

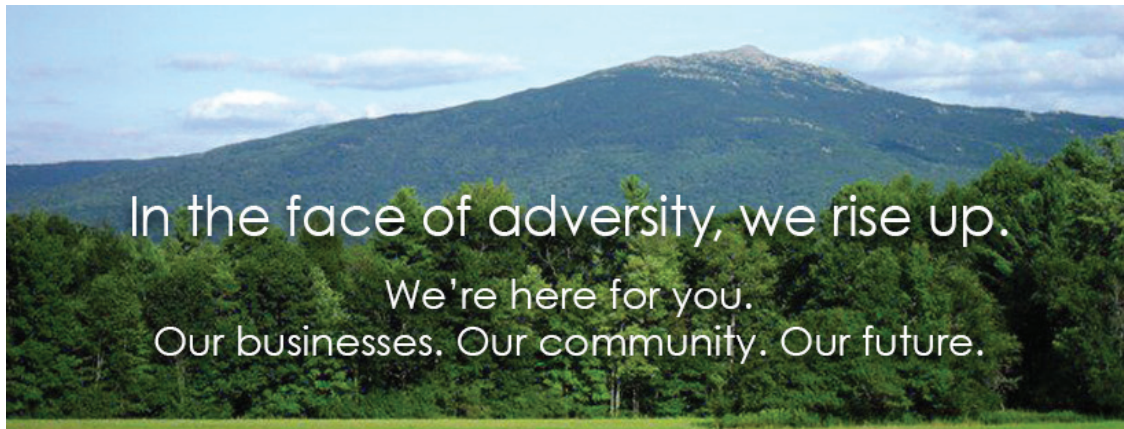


GREATER KEENE
CHAMBER

| outlook news

Connecting business and community

May 2020



Message from Phil Suter, Chamber President/CEO

Hello Chamber Members –

We hope you are staying healthy during this unprecedented time for all of us. As we turn the page from April into May and beyond, we want to update you on some of what your Chamber has been doing for the past 6-8 weeks, and how we are beginning to pivot toward the new normal of the future.

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been a fast-moving train – things change daily; sometimes even hourly. Here are the current areas of focus for us:

- From the start, we've been collecting information from federal, state and local sources and updating the information daily, in our [COVID-19 Resource Center](#). In addition, we continue to share information through our Twitter (@GreaterKeeneNH), and Facebook accounts, so follow us there. If you have any questions, or need help with something like an application for a SBA PPP loan, please let us know at info@keenechamber.com.
- We are working closely with regional economic development organizations and municipalities to be a liaison and voice for the Monadnock Region at the local, state and federal level. If you haven't already participated in the Friday 8:00am small business Zoom meetings, co-sponsored by the Chamber and Mayor Hansel, please do so. The log-in information can be found at <https://ci.keene.nh.us/covid-19>. Anyone in the region is welcome.
- Your Chamber continues to operate – mostly remotely – to serve you, and to deliver our regular programs and services. During May, June and July, stay tuned for our eblasts to learn how we'll be doing virtual events like our Business-Before/After-Hours, B2B Workshops, Regional Issues, and a new Zoom event called Coffee & Conversation. If you're not receiving our eblasts, or know someone who'd like to be on our list, please let us know at info@keenechamber.com.

The days and weeks ahead will be as busy as ever. Among other things, we will be sending you a survey, designed to collect information about what organizations in our region are doing, and what they need. In the meantime, the State's Bureau of Economic Affairs has just released its own survey. We encourage you to fill it out: <https://www.nheconomy.com/survey>.

We will get through this – together. The Monadnock Region is rising to the challenge!

visit our website! keenechamber.com



HireShae offers affordable business consulting and solutions, Virtual Assistant services, and a complete Virtual Marketing Agency. Get the help you desire to start or grow your business today.

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Shae Sterrett is a seasoned sales and marketing professional and entrepreneur. Shae built HireShae, a division of Shae Sterrett, LLC



to help bring marketing, sales and business solutions to businesses of all sizes, affordably and efficiently. Her passion is working with solopreneurs, entrepreneurs and small businesses, and those looking to start a business. HireShae also offers flexible Virtual Assistant services for businesses and

individuals. HireShae has an extensive portfolio of services at very affordable prices, PLUS no monthly retainers or minimums. Pay as you go, for what you need. Finally, business, made easy.

The One Stop Shop For Business Solutions You Need and Value You Deserve.

Now is a time to innovate, plan, and prepare. As businesses struggle to cope with the impact of COVID-19, Shae is offering the following:

- Free one-hour marketing consultation to help businesses bounce back after the virus
- \$500 Simple websites
- \$1000 E-commerce websites

For a complete list of services or to schedule a marketing consultation, visit www.hireshae.com.

HireShae, LLC
603-831-3238
info@hireshae.com



Lisa Wilcox, Realtor empowered by the Bean Group | Peterborough

As a residential Real Estate Consultant and coach focused on Keene and the greater Monadnock area, Lisa Wilcox is dedicated to provide a comfortable home buying and selling experience. She provides exceptional, personalized service for all of her clients with a simple philosophy: clients always come first!

Wilcox believes real estate is one of the biggest and most essential investments during one's lifetime and entered the real estate world due to her passion to coach others and to share her real estate experiences. She takes great pride in the relationships she builds with her clients.

Her ideal clients are retirees, Veterans, first-time home buyers, investors, vacationers, and people undergoing a major life change.

As a Listing agent, she aims to sell a client's home in the shortest amount of time for the most money. As a Buyer agent, she is passionate about helping people find the right home or investment property. As a Relocation Specialist, she provides her buyers the information they need for a smooth transition to their new home. Whether it's buying or selling a home, she guides you through the process!

Born and raised in Central Vermont, Wilcox spent 20+ years as a professional working for the State of Vermont in Information Technology Project Management as Network Engineer and System Administrator. She also served in the Vermont Air National Guard as a Computer Journeyman. She was awarded the highest Vermont State Citation for her military contributions to the State of Vermont. Her excellent project management and customer service skills make her an asset to her clients.

Wilcox lives in Keene, New Hampshire and spends her free time with friends and family. She is thrift and flea market enthusiast who loves to cook, watch movies, and explore the outdoors hiking and biking.

Lisa Wilcox, Realtor, Bean Group (Peterborough)
(603) 554-0882
45 Main Street, Suite 201
Peterborough, NH
www.lisawilcoxrealestate.com

May Virtual B2B

Business Borrowing in Today's Environment



Friday, May 8, 2020

Noon to 1 pm • WebEx Video Webinar

Presenters:

Joshua Brier, EVP / Chief Operating Officer, GFA
Federal Credit Union

Joan Moran, SVP / Chief Lending Officer, GFA
Federal Credit Union Communications

**You will learn and have the opportunity to ask questions
about the following:**

- Overview of recent government/SBA programs
- Traditional commercial lending environment
- What is on the horizon
- Answer your questions on access to financing during COVID-19

Sign up today for this limited-space webinar!

**Register online at [keenechamber.com](https://www.keenechamber.com) or e-mail
info@keenechamber.com.**

Coffee & Conversation Virtual Chat with Art Robert, MEDC President

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

9 - 10 am • Zoom Video Chat

Grab your cup of coffee and join us for casual conversation as we meet and greet Art Robert in his new role as President of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation.



Art will share with us his previous economic development experience, how he is transitioning into his new position, and what he sees as the opportunities and challenges for our region in the current economic climate. There will also be time for a Q&A session.

Join in the conversation, connect with other members and guests, and help us welcome Art to the Chamber community!

Register online at [keenechamber.com](https://www.keenechamber.com) or e-mail info@keenechamber.com. Once registered, you'll receive a confirmation email with the Zoom meeting info.

May Virtual Business AFTER Hours

Arts Alive! & Monadnock Conservancy

Hosted remotely by Zoom

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

5:00 – 6:00 PM



Just because we can't be in the same room, doesn't mean we can't network virtually! Join us for a virtual twist on our Business After Hours. Bring your evening beverage of choice and enjoy light conversation and connection as we learn more about two of our local non-profit members!

Arts Alive and Monadnock Conservancy are teaming up to host an informative virtual event where you will enjoy a live artist performance and learn about conservancy efforts in our region as well as the best places to safely enjoy outside recreation.

Registration is required. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom meeting information. All registered attendees will be entered in a raffle for a door prize!

Register online at [keenechamber.com](https://www.keenechamber.com) or by e-mail to info@keenechamber.com

Member News

Savings Bank of Walpole has been recognized, once again, by New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) as an Outstanding Participating Originator for 2019.

Each year, NHHFA recognizes lenders and loan originators for their efforts in helping homebuyers across the state find affordable homes and loans.

“We’re pleased that the Bank has been recognized by NHHFA as an Outstanding Participating Originator for the second year in a row,” says **Mark Bodin, President** for Savings Bank of Walpole. “As a truly local bank, mortgage loan decisions are made right here and we’re always looking at ways we can better serve our customers and community. The programs provided by New Hampshire Housing allow us to do just that.”

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Savings Bank of Walpole, along with its sister banks, Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVSF) and Merrimack County Savings Bank (the Merrimack), were the first three banks to contribute to the New Hampshire Nonprofit Response Fund with a combined tax credit purchase of \$150,000. The NH Response Fund is providing nonprofit organizations with resources of up to \$100,000 for working capital, equipment purchases and programming expenses.

Supported by donations from businesses in exchange for tax credits and flexible loan funds from the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) and the Business Finance Authority (BFA), the NH Nonprofit Response Fund is providing resources to qualifying community-based organizations on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. Nonprofits supporting the most vulnerable individuals and families directly impacted will also qualify.

The CDFA and the BFA will administer the loans, including deferred loans, to qualified nonprofits. Applications will be accepted beginning April 13. For a copy

of the application, visit <https://resources.nhcdfa.org/programs/nh-nonprofit-response-fund/>. For more information, visit nhcdfa.org.

www.walpolebank.com

Convenient MD is now offering virtual urgent care. Get face-to-face virtual care with a provider from 8 am – 8 pm, 7 days a week. COVID-19 evaluation and testing is also available. Consult with a provider at (833) 263-0131.

www.Convenientmd.com

Oreste “Rusty” Mosca, CPA, Managing Director, Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA, recently spoke on a three- person panel at a webinar hosted by the NH Business Review. The panel discussed the impact of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) on business owners.

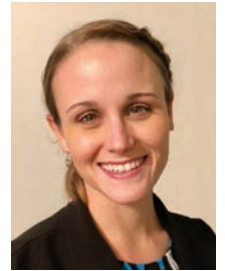
“Business owners right now are facing an unprecedented situation. There is a lot of risk, but also the potential for significant reward,” said Mosca. “As finance and accounting professionals, it is our responsibility to offer strong guidance by gaining a thorough understanding of the CARES Act and helping others to grasp the opportunities and benefits that it offers.”

Mosca was also recently reappointed as treasurer for the New Hampshire and Vermont Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC NH/VT).

“I am thrilled at the opportunity to continue serving on the board of ABC NH/VT,” said Mosca, who has been a board member and treasurer since 2014. “ABC is a fantastic organization. Serving on the board allows me the opportunity to engage more deeply with an industry in which I specialize professionally. I am looking forward to another year of serving ABC.”

Ashley Guion, Senior, Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA was recently named one of the 2020

Trendsetters of the Monadnock Region. Guion joined the Firm in 2017 and performs work on a variety of clients, including accounting, compliance, financial statement preparation, income tax return preparation, and special projects. She is a CPA and Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor.



www.nathanwechsler.com

Caddigan Films has started hosting a live video podcast, “Shift.” In the show, **Anthony Caddigan** speaks with entrepreneurs and small business owners who are experts in their fields. View previously recorded podcasts at www.facebook.com/shiftshowlive/videos/2766405753684757/.

www.caddiganfilms.com

During the first few weeks of March, **Monadnock Food Co-op** shoppers collectively donated \$4,341.19 to Food Connects. The Monadnock Food Co-op collected these donations through their “Round It Up” donation drive in March. Customers rounded up their purchases to donate their change to the local organization.

“We are astounded by the generosity of the co-op community,” said **Laura Carbonneau**, Food Connects Development & Communications Manager. “These funds will have a huge impact on our operations, ensuring that our Food Hub can continue to provide safe, healthy, local food to our community. We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the Monadnock Food Co-op and look forward to growing and strengthening our local food economy together.”

The Co-op's Round It Up program empowers shoppers to make positive change in their community by donating their change. During the Co-op's last fiscal year, the Round It Up program raised \$31,170.96 and supported eight nonprofits.

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The Monadnock Food Co-op announced six grant recipients for the 2020 Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund: Abenaki Springs Farm of Walpole, Green Wagon Farm of Keene, Pete's Stand of Walpole, Picadilly Farm of Winchester, Stonewall Farm of Keene, and Windyhurst Farm of Westmoreland. The Farm Fund proudly distributed \$27,411 among these six farms. Since starting in 2017, the Farm Fund has awarded over \$59,000 in grants to fourteen local farms.

The Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund, created in partnership with the Cheshire County Conservation District, has a mission to support local farmers in increasing sustainable food production and wholesale sales to contribute to a thriving local farm economy. This grant supports several of the co-op's goals, including contributing to a healthy, sustainable food system, supporting local farmers and producers, and building a strong, sustainable, and improving local economy. The Cheshire County Conservation District, fiscal agent for the Farm Fund, supports farm viability in the region and promotes the responsible stewardship of natural and agricultural resources.

Fundraising is already underway for the 2021 Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund grant cycle. During May, July, October, and November 2020, co-op shoppers can round up their change at the registers to donate to the fund. So far this year, shoppers have contributed over \$7,600 to the Farm Fund.

For more information, visit monadnockfood.coop/farmfund. To make a tax-deductible donation to the fund, please contact **Amanda Littleton** at the

Cheshire County Conservation District at (603) 756-2988 ext 4 or donate anytime online at cheshireconservation.org/make-a-donation.

www.monadnockfood.coop

The Monadnock Conservancy

is pleased to welcome **Alex Metzger**, **Richard Pendleton**, and **Nat Stout** to its team. Alex Metzger joins as the new stewardship director. Richard Pendleton is stewardship coordinator. Nat Stout fills the role of office manager.

Metzger joined the Conservancy in late February. He comes to the Conservancy from a long background working in environmental science, previously serving as an environmental scientist with Eastern Research Group Inc., as a summer forestry technician with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and as a stewardship specialist with Piscataquog Land Conservancy. Metzger holds a bachelor's degree in conservation biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a dual master's degree in natural resources and forestry from North Carolina State University and the University of Helsinki, as well as a doctorate in environmental science from the University of Massachusetts Boston. In his time away from the office, Metzger can be found hiking and backpacking, mushrooming, fiddling, and practicing Aikido. He currently lives with his wife, daughter, and son in Manchester.



Alex Metzger



Richard Pendleton



Nat Stout

Pendleton recently wrapped up a 30-year environmental consulting career, including operating his own firm (Eastview Environmental), to pursue a new path in land conservation. He began working at the Conservancy in July 2019. Pendleton has been involved with the Conservancy in the past as a member of the board for two terms and member of the stewardship and lands committees. He has also served on the Peterborough Conservation Commission and Water Resources Committee and is the current chair of the Harris Center for Conservation Education board. Pendleton is a graduate of Hobart College and the University of New Hampshire. If he's not at his desk, he is probably cycling, cross-country skiing or busy exploring the remoter parts of the Monadnock region. He lives in Peterborough with his wife, and they have two young adult daughters.

Stout's career in communications makes him perfectly suited to keep things running smoothly in the Conservancy's office. He joined the Conservancy in November 2019, previously having worked in nonprofit communications, as well as in newspaper, book and magazine publishing. Stout has served the community in many ways, including the Keene city council, three land use boards and the library board of trustees. He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a former U.S. Marine Corps sergeant. Stout lives with his wife in Keene, fittingly, on a property surrounded by Conservancy protected land.

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Decades ago, when **John "Jack" Pratt** arrived from California with his three dogs in the back seat of the car, he decided he'd found the perfect place to retire.

Sargent Hill Farm, located on a dead-end dirt road, is a quiet spot with scenic views of Vermont. By going through the

Member News

process of land conservation with the Monadnock Conservancy last year, Pratt has permanently protected 42 acres of this property. It includes open fields, stone walls, maple trees, forested slopes, a stream and two ponds. It's a place with a lot of country character and charm, and now Pratt can relax knowing that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and solitude.



"[The land's] isolation makes it a dream property," Pratt said. "I had no intention of seeing this land developed. I'm glad to conserve it."

The now-conserved property, located on the west side of Reservoir Road, is mostly wooded, but recently about three acres were cleared to expand the views.

The property abuts Hooper Forest, a 200-acre town property. It is also in proximity to the conserved Watershed Town Forest, the Hubbard conservation easement, the conserved Reservoir Town Forest and the Conservancy's Skofield property.

By linking together conservation lands into blocks of hundreds of acres, or conservation corridors, wildlife benefit from being able to freely roam about with less interference from humans.

www.MonadnockConservancy.org

Food Connects is now over 80% of the way to its crowdfunding goal of \$10,000 in the **Local Crowd Monadnock's** "Growing Local Food Markets in the Monadnock Region" campaign. The campaign aims to increase market access for local farmers and food producers.

Thanks to the generosity of over 50 donors, Food Connects raised \$7,741 as of March 31, 2020. These funds will go towards implementing the first steps in Food Connects newly optimized food safety plan-covering the cost of the food safety certification and audit, the monthly fees for the Integrated Pest Management Program, staff training, and necessary cleaning and transportation supplies.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has heightened the need for and awareness of supporting the local food economy. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, Food Connects is continuing on with its local food delivery. "The last three weeks we've seen a 50-80% increase in our local food sales," says **Alex McCullough**, Food Hub Manager. "We are delivering food to local co-ops and markets, hospitals, school meal programs, and buying clubs in record numbers. This diverse group of customers is allowing us to continue supporting farmers and finding outlets for their food."

www.thelocalcrowd.com

The spread of COVID-19 is creating additional burden on some of the most vulnerable members of society. Through the TD Ready Commitment, **TD Bank Group (TD)** will support community health centers who are working closely with society's most vulnerable individuals affected by the outbreak.

In collaboration with the Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (Canada) and the National Association of Community Health Centers (U.S.), the TD Ready Commitment funding (\$1MM CDN) will help front-line community health centers meet local needs. Integrated within the community, the centres are highly trusted and often the first point of contact for people seeking support.

"COVID-19 is a stark reminder that the most vulnerable people in our communities are at risk and require immediate support to help provide equitable access to care," says **Andrea**

Barrack, Global Head, Sustainability and Corporate Citizenship, TD Bank Group. "We recognize it is early days, however as this outbreak continues to evolve, funding needs are likely to increase and we're proud to offer some immediate support for critical services our communities need right now."

www.td.com

Monadnock Humane Society (MHS) recently announced a significant new addition to its staff. **Kelly Brigham-Steiner** has joined MHS as the organization's new director of development. She brings 30 years of extensive development and nonprofit experience, which includes collaborating with individuals, businesses, foundations, government agencies, and nonprofit partners.



Brigham-Steiner came to MHS from her position at the United Way of Franklin County, Greenfield, MA, where she served as Executive Director, overseeing the operations as well as fundraising for the organization. Prior to that she was the Senior Director for Impact & Investment for the Monadnock United Way in Keene, NH where she provided leadership in the design, implementation and evaluation of strategic initiatives for donor/partner/corporate relationship management, grant research, proposal writing, and community relations. She was responsible for the complete oversight of and staff management for Monadnock Voices for Prevention prior to joining the United Way.

Before working in the Monadnock Region, Brigham-Steiner was one of five people who founded High 5 Adventure Learning Center in Brattleboro, VT.

She held several positions at Project Adventure, Inc. including the nationwide Community Prevention/Development Director role.

"We are indeed most fortunate to have someone with Kelly's experience and skill set," said MHS Executive Director **Kathy Collinsworth**. "Her many talents will help MHS rise to a new level of serving our community and organizational excellence."

"In her new role as MHS's director of development, Kelly will be responsible for leading and expanding MHS's development efforts. Kelly has a passion for helping animals and people, and is thrilled to be able to combine both of these passions with her experience and education in a role that will make a difference for the community and beyond."

Brigham-Steiner graduated from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY and has studied at the University of Lowell, Salem State, the Grant Institute, and has attended multiple fundraising/community organizing training sessions at the United Way. Kelly resides in Northfield, MA with her husband, daughter, and dog, Myah (an MHS alum). www.monadnockhumanesociety.org

Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center has been awarded an \$86,913 grant to support volunteer activities from the Corporation of National and Community Service (CNCS). These funds were awarded as part of a competitive grant process for RSVP, one of three Senior Corps programs administered by CNCS.

Monadnock RSVP mobilizes more than 180 older adults in meaningful service opportunities at 40 non-profit and public organizations and in RSVP signature programs which include: America Reads, a national literacy program that pairs RSVP volunteers with students in grades

K-3 to help them become proficient readers by the end of third grade; and Neighbors-In-Deed, their independent living program that helps seniors, adults with disabilities and veterans and military families remain in their homes as long as possible. Through community partnerships and RSVP programs, RSVP works to improve social living conditions and create long-term change that produces healthy, well-educated and financially stable individuals and families in our community. Monadnock RSVP is sponsored by Monadnock Family Services.

This grant is one of 176 RSVP awards provided to volunteer organizations across the country to support volunteer activities in areas including Education, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, Veterans and Military Families, Disaster Services, and Environmental Stewardship.

www.monadnockvolunteercenter.org

Cheshire Medical Center recently welcomed **Krista Davison, AuD, F-AAA**, to the Audiology Department. She earned a doctorate in clinical audiology from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor of science in communication sciences and disorders from the University of New Hampshire. Davison has been practicing audiology for over 5 years and is certified by the American Academy of Audiology.



"I am very excited to join a team that is dedicated to the community and helping people," said Davison. "My favorite part of being an audiologist is helping people improve their quality of life by enhancing their ability to communicate with loved ones and interact with their community."

www.cheshire-med.com

Antioch University has a plan to fully divest from fossil fuels within three years. The university has committed to an immediate freeze on all new investments in fossil fuel companies and will fully divest its endowment fund from fossil fuels by 2023.

Antioch University Chancellor **William R. Groves** made the commitment after overseeing analysis into the University's financial investments that showed that the university holds only about a 1.4% position in Carbon Underground 200 fossil fuel companies, which is significantly lower than most college and university endowments.

Antioch will join the global divestment movement that has to date committed to keeping an estimated \$14.09 trillion in assets fossil fuel free.

"I am pleased to announce that Antioch University's investments will now be more aligned with our core mission to advance social, economic, and environmental justice," said Antioch University Chancellor William R. Groves, JD. "Fossil fuel divestment is consistent with achieving our vision to be a leading university offering learners and communities transformative education in a global context that fosters innovation and inspires social action. This is simply another step in Antioch's long and rich history of standing up for social justice that has included, in 1978, being one of the first higher education institutions in the U.S. to divest from corporations profiting from Apartheid in South Africa."

"It is the academy's role to exercise thought leadership and to educate our students and society at large on issues of great moral and practical consequence," added Antioch Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs **Chet Haskell**. "This commitment exemplifies the best of the academy's leadership."

www.antiochne.edu

Member News

The **Town of Swanzey** Board of Selectmen entered into a contract with Cheshire Builders to serve as the construction management firm for the rehabilitation of the second floor of Whitcomb Hall. Initial work began the first week of March and will last for about three months.

The project includes adding a fire suppression system to the entire building and adding accessibility from the first to the second floor. Otherwise the work focuses on the second floor of the hall, including rehabilitation of original tin ceiling and walls, stage and balcony areas, refinishing floors, as well as compliance with safety, code, and other requirements.

Town Administrator **Michael Branley** stated, "The Selectmen, Whitcomb Hall Committee, and I are very excited to get this project started and to bring Whitcomb Hall back to its former glory. I can't say enough about the great work of the Whitcomb Hall Committee, our funding partners such as NH LCHIP, and the community support for this project that made it possible with a relatively small cost to taxpayers."

Whitcomb Hall is a Town-owned building that is used for public meetings and

available to be rented for private events. During construction Whitcomb Hall will not be available for rentals, however once the rehabilitation is complete the full building will be available for public meetings and private event rentals. Whitcomb Hall is the crown jewel of Main Street in Swanzey located at 17 Main Street. **George E. Whitcomb** built Whitcomb Hall as a "public hall" in 1916 and gifted it to the Town.

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Mr. William F. Gould has been hired to serve as the Town of Swanzey's new Fire Chief. Gould will replace Interim Chief **Eric Mattson**, who has been serving in that position since December 1st, when Chief Norman Skantze resigned.

Mr. Gould is from Hamden, CT and had a distinguished 30 plus year career with the New Haven, CT Fire Department. He held numerous positions with the New Haven Fire Department, rising to the position of Deputy Chief when he retired in 2018. Mr. Gould is a licensed EMT and holds a number of firefighting certifications including firefighter II, fire officer, and hazardous materials technician.

Town Administrator **Michael Branley** stated, "The Board and I appreciate Eric Mattson serving as interim chief and the

hard work by him and the rest of the department during this transition. We look forward to bringing Bill in to serve as Swanzey's new fire chief to continue to build on the strong foundation of the department."

Mr. Gould stated, "I am extremely excited for this opportunity and look forward to working with the dedicated men and women of the Swanzey Fire Department. By recognizing the hard work, pride, traditions and the great strides made in the past, it will be an honor for me to serve in this Department going forward, as I know we will be accomplishing great things in the future."

www.town.swanzey.nh.us

The **Harris Center for Conservation Education** offers hiking trails that remain open and the public is encouraged to explore, with the caveat that social distancing must be maintained. The Harris Center also provides numerous resources for all ages to connect with nature including videos, Kids Art Contest, and 50th anniversary activities. For information on their trails and facilities, upcoming virtual events and other resources, visit www.harriscenter.org.

Thank You Renewing Members!

The following members renewed their memberships in March 2020:

Alzheimer's Association NH
American House Keene
Connection, PC Connection Business Solutions
The Mountain Corporation
The New Hampshire Trust Company
Shir-Roy Camping Area
Tom Call Excavation
Walmart

Welcome New Members!

Avanru Development Group

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(603) 757-2808

www.truhopeth.org

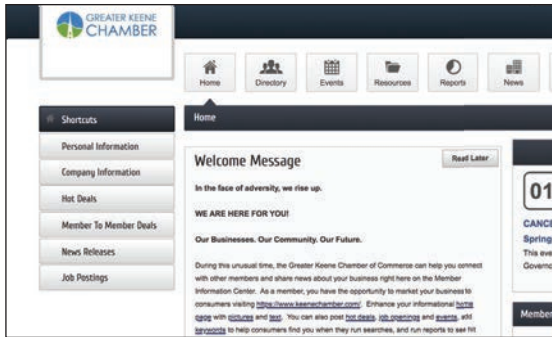
Daniels Moving & Storage LLC

(603) 448-1631

www.movedaniels.com

Maximize the Benefits of Membership!

Are you utilizing the **Member Information Center (MIC)**? Accessed through the member login at www.keenechamber.com, the MIC has always been a valuable tool for Chamber members, but during this unusual time it is a great way to connect with other members, share news, updates and more:



1. To connect with other members, login to the MIC and **share advice** or **ask a question to get a conversation going** on the welcome page. Important note: the user name is your email address, not company name.
2. Go to Company Information/Website Information and

scroll down to website description to **update your company information page** on the Chamber website to reflect changes in hours, and any new services you are offering (delivery, curbside pick-up, virtual shopping, etc.).

3. Spread the word about a product, service, or community initiative by submitting a **News Release**
4. Are you hiring? Add a **Job posting**.
5. Hosting a virtual event? **Add an event**.

News releases and job postings will be visible on the MIC and Chamber website. They will also be pushed out to the Chamber's Twitter feed. Events will show up on the Chamber's event calendar on the website.

Two helpful videos to get you started:

- Update your company profile: <https://www.screencast.com/t/8HHFR9un8>
- Add a news release: <https://www.screencast.com/t/J3ZPEuQfyf>

If you don't have a login to access the MIC, contact Christine Hadlow at chadlow@keenechamber.com.



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Chamber Members Helping the Community

#stronger together

The GKCC would like to recognize Chamber members who have found creative ways to pay it forward or commit resources to help small businesses in our community during this difficult time.



Hannah Grimes Marketplace

Hannah Grimes Marketplace has created “Shop for a Cause” and is donating 20% of sales each week to a local organization. Recent recipients included the Community Kitchen and the Historical Society. Call them at (603) 352-6862 or visit hannahgrimesmarketplace.com for a virtual shopping experience with curbside pickup or free delivery in Keene.



Bulldog Design

Bulldog Design’s Great Grey Tee Project is on round 3 of taking orders and has now sold over 8,000 t-shirts, raising over \$80,000 for area businesses. This amazing project is supporting so many small, local businesses while keeping Bulldog’s employees busy working.

For every shirt sold at \$19, \$10 goes to the business or non-profit, and \$9 covers materials, labor and processing fees from the store. Over local 300 businesses are participating. The Project is still going strong, adding businesses and taking orders. Businesses who would like to be included in the promotion with a branded logo shirt can contact Joe Tolman at joe@getbulldog.com.

There is still time to purchase a shirt and support local businesses during these trying times. Visit <https://greyteeproject.itemorder.com> or <http://getbulldog.com>.



Beeze Tees Screen Printing

Beeze Tees owner Tim Pipp and his staff came up with a strategy to keep its production facility running and a number of employees working by making face masks.

“We have all of this equipment and I knew face masks were hard to come by; people were sewing them on sewing machines at home. Embroidery is basically like a big industrial sewing machine and after doing a lot of research, t-shirts are a good material to make face masks with and we have plenty of those,” Pipp said.

They came up with a design, made some prototypes and then launched a website. Over 1000 masks were sold within the first few days, charging only the cost to make the mask. To date, they have made around 1600 masks and plan to donate over 500 to front-line workers.

To order masks or donate to help get masks to people who need them, visit www.thetshirtmask.deco-apparel.com.



Great Eastern Radio

Great Eastern Radio (GER) is offering a “Stimulus Package” of 20 FREE commercials to all GKCC members when they reopen for business (commercials must be booked and used within 60 days of the Governor’s Executive Order to reopen). Both current and new GER advertisers can take advantage of this offer. GER will help the advertiser write and produce the commercial. Contact Peter “Fish” Case at pcase@greateasternradio.com.

Chamber Members Helping the Community



Ted's Shoe and Sport

Ted's Shoe and Sport hosted a Virtual 5K where over 400 participants purchased a gift card valued from \$20 to \$100 for a local business in lieu of an entrance fee. Participants were invited to run (or walk) the race Saturday or Sunday, (April 11th or 12th) at a time and location of their choice. They could then send in their times electronically and encouraged to post selfies and other race photographs to social media for the opportunity to win a free pair of Feetures socks. Local runners and walkers, as well as from New England and beyond participated, raising about \$20,000 in gift cards to local businesses. www.tedsports.com.



Monadnock Broadcasting Group

The Monadnock Broadcasting Group has created www.keenestrong.com/, a movement to support local businesses today so they can keep their doors open tomorrow. This website has links to purchase gift cards at local businesses, a restaurant guide and resources to help the community. MBG is also offering local business owners a chance to win up to \$15,000 in advertising on all of the stations of the Monadnock Broadcasting Group! Enter once daily through Sunday, May 17th. Three local businesses will be drawn at random on Monday, May 18th. See details at <https://mbgradio.com/>.



Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

The Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation will give more than \$3 million for COVID-19 relief efforts by supporting community and nonprofit organizations in NH, MA, ME, and CT.

As part of its initial distribution of funds, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation has committed resources to community-focused initiatives including the engagement of select restaurants throughout the region to provide and deliver take-out meals to families in need and helping to put people back to work. These resources will also assist communities in facilitating access to COVID-19 testing.

Harvard Pilgrim Foundation's support includes:

- COVID-19 Assistance Fund
- Local Relief Grants
- Community Spirit Mini Grants

For more information, please visit www.harvardpilgrim.org/public/our-foundation.

If your business is doing something to help the community and you would like to share your story, please contact Christine Hadlow at chadlow@keenechamber.com.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”

— Coretta Scott King

Member **Events**

Hannah Grimes

Radically Rural Remote

Thursday, September 24, 2020



The Team at Radically Rural has decided it is time to put some certainty into these uncertain times. Rather than trying to anticipate the course of this virus, the actions of the government, and the ability to travel and gather safely in large numbers, they have instead decided to lean into a single-day, entirely virtual summit for rural leaders and community members around the world.

The Radically Rural team will work hard to ensure a high level of connection, creativity, energy and participation. The Red Radically Rural cinch sacks and the Radically Rural edition of the Business Journal will go out prior to the event along with other event materials.

Radically Rural Remote will be held using webinar software with the opportunities for attendees from across the country to watch and join in through the chat features. Each session will have tech support staff assisting speakers and serving attendees with the goal of creating lively, interactive, and expertly produced programming.

Radically Rural is built around six engaging program tracks that are highly relevant for rural communities and small towns: Arts & Culture, Clean Energy, Community Journalism, Entrepreneurship, Land & Community, Main Street.

Schedule:

8:00 am - Opening Keynote
9:00 am - Session One
11:00 am - Session Two
1:00 pm - Lunch/Break
2:00 pm - Session Three
4:00 pm - Closing Keynote
5:00 pm - Party with Your Community!

For more information, visit www.hannahgrimes.com







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COMMUNITY

/kə'myoʊnədə/, *noun*

1. A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.



This community is strong. Our local businesses and organizations enrich our lives in so many ways. They've always been there for us. And right now, they need us ALL to be there for them.

We ask you to join us in doing all you can to support our amazing community any way you can. And be sure to thank all the people who are working tirelessly to keep our community strong and healthy.

We're all in this together.



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