
Brentwood NEWSLETTER

The Voice of the People – Strong Together——Six Feet Apart



Volume XLIV No. 5

Brentwood, New Hampshire

May 2020

WE ARE TOGETHER

I'm a mom to 2 young children. We have a 6 year old in 1st grade and a 3 year old in preschool. They both love school. They both were devastated by the school closures from Covid-19. They both ask me daily when they get to go back to school. They are not unique. Most kids this age love going to school, seeing their friends, interacting with their amazing teachers. However, my husband and I are lucky. Neither child is missing out on major milestones (graduation, prom, sports competition). They will miss out on gymnastics, dance and the dance recital. This is tolerable. This will not scar them forever. We are also fortunate because my husband stays at home already for work; he is a stay at home dad. While this may not be a common family arrangement, it works for us.

I am a pediatrician. Before Covid-19 my work responsibilities included office visits and working at the hospital. Much of my work is joyful: new babies, seeing children grow and become adults, bonding with families and children over celebrations. As with anything there is also the stress: the hospital work. While I love working in the hospital, it is the great unknown. You never know when a very sick child will come in or the delivery of a baby will go badly. I cover nights, weekends and all holidays, with the help of my amazing partners. But post-Covid-19, our pediatric practice has been transformed. I am now in the hospital pool. I work 7 nights straight, for 14 hours of call, every other week. Then I have a week "off" doing telemedicine from home. This all sounds reasonable until you factor in being home with my family. For better or worse, I am home a lot more (they are sleeping while I'm at the hospital). I try to rest during the day but for anyone who has had small children, you know this is nearly impossible.

But, we are together. Yes, I strip off my scrubs in my garage to avoid contamination of Covid-19 into my house. But, we are together. I get to see them every morning (pre-Covid I left the house before they woke up and sometimes did not return until they were already in bed). Now, I get to eat lunch with them and often dinner too. We have established a new norm. My 6 year old thrives off routine, so we have mimicked her school day as much as possible. But school is much different. Her teachers are fantastic: checking in, sending lots of ideas and help, doing zoom meetings for the class, updating online programs constantly. However, the online process is tough. Finding the right key on the key board or redrawing something 10 times because the touch screen wasn't working are huge frustrations. Not to mention the 3 year old... Again her preschool teacher is fantastic: checking in, sending fun worksheets to us, setting up an online page for the kids to

check-in, etc. But being 3 and being stuck in the house and giving her 6 year old sister space and quiet to learn is tough.

But, we are together. My girls have spent more time together than ever. My 6 year old has said repeatedly how happy she is to have her sister so she isn't alone during this time of social distancing. Of course, they fight...and make huge messes...and did I mention fight? However, we have also taken a walk (or 2) through our neighborhood nearly every day. During these walks we have seen neighbors we didn't even know lived here. We have taken walks to the river and learned about beavers and birch tress and made a compass from a needle and magnet. We have (socially distantly) visited our neighbor (outside) who taught us about her pussy willow trees. We take the time to learn from basic everyday things: cooking (fractions, adding), gardening (worms, soil, seeds, sunlight).

I suspect that in time to come, Covid-19 will settle down. We will begin another new-normal. I hope we do not forget the time we were able to spend with our families, the creative ways we found our children learning and bonding, the way our community supported each other, and what we value most.

Elizabeth Melendy

The Brentwood Newsletter and the Brentwood Historical Society are working together to document our collective experiences as Brentwood endures the COVID-19 pandemic. What has it been like for you and your family? How have you dealt with home schooling, working from home? Have you lost your job, been laid off, or work for a company that has retooled it's output in a new direction? What unique experiences have you encountered and how have you dealt with them? Add your thoughts to history. Use this as a learning experience for your children, have them write down how they are adapting. We will continue to collect your reflections as long as you submit them.

Don't think you are alone (note the irony in that word), we are all in this together, at least six feet apart. ~ Ed.

Read more personal stories on page 7

Brentwood Newsletter

Town of Brentwood
www.brentwoodnh.gov

TOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR

(603) 642-6400 ext 113/114
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday 8:30 am - 7:00 pm
Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

(603) 642-6400 ext 110 Fax: 642-6310
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

BRENTWOOD POLICE

Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (603) 642-8817

BRENTWOOD FIRE

Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (603) 642-8132

MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY

(603) 642-3355
brentwoodlibrary@comcast.net
www.brentwoodlibrary.org
Monday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PLANNING BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(603) 642-6400 ext 116
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Planning Board meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday
of the month at 7:00 pm

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

(603) 642-6400 ext. 120
Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
recreation@brentwoodnh.gov
www.brentwoodnh.gov/recreation

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

(603) 642-3487
Swasey on the Web: scs.sau16.org
SAU 16 on the Web: www.sau16.org

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Submissions for the following month must be
received by the 15th. Send your news to
Email: brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com
Mail: 102 Middle Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

Recycling Pickup Dates

May 12 & 13 • May 26 & 27

Waste Tonnage Figures

| | February | March |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tons, mixed solid waste | 95.56 | 117.64 |
| Tons, recycled goods | 25.11 (21%) | 31.91 (21%) |

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule (April through August)

For the months of April through August the board will meet on the first and third Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the Cross Room of the Town Office. The public is welcome. If you would like to be added to the official agenda, please contact Karen Clement.

To watch previously recorded selectmen meetings go to: vimeo.com/user97247702.
You can also watch the meetings live on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/ecmwQukP1FE>.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator

Town Clerk Notes

Due to COVID-19 precautions, our office will have limited hours for the next few weeks.

Mon, Wed, Thurs 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

- For new motor vehicle transactions, the Governor has authorized us to extend all temporary plates issued after March 1 until April 30, 2020.
- The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be closed **May 25th** for Memorial Day.
- Did you know that you can pay your vehicle, trailer, or dog registrations online? You can even pay your property taxes online! Visit brentwoodnh.gov and select the Town Clerk/Tax Collector tab.
- We accept **CASH, CHECK** (made out to the Town of Brentwood), or **CREDIT CARDS** for all payments at the town office! ****PLEASE NOTE**** A debit card is processed as a credit card only if the card has a MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or AMEX logo present. There are additional convenience fees to cover the cost of the credit card fees (2.79% with a \$1.50 minimum). These fees go directly to our third party processor and are not retained by the Town. *Convenience fees cannot be refunded.*
- When transferring your plates, please bring in your old registration to return to the state. A copy will cost \$17.50.
- We are able to provide **HUNTING/FISHING** licenses and register **BOATS, OHRV**.
- NH state law requires you to register dogs (RSA 466:1 Procuring License; Tag). You can obtain a copy of this law at the Town Clerk's Office.

Dog license fees for 2020

| | |
|---|--|
| \$10.00 for an unneutered/unspayed dog | \$7.50 for a neutered/spayed dog |
| \$7.50 for a puppy (up to 7 months old) | \$3.00 on the first dog for a senior resident. |

Dog licenses not filed before April 30, 2020 will incur fines.

Daphne Woss, Brentwood Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Thank You to the April Newsletter Crew

Thank You to Robin and Nick Wrighton for folding, dotting and addressing all 1300 BNLs.
Thank you to Brad Stevens for braving the post office to drop off the monthly issue.

If you would like to join the *Newsletter* crew on a folding night, send us an email and you'll be notified of the next folding party: info@brentwoodnewsletter.org.

BRENTWOOD CHURCH NEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – 201 North Road

First Baptist Church will continue live Sunday worship on FB until we can come together again. Keep up to date and receive a daily spiritual boost, visit us at facebook.com/firstbaptistbrentwoodnh.

The coronavirus pandemic seems to have nearly everyone in a dither. I don't think anyone enjoys being quarantined at home, not being able to do the things that we have come to enjoy, such as going to church or shopping, to the movies, or out to dinner. Life for all of us has certainly been disrupted.

I urge you, though, to not allow yourself to be gripped by unreasoning fear. As difficult as you may believe life to be right now, God still reigns and rules in our world.

You needn't take my word for it though; just read Psalm 34. It will give you some much-needed guidance as we make our way through this pandemic. I recommend Psalm 34 because it's not just a "faithful one-liner" but the reasoned and carefully crafted thoughts of David, Old Testament king of Israel.

David was much like many of us: he won victories and he suffered defeats. He sinned, but later was forgiven and restored. Where he differed from many of us today was in the matter of faith: he trusted God to lead him through his hard times and that faithfulness is well expressed in Psalm 34.

Just look at verse 4 as an example: "I sought the Lord and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears." Or verse 8: "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him."

There is much more in this wonderful Psalm. I hope you will read it and apply its truths to your own life circumstance. Do not allow fear to overcome you; this pandemic will pass away, like fog in the morning sun.

We will all be changed by its aftermath, though. I hope that part of the change will include people being more concerned with their spiritual lives and relationship to God, who loves us all.

Fear solves nothing. At First Baptist Church we respect the difficulties surrounding COVID-19, but we do not fear because we know that faith drives out fear. When the epidemic passes, I hope you will join us in worship, where we can praise God for His many blessings and thank Him for bringing us safely through the danger. May God bless you as you seek Him during these difficult days.

Pastor James Barnes

**PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BRENTWOOD-KINGSTON,
197 Middle Road (Route 111A)**

For now, we will be worshipping online on our Facebook page each Sunday. Facebook @PilgrimUCCBrentwoodKingston, then click on video link. Visit our website pilgrimucc-nh.org.

Our lives have been turned inside out and upside down. Just making it from one day to the next requires creativity and focus that we have not had to summon before. We have had to rethink the way we do many things, we have experienced anxiety and confusion, and we have worried about the health and well-being of our loved ones. For

all of us, our "normal" everyday lives have been superseded by the new reality in which we are living.

It is perfectly OK to feel overwhelmed and anxious, sad and tired. We only have so much bandwidth. Extend the same grace to yourself that you would your friend who is going through a very difficult time. We are all going through a very difficult time. We all feel the stress of the situation we find ourselves in. We just experience it in different ways. Keep breathing. Keep finding ways to share God's love. Be kind to each other. Be gentle with yourself.

You may have heard our church bells ringing out on Easter Sunday. They joined church bells all over New England that were ringing to call out hope, peace, joy and love in this time of trial and hardship. These messages are key to living in this time we find ourselves in.

Oftentimes you will hear church folk refer to ourselves as an "Easter people." Being an "Easter people" means that we are finding ways to live out the hope, joy and love of Easter each and every day.

Easter is about showing God's love in new, amazing ways—big or small. Easter is about the many ways we see people coming together in this crisis while maintaining their physical distance. We see people finding new ways to work and teach. We see little Easters in the joys families are finding from more time together. We see the miracle of Easter in the acts of kindness and gratitude for folks working so hard on the frontlines.

In the midst of loss and fear, death and grief there are moments of joy, hope and grace. We see pollution clearing up in places that have not seen the sky for years. We see dolphins and swans returning to the canals of Venice. We see people cooking meals for folks who cannot get out to the grocery store. We see folks offering to pick up groceries and prescriptions, too. We pool together our resources to sew masks for each other. We see little Easters in each of these moments.

In the midst of social distancing and isolation, we see people finding new ways to reach out to each other. We see the miracle and mystery of God's love being shown in such creative ways—sidewalk chalk art, homemade billboards declaring huge gratitude for our healthcare workers, musicians and artists sharing their gifts from their porches and driveways, giving concerts online.

God's Love Knows No Bounds

During this difficult time, our Food Pantry has seen increased usage. We will make every effort to continue to serve those who are impacted most and appreciate your help in doing so.

To that end, we want to extend a **HUGE Thank You** to all who have so generously donated money, food items, and other non-perishable goods to the Food Pantry. The outpouring of care that you have shown has been amazing! We are so very grateful for your help in reaching out to folks who are in need. Pilgrim Church gladly accepts non-perishable items as well as monetary donations.

The Church office will remain open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Know that God is with you, with us, even now, and God will be with you, with us, always. Grace and peace to you now and always.

Blessings, Rev. Tara, Pastor

With Our Deepest Sympathy



Laurel Elizabeth (Rutkaus) Abusamra, was born on May 15, 1947 in Fairfax, VA to Anthony and Edna (Rubin) Rutkaus. She died unexpectedly on March 5th, 2020 of a brain aneurysm at Exeter Hospital with her husband and daughter at her side. There was a private burial.

Laurel grew up with her older brother, on a mini-farm surrounded by animals, an experience that influenced her for the rest of her life. She graduated from Fairfax High School in 1965 and Hollins College in 1969, where she majored in French. That summer she entered a Masters degree program at the Middlebury College Summer Language School where she met her future husband, David. As graduate students, Laurel and David spent an academic year in Paris where they fell in love. They married in 1971. Four years later they welcomed their beautiful daughter, Ilse, into the world.

Laurel spent 35 years as a French and Spanish instructor at Governor Dummer Academy. When Laurel retired, she was the longest-serving female teacher in the school's history. Notably, she played a pivotal role as the school moved into coeducation in the early seventies. To her colleagues she was a pillar of the profession: honorable, dedicated, hard-working, loyal, and friendly. Both her colleagues and students recognized her grace, good humor, kindness and strength.

Beyond the classroom Laurel enjoyed cooking gourmet meals and spending happy times with family and friends, reading and traveling. She shined brightly by giving life to the many plants, especially vegetables and fruits, that she grew both inside and outside her home. Albert Schweitzer's "Reverence for Life" philosophy defined Laurel. If this meant stopping on a road to redirect a snapping turtle, or a newt, she did so. Her childhood farm experience helped her develop a natural, instinctual way of rehabilitating and caring for animals, from wild baby snapping turtles to does, rabbits, red and grey squirrels, etc., to the German Shepherds and cats that were always members of her family.

In January, 2020 Laurel and her husband David celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary. Their lives have always been entwined in an indelible and increasing love for one another.

The meaningful life Laurel led touched many people in the Newburyport and Brentwood communities. Retirement afforded her the time to act on her long-held beliefs and values as she became an active member of the town's Democratic Committee.

Laurel would ask us all to continue loving our spouses, partners, families and friends, as well as to love animals and nature which she cherished.

Laurel leaves her beloved husband David and daughter Ilse, her brother, Michael Rutkaus, and many extended family members. She was preceded in death by her parents, Anthony and Edna Rutkaus. She also leaves her black German Shepherd, Tessa, and grey cat, Sophie.

GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL – 263 Route 125

Our meetings continue on Facebook and Zoom
Sunday Morning, 10:00 am - Zoom ID# 504990283
Monday, 6:30 pm - Zoom ID# 308332646
Wednesday, 6:30pm - Zoom ID# 675105827

For more information, please visit our website: www.gracemi.org.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH – 200 Pleasant Street, Epping

For updates and information, see our website: stjosepheppingnh.com

May 10th is Mother's Day

Don't forget to call Mom or send her a card.

Brentwood Graduates

The Newsletter is interested in news of Brentwood residents who have earned a diploma, certificate, or degree. Exeter High School and Seacoast School of Technology will supply us with the list of its Brentwood graduates. However, in this time of Covid closures, we are looking for your photos and additional information about your graduates to help us showcase their achievements and celebrate this milestone in their lives. They deserve our recognition and their families deserve credit for the support they've given. Please email your information to info@brentwoodnewsletter.org.

Exeter High School Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2020, at 5:30 pm. Location: William Ball Stadium.

A New Normal Vocabulary

Social Distancing, Flatten the Curve, Self Quarantine, Daily Briefing, Hydroxychloroquine, New Normal • Wuhan Flu, Chinese Flu, Kung Flu, CCP Virus, Novel Coronavirus, Covid-19 • Wet Market, Horseshoe Bat, Biolab, Virus, Pandemic • Travel Ban, Lockdown, Mitigation, State of Emergency, Six Feet Apart, Stay At Home Order • CDC, NIH, FDA, WHO, PPE • Models, Charts, Graphs, Travel-Related, No Known Risk Factor, Over 60 • Drive-Thru Testing, Presumptive Positive, Underlying Health Condition, Death Count • China, Italy, Washington State, Chicago, New York City • Hoarding, Toilet Paper, Hand Sanitizer • Test Kits, N95, Face Mask, Ventilator • Restricted Shopping, Non-Essential Items • Essential/Non-Essential Businesses, Restaurant Closures, Store Closures, Church Closures, Parks and Beach Closures • Economic Shut Down, Mass Unemployment, Relief Checks, CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief And Economic Security) Act, PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) • Remote Learning, Work From Home, Zoom • Vaccine

ANNOUNCEMENTS and CANCELLATIONS

Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office

Beginning March 16, 2020, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office hours have temporarily changed to Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays 3:00 to 7:00 pm. I felt it was important to continue to be open for those transactions that must be handled in person. All people who have the capability of doing automobile registration renewals and estimates, tax payments, vital records, boat registration renewals and dog registrations are encouraged to do so either online or by mail.

There have been a few changes that we have made to protect you and our staff. For starters, at our counter, a large plexiglass window was installed by our building inspection, Kip Kaiser. We can still hear and see each other! We are also sanitizing our work areas, the customer counter, the doors, light switches and chairs. There is blue tape on the floor that is 6 feet away from the counter. We wait on one customer at a time, to keep a crowd from forming. We continue to offer online services and mail drop offs. We are still available by phone and email. Our work continues even when we aren't open to the public.

We sincerely appreciate everyone who has made this transition with us. Hopefully, we will be back to "normal" hours soon! Please stay safe and healthy!

Daphne Woss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Brentwood Town Office Schedule

In the interest of public safety, The Board of Selectmen has postponed or cancelled all activities other than town business at the Town Office and Recreation Center through May 4, 2020. The playground, basketball court, and pavilions are closed at this time.

Assistance of the Town Administrator and assessing, welfare, recreation, building, and planning will be made available by appointment only.

Assessing cards are available on the town's website. The counter terminal will not be available during this time.

All interior inspections for the revaluation with KRT and for building permits are being suspended at this time. ALL inspections and plan reviews will be done by appointment as needed. In some cases pictures will be required. Permit applications are available for you to print from Town of Brentwood website. Please use email as much as possible, PDF files are best. Kip Kaiser, Code Enforcement, kkaiser@brentwoodnh.gov.

We will re-evaluate and may extend this time period if the guidance at that time suggests it would be beneficial. We understand this may create some inconvenience, and we thank you for your patience.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator

Brentwood Republicans have cancelled their May meeting and tentatively scheduled the next meeting for **Thursday, June 11th**, 6:30 pm at the BRC. Republicans and like-minded Independents are welcome. Please contact Thad Riley, 603-397-9211 or strider.thad@gmail.com.

Planning Board

Currently the Planning Board has meetings scheduled for **May 7th and May 21st**. The Zoning Board has a meeting scheduled for **May 11th**. However, due to COVID-19, these meeting dates or methods (Zoom video & telephone meetings) are subject to change.

Residents and abutters are encouraged to check the Planning Board and Zoning Board posted agendas on the Town website (brentwoodnh.gov) under the appropriate page (Planning or Zoning) or on the outside bulletin board at the Town Office for information regarding all meetings, cancellations, or for any remote meeting login information in order to participate. Agendas are posted at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting dates.

Residents and abutters are also encouraged to email me at abickum@brentwoodnh.gov or to call the office 603-642-6400 ext. 116 for information regarding upcoming meetings.

Andrea Bickum, Planning Board Assistant

Cemetery Trustees. The Cemetery Trustees have cancelled their May meeting. We'll try to meet next month as scheduled on **June 2nd**, at 5:00 pm in the Sanborn Room at the Town Office.

Garden Musings from a Brentwood Gardener

The Brentwood Gardeners' meeting has been cancelled for May. This means we will be holding our annual plant sale later in the year. Watch for an announcement as we make plans for a sale in time for fall planting.

Things I've learned:

- If another gardener says "It spreads like crazy," believe them and be forewarned.
- Before you plant any tree, bush or shrub understand how large it will get at maturity and be sure to give it enough room at planting time to save heartache later.
- Don't be a "Kerplunker!" Before you purchase something you fall in love with at a nursery, have a plan for where it will go in your yard. Don't bring it home and "kerplunk" it.
- Divide perennials. Many perennials tend to die out from the center if not divided on a regular basis. The frequency of dividing perennials depends on the species. Most perennials respond best when divided in early spring. In early spring the weather is cool and there is usually adequate moisture in the soil. Roots have a lot of stored energy that will help the divisions recover from being cut apart and replanted. The new emerging shoots are likely to suffer less damage than fully developed growth and will also lose less water through evapotranspiration. Spring divisions also have the entire season to recover from the stress of division. Start by digging around the plant, then lift the entire clump out of the ground. Using a spade or sharp knife, cut the clump up into separate pieces. Discard the old, dead center and trim off any damaged roots. Keep the divisions moist and shaded while you prepare the new planting site. After replanting, keep them well watered.

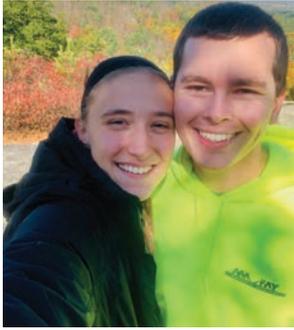
Karen Drapaniotis

Brentwood Fire Department

The fire department has gone to very limited permitting at this time to help maintain social distancing. Should you wish to obtain a burn permit, we ask that you go to the Division of Forestry and Lands website www.nh.gov/nhdfl. There is a tab for permits as well as a complete set of rules listed. Please pay attention to the Smokey Sign located on Rt 125. This will give you an idea of why you can or cannot get a permit.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Meet Your Brentwood Firefighters and EMTs



Stephanie is the first part-time employee of the Brentwood Fire Department. She found her love for the fire service after attending Camp Fully Involved in high school and has been working her way towards a career in the fire service ever since.

Stephanie is a certified Fire II, AEMT, Hazmat Technician and has many other certifications. She also holds an

Associate's degree in Fire Science. Stephanie has been a member of the Candia Fire Department for 4 years before joining the Brentwood Fire Department in July of 2018. She is a part-time member on both the Brentwood and Epping Fire Departments.

Stephanie loves animals and has two bulldogs, Molly and Tank. When Stephanie is not working, she loves to spend her time with family, her two dogs, and enjoys being outdoors hiking, biking or kayaking.

Chief Bird, Brentwood Fire Department

Brentwood Police Department

We would like to thank the entire Brentwood community for being so supportive during this unprecedented pandemic crisis. We know this has been an extremely difficult time with a lot of uncertainty regarding safety and health and a return to normalcy and what that will look like. As you all know, there has been a tremendous push nationwide for people to "stay at home" as well as a state emergency order issued by Governor Sununu to "stay at home" as much as possible. Recently, there have been a few processional events organized by well-intentioned town residents that have not been sanctioned by the town. We understand that these processions are rooted in an effort to provide hope and support to the community in this time of crisis, however, to support and advocate for the "stay at home" emergency order issued by Governor Sununu, the Brentwood Police Department cannot and will not openly endorse informal vehicle processions as it can be perceived as not essential travel or functions. Having said that, if one was planning on conducting such a procession please advise the Brentwood Police Department. We will monitor the procession as needed to ensure that it is conducted in a safe manner and abiding by all applicable rules and laws in the interest of public safety and health.

Chief Ellen M. Arcieri, Brentwood Police Department

Swasey Central School

From the Principal's Office—From Home!

On March 13, schools around the state and the country began to close in an attempt to reduce the curve of those being infected with COVID-19. This decision impacted our families and teaching staff in many ways.

As principal of Swasey Central School, I am fortunate to have a strong team of educators who were preparing in advance for the potential closure that occurred. Our SAU 16 Superintendent had been monitoring reports of the medical community and the CDC, so he could decide upon the best course of action for our students, families, and staff.

The SCS teachers pulled together to create plans for remote learning. We knew parents would need one place to go to access all grade level and specialist materials, and so, a website was created that would be the 'hub' of our At Home Learning plans and activities.

The first week or two of remote learning was described as "Flying the Plane as it was being built." The key word was innovation! Educators came to realize that, as much as we wanted to replicate the school experience at home, it was just not possible. We started revising plans to better meet the needs of our community. We wanted to provide activities that would keep the learning and growth moving forward, without overwhelming families.

We all have different at-home environments. Many of us are working from home, while also taking care of our children and their schooling. Some of us are still going to a place of work and in need of childcare. Families are all doing their best during these times of at-home employment, unemployment, social distancing, and the reality of how all these changes are affecting our physical and mental health.

I am encouraged and inspired by the signs of love and care that our community has spread. We are creating videos of hope and thanks to one another. Teachers and staff are reaching out to students and families, and in turn, those students are sending us encouragement as well. We see each other through video platforms, but one overarching theme remains: we miss each other and we miss the routines and activities that have always been in place for us.

Personally, I am hoping to support the needs of our students, families and staff by trying to keep some normalcy in our days. We are sending out Friday morning announcement videos, singing songs on our YouTube page, and staying in touch in a variety of ways. We all care so much about this community and know this remote learning is only temporary. With no choice but to face the situation, we continue to examine what we are doing and try our best to make it equitable, enjoyable, and educational. It's no easy task!

We will come back, Swasey Strong, as we always do. Thank you to our Brentwood community for coming together during this crisis. The people in this town are very caring and deeply inspirational. We miss our students and look forward to the day we can reopen the front doors of Swasey School. Until then, be well, try to smile, and, as I say each week, be sure you say something nice to someone today and make their day!

Ron W. Kew, Principal, Swasey Central School

Brentwood School Board. The Brentwood School Board meeting scheduled for **May 4th** at 6:30 pm will be held via Zoom. See SAU16 website or contact school board chair Melissa Litchfield for details.

<https://sau16.org/boards/brentwood/minutes-agendas/>

COVID MOMENTS

What Are You Doing to Pass the Days While You Stay at Home?

We are practicing social distancing. Because an early April trip to Michigan to visit our daughter and her family was cancelled we are staying in touch via Zoom: catching up on news; daily reading and doing school work with our 7 year old granddaughter; sharing recipes and photos of bread baked and yogurt made. I am finally concentrating on finishing a quilt that has been waiting to be completed for 2 years. On good weather days, we are walking our dogs more than usual and they wonder why! Bill is getting a lot of yard work done—even firewood for next winter. Oh, and like many people, watching TV more: I am binge watching Vera episodes, The British Baking Show, The Office and The Closer on PBS. ~ Becky & Bill Dunham

Our perspective is everything, during these times and that is why I am sticking to routines. It is important to me to have a neat kitchen, so I tidy the kitchen as a part of my daily routine. I have also been reading via Zoom to some neighborhood children; it gives me something to look forward to. As a yoga instructor I am used to moving and teaching on a daily basis. I decided that everyone could use some movement during these times. With help from my husband, Bob, we set up a

mock yoga studio in our home. I broadcast weekly (also a few pop up classes) on FB live through a private group. I have offered this to all of my students, friends and family. It is my way of honoring life at this time. The people are strong; they carried on. ~ Cheryl Rossman

On nice days I do yard work. On inclement days I'm sorting clothes to give to the Epilepsy Foundation, straightening out the basement, deciding which zip lock bag of mystery meat to take from freezer, playing solitaire, reading a bit, trying to avoid duking it out with spouse (ha ha), sorting fishing tackle, building a release and return trap for a new flock of unproven homing pigeons, taking the dog for run on my bicycle, texting with friends and family. Be safe. ~ Paul Bailey

On Saturday, April 11th, residents joined together to organize a Bunny Parade, which made its way around Brentwood spreading love and cheer to neighbors all over town. Says Tammy MacNeil, "The Easter Bunny was amazing, she danced and waved for four hours! People were SO excited to see this little 12 car parade. Young and old thanked us and said Happy Easter all along the route. It was just a

bunch of private citizens being socially distant and bringing joy to people stuck in their homes."

Top row: left, Addison, Camden and Emmerson MacNeil; right, Cynthia Withrow Wilson, Ashley, Cedric, and Lexi Thomas.

Bottom row: left, Easter Bunny, Tricia Canty with driver Eric Canty; center, Hannah and Cora Braden; right, Summer and Thad Riley.

Thank you to all who sent photos.





A special project during this time of the COVID-19. Becky Davis, photographer, and Karen Ellis, the gardener, starting seeds from the NH Free Seed program for non-profits. The flower seedlings will be planted at the Historical Society garden later this spring. ~ Becky Davis & Karen Ellis

Helping out in the kitchen at First Baptist Church. It's good to have a sense of humor at this time. ~ David Flagg

The BNL also reached out to Brentwood businesses to see how they are dealing with the circumstances.



Tony LeClerc
State Farm Agent
 44 Lafayette Rd Unit 9, PO Box 757
 North Hampton, NH 03862-0757
 (603) 964-5556
 www.tonyleclerc.net

I have spent the last several weeks calling current clients asking how they are doing and offering to help in any

way we can. I'm lucky to work with the best insurance company, State Farm Insurance and they have really stepped up during this difficult time. They have added the 2 billion dollar relief program where dividends are being paid back to the customers country wide and also are working with countless families in hardship situations. The feedback from customers and the community has been outstanding and as a small business owner it feels good to help in any way I can. On a personal note, my family is doing well and are healthy, which I am very appreciative of as well as the extra time I have with my kids.

Brentwood EZ Storage is an essential business offering drive-up self-storage and 24/7 U-Haul rentals. With the COVID-19 outbreak, we are continuing our all drive-up self-storage rentals and sanitizing all surfaces in our lobby with any necessary interaction through our lobby window. You can book your storage unit online, minimizing any human interaction with only a couple of signatures through our lobby window. We are here for you in this difficult and challenging time.

BRENTWOOD EZ STORAGE
Secure, Convenient, New Self-Storage
 131 PINE ROAD, BRENTWOOD, NH 03833
 LOCALLY OWNED
603-580-2058
 WWW.BRENTWOODEZSTORAGE.NET
 BRENTWOODEZSTORAGE@gmail.com

Brentwood Historical Society

Epidemics In Our Town's History

We are facing challenges this season with the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it is not the first time an epidemic has struck the local population. There have been at least three previous epidemics that affected our town. The excerpts included, with permission from the Brentwood Historical Society, are from the Brentwood 275th anniversary book chapter on medical care, written by Chris Doucet and Michelle Siudut. Some of the methods used to control the spread of an epidemic then, are still used today: business and school closings and social distancing.

The first recorded instance of an epidemic occurred in 1735 with an outbreak of diphtheria. Gravestones in Kingston and Brentwood tell the sad stories of whole families lost.

By August the epidemic had reached Exeter (which at the time also included Fremont, Epping and Brentwood). The disease spread throughout the seacoast in a matter of months. It afflicted mostly children, sometimes taking all of the children of a single family.

The next arrival of an epidemic occurred in 1761-1762.

Brentwood resident Joseph Moody contracted smallpox whilst in service to the king in 1760. He returned home where he died, but not before his children contracted the disease. Three other families were afflicted and by 1762 seventeen had died from the outbreak in Brentwood and Fremont. In an effort to keep traffic away from the homes of affected persons, many roads were closed and local farmers were contracted to allow passage through their fields as alternate routes. The sawmills and iron mills were closed.

We have recently heard stories of how various cities dealt with the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 – St. Louis and Philadelphia being two telling examples – one facing limited deaths and the other rampant spread of the disease and loss of life.

"Unlike most epidemics which seem to target the young, the old, and the weak, this Influenza targeted those in the prime of life (ages 20-40) and from all walks of life, taking its victims very quickly...There is not a lot of information about how this influenza epidemic hit Brentwood. In an attempt to contain the disease, neighboring Exeter kept schools and many businesses closed and the Rockingham County Farm was quarantined. Specific numbers of dead in Brentwood from the 1918 influenza were not identified. However, in reviewing Town Reports we note there were 19 more deaths listed for that period from February 1, 1918 to February 1, 1919 than the year before, suggesting a 56% increase in deaths."

We are fortunate that modern medical facilities, dedicated first responders, medical professionals, equipment and promising medications are available to treat the most severely afflicted. There is loss of life in the United States and throughout the world, but we are encouraged that technology is now providing better data on the current situation. We hope this will 'flatten the curve' of the spread of this pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brentwood Historical Society has cancelled its Open Hours for May. Watch for notices about the program scheduled for **May 21**, titled the "Not so Good Life of the Colonial Wife." if current conditions remain, the program will be rescheduled to a later date. At the present time, we are closed to the public and not scheduling appointments to do research.

Rebecca Dunham, President, Brentwood Historical Society

Friends of the Mary E. Bartlett Library

We sincerely hope you are all doing well. There isn't much for the Friends of the Library to report since as of this writing we are still under Stay At Home orders. Our events and activities, including the Basement Bookstore and our Membership Drive fundraiser are on hold. The Book & Bake Sale in conjunction with the Garden Club's Plant Sale in May has been cancelled. Watch our Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMEBLibrary/>.

When the library and recreation opportunities open back up, be sure to check out the binder of museum passes the librarians put together. The NH State Park Pass provides free admission for 2 adults and 4 dependents. Some exclusions apply (metered parking in particular). The Strawberry Banke Museum pass also provides free admission to 2 adults and 4 children. Elementary students will likely be missing this field trip, but you could visit as a family when it reopens. What a great way to get some fresh air and history lessons!

IMPORTANT: We are accepting nominations for Board positions to be voted on in June. Open positions include President, Vice President, Secretary and Members at Large. A complete and active Board is necessary to continue the Friends' mission of supporting the library. If you value the library's resources and can spare a few hours a month, please consider serving on the Board. We would love to have you work with us now to transition before we break for summer! Contact me if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, May 11th** at 6:30 pm. Check our FB page for details.

Jessica Paul, Secretary for The Friends

Given the ever-changing guidelines regarding COVID-19 and subsequent library policies, please watch the library's website and the Friend's Facebook page for updates about planned activities.

Library Trustees will meet on **May 18th** at 6:00 pm via Jitsi. Login information will be available on the library website and posted on the physical library door, prior to the meeting.

Memorial Day Ceremony on Hold

At the time of this publication, plans for our annual Memorial Day Ceremony are on hold. We are waiting to see what the State recommends after the May 4th reevaluation of our current situation. While we would rather not cancel, but instead postpone the Memorial Day Ceremony, please rest assured we are following guidelines sent to us from the CDC, the NH State Veterans Cemetery, the NH Funeral Directors Association and others concerning activities at our cemeteries. We are looking into doing a modified "private/limited audience" ceremony that could then be posted on social media. In an effort to stay informed, we ask residents to visit our page on the town website (www.brentwoodnh.gov), click on the "Cemetery" tab). Residents can also check the kiosk at Tonry cemetery or contact Joyce directly at bwoodnhcem@gmail.com.

Joyce Keegal, Cemetery Superintendent

M.E.B. LIBRARY MAY 2020

HOW WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE

- Writing monthly and weekly e-newsletters to keep you up to date on how the library is providing for you.
- Arranging new digital resources, such as Hoopla, for borrowing from home.
- Creating digital programming - see complete details on our website.
- Researching online resources to share.
- Engaging with you through our social media accounts.
- Remaining available through email and limited office hours to answer questions, take suggestions, and chat.

WHAT HAS THE STAFF BEEN UP TO?

Our amazing staff is still hard at work making the M.E.B. Library the best it can be for all of our patrons. Here is a list of a few of the tasks we have all been working on:

- Researching grant opportunities
- Planning digital and future in-person events
- Reviewing books and media to share
- Planning ahead for book and movie displays
- Researching to further develop our collection
- Taking advantage of professional development opportunities online
- Maintaining the building

ONGOING DIGITAL PROGRAMS

KEEP IN TOUCH!

brentwoodlibrary.org
603-642-3355
director.mebli@gmail.com
FB: @brentwoodlibrarynh
IG: @brentwoodlibrarynh

COVID-19 Timeline in New Hampshire

As of April 24, 2020

The following information has been gathered from the official records of the New Hampshire government website (nh.gov) and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (nh.gov/covid19).

After beginning in December 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19) has impacted more than 117 countries, including the United States.

On January 23, 2020, the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the country.

On or about March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency under the federal Stafford Act due to the spread of COVID-19.

Experts indicate that COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected symptomatic person to others through respiratory droplets, including: through the air by coughing and sneezing; close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands; touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

March 12, 2020, New Hampshire

NH DHHS Announces Presumptive Positive Test Results for COVID-19 State Launches 2-1-1 COVID-19 Hotline.

March 13, 2020, New Hampshire

Following are the current Executive Orders issued by Governor Sununu. Readers are encouraged to view the details of each EO for full information. can be read on the government website nh.gov.

Executive Order 2020-04: An order declaring a state of emergency due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Expires April 3, 2020).

March 15, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 1: Temporary remote instruction and support for public K-12 school districts.

March 16, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 2: Temporary prohibition on scheduled gatherings of 50 or more attendees and onsite beverage consumption.

Emergency Order 3: All providers of electric, gas, water, telephone, cable, VOIP, internet service, and deliverable fuel services will be prohibited from disconnecting or discontinuing service for non-payments for the duration of the State of Emergency.

Emergency Order 4: Landlords will not be allowed to start eviction proceedings for those unable to pay due to their financial situations. To do so would be against the law. All judicial and non-judicial foreclosure actions will also be prohibited during the state of emergency.

Emergency Order 5: Individuals who are unable to work or who have reduced hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have immediate access to unemployment benefits.

March 17, 2020, New Hampshire

NH DHHS Announces Nine New COVID-19 Cases

March 18, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 6: Temporary authorization for take-out or delivery beer or wine. All restaurants, diners, bars, saloons, private clubs or any other establishment that have both a restaurant license and on premise

license from the New Hampshire liquor commission shall be temporarily authorized to allow for takeout or delivery of beer or wine.

Emergency Order 7: Temporary modification of data and privacy governance plans. (Pertains to schools using untested software. Ed.)

Emergency Order 8: Temporary expansion of access to Telehealth Services to protect the public and health care providers.

March 19, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 9: Establishes the COVID-19 Emergency Healthcare System Relief Fund.

March 21, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 10: Requiring all sellers of groceries to temporarily transition to use of single use paper or plastic bags.

March 23, 2020, New Hampshire

First New Hampshire death resulting from COVID-19 occurred.

Emergency Order 11: Temporary authority to perform secure remote online notarization.

Emergency Order 12: Temporary modification of public access to meetings under RSA 91-A.

Emergency Order 13: Temporary allowance for New Hampshire pharmacists and pharmacies to compound and sell hand sanitizer over the counter ("OTC") and to allow pharmacy technicians to perform non-dispensing tasks remotely.

Emergency Order 14: Temporary authorization for out-of-state pharmacies to act as a licensed mail-order facility within New Hampshire.

Emergency Order 15: Temporary authorization for out of state medical providers to provide medically necessary services and provide services through telehealth.

March 24, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 16: Temporary prohibition on scheduled gatherings of 10 or more attendees.

March 26, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 17: Closure of non-essential businesses and requiring Granite Staters to stay at home. This Order shall remain in effect until May 4, 2020.

March 27, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 18: Temporary modification to Department of Safety Laws and Regulations.

Emergency Order 19: Extension of Remote Instruction and Support for Public K-12 Schools.

March 31, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 20: Temporary emergency wage enhancement for New Hampshire Liquor Commission retail employees.

April 1, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 21: Establishment of the COVID-19 Emergency Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Relief Fund.

Emergency Order 22: Authorization of emergency funding for child protection services.

Emergency Order 23: Temporary modification of municipal and local government statutory requirements.

April 3, 2020, New Hampshire

Executive Order 2020-05: Extension of State of Emergency Declared in Executive Order 2020-04 for an additional 21 days (Exp. 04/24/20).

Emergency Order 24: Modification and clarification of Emergency Order #4. (Pertains to evictions and foreclosures. Ed.)

Emergency Order 25: Temporary modification of interest penalty for late payment of property taxes.

April 4, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 26: Extension of Emergency Orders 2, 6, and 16.

April 6, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 27: Restriction of hotels and other lodging providers to provision of lodging for vulnerable populations and essential workers.

April 9, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 28: Temporary non-congregate sheltering order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Emergency Order 29: Temporary modification to executive branch deadlines and requirements.

Emergency Order 30: Temporary requirements regarding healthcare provided in alternate settings.

April 14, 2020, New Hampshire

Executive Order 2020-06: An order establishing the Governor’s Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery and processes and procedures for allocation and expenditure of COVID-19 emergency funds (GOFERR).

Emergency Order 31: Establishment of the COVID-19 Long Term Care Stabilization Program.

Emergency Order 32: Extension of Emergency Orders #1 and #19 (temporary remote instruction and support for public K-12 school districts).

April 16, 2020, New Hampshire

Emergency Order 33: Activation of the New Hampshire Crisis Standards of Care Plan.

April 23, 2020, New Hampshire

Executive Order 2020-07: Amendments to EO 2020-06 to allow appointment of additional members to the GOERR Stakeholder Advisory Board.

April 24, 2020, New Hampshire

Executive Order 2020-08: Second Extension of State of Emergency Declared in Executive Order 2020-04 (Exp. 5/15/20).

Emergency Order #34: Further temporary requirements regarding health insurer coverage of health care services related to the coronavirus.

Emergency Order #35: Order temporarily waiving the 28-day separation period before a retired public employee can return to work on a part-time basis.

Emergency Order #36: Ensuring Worker’s Compensation coverage of New Hampshire first responders exposed to COVID-19.

STATISTICS AS OF APRIL 24, 2020, 9:00 AM

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Number of Persons with COVID-19 | 1,720 |
| Recovered | 578 (34%) |
| Deaths Attributed to COVID-19 | 53 (3%) |
| Total Current COVID-19 Cases. | 1,089 |
| Persons Who Have Been Hospitalized for COVID-19 | 224 (13%) |
| Current Hospitalizations | 89 |
| Persons Tested Negative at Selected Laboratories | 16,007 |
| Persons with Specimens Submitted to NH PHL | 7,854 |
| Persons with Test Pending at NH PHL | 398 |
| Persons Being Monitored in NH (approximate point in time) | 2,250 |

CASES BY COUNTY

| County | Cases | County | Cases |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Rockingham | 568 | Grafton | 47 |
| Hillsborough - Manchester | 365 | Cheshire | 35 |
| Hillsborough - Other | 234 | Carroll | 30 |
| Hillsborough - Nashua | 154 | Belknap | 30 |
| Strafford | 126 | Sullivan | 11 |
| Merrimack | 115 | Coos | 2 |
| County TBD. | 3 | | |

Spring Turkey Season

Opens May 1 in New Hampshire

As of this writing, the spring turkey hunt will open on May 1, and run through May 31, with the youth turkey hunt taking place the preceding weekend, Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, as scheduled. Brentwood residents should note that, because of the health emergency in New Hampshire, NHFG urges hunting locally, day trips rather than traveling to camp, and hunting alone or with immediate family members from the same household to avoid crowds. Hunters and the general public should be aware of each other with increased number of people recreating in the outdoors this spring.

Hunters will be able to register their birds online this season, and must do so within 24 hours of harvest. Brentwood is in Wildlife Management Unit M and NHFG allows taking of up to 2 male of bearded turkeys in the spring. The tag issued with the license must be affixed to the bird, and the first harvested bird must be legally registered prior to harvesting a second bird. Hunters who choose to register their turkey at local registration stations will find the process has not changed.

A New Hampshire turkey license is required for hunters of all ages (\$16 for state residents). Folks who would like to try hunting turkeys this spring (or deer in the fall) and were unable to complete Hunter Education can try it under the Apprentice Hunting License. Hunters age 16 and older must hold either a current New Hampshire hunting or archery license and a turkey permit. This license allows those 16 and older to try it under the guidance of an experienced hunter for one season without taking Hunter Education. Members of the Sportsmen of Brentwood would be privileged to mentor residents in hunting. Contact us at Pres.SOBNH@gmail.com.

Turkeys have made an amazing comeback in New Hampshire. By 1854, the birds had completely disappeared in the state because of environmental factors and market and subsistence hunting – and no Fish and Game Department existed to regulate these activities. In 1975, Fish and Game released 25 wild turkeys in New Hampshire. Careful management based on good science has allowed that initial introduction to grow to more than 40,000 birds today thanks to NHFG and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program, which is supported by fees generated from sportsmen!

About 20,000 people participate in turkey hunting in New Hampshire out of a total of approximately 60,000 hunters in the state. Last year, spring turkey hunters harvested 5,092 birds. See turkey harvest by town and Wildlife Management Unit in the newly published 2019 NH Wildlife Harvest Summary, available at www.wildnh.com/hunting/harvest-summary.html (select 2019).

Paraphrased, edited and enhanced by Bob Stephens from material on the NHFG Website: <https://wildlife.state.nh.us>.

Did You Know?

There are six subspecies of wild turkey, all native to North America. The pilgrims hunted and ate the eastern wild turkey, *M. gallopavo silvestris*, which today has a range that covers the eastern half of the United States and extends into Canada. These birds, sometimes called the forest turkey, are the most numerous of all the turkey subspecies, numbering more than five million.

Opinion [*uh-pin-yuhn*]

noun – a personal view, attitude, or appraisal

News From the State House

As you read this post, I hope you are healthy, safe, and are able to stay home. Our daily lives have changed a lot over the last month. The Coronavirus, now categorized as a pandemic, has affected Brentwood, the State, our country, and the world. According to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, as of today, April 15, our own town of Brentwood has up to 4 cases of the Coronavirus. Rockingham County has 378 cases and the state as a whole has reported 1,091 total cases. I am heartbroken for all who are experiencing this disease, and encourage all in town to remain home as much as you can, doing your part to “flatten the curve.”

In response to this crisis, the Governor has issued 30 emergency declarations and placed a stay at home order on all residents who are not deemed essential to the state. These orders range from requiring remote instruction for all public schools, prohibiting utility providers from disconnecting services, expanding telehealth and child protection services, to modifying municipal and state government statutory requirements.

Although I know the work of the legislature is vital to our town and state, the structure of the Statehouse and the restrictions on public gatherings have made it impossible for Legislators to meet. Even though we are unable to meet in person, I have been listening in on the meetings held by the Governor and the Finance Committee regarding the implementation of federal programs such as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES). The state is still working on the coordination and rollout of these federal programs.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the doctors, nurses, hospital staff, first responders, grocery store workers, trash collectors, municipal workers, long term care workers and other essential personnel who we depend on to care for and serve us while risking their lives. I hope the heroic actions of these people will continue to spur the NH Legislature and our citizens to promote the value and importance of healthcare for all, a living wage, paid medical leave and sick time.

I also look forward to the Secretary of State’s final authorization of absentee ballot voting due to concerns over Coronavirus. When the legislative sessions resumes, these issues will be at the forefront of my political actions.

I have communicated with a few residents who have questions about unemployment assistance, insurance coverage, long term care facility concerns, and eviction protocols. I will continue working with state and local agencies to resolve these issues as guidance and requirements are implemented. My heart goes out to those who have been significantly impacted. If you have any concerns about your business, medical, or personal needs relating to the impact of the virus, please let me know and I will work to find answers to your questions.

As always, please follow my work posted on my FB page – Liz McConnell Brentwood Representative, NH House. I can also be reached at liz.mcconnell@leg.state.nh.us. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Brentwood. I love this job! Liz

The Secretary of State has issued guidance for primary and general elections this year which states “Any voter may request an absentee ballot for the September 2020 Primary and November 2020 General Elections based on concerns regarding COVID-19.” The person would check the “disability” option if the concern/illness is theirs and “employment” if they are caring for another. As he states in his guidance, “disability” with regard to absentee ballots is not defined in statute and he is trying to clarify his interpretation which is the person that investigates and recommends prosecution if he feels someone broke the law.

A few years ago, there was going to be a snow storm on voting day and people wondered if they qualified to get an absentee ballot. One might say they were disabled from physically going to vote by the storm, but what if the storm didn’t come in at the expected time and it was clear skies for most of the day. Would everyone that claimed “physical disability” because of weather broken the law without knowing it at the time? A strict interpretation might suggest they did. It seems unjust to make an honest voter try to predict the weather on a particular day in the future. A weather exception was added after that event to make it so a “concern” about the weather was a valid reason. But what about another concern which doesn’t fall into one of the specified reasons, does your voice have less value because no one thought of that situation? For example, what if you are sick when you request the absentee ballot under the “physical disability” qualification, but feel better by the time voting day comes along? A strict interpretation might suggest you broke the law by feeling well enough to vote on voting day.

We have votes pass or fail by a very small margin so we must make sure that every vote counts by ensuring only people eligible to vote are voting because those votes could change the result. Without trust in the election process there is a lack of trust and acceptance of the results and all the civil unrest that comes with it. One way we ensure eligibility to vote at the polls is to check ID against the voter rolls. How does that happen by mail? If a copy of the ID is required with the application submitted by mail, how do we ensure that document was not altered/forged in some way? How do people that died or moved get removed from the Checklist? The removal process is more reactive than proactive, so it is possible a non-trivial amount of people are on this Checklist that shouldn’t be and that could be misused. Then there is the added complication of the mail system, including lost mail and mishandled mail like in Wisconsin just a few weeks ago, or an election clerk in Colorado that found 574 ballots for the Nov 2019 primary in a drop box in Feb 2020 because they had not checked the box. These can all contribute to a view that the election lacks legitimacy and, in turn, the lack of legitimacy of the government/policy adopted because of the election.

While I voted for HB1672 allowing absentee voting for any reason, I have concerns that we cannot ensure the vote would be counted or that only eligible voters get a ballot which could reduce the perceived (even if not actual) legitimacy of our election results. For that reason, I am starting to think we may need to solve some election security issues before increasing the use of absentee ballots permanently. I know our governor has some of the same concerns so a veto of HB1672 is likely to happen which gives me time to think more about this issue and another opportunity to vote on this policy again. Feel free to reach out with additional information which you would like me to consider before voting on this again. I can be reached at fb.com/RepYokela or josh.yokela@leg.state.nh.us with questions and comments.

Followup On Composting

On March 11 a small group showed up for the presentation about townwide composting presented by Sarah McGraw from Mr. Fox Composting of York, Maine. She gave a PowerPoint that was filled with examples of how easy the service is to use. The Acorn School in Stratham is a customer. The children are pre-schoolers and proud to be involved in the process of composting. After lunch they separate the trash and fill the compost bin with food scraps and paper goods that can be recycled. They also received a bag of compost from Mr. Fox, so the teachers then expanded the program into growing flowers and vegetables with the students at the school. I think this would be a great service for our school, and students.

Two people at the meeting were interested in the curbside pick up program. It requires 20 people to sign up in order for Mr. Fox to create a townwide route. Only 18 more folks needed! If any one is interested in doing so or learning more, they can contact me at debbb1@comcast.net.

Deb Cinamon

Brentwood Recreation News

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
603-642-6400 ext. 120 • recreation@brentwoodnh.gov
www.brentwoodnh.gov/recreation

Covid-19 update relating to Brentwood Recreation: Playground, fields, basketball court, and pavilions are closed to the public until the stay at home order is lifted. Brentwood Recreation is still accepting registrations for programs on the recreation website. The recreation department is still planning on having summer camp and will be adapting to the school schedule. Any changes to the start date and other related news on summer camp will be announced in the future. Please look below for other program updates.

Spring Sports: The Brentwood Recreation Department still has plans to hold t-ball, farm baseball, lacrosse, and field hockey this year. All start dates have moved to June and will be ending in mid-July. All payments will now be accepted at the end of the season instead of paying at registration. To register for spring sports please visit the recreation website and contact the Recreation Director with any questions.

ALL BRENTWOOD PROGRAMS AND EVENTS STATUS

- **Senior Luncheons:** The Recreation Director will be in contact with participants and a future date to be announced.
- **Pickleball:** Located at the community center basketball court. Starting date to be announced.
- **T-ball:** Registrations still open. June 6th-July 18th Saturdays only. Coaches meeting to be announced.
- **Farm Baseball:** Registration still open. Start date to be announced.
- **Youth Lacrosse:** Registration is still open. June 3rd-July 15th. Coaches needed and if you are interested please contact the rec dept.
- **Youth Field Hockey:** Registration is still open. Updated dates are June 3rd to July 15th Wednesdays, 4:30pm-5:30pm located at the lower softball field.
- **Pound Fit:** Will resume when the community center opens.

New Hampshire Letters to Vets

Memorial Day is May 25, 2020, and many annual ceremonies have been cancelled this year. Now there is a safe way for us to honor our veterans.

New Hampshire resident, Matt Mowers, has started a website to make it easy for anyone to send a letter to thank our veterans for their service to our country. Go to www.nhletterstovets.com and send a letter today to a New Hampshire veteran.

Lois DeYoung



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- **Martial Arts & Senior Yoga/Yoga Classes:** Will resume when the community center opens.
- **Men's Basketball:** To be announced.
- **Adult Coed Softball:** Registration is open. Captains meeting and start date to be announced.

Brentwood Summer Camp: We are currently accepting resident and non-resident registrations for Brentwood Recreation Summer Camp. Camp operates: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, June 29th-August 21st. The program includes grades 1-6 (2021 school year). Start date of summer camp may change due to the Covid-19 virus. For the first time Brentwood Recreation has online registration available for summer camp. When registering online there will be a \$100 deposit that will hold your spot in summer camp. This deposit will apply to your total summer camp fee which is determined by our online parent handbook available on the Brentwood Recreation website. The recreation department will continue to provide updates if any changes are made. Please email the recreation department with any questions or to schedule an appointment for registration.

ON-GOING RECREATION EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

Sneaker/Cleat Swap Bin: If you are looking to get rid of old sneakers or cleats, please come down to town hall and donate your footwear to our sneaker/cleat swap bin right outside of the recreation office. This bin will help other members of the community to find appropriate footwear if families have limited options.

Equipment Swap: If you have sports equipment such as baseball bats, helmets, soccer balls, etc. that you would like to donate, please contact Andrew Gray in the Brentwood Rec Dept. We gladly accept donations to help other sports programs and families in need.

Brentwood Meeting Dates

Be sure to check the individual organization articles inside for many more activities and dates!

ALL SAU 16 SCHOOL BUILDINGS TO REMAIN CLOSED.

All NH schools will continue with remote instruction and support through the remainder of the school year. Final day of remote learning for all students is **June 4**. In a previous update we shared two end-of-the-year dates with you dependent upon whether or not we would be returning to our school buildings. As we worked through the past few weeks and factored in all of the information we needed to arrive at a final decision, **June 4** has been designated as the students' final day of remote instruction.

- May 4 **Brentwood School Board Meeting**, 6:30 pm. Via Zoom, check SAU website or contact SB chair for login details.
- May 5 **Board of Selectmen Meeting**, Town Office, 6:00 pm. Please use the Youtube live link or Vimeo link to watch the meeting.
- May 7 **Cemetery Trustees Meeting**, CANCELLED for May.
- May 7 **Planning Board Meeting**, 7:00 pm via remote access. Check the town website and PB agenda for login details.
- May 11 **Zoning Board**, Town Office, 7:00 pm. Check the town website and ZB agenda for info and/or login details.
- May 14 **Brentwood Republican Meeting**, CANCELLED for May.
- May 15 **Deadline for submissions to the Brentwood Newsletter.**
- May 18 **Library Trustees Meeting**, Via Jitsi. Login information will be available on the library website.
- May 19 **Board of Selectmen Meeting**, Town Office, 6:00 pm. Please use the Youtube live link or Vimeo link to watch the meeting.
- May 19 **Brentwood Gardeners Meeting**, CANCELLED for May.
- May 21 **Planning Board Meeting**, 7:00 pm via remote access. Check the town website and PB agenda for login details.
- May 25 **Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed for Memorial Day.**
- May 26 **Recreation Commission Meeting**, Town Office, 6:30 pm. TENTATIVE, check with the Rec Dept. to confirm.
- May 27 **Senior Luncheon**, CANCELLED for May.

(Deliver to Current Resident)

Brentwood, NH 03833

102 Middle Road

Brentwood
Newsletter

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