



Speak Up, Epping! Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

Epping, New Hampshire

January-February, 2015

About this Newsletter

This Newsletter is produced by the Speak Up, Epping! Communications Group. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information about upcoming events and pertinent information from community organizations. Please note that no editorial, political or religious views will be accepted and the Communications Group reserves the right to edit submissions. If you would like to submit material for and/or receive this newsletter electronically, please visit our website at www.speakupepping.com

Check Out Our Newsletter Website

Be sure and check out our Speak Up, Epping! website: www.speakupepping.com. Each new issue of the Newsletter will be available by downloading it from the website. You can also access news from the issue separately by topic and find late-breaking news, past Newsletters, town links and calendars.

Also, check out our **Facebook** page! Join us for more late-breaking news and events that did not make our Newsletter deadline.

Watson - Wahoo!!!



If Watson Academy had a voice, it would surely shout: **"Thank You, Epping, for saving my life ... again ... again ... again!!!"** (echoing off Town Hall). Its bell would toll: **"School Come Alive ... alive ... alive!!!"** Rec Department kids would raise hands with Senior Citizens and cheer "YEAAAAH!" from the porch. We would all dance around Mary Blair's Maypole and The Epping Ecumenical Chorus would sing the anthem: "We're out in song, to push along, our Dear Old Epping High ... She stands untrammelled over all ... something something ... our battle cry ..."

How grand the scene would be!

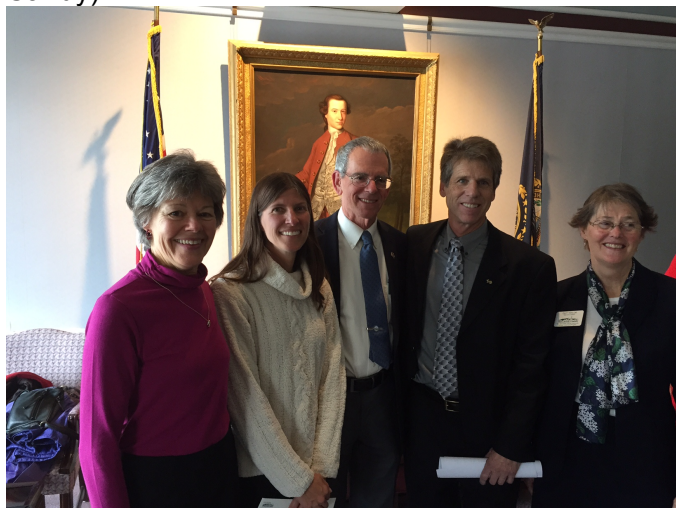
But, since Watson Academy remains padlocked and the old school still depends on us to speak up ... on behalf of the Save Watson Academy Committee, I declare: **WAHOOO! You've done it!!!** Thank you for hanging in there to preserve Epping's proud heritage! Following the October 2012 earthquake, Friends of Watson pledged to "lie down in front of bulldozers" if necessary to protect our precious landmark.

Nobody had to churn under tractor cleats, but there were times ... yes, difficult times, especially during winter months, when Watson Academy stood frozen and alone, creaking and dark in silent abandon, gazing across the Lamprey where its fate lay in paperwork strewn across the Selectmen's meeting room table. Would they overcome bureaucracy? Would they listen to alumni, engineers, preservationists and friends? Could they recover from insurance claim rejection and two failed warrant articles? Would they remain united and not forget their 130-year-old public servant? Would everyone hold the line?

The answer is: YES! You, the citizens of Epping, came forward to do whatever you could to advocate for our federally-listed Historic Place. You attended site inspections and submitted proposals. You shook hands and slapped backs while distributing literature during parades. You did research and testified on Channel 22. You wrote Praise Watson letters and

were steadfast in your support of our Selectmen, led by our own committee co-chair Tom Gauthier.

One quote says it all: **“The building itself is on the National Register. The repairs are fairly modest. And the project has a GREAT DEAL OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT.”** (Maggie Stier, 12/4/14) Watson Academy also gained “Seven To Save” status resulting from grants crafted by members of the Save Watson Committee: Nicole Bizzaro and Team Goodspeed (Charlie and Sandy).



*Sandy Goodspeed, Nicole Bizarro and Michael Vose
at Presentation of Seven to Save Award*

Thanks to New Hampshire Preservation Alliance – especially Director Maggie Stier – Watson Academy’s profile plays prominently statewide as a unique and cherished public asset built in 1883 in Queen Anne style.

The Town of Epping recently received a \$40,000 matching-grant to save the Watson Academy Building. Funds will come in three installments from LCHIP, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. Half of our match was easily covered by funds already spent for an engineering study, for the historically correct window restoration and for volunteer hours. Remaining funds (\$20,000) will come through reinstatement of Watson Academy’s maintenance budget, which includes scheduled exterior paint.

PLEASE. It would help if you write (more) letters, addressed to our State Senator and Representatives. They need to know how much the people of Epping appreciate their support through LCHIP. This is important because the independent state program is vulnerable to politics. Since its inception in 2000, it has been fully funded only twice. Revenue comes through Moose conservation plates and fees at the Registry of Deeds. It is suggested that each LCHIP

dollar leverages \$3 - \$5 of community benefit through matching money and roll-on benefit.

Please write, e-mail or phone:

Senator Russell Prescott - State House, Room 302, 107 North Main Street, Concord 03301, represcott@represcott.com, Tel. (603) 271-2111

Representative Jeffrey Harris
146 Exeter Road, Epping, NH 03042, jeffrey.harris@leg.state.nh.us, Tel. (603) 679-2331

Representative Michael Vose
75 Olde Bridge Lane, Epping, NH 03042, michael.vose@leg.state.nh.us, Tel. (603) 679-4084

Carol Clapp, Co-chair Watson Academy Committee

Watson Update December 22, 2014

The \$40,000 LCHIP grant was accepted at The Board of Selectmen’s meeting on December 22nd at the close of the Public Hearing. There was no discussion from those who attended the hearing. The Selectmen then voted to accept the grant.

Epping Receives 2nd LCHIP Grant

The largest project undertaken by the Southeast Land Trust last week received a \$400,000 grant from LCHIP, the state’s program for natural, cultural and historic preservation. The grant was for the conservation of 1,100 acres owned by the Harvey Family of Epping. It was the largest grant given by LCHIP in 2014 and will conserve these Harvey family lands for the benefit of current and future generations. The Harvey family has owned these lands for eight generations – since 1755 and their choice to pursue this conservation option will allow future generations to enjoy and benefit from these lands.

The conservation of these lands will:

1. Guarantee public access for outdoor recreation, including hunting and allow the Southeast Land Trust to establish a trail system.
2. Preserve a wild life habitat recognized by the Fish and Game Department as critical for both common and uncommon species.
3. Protect 23% of a large forest block from being bisected by roads or development.
4. Add to more than 800 acres already conserved along the Pawtuckaway River, part of a vision of connecting Pawtuckaway State Park to Great Bay through a greenbelt if conserved lands and trails and
5. Reduce long-term municipal costs for community services. If developed, these lands in a remote area of Epping could

support more than 200 new homes requiring many additional municipal services.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Harvey family will retain ownership of the land subject to a conservation easement held by the Southeast Land Trust. The Harveys will continue to pay property taxes, and can continue sustainable forest management and farming. The land will not be further developed or subdivided.

Senior Moments

Once again, our annual Christmas party was a huge success. The Epping American Legion was very generous to host our party and of course Misty (the cinnamon lady of Blake Road) fed us a scrumptious dinner. The facility was great, the food was great and the friendship is always great.

Our collection of items for the Epping Food Pantry continues. We'll be filling and emptying the collection box at the Fire Department along with other generous citizens. Remember - stop - drop and go. It's that simple. Please help.

It was Light Show time again at the Loudon Raceway. We hopped on the Recreation bus to enjoy the fascinating show of beautiful Christmas Light displays. Before the show however, we had to have nourishment, so on to the Common Man Restaurant in Concord for dinner. We lucked out with good weather for the trip and only got lost - once. The Light Show continues into January so check it out. The kids will love it.

Our last meeting in November concluded with some exciting bingo games. Perhaps "exciting" isn't the right description but if you know senior citizens, it's pretty close. I think this new sport will become a regular event for us.

The upcoming meetings during the winter months will include programs close to home. Winter weather seems to intimidate us seniors so we move with caution. A representative from the Epping Police Department will be our featured speaker in January. Local thefts, internet scams and purse snatchers have brought new awareness to our way of life today. It wasn't long ago when we didn't bother to lock our doors but now most doors have two locks. The bad guys may think we senior citizens are easy targets but we're NOT!

Our Fire Department will be our guests in February. They have important tips for senior citizens that will help keep us safe. We just have to put them into practice.

A few tips for seniors. (1) Ask your doctor if your medication can be split in half. If so, get the higher dose and split the pills. That will double the amount. Pill splitters are inexpensive at your pharmacy. (2) You can sign up on your computer for free name brand items. Go to "shopathome.com".

Welcome to our new members; Bonnie Lampman and Noella Proulx. Here comes my invitation again to any senior citizen over the age of 55..... We meet the second Thursday of each month at the Fire Department meeting room beginning at 1:00 pm. We'll be waiting.

We wish you all a very Healthy New Year. Remember.....Healthy means Happy.

Submitted by Irene R. Cote, Secretary

News From the Town

Upcoming dates:

January 14 – Budget hearing – 6 pm

January 21-30 – Filing Period for Town Boards and Commissions

February 3rd – Town Deliberative Session

February 5th – School Deliberative Session

February 25th – Candidates Night

March 10th – Town Election

Town Hall closed:

January 1st – New Years Day

January 19th – Civil Rights Day

February 16th – Presidents Day

Please "LIKE" the Epping Town Hall on Facebook.

275th Birthday Bash Committee

The "275th Birthday Bash" Committee will meet on **Tuesday, January 27th** at 7:00 pm.

The Committee is busy making plans. They have T-shirts for sale in royal blue and sky blue at the Town Hall and Slate Salon on Main Street. Adult sizes are \$15.00 and youth sizes are \$12.00. (Great for back to school shopping.) They also have new Town Flags on sale for \$50.00, American made and very classy. The Committee is still in need of help and volunteers to make it all happen and to have a town-wide good time. The meetings are held at the Town Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm for an hour. Anyone who can't come to the meetings but would like to be notified, please send your e-mail address to Joyce at the Selectmen's office.

Please "LIKE" the Epping 275th Birthday Bash page on Facebook.

T-shirts and Flag



The Pease Greeters Need Our Help!

The Pease Greeters, hundreds of volunteers, meet our Armed Forces any time of day or night, as they pass through Pease International Airport on their way to a war zone or on their way home. For eight years, Greeters have welcomed service members on every flight with a warm meal and beverage, small gifts, a cell phone to call home and a hearty round of applause. Recently, the number of flights through Pease has increased and the Pease Greeters are in need of **monetary help**. We need to support our service men and women any way we can. If you can give any amount, please make a check payable to Pease Greeters and send or drop it off to Joyce at the Town Hall.

Knitted Caps needed for Our Troops

The Pease Greeters are in need of dark colored knitted caps for the troops. They can be purchased or homemade and dropped off at the Selectmen's office at the Town Hall.

Cell Phones for Our Troops

Donate your old cell phone.

More than 150,000 troops are serving overseas and are away from their families. Please make a donation of your old cell phone so they can call

home, providing these soldiers with a much needed connection to their loved ones. There is a drop off box at the Epping Town Hall for your convenience.

East West Express Schedule Revisions for 2015

We would like to thank all our Epping passengers for riding with us in 2014 as we launched our new route between Portsmouth, Epping and Manchester. The Epping Park & Ride was a convenient stop for us and was utilized as a nice mid-point for travelers heading to the Portsmouth Transportation Center, Manchester Boston Regional Airport or downtown Manchester, Canal Street destinations.

The New Year brings a revised schedule for East West Express, so please check out our web page for details: www.eastwestnh.com. We will run less daily round trips during selected times when the majority of passengers travel. This change is in an effort to streamline our efficiency and continue the service in the future. As you may know, this new route is operated by Flight Line, Inc. and was made possible by CMAQ federal dollars to open this new corridor and reduce emissions. We must continue to be mindful of efficiency in an effort to make this contract run as long as possible, and ideally the service will become self-sufficient down the road. We are requesting feedback through our website and appreciate anyone who would like to comment or make future suggestions. Once again, we thank everyone for a wonderful first year of operations and look forward to 2015. Happy New Year from our family to yours!

Submitted by Rachel Dowd – Marketing East West Express



Epping Lions Club

"We Serve"

We Want YOU to Join the Epping Lions Club

www.epping.nhlions.org

<https://www.facebook.com/EppingsLionsClub>

Lions International is an international organization, primarily focused on assisting with Vision and Hearing needs. Winners of our 5th Annual Gas Card raffle were drawn at our holiday meeting on December 27th. The grand prize winner won a \$300 gas card, and there were 3 additional prizes of \$50 gas cards. A 4th \$50 gift card was also drawn from all Facebook likes of our group. Thank you to all who supported us for this event!

In December, the Lions donated \$500 to the

Epping Food pantry and \$1200 in Marshalls gift cards to students in need of warm clothing in all 3 Epping schools. Our fundraisers throughout the year allow us to help fellow community members and really make a difference. New members and fresh ideas are always welcome! Please reach out to a fellow Lion or attend our next monthly meeting.

Meeting times are generally the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Edward Jones office in Epping. Also check us out on Facebook for the latest and greatest info!

Jason Sullivan, President & Secretary

Jason.B.Sullivan@edwardjones.com.....679-2491

Debbie Moulton, Treasurer

dmoulton@stepupbooks.com.....679-2022

Deb Brooks, Eye-glass Collector

lexusreina@comcast.net.....679-5407

Submitted by Debbie Moulton

Epping Historical Society

Old man winter has arrived! We can moan and groan about the cold and the snow, or we can use this time to gather our thoughts, and make plans for the coming months. At the Historical Society we are making plans for several programs for everyone to enjoy. We know most everyone is interested in the old houses in Epping, and we are planning to have a program that will be of interest to them. Further details will follow in the spring. If you have an idea for a program that you would enjoy, give us a call at 679-2944.

We are discovering so many stories, books and articles as we volunteer at the society. This week we discovered a "Republican Songbook". This booklet was a part of President Abraham Lincoln's campaign. The booklet was published in 1860. Who knew? Sherry Chase one of our volunteers is moving out of state, but before she left she brought us some treasures from her family. Sherry you will be missed!

We are still selling bricks for our front walkway, about 20 have been placed in the path, and we have another ten or so bricks, waiting for spring so they can be installed. We are so pleased with our new entrance, thank you everyone for your help.

The following story was written and researched by Don Sanborn. I added the comments at the end.

"As you drive through Epping Village at night, have you ever thought how people got around without street lights? We take well lit roads for granted. The earliest record of public street lamps was in the Epping Town Report in 1886. The town paid for fourteen street lamps in the village area.

They spent \$8.40 for lamp posts [wooden]; \$104.93 for street lanterns and fixtures and \$3.71 for the lamps and chimneys. The town also paid \$13.66 for two barrels of kerosene, and they paid F.L. Cate \$15.60 for installing the lamps on Pleasant Street and Water Street. The town continued to use these oil lamps until they changed to electricity in 1909. Our last lamplighter was William Brooks. He had held the job for twenty years. Most of the light in the town hall was produced by gas, which was made by Mr. Prescott. He made the gas in a building located at the foot of Chicken Street [St. Laurent St.] The lamp post on the Community Church corner probably used gas. Some people put in a private street lamp in front of their homes. Can you imagine lighting these lamps every night, and did I mention the constant cleaning of the lamp chimneys? The "Good Olde Days" were a lot of work!! "

In February 2015, watch for the new book, "The Images of Epping, N.H." published by Acadia Books. The book was written and researched by Cory Blanchard, right here in town. Cory looked through many pictures to find the ones that represented Epping and its people. Congratulations Cory Blanchard!!

Did you know Epping has a house with a "two-story" outhouse?

We are open Mondays from 8:00 to 12:00, or whenever the flag is flying! If the time does not work for you, please call 679-2944 and we can make an appointment.

Submitted by Joy True, Curator

Lamprey River Advisory Committee

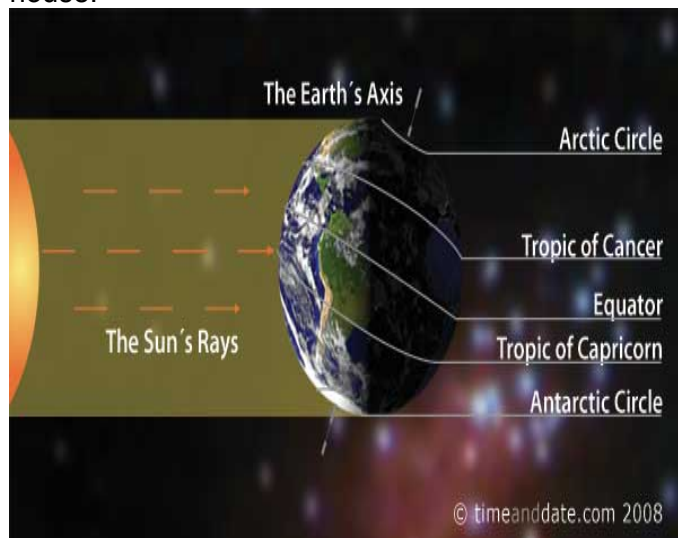
The Nature of Winter Solstice

What does solstice mean?

Solstice comes from two Latin words, "sol", meaning sun, and "stitium" meaning pause or stop. Solstice is commonly understood as the day when the length of day is shortest (winter solstice) or longest (summer solstice). It is also recognized as the first day of winter or summer, respectively. The winter solstice usually occurs December 21 or 22.

Every day, the Earth spins on its axis and makes a full rotation. Day length is based on how long a certain location receives the sun's rays. If the Earth were to rotate around a vertical axis, every day almost every place on earth would have twelve hours of light and twelve hours of dark. Just as a classroom globe is tilted on its axis, the real Earth is also tilted on its axis. The angle of this tilt is 23.5 degrees off horizontal. Because of this tilt, day length varies over the course of a year.

Each year, the Earth makes a full revolution around the sun. The tilt of the Earth, regardless of time of year, is always 23.5 degrees and the north axis always points to the north. Imagine holding the globe, with the base flat on your hands, revolving around your house, the sun. As you walk, you must always keep the North Pole pointing north. When you are south of the house, the North Pole will point toward the house. When you are north of the house, the South Pole will point toward the house.



(Winter solstice. The sun in this illustration is much smaller and closer than reality, but it does show that at the Tropic of Capricorn, the sun's rays hit the earth at a perpendicular angle during winter solstice. The rays hitting elsewhere do so at an angle, and the sun's energy is less intense. Note that points north of the Arctic Circle get no sun at all.)

In the winter, the northern hemisphere points away from the sun and the southern hemisphere points toward the sun. In the north, days become shorter. The sun's daily course across the sky is low, creating long shadows. At points north of the Arctic Circle, the days become so short that there is hardly any day light, and the sun barely rises above the horizon. In the northern hemisphere, winter solstice is the extreme of these conditions. The length of day is the shortest and the length of night is longest. For a person standing outside at noon, the shadow will be longer than at any other noon during the year. Above the Arctic Circle, the sun does not rise at all and there is only the darkness of night.

Scientists can define the exact moment of the winter solstice, but to do so, they must look to the southern hemisphere. The winter solstice occurs when the sun's angle is exactly 90 degrees at noon somewhere along the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5 degrees south of the Equator). When this happens, a straight pole erected there will cast no shadow at

all. In terms of Earth's daily rotation, the sun does not stand still. In terms of the Earth's revolution, however, the sun does stand still. At that moment, the North Pole is pointing as far north and away from the sun as is possible. After that moment, the earth begins its journey back around the sun and the sun's reach in the north gradually increases. Before the winter solstice, day length in the north gets slightly shorter each day. After the winter solstice, day length gets slightly longer each day. As the sun's position in the sky gets higher, the Earth receives more direct radiation from the sun, and, therefore, greater warmth.

What Does the Winter Solstice Mean for Nature?

Nature does not note the solstice as such. One might think that the winter solstice would mark the coldest day of the year, because it is the darkest day of the year. That, however, is not true. Just as humans mark the winter solstice as the first official day of winter, the solstice for nature is just a beginning. After the solstice, days get a bit longer and the sun shines more directly, but the earth is so big that there is a lag between the amount of sunshine and warmth. The peak of cold winter weather usually comes about halfway through winter, from late January into mid-February.

What Does the Winter Solstice Mean for People?

People in the northern hemisphere have long had customs to mark and celebrate the winter solstice. Most cultures recognize the significance of the longest night that will yield to increasing daylight. They know that the darkness and cold can be dreary, and even difficult to survive. The winter solstice is recognized as an opportunity to celebrate the beginning to a return of light and eventual warmth, even though spring will not actually come for a few more months. Many late December festivities make use of candle light, feasts, singing and dancing, and opportunities to start fresh. Let us all join in a celebration of the longest night and the beginning of winter. Remember that the days will again get longer and that darkness will not rule the day.

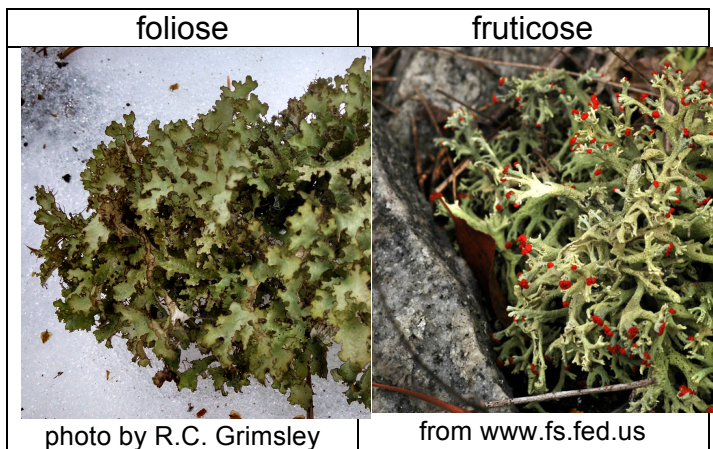
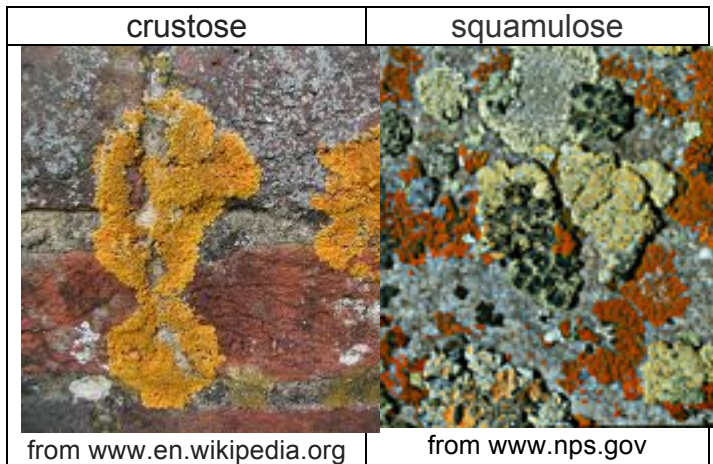
Liking Lichens

Lichens are partnerships between fungi and algae or fungi and cyanobacteria (formerly called blue-green algae). The fungi provide a home matrix and the algae or cyanobacteria make the food. Lichens sometimes look like fungi, but often they look like small, pastel-colored seaweeds. People often assume that lichens are parasitic, because

they tend to be found on older trees. They are not parasites and they are not merely bumps on a log; in fact, they make a significant contribution to the health of ecosystems where they are found.

Lichens are often the only organisms in an area that can grow on soil-free surfaces. They can grow on bare rock, sand, and tree bark. They can withstand extreme temperatures and drought. Their main requirements are light, moisture, and time to grow undisturbed. Where they are present and form a diverse community, the ecosystem is robust; when they are absent, the ecosystem has been disturbed physically or is subject to air pollution.

Lichens have one of four general growth forms:



Crustose lichens form flat, crusty patches. Squamulose lichens have small, overlapping scales. Foliose lichens are leaf-like. Fruticose lichens form small twig-like structures with or without small cups at the tips. Lichens species that resemble one another are not necessarily related; in fact, related species might look completely different. With 3600 species in the US and Canada, identifying which species is which can be tricky.

Lichens are important to nature and people. Locally, they provide food for deer, turkeys, and some insects. They provide nesting material for birds. They absorb chemicals in the air and serve as an early warning system when air is polluted. They stabilize and add nitrogen to sandy soil. Their slow growth can be used as a natural clock to date significant geologic events. They are also used as dyes and medicines in many traditional cultures.

Lichens are present year-round, but winter is an especially nice time to observe these marvels. While the ground is covered by snow and the tree canopy is bare, lichens are on tree trunks and branches offer a rich, colorful bonanza to explore and enjoy. Why not see how many different kinds you can find?



*Helping communities protect the
Lamprey River.*

Submitted by Suzanne Petersen

The Civil War Roundtable of NH

The Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire was founded in May of 1991, and is dedicated to all aspects of the Civil War: Education, Preservation and Restoration. The CWRT-NH is a group of men and women who share a common interest in the War Between the States and that period in American History that defined Our Nation, as we know it today.

Our meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each month, except no meetings are held in July, August or December. The meeting format is usually a speaker followed by a discussion. Coffee is served at 6:45 pm and we begin the meeting at 7:15 pm. The CWRT-NH is a nonprofit 501(c) organization and we are open to the public. Our meeting location is the Epping Town Hall 3rd floor (elevator available).

Meetings are recorded live by ETV (Channel 22). You can watch on your TV or computer by accessing the Epping Town site (for live or past meetings).

This is the CWRT-NH schedule for the next months..

Note: Schedule subject to change without notice.

January 16, 2015 – Mike Schroeder – “Union Combined Operations: Forts Henry & Donelson – 1862”

February 20, 2015 – Larry Olasky – “Civil War Cartography”

March 20, 2015 – U.S. Naval Institute's Chuck Velt – "The Alligator" (U.S. Navy's Civil War Sub)

There is a good chance the CWRTNH will meet on the third floor (above the present meeting room) at the Town Hall in January 2015. Regardless, I hope to see more people come to our meetings and join our group.

Please Consider The Following:

Our CWRT is looking to expand its membership; so if you like history and particularly the Civil War, our group is for you. We are a family-oriented group. We like to educate everyone, especially students who are studying the history of that period.

For more information on membership and member fees, contact our Roundtable via email: cwrtnh@gmail.com.

*Submitted by Dan Bennis Board Member, CWRT-NH
dddbennis@msn.com (Feel free to email me with any questions).*



Leddy Center

The Leddy Center has just released the 2015 schedule for their exciting 40th season.

The season begins with a special showcase event, a romantic "dramady," or dramatic comedy, "Scene Changes" by local, aspiring playwright Donald Tongue on stage January 16-25. It will be followed by "Steel Magnolias" March 20-29, "Bye, Bye, Birdie" July 10-26, "Mary Gatchell in Concert" October 2, "Charlotte's Web" from October 23 to November 11 and "A Christmas Carol" December 4-13,

Individual tickets are \$18 and available online at www.leddycenter.org or by calling the Leddy box office at 679-2781, Monday through Friday, from 3:00 to 5:00p m. Call the box office for information on our group rates.



ETV Schedule

Channel 22 – ETV – Schedule of live programs

Monday–Jan. 6, Tuesday Jan. 20; Monday

Feb.2, 16 – Selectmen –7 pm

Tuesday–Jan. 6; Feb. 3–Water & Sewer –7 pm

Tuesday–Jan. 20; Feb. 17–Library Trustees–7 pm

Tuesday- Jan. 13; Feb. 10- Conservation

Commission- 7 pm

Wednesday – Jan. 7; Feb. 4 - Recreation

Commission-7pm

Wednesday–Jan. 21; Feb. 18–Budget Committee
–7 pm

Thursday–Jan. 8, 22; Feb. 5, 19–School Board
–7 pm

Thursday–Jan. 15; Feb. 12–Planning Board–6 pm

Friday–Jan. 16, Feb. 20–Civil War Roundtable
–7:15 pm

Monday meetings are rebroadcast:

1/2 hour after meeting

Tuesday - 7 am

Wednesday - 11 am

Thursday - 3 pm

Monday - 2 am

Tuesday meetings are rebroadcast:

1/2 hour after meeting

Wednesday - 7 am

Thursday - 11 am

Monday - 3 pm

Tuesday - 2 am

Wednesday meetings are rebroadcast:

1/2 hour after meeting

Thursday - 7 am

Monday - 11 am

Tuesday - 3 pm

Wednesday - 2 am

Thursday meetings are rebroadcast:

1/2 hour after meeting

Monday - 7 am

Tuesday - 11 am

Wednesday - 3 pm

Thursday - 2 am

All dates and times are subject to change. Please consult the ETV Bulletin Board or the Town website for any changes or updates.

Always remember that Board meetings are available any time at your convenience if you go to <http://etv22@pegcentral.com>. They are usually available the day following their "live" broadcast.

"Live" video streaming is also available. Watch live meetings anywhere while they're broadcast: http://etv22.pegcentral.com/live/live_etv22.html.



Scouting Around Epping

Cub Scout Pack 136

If you would like information about joining Cub Scouts, please contact our **Cubmaster, Michael Page** at michael.page.nh@gmail.com or contact him at cubmaster@pack136epping.org

Join us on Facebook and keep track of the Pack <http://m.facebook.com/group.php?gid=1990596851>

[09&fbb=r6c4d2187&refid=46](http://www.pack136epping.org/calendar) or go to our website where you can find more Pack information at <http://www.pack136epping.org/calendar>.

Boy Scout Troop 136

Troop 136 has been busy serving the Epping community since the last update. In November the Troop participated in the annual food drive known as Scouting for Food. The Scouts collected over 300 food item donations from right here in Epping. Thanks to the generosity of the local residents, all that food gets distributed to local food banks to benefit local residents.

The Scouts just completed their Fall fund raising season and would like to thank the community for buying popcorn throughout the months of September and October, as well as Yankee Candles in November. A big thank you goes out to all the local businesses that advertised in the 2015 community calendar that is currently available. Over 500 calendars are distributed each year to Epping and the surrounding area! You can purchase yours for just \$5. Find one at local merchants who advertised in the calendar.

The Scouts were tenacious in achieving individual awards throughout the Fall as well. Over 50 merit badges were earned since the start of summer. Most notably, many of the newest Scouts that just transitioned this year from Cub Scouts, earned advancements to Tenderfoot and Second Class Scouts. Those names include Skip Raymond III, Timothy Gibb, Peter McTague, Alex Wyatt, and Ryan Moulton, as well as others.

The Scouts have many things planned over the next few months. They look forward to Winter Fun Weekend in the cabins at Zion's Camp in Raymond from **January 16-18**, as well as outdoor winter camping and fun at Polar Bear weekend **February 6-8**, and the Klondike Derby in Danville in February. If you know a boy between the ages of 11 and 17 who would benefit from an organization like the Boy Scouts, please contact Les Houston at 231-1148.

Submitted by Les Houston



For information about Girl Scouting in New Hampshire and Vermont, please go to [Girl Scouts Home Page | Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains](#), to www.girlscoutsgwm.org or contact us at 888-474-9686 x4350. Financial aid is available for anyone who needs it in order to join Girl Scouts.

American Legion News

February

American Legion Post 51, Epping, is hosting a Valentine's Prime Rib Dinner and Dance featuring "The Bert Scott Band" on **Saturday, February 14th**. The dinner includes prime rib and all the fixings. ONLY 100 Tickets will be sold for this Prime Rib Dinner that will be served between 6:00 and 7:30 pm. **TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE TUESDAY, JANUARY 6th**. The tickets **MUST BE** purchased in advance for \$15/person. Please see the bartender in the Canteen at the Epping Legion. Tickets will be sold until they run out or until the cutoff date of February 10th! This ticket does include entrance to the dance that will begin at 8:00 pm. The Bert Scott Band will be playing 60's, 70's, Rock, Rhythm and Blues!! You can check out their music online at www.myspace.com/bertscottband. Grab your honey and come on down for a great dinner and a rock'n good time. If you miss out on the dinner tickets or you just want to attend the dance that starts at 8:00 pm, the cost is \$8/person at the door. A cash bar will be open. The event will be held in the non-smoking Harry Bradshaw Memorial Hall of the American Legion on Route 125 in Epping (across from Telly's Restaurant). All are welcome! For more information please call Darlene at 793-6090 or Janet at 944-3288.

March

American Legion Post 51, Epping, is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance featuring *Chippy and the Ya Yas* on **Saturday, March 14th**. The New England Boiled inner includes your choice of Corned Beef or Ham and all the fixings. **TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15th**. ONLY 100 Tickets will be sold for this St. Patrick's Day Dinner that will be served between 6:00 and 7:30 pm. The tickets **MUST BE** purchased in advance for \$12 per person. Please see the bartender in the Canteen at the Epping Legion. Tickets will be sold until they run out or until the cutoff date of March 10th! This ticket does include entrance to the dance that will begin at 8:00 pm. *Chippy and the Ya Yas* are a NH based cover band which they say is born to blow our mind, rock our socks, and shake our booty like never before. They play songs from the 60's on up. Hard driving and high octane!! We expect our dance floor to be jam packed!!! You can check out their music online at www.chippyandtheyayas.com. If you miss out on the dinner tickets or you just want

to attend the dance that starts at 8:00 pm, the cost is \$7/person at the door. A cash bar will be open. The event will be held in the non-smoking Harry Bradshaw Memorial Hall of the American Legion on Route 125 in Epping (across from Telly's Restaurant). All are welcome! For more information please call Darlene at 793-6090 or Janet at 944-3288.

Monthly Breakfast Buffets

Monthly second Sunday breakfasts are being held from 8:00 to 11:00 am. Come enjoy our hot Breakfast Buffets on **Sunday, January 11th** and **Sunday, February 8th** - eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, pancakes, home fries, and coffee are all piping hot and ready to be enjoyed. Bring your newspaper and your appetite!

The Buffet is \$6.00 a plate, \$4.00 per child and worth every penny!

Submitted by Janet Hoffman

Epping Fire Dept. Explorer Post 716

Youth 14 years old to 20 years old are invited to join the Epping Fire Department Explorer Post. The Explorers meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Explorers learn how to use the Fire Department equipment and do search and rescue. Once the probationary (learning) period is over, they may assist on fire calls. Explorers are allowed to ride on the apparatus if seats are available and assist firefighters with the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), supervise the rescue truck and perform many other duties at a fire scene.

For more information call Cliff Cray at 396-9436 or e-mail at deacon100@comcast.net.

Police Explorer Post 714

Youth 14 and older may also join the Police Explorer post by calling 679-5122.

Epping Community Church

The Epping Community Church worship service is every Sunday at 9:00 am. We are located on the corner of Pleasant Street and Main Street. We are handicapped accessible on the side of the building and have a new elevator to take you to the 2nd floor for the service. We have a time of fellowship immediately following the service. You can come downstairs and enjoy a cup of coffee with a donut and share conversation with others. Sunday School for all ages begins at 11:00 am.

Friday Night Pizza is open from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.

The pizza crew is always ready to take your order in person or by phone at 679-5542. You can come and enjoy it at the church or take it home! This is a great time to come and see some of your friends from the community while having a really great homemade pizza with any topping that you want.

Our **Third Saturday dinner** in January will be on **Saturday the 17th** and will be Roast Turkey with all of the fixings and of course a delicious dessert! On **Saturday February 21st** it will be Turkey Pot Pie. The meals are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. You can also get these meals to go if you'd like! So we'll cook and clean up for you.

The Epping Community Care Food Pantry is open on Saturday from 8:00 - 10:00 am. We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our program in 2014. You have all made it possible for us to serve the less fortunate in the community. Whether it was canned goods, dry goods, a monetary donation or volunteering....you have made a difference and we are grateful. If you would like to donate in the future we will gladly receive items during food pantry or Soup Café hours or during Friday night pizza. Thank you!! The following are suggested items that are needed: cereal, canned fruit, crackers, spaghetti sauce, pasta, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, soups, baked beans, juice, mac & cheese. We can also use personal hygiene items such as: toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste etc. We are still accepting coats for our Coats of Caring project. If you have gently used coats, snow pants, hats and mittens and would like to donate them, we would be happy to share them with those in need. We do not currently take any other clothing.

The Soup of the Day Café is open to all who would like to partake. This is a free lunch that is offered every Thursday from 11:00 - 12:30 at the Epping Community Church. We always offer two homemade soups with salad and a dessert. We serve 25-30 every Thursday and we'd love to have you join us for lunch. It's always great to see new faces.

St. Joseph Catholic Church

208 Pleasant St. (Rte 27)

Epping, NH 03042

Office telephone: 679-8805

Mass schedule weekdays:

Monday 8:00 am

Tues, Thurs, Fri. 7:30 am

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Mass schedule weekends:

Saturday 8:00 am, 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am and 6:00 pm

January

Mondays – Adoration – 12 noon – 9:00 pm

Fridays – Adoration – 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Jan. 10th – Squire Dinner

Jan. 17th – Mission Dinner

February

Mondays – Adoration – 12 noon – 9:00 pm

Fridays – Adoration – 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Feb. 18th – Ash Wednesday Mass – 7:30 am and 7:00 pm

Feb. 7th – Squire Sinner

Feb. 14th – Mission Dinner

If you have any questions, please call the Rectory Office 679-8805 or check our website at <http://stjosepheppingnh.com> for further information.

Epping Bible Baptist Church

Epping Bible Church invites you to join them throughout the week at 243 Pleasant Street in Epping.

Our Sunday mornings begin with a full, free breakfast starting at 8:15 am, followed by Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 am and morning service at 10:45 am. Sunday evening service begins at 5:00 pm. Families are welcome.

Sunday School follows the Faith Weaver curriculum and all classes learn about the same passage of Scripture with lessons tailored for each group

A free nursery for children – infants through four years – is provided during the morning and evening services. Children ages four through third grade are invited to Junior Church during the morning service after praise and worship time.

Prayer and Praise fellowship is offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at the parsonage.

The Awana program (ages three through grade 6) meets on Friday nights to help children learn about God's Word. There will also be a morning cubbies (ages 3 and 4) Awana group on Friday mornings at 9:30 am. Please contact Dora Brown at 702-2650 or at awana@eppingbible.org.

Our services can be seen on Sunday mornings on ETV - channel 22, and on our website.

Please contact Pastor Ron Townsend at 247-0405 or PastorRon@eppingbible.org if you have any questions.

West Epping Quaker Meeting House

The West Epping Meeting grew out of the Seabrook Quarterly Meeting in the middle of the 18th century. Records show that Joshua Folsom was a recorded minister among Friends in the community in 1772 – though he may have commenced his activities even earlier. The present Meeting House was built in 1851. The surrounding tall pines, dating from this period, have been a distinguishing feature of West Epping Village.

West Epping Friends meet for silent worship at 10 am every first and third Sunday of the month. We welcome visitors to our meetings to join with us. For those who would enjoy just visiting the Meeting House they may call the Clerk, Fritz Bell, at 244-1119 for a tour.



Harvey-Mitchell Memorial Library

Epping's Public Library

151 Main Street

734-4587 (Adult Dept.)

679-5944 (Youth Dept.)

679-5884 (Fax)

harvmitch@gmail.com

www.eppinglibrary.com

Hours: Monday, Friday, Saturday 10 – 5

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 – 8

Closed: **Thursday, January 1st** New Years Day

Monday, January 19th Civil Rights Day

Monday, February 16th Presidents Day

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Preschool Story Times with Miss Eva & Mr. Ben

Pre-registration is required. Call us at 679-5944 or e-mail us at hmmyouth@gmail.com. Limit of 12 children at each session.

Join us for stories and crafts on Mondays at 10:30 am, 11:30 am and 1:00 pm, and Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am.

Knit Night

Get together on 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm. Bring your own yarn and needles. Enjoy the company of other knitters! For more information, contact coordinator Marjorie Pim at marjpim@yahoo.com.

Adult Book discussion Groups

New members are always welcome!

The Eclectic Book Club meets on second Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

The Dusty Old Mystery Group meets on third Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

For more information, please call us at 734-4587 or visit us at www.eppinglibrary.com.

Submitted by Bradley A. Green, Library Director

Epping Y.O.U.T.H.

(Youth Organizations Unite To Help)

UPDATES:

1. **Mission Statement:** We have a Mission Statement and 1-Page Info Sheet DRAFT

The Epping Y.O.U.T.H. Coalition is a community-wide collaborative organization dedicated to empowering youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and reduce substance misuse, through awareness campaigns, education, coordinated activities, and sharing resources.

What we do:

- Assess Community Needs
- Brainstorm Strategies
- Implement Action Plans
- Network Resources

Collaborations:

Support for Epping School District's School Resource Officer

Community Center for Epping -- Research and Planning Committee

Red Ribbon Week school activities (Drug Abuse Awareness)

Granite Youth Alliance -- PSA created by Students!

"The Porch" -- Focus Group with Teens

Goals:

Create a Sustainable Coalition that Supports Community-wide Substance Abuse Education

Offer Workshops and Family-Fun Nights for the Community

2. **We will be having Four Community Workshops in January and February, to gather the COMMUNITY together to discuss the problems we see in Epping, (See Below) -- TBD (Wed Jan 14 & 20, Mon Feb 2 & 9???)**

- 1st. Problem Analysis
- 2nd. Root-Cause Analysis
- 3rd. Brainstorm Strategies
- 4th. Create Action Plans

3. **Sgt Rick Frost, National Guard Counter Drug Task Force, has been helping us focus our time and energy on engaging and involving more of**

our COMMUNITY, and growing the Coalition.

Workshops and Trainings

Drug Trends Data Gathering -- EPD, ER, YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior

Surveys), SRO, and "Monitoring the Futures" (National Trends)

Inviting EVERYONE, from all the 12 Sectors of the Community

Sustainability

Thank You for your Support and Ideas!!

Success is always a Team Effort!

Next Meetings: 3rd Wednesdays, **January 21st, February 18th, March 18th**

Submitted by Linda Daigle

Epping Parks & Recreation

Department News

Home of the "River Otters"

Director: Nicole Bizzaro

Temporary office at Epping Town Hall

Cell Phone: 608-9487

eppingrecreation@gmail.com

Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

If you need to reach the Department, please contact Nicole, Recreation Director via e-mail at eppingrecreation@gmail.com or cell at 608-9487. The temporary Rec. Office has been set up on the 2nd floor at the Town Hall. Enter the main door and go up the stairs. There will be registration forms and other information available there. Any program payments can be given to staff at programs or can be mailed to us at 157 Main Street, Epping, NH 03042. Please make checks out to "Town of Epping." We appreciate your patience while we figure out our building issues.

Please follow us on Facebook for latest program updates, changes and announcements.

Help celebrate Epping's Birthday

In 2016, the Town of Epping will turn 275 years old! We are currently collecting names of interested residents who would be willing to serve on the Birthday Celebration Committee! Please send us an email to eppingrecreation@gmail.com or see Joyce in the Board of Selectman's Office at the Town Hall if you are interested in helping.

Interested in helping out with Community Events? We can always use volunteers! Epping Parks & Recreation Department does not receive any tax dollars to run Community Events! We rely solely on donations and volunteers to offer such events! If you are interested in helping, please

contact Nicole, Recreation Director at 608-9487 or send us an e-mail.

New Preschool & Elementary School Program:

Intro To Dance

The Diamond Dance Academy is excited to partner up with the Epping Recreation Department to offer the community an Intro to Dance program. These classes are designed to give dancers a taste of dance and what it has to offer. Diamond Dance Academy classes will be located in the Old Leddy Building on Main Street. Enter through the door to the Left of "The Porch" windows (Same entrance). All registrations and class questions should be directed to Sue at Diamond Dance Academy.

For ages 3-5 years

Focus will be on teaching children basic movement skills, class disciplines and building self-confidence. Students are given the basic fundamentals and class disciplines of Ballet and Tap in a structured, yet fun and nurturing environment. Class will meet at the Diamond Dance Academy on Saturdays 11:00 - 11:45 am. The cost is: \$70.

For ages 6-8 years

This class is a great combination of basics in Ballet and Jazz with a little Hip Hop. This class provides a variety for students looking to move and groove. Class will consist of a center warm-up to strengthen the body and increase flexibility along with traveling steps across the floor and center combinations. Class will be held at the Diamond Dance Academy on Saturdays from 11:45 am to 12:30 pm. The cost is \$70.

Session 1: January 12th - February 21st

Session 2: March 9th – April 18th

"We look forward to sharing our love of dance with you and your families."

Please feel free to contact Sue with questions: Diamonddancen@gmail.com. To register, please visit Diamond Dance Academy Online Reg. Site: <https://app.jackrabbitclass.com/reg.asp?id=519042>.

Future Preschool Programs

If you are interested in an indoor Preschool Soccer Program, please e-mail us at eppingrecreation@gmail.com to be placed on an e-mail list for more information as it becomes available. We are looking for an early spring start date for this program.

Elementary School Programs

Before & After School Program:

The Spring 2015 Before & After School Program Registration is now OPEN! Please download

registration form and Participation Forms from the website and mail in with Deposit Payment. Space will be filled on a First Come Basis! Call Nicole for more information at 608-9487.

Grades K-7

6:45 - 8:25 am and 3:10-5:45 pm - Before School Program at Epping Elementary School Gym

3:15 - 4:15 pm - After School Program meets in EES Library, goes to EMS Cafe & Playground, then to EES Gym till close.

Call Nicole for more information at 608-9487.

Martial Arts Programs at Epping Recreation and Elementary School (offered by Epping ATA)

Karate Classes

Mondays (EES Gym) and Thursdays (MS Stage) 3:10 – 4:15 pm, \$65 per month

For more information or to sign your child up, please contact Mrs. DeNapoli at 674-6599 or e-mail her at eppingata@gmail.com.

ALL beginners receive a FREE Uniform.

Middle/High School Programs

8th - 12th Grade CIT program is back again this year. Students who like working with children and want to gain experience may apply to be a Counselor-In-Training. School year and summer positions are available and it's FREE! For an application, please contact the Rec. Department.

Both the Application and two Reference Forms need to be returned to the Recreation Director at Town Hall, 157 Main Street, for review. Without References (non-related), applications will not be accepted. CIT positions are limited! We will call all applicants in for an initial interview with the Recreation Director and Program Director. The CIT program is not a full summer, full week program. Each CIT will be given a schedule of days and hours they will be assigned to complete their volunteer time with us. CIT's will ASSIST staff in running programs for kids, preparing materials for programs, helping with general clean up after programs and being role models for children participating in programs. Most CIT hours are completed on school grounds (no field trip hours). If a CIT shows exemplary skills in assisting children during on-grounds programs, we may contact those parents to arrange for field trip volunteer hours.

Adult Programs

Adult Basketball.

Want to play some adult basketball? Come join The Epping Recreation Department for some pick up co-ed basketball in the Epping Middle School

Gym on Sunday nights.

Day / Time: Sunday - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Epping Middle School Gym

Cost: \$30 for 10 nights - Please make check out to the "Town of Epping." If paying in cash, please bring exact change.

Each participant is required to sign a waiver form prior to playing and payment. Waiver forms will be available at the gym. We will have a sign-in sheet, to keep track of the days used. Once you have used your ten nights, please bring in your next payment of \$30 for ten additional nights. You will not be allowed to play if we do not have a signed waiver and payment. The payment covers the cost of the staff to provide this program.

Please check our Facebook page for updates on programs, including cancellations. We will also notify you via e-mail of any program changes, so please provide a current e-mail address.

Zumba

The popular dance aerobics class is back in the Epping Recreation Department with Zumba Instructor Cassandra Mullen. She has classes on Thursday nights from 7:45 to 8:45 pm at the MS/HS Café. Cost: \$35 for a 6-week session, \$7 drop-in.

Please visit Cassandra's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/zumbawithcassandra> for more class information and to give music choice suggestions. She will also post changes or cancellations there. Please follow for the latest information on her classes.

Interested in other adult activities?

We have had several adults express interest in adult volleyball and adult gym nights, where adults can come to play a friendly game of Dodge Ball, Kick Ball or other fun gym games from your past! Please contact us via Facebook or by e-mailing us at eppingrecreation@gmail.com to be placed on a list of interested people. Please include what days of the week and times would work best for you, to help us in our planning. Most of our Adult programs depend on utilizing space at the schools, which is limited, and we do have the potential of getting bumped from our time/day, often at the last minute. Please keep this in mind and be patient and understanding if we need to re-schedule or cancel nights.

The Porch

We are a not-for-profit organization.* Our goal is to demonstrate the unconditional love of God to our community by building relationships, meeting physical and financial needs, and sharing the

Gospel of Jesus that transforms lives.

Epping Lighthouse will benefit the community in numerous ways, including:

Running a youth center for teenagers

Running a children's after-school program

Giving financially to families who are in need

Providing free family counseling

Organizing various programs for teenagers to service others

*We are currently waiting on the IRS to give us our final paperwork.

Kids Club

Our kids club is for kids in grades 1-5.

We will provide free pick up from EES, and provide snacks and drinks at no charge.

We have a structured time of singing, Bible Time and Game Time.

The club starts at 3:15 and goes until 5:00 pm.

Teen Central

Our Teen Central is geared for grades 6-12.

We offer pool, ping-pong, air hockey, and foosball.

We also have computers, a TV, board games and provide snacks and drinks at no charge.

Teen Central opens at 2:30 and goes till 4:30.

We provide classes and other events throughout the year as well.

We require all of our workers to complete a background check.

If you are interested, please check us out at www.eppinglighthouse.org or you can e-mail us at eppinglighthouse@hotmail.com to request a form.

Families First

support for families...health care for all

Epping Family Morning Out Fridays, 9:30-11 am For children ages birth to six, with parents or other caregivers.

Children will explore age-appropriate crafts and other activities, have positive play with peers and adults, and enjoy songs, stories and snack. Facilitator: Patricia Keck. Held at the SAU 14 Building (213 Main Street, Epping). Pre-registration not needed. Cost: Free.

For information call 422-8208, press 2, or visit <http://www.familiesfirstseacoast.org/programs.cfm>.

All parents and children are welcome at our Parenting Classes, Parent-Child Groups and Parent Groups. **Advance registration is needed for most programs and is always needed for childcare;** please go to FamiliesFirstSeacoast.org

and click on the Register for Family Programs button, or call 422-8208 x2.



Epping School District News

School Board Meeting Schedule

The Epping School Board holds regular meetings at 7:00 pm in the Epping Town Hall. The public is invited to attend. Meetings are also televised by ETV. Agendas and minutes are posted on the district website at www.sau14.org under School Board/Agenda & Minutes. ETV is also streaming meetings that you can watch live on your computer at: <http://etv.22.pegcentral.com>.

The Epping School Board has the following meetings scheduled in January and February:

Wednesday, January 7 - Town Hall 7:00 pm - Joint Meeting with Budget Committee and School Board

Wednesday, January 14 - Town Hall 6:00 pm – Public Hearing for budgets and warrant articles, Town goes first

Thursday, January 15 - Town Hall 7 pm – Public Hearing continued if needed, School Board to meet immediately following (If no public hearing, then School Board meeting will begin at 7:00 pm)

Thursday, February 5 – Middle School Gym, 7:00 pm School Board Deliberative Session

Thursday, February 19 – Town Hall, 7:00 pm – School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 10 – Middle School Gym, 8 am to 7 pm, Voting

Epping Elementary School (EES)

EES School Calendar

Jan. 5 – Classes resume

Jan. 5 – PTO meeting 7:00 pm in the EES Art Room. Free babysitting in the Library

Jan. 16– **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher Professional Development Day

Jan. 19 – **NO SCHOOL** – Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Day

Feb. 2 – PTO meeting 7:00 pm in the EES Art Room. Free babysitting in the Library

Feb. 7 – **NO SCHOOL** – Teacher Professional Development Day

Feb. 12 – PTO Ice Cream Social in EES multi-purpose room from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

Feb. 20 – I Love to Read Jamboree sponsored by EES PTO

Feb. 23- 27 – **NO SCHOOL** – Winter Vacation

Epping Middle School (EMS)

Colin Farris Wins Spelling Bee

Eighth grader Colin Farris won the Epping Middle School Spelling Bee when he outlasted runner-up Alexis McDuffee by spelling the winning word “irrigation.” Colin will go on to represent EMS at the regional and State Spelling Bees. Sixth grader Olivia Parents finished third.

All middle school students participated in the process. Classroom spelling bees were held to find finalists for the grade spelling bees. Five students were then selected from each grade. Representing their grades in the finals were: Grade 6: Spencer Gaudreau, Meaghan Murphy, Ariana Murphy, Taya Morgado, Skip Raymond and Isabelle Deary (alternate); Grade 7: Alex Menns, Jason Brissette, Olivia Parents, Kayle Ortman, Avalon Brown, Joe Furey (alternate); Grade 8: Allison Nee, Ben Colban, Ricky Pitkanen, Colin Farris, Alexis McDuffee, and Meghan Galante (alternate).

All middle school students attended the finals, and many parents were in attendance.



Spelling Bee Winner Colin Farris and runner-up Alexis McDuffee

EMS Pride Assembly

Epping Middle School held its bi-monthly Pride Assembly honoring student achievement on December 17, 2014. Awards were presented to those exemplifying Guiding Principles 3 (Be on time for your daily commitments) and 4 (Be appropriate; demonstrate behavior that is considerate of the community, the school, and yourself). Presentations were made to the following students: for Guiding Principle #3: Grade 8, Colin Farris; Grade 7, Savannah Smart; Grade 6, Nico Greubel; Unified Arts, Ryan Glass; for Guiding Principle #4:

Students “caught being kind” were rewarded with small gifts through the school’s Nice Moves Program; Names drawn were: Ryan Donovan, Delaney Clough, Haleigh Sullivan, Evika Toth, Kinana Pond, Reese Idell, and Rachel Martin.

Epping Middle School Students have been running a recycling program where all paper and other recyclable items in the classrooms have been collected through single-stream recycling. Students recently recognized the need to include the cafeteria in the program. Seeing a great deal of recyclable material being thrown away, members of the National Junior Honor Society and the Student Leadership team enlisted the cooperation of school custodians and Food Services Director Veronica Bush to start recycling lunch disposables.

Indoor Rock Climbing Event Planned

The cost of the trip is \$12.00 which includes the transportation, the use of the facility, and equipment rental. The trip is open to all middle school students, and the appropriate permission slips and waiver forms are required.

Epping Middle School's eighth grade annual turkey raffle was again a huge success with students raising over \$4,000 to offset their spring Washington, DC trip. Five turkey dinners "with all the fixin's" were raffled off.

EMS Students Shine in Art & Writing Contest

Under the direction of eighth grade Language Arts teacher Pat Weisberg, EMS eighth grade students have been participating in the contest for years. Writing pieces must reflect holiday themes and art work must depict holiday settings. The winners' work was featured in the December 18th pull-out section of the newspaper.

EMS Students Enter Art Contest

Art submitted will be on display at the theatre from **January 20th through February 8th** from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The awards ceremony will be held on **February 8th** at noon.

If your email address has changed, please notify Barbara Helmstetter at: bhelmstetter@comcast.net.

Have we missed your group or event? Please let us know. Our purpose is to include as many Epping groups and events as possible.

Thanks for reading! - The Communications Group

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Epping Calendar of Events for January 2015

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Dec. 22 - Jan.2 | NO SCHOOL - HOLIDAY RECESS |
| January 3 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| January 5 | Classes resume |
| January 5 | EES PTO meeting in the EES Art Room – 7 pm |
| January 7 | Joint meeting of School Board and Budget Committee |
| January 8 | Epping Seniors meet at the Epping Fire Station at 1 pm “Program: Police Dept.” |
| January 10 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| January 11 | American Legion Post 51 Sunday Breakfast Buffet – 9:00-11:30 am |
| Jan. 12- Feb. 21 | Preschool and Elementary Into to Dance Program: 1 st Session |
| January 14 | Knit Night at the Library – 7 pm |
| January 14 | Eclectic Book Group at the Library – 7 pm |
| January 14 | Budget Hearing |
| January 16 | Civil War Roundtable of NH meeting in Town Hall – 7:15 pm |
| January 16-18 | Boy Scout Winter Fun Weekend at Zion’s Camp in Raymond |
| January 16-25 | Leddy Center presents “Scene Changes” |
| January 16 | NO SCHOOL – Teacher Professional Development Day |
| January 19 | NO SCHOOL – CIVIL RIGHTS DAY – Town Hall and Library closed |
| January 17 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| January 17 | Epping Community Church Dinner “Roast Turkey Dinner” – 5 - 6:30 pm |
| January 20 | Library Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:15 pm |
| January 21 | Epping Y.O.U.T.H. coalition meeting in SAU building – 9 am |
| January 21 | Dusty Old Mystery Book Group at the Library – 7 pm |
| January 21-30 | Filing Period for Town Boards and Commissions |
| January 22 | Epping School Board meeting in Epping Town Hall – 7 pm |
| January 24 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| January 27 | “275 th Birthday Bash” Committee meeting at the Town Hall – 7 pm |
| January 27 | Epping Lions Club meeting at the Epping Edward Jones office on Route 125 – 6:30 pm |
| January 28 | Knit Night at the Library – 7 pm |
| January 31 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |

Epping Calendar of Events for February 2015

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------|--|
| February 2 | EES PTO meeting in the EES Art Room – 7 pm |
| February 3 | Town Deliberative Session |
| February 5 | School Deliberative Session |
| February 6-8 | Boy Scout Polar Bear weekend |
| February 7 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| February 7 | NO SCHOOL – Teacher Professional Development Day |
| February 8 | American Legion Post 51 Sunday breakfast – 9:00-11:30 am |
| February 11 | Eclectic Book Group at the Library – 7 pm |
| February 11 | Knit Night at the Library – 7 pm |
| February 12 | PTO Ice Cream Social in EES multi-purpose room – 8-6 pm |
| February 12 | Epping Seniors meet at the Epping Fire Station at 1 pm “Program: Fire Dept.” |
| February 14 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| February 14 | American Legion Valentine’s Prime Rib Dinner and Dance |
| February 17 | Library Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:15 pm |
| February 18 | Epping Y.O.U.T.H. coalition meeting in SAU building – 9 am |
| February 18 | Dusty Old Mystery Book Group at the Library – 7 pm |
| February 20 | EES I Love to Read Jamboree |
| February 20 | Civil War Roundtable of NH meeting in Town Hall – 7:15 pm |
| Jan.12-Feb.21 | Preschool and Elementary Intro to Dance Program; 1 st Session |
| February 21 | DEADLINE DATE for the March-April issue of the Newsletter |
| February 21 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |
| February 21 | Epping Community Church Dinner “Turkey Pot Pie Dinner” – 5 - 6:30 pm |
| February 23-27 | NO SCHOOL - WINTER VACATION |
| February 23 | PRESIDENTS DAY Town Hall and Library closed |
| February 24 | Epping Lions Club meeting at the Epping Edward Jones office on Route 125 – 6:30 pm |
| February 25 | Candidates Night |
| February 28 | Epping Community Church Food Pantry and Coats of Caring – 8-10 am |

If you would like your next event to appear on the Calendar of Events, please send us an e-mail at bhelmstetter@comcast.net by **February 21, 2015**. Please include the date, event name, location and time.