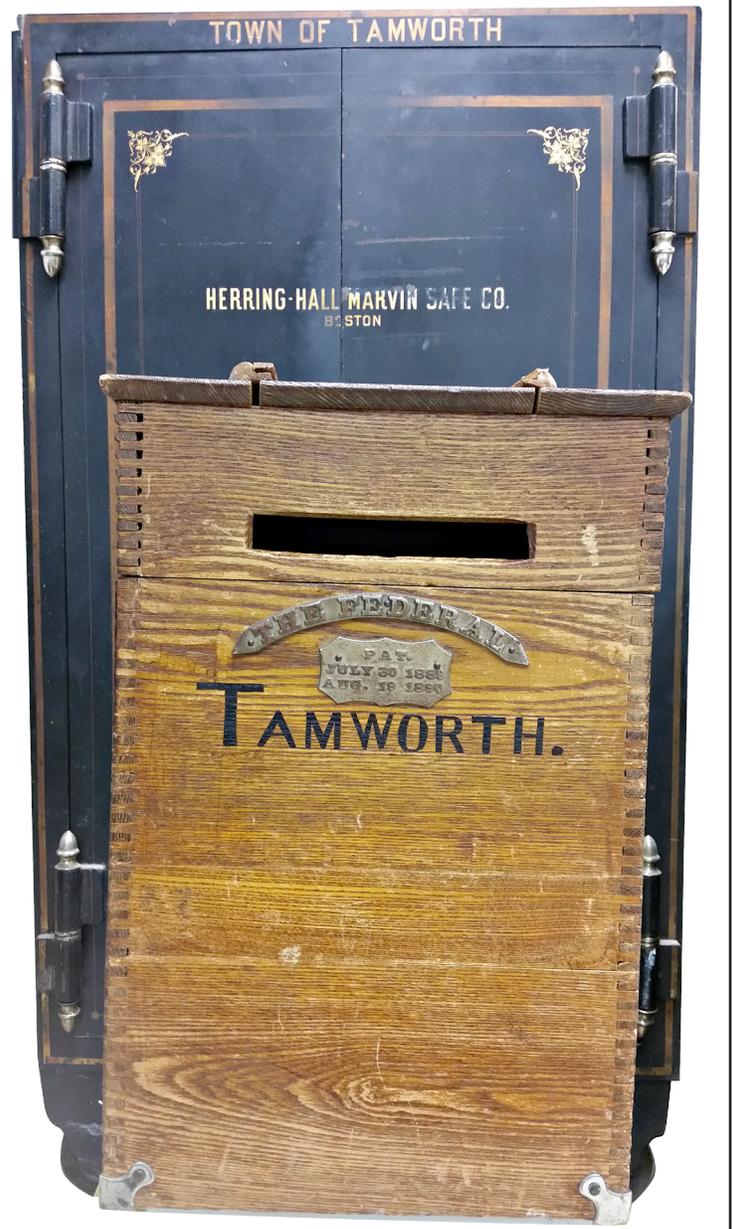
Tamworth voters know it as the large oak ballot box that proudly has “TAMWORTH” emblazoned on it. This is one of 272 boxes that were distributed by the state as the result of legislation in 1891. Prior to that time, ballots were printed by the *political parties* and handed out at the polls by party officials. Apparently, it was not unusual for these “tickets” to be accompanied by a few bucks and maybe cider or rum. The law was changed so that we would vote using the “Australian Ballot” system, the same one we use today, where anyone can vote for anybody they choose.

Purchasing the ballot boxes cost the state \$595. Frank Bolles’ essay indicates that there was a problem opening the box at first. That’s because it wasn’t the empty box it is today. When the boxes were new, they came equipped with an internal counting device and a hand crank that would pull in the ballot and then ring a bell so the voter was satisfied that his (yes, *his* in 1892) ballot had been legally cast.

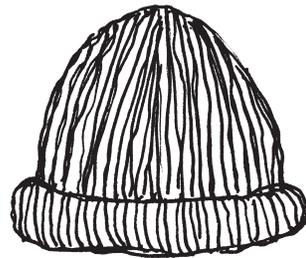
I know of no one in Tamworth who recalls this device on our box. I was town moderator for twenty-eight years and heard a LOT of election stories, but the crank and bell were never mentioned. Our neighboring town of Eaton still has the device and still use their box.

One group of electors on the Democratic ballot was dedicated to Grover Cleveland who would make a summer home in Tamworth just eleven years later. He didn’t win in Tamworth or in New Hampshire. But he took the country to become (so far) the only president to lose an election and then get elected again four years later.

—George Cleveland



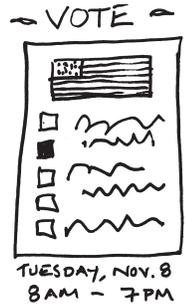
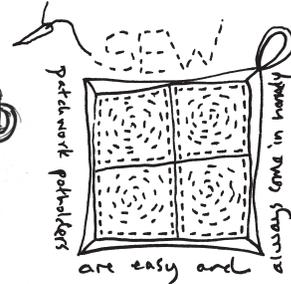
THINGS TO DO AS
FALL TURNS TO
WINTER



~ HUNT ~



~ COOK ~



its course towards the Bearcamp and the sea, because for time out of mind it had flowed that way and knew no other.

The sun sank in orange splendor behind the Ossipees, and then the night overwhelmed color and form in its shadows, and left the mind freer in its musings. What had the day brought forth at the polls? Had the party of past glories and present decay won another of its wonderful series of victories, or had the people risen in their might and spoken for reform?

Midnight passed, and then, as the morning hours wore on, we knew that the people had achieved one of the most remarkable transfers of power ever accomplished in the Union.

—Frank Bolles

Excerpted from *At the North of Bearcamp Water: Chronicles of a Stroller in New England from July to December*; published in 1893 by Houghton, Mifflin, & Company.

As I read the wonderful book, *Tamworth as We See It*, one reaction that I'm sure is shared by many Tamworthians was, "I wish I had submitted a story about . . ." In my case, the story is about Peg King and Irene (Iley) Irwin, who found Tamworth in the early 1940s and left it a much better place.

Peg and Iley were teachers from Long Island who came to Camp Allegro on Silver Lake as counselors. They spent their summer breaks at Edgehill Inn on the Chinook Trail and met Bessie Rogers, the owner of the inn. Bessie was getting elderly and had no children, so in 1943 she gave them "Cottage #8" in return for taking care of her when she needed help. After the war, Peg and Iley moved up to Tamworth full time and took on the huge jobs of updating the cottage and becoming full members of the community.

In 1947, Peg began teaching at the Tamworth Elementary School, which at that time was located in what is now the Unitarian Universalist meeting house in the village. Peg taught a combined third/fourth grade until she moved with the school to the Kenneth A. Brett School with just the third grade. There, according to Nancy Coville, she was famous for getting the kids outside. Scott Aspinall was "enthralled" with Peg as a teacher and credits her for his career in forestry and conservation. "She'd take us on field trips down Bryant Road where we could catch frogs and see turtles and snakes. She'd explain about everything we found and let us play in the brook." Scott describes the time he brought in a striped caterpillar. It spun a cocoon. "We put the cocoon outside once it had snowed and then brought it inside in the spring. Our class saw the caterpillar pupate into a beautiful butterfly. It was stunning to me." Another time Peg brought a hornet's nest into class in the winter and "we watched them come alive as they got warm."

Peg was a great storyteller, and some of her better ones came from her teaching years. She told about a little boy who had missed school because his grandfather died. When he returned, he raised his hand and asked, "Miss King, is Grandpa detritus yet?" Peg was also a disciplinarian, but one whom the children loved. As Helen Steele says, "She was not warm and cuddly, but you listened and you felt safe." Another story was about Peg taking a boy who had misbehaved into the cloak room, telling him to bend down and start crying – loud. She then wacked the wall with a rolled up newspaper while the boy yelled. "Don't say a word," she said as she led him back into the classroom. Her combination of fairness and her knowledge of nature and science worked even, as

Helen and Scott remembered, down to getting them to work on spelling and penmanship.

Renovating the cottage that became Sunny Field occupied Peg and Iley for many years. They added plumbing and electricity, updated the whole house, and, most importantly, planted gardens. Iley's flower garden, backed by lilacs, framed a spectacular view of Mt. Chocorua. Peg's vegetable garden earned many prizes at the Sandwich Fair, but also involved "harvesting rocks" every spring. Iley moved from her garden as living art to crewel embroidery and later painting. Her paintings were the highlight of many an Arts Council show.

Both Peg and Iley were mainstays of community organizations, holding board positions with the Garden Club, the Congregational Church, Cook Library, the Outing Club, the 200th anniversary celebration, the Arts Council, and the

Conservation Commission (TCC). Both also served on statewide boards as well. Peg was on the original TCC and got an award for twenty-five years of service, many of those as chair. She was deeply involved in establishing the Big Pines Natural Area and in developing wetland regulations. She also led an attempt to get zoning regulations passed, which failed by only seven votes. As Scott, who served on the TCC with her said, "You could hear a pin drop in town meeting when she spoke. She really understood ecosystems way before that was a popular concept." Peg and Iley also practiced what they preached. Their winter compost pile – ants in the cellar – was famous enough to rate an article in the *Manchester Union Leader*.

Iley retired when they moved up to Tamworth. When Peg retired in 1966, she had a second career as leader of "King Tours." She would do all the organizing and driving for groups of friends who wanted to travel; they, in turn, would pay for her trip. They

went all over the world, beginning in Europe, but later to New Zealand, Morocco, and Egypt, and on safaris in Africa. Her pictures were famous, and my last memory of her was when she had decided to go off dialysis for an illness contracted in Africa. I came into the dining room where we had set her up in a hospital bed. Margaret Means and my daughter, Peg Loughran, were there and Peg was showing the slides from her recent trip. "You should have seen those monkeys hanging over the wall of the latrine, watching us do our business." She died a few days later.

Tamworth has always been a very welcoming community, and Peg and Iley repaid that welcome many times over.

—Betsy Loughran



Peg King, Iley Irwin, & Bessie Rogers, 1944.



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THE VIEW FROM HERE

What makes Tamworth “Tamworth” for you? A cooling swim in Chocorua Lake at the end of a hot summer day? Tucking into a delicious slice of pie at the Other Store’s lunch counter? Stopping by the Chocorua or Cook Library to check out a book? Voting at the Town House on Election Day as generations of Tamworth residents have done before you? Lending a hand to a friend or neighbor when they need it and knowing that they would do the same for you without question? For all of us, the list of what makes Tamworth special is long and varied. Each of us would answer this question differently. All of us could think of at least a few things that we cherish about our town.

As Tamworth’s 250th celebration draws to a close, many of us will add to our “Tamworth” list: time spent during 2016 building the mosaics that now adorn the west wall of the Brett School; appreciating the stories, photos, and quirky tidbits compiled in the commemorative book, *Tamworth As We See It*; standing shoulder to shoulder in the Behr Farm field on a glorious July day to form “250” as photos were snapped from above to document a moment in our collective history.

For some, the *Tamworth Civic News* is on that List. For two decades, this little newsletter has appeared in every Tamworth mailbox, six times each year, chock full of stories and information about our town. Many people read it from cover to cover as soon as it arrives. As one reader points out, having everyone in town reading the same news at the same time really lends to our collective sense of community. Which makes *this* news all the more difficult to share: that, at least for now, the *Civic News* is taking a break and will suspend publication. The reasons are complex and it is not an easy decision to make and to share with you, our readers. Although community support has been generous and has sustained us financially, producing this newsletter has largely fallen on very few shoulders, with countless hours put into each issue. It is time to take a break.

No doubt some of you will have questions: Why is this necessary? If more people step in to help, could the newsletter be revived? As editor, I am more than happy to talk with anyone who would like to discuss the decision to cease publication now and a possible revival of the *Civic News* in the future. Give me a call at 323-8185 or zip an email to tcneditor@gmail.com.

—Amy Berrier

TAMWORTH RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Call Director Parker Roberts for program info, 323-7582

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Tai Chi, Town House, Monday, 6–7:30PM; Tuesday, 9:30–11AM. Call Parker to find out which class is appropriate for you, as one is introductory and one is for more experienced students.

Step Aerobics, Town House, Wednesdays & Fridays, 8–9AM.

Living Strong, Town House, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8–9AM.

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This comely bobcat was photographed in Tamworth by Gwyn Johnson.