

# PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE NEWSLETTER BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." - Lucy Maud Montgomery

October 9, 2024



## Public School Open Enrollment - Potential Impact to Pittsfield Taxpayers

Prospect Mountain High School in Alton, NH is a public open enrollment school, and they invite NH students to apply for admittance. Accepted students and their families do not pay tuition to attend Prospect Mountain. After students have enrolled, Prospect Mountain sends a tuition invoice to the school district for the town where the students live. In the fall of 2023 four students who lived in Pittsfield began attending Prospect Mountain. The Pittsfield School District then received an invoice from Prospect Mountain requesting payment of the students' tuition. After reviewing NH RSA 194-D *Open Enrollment Schools*, the Pittsfield School Board refused to pay

the invoice because the district had not given permission for the students to attend Prospect Mountain, Pittsfield voters had not voted to become an open enrollment district, and voters had not approved open enrollment tuition payments.

In November, 2023 the parents of one student appealed the Pittsfield School Board's decision to the NH State Board of Education. Upon receiving the appeal request the State Board chose to assign the request to a hearing officer. Following review, the officer recommended that the Pittsfield School District not be held responsible for paying the tuition. In May, 2024 the NH State Board of Education unanimously decided that the Pittsfield School District does need to pay the Prospect Mountain tuition, consequently overturning the recommendation of the hearing officer.

In August, 2024 the Pittsfield School District applied for a hearing with the NH Supreme Court to overturn the decision of the NH State Board of Education. At this time the district's request has a docket number, but the NH Supreme Court has not decided whether they will accept the case. During the 2023-2024 school year two of the Pittsfield students completed the school year at Prospect. In September, 2024 four Pittsfield students are attending Prospect Mountain through the open enrollment option. Due to the ongoing legal process Pittsfield has not paid any open enrollment tuition to Prospect Mountain. The annual tuition that Prospect Mountain requested in the fall of 2023 was approximately \$23,000.00 per student. If all four Pittsfield students complete the year at Prospect, and the NH State Board of Education's decision remains in place, then Pittsfield will pay approximately \$92,000.00. In addition, Prospect Mountain has been receiving the State of NH adequacy aid of \$4,404.00 per student; this school year the lost adequacy aid is \$17,616.00.

The next two issues of the *Pittsfield Post* will include position statements from candidates for NH Senate District 17 and NH House of Representatives Merrimack County District 13. We have requested that the candidates provide a statement concerning the NH State Board of Education's requirement that Pittsfield pay tuition to Prospect Mountain. Due to the series of events created by Prospect Mountain's request for tuition payment, many of the *Post* volunteers believe it is likely that NH RSA 194-D will be considered for amendment. The NH legislature is currently not in session; any possible amendment to the open enrollment law will likely wait until after the NH Supreme Court makes a decision.

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## Taxpayer Plaintiffs Open Case Showing State Education Funding is Inadequate

On September 30, the trial in *Rand v. State of New Hampshire* got underway, with the taxpayer plaintiffs starting to present their arguments as to why the State's education funding is unconstitutionally low. "I'm excited to see how this trial plays out over the next two weeks as the plaintiffs lay out their case showing the State isn't providing enough funding to public schools and harming taxpayers by downshifting those costs," said Zack Sheehan, NH School Funding Fairness Project Executive Director. "The State can't defend how little funding it provides, and the *Rand* trial will put that on display and show legislators that a fix is desperately needed."

The two-week trial will deal with the plaintiffs' claim that the State is failing to adequately fund education. Like in the *ConVal* case, they argue that base adequacy is insufficient, but they also argue that the differentiated aid the State pays to support students receiving special education services, English Language Learners, and students living in poverty is not enough for districts to provide those students with the services they need.

Their argument continues that because it provides so little funding, the State is downshifting its constitutional responsibility to fund education onto local property tax payers, who pay wildly differing rates around the state in violation of the *Claremont* decisions holding that the taxes used to fund the State's education responsibility must be uniform in rate.

The witness who took the stand for the majority of the first day was former Pittsfield Superintendent John Freeman, who testified at length about the services school districts are required to provide and the inability of districts to operate solely on adequacy aid from the State. "The State has consistently defended its low education funding by arguing for the narrowest possible definition of an adequate education, excluding necessary services like student transportation and school nurses," Sheehan said. "It is clear that what the State pays in adequacy aid is insufficient to actually operate a school district in compliance with State and Federal law."

While this trial covers the plaintiffs' funding claims, last year's ruling that the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) is unconstitutional is being appealed to the NH Supreme Court by the State and the Coalition Communities 2.0, a group of 26 property-wealthy municipalities that intervened in the case specifically regarding the SWEPT issue. The plaintiffs filed their brief in that appeal today, rebutting the State and Coalition's arguments that SWEPT should be allowed to continue in a manner which violates the NH Constitution. The plaintiffs argue that SWEPT must be applied to all property owners, and that excess SWEPT retention and the use of negative local education property tax rates to offset SWEPT must end.

"The *Rand* trial is seeking to have the State finally fulfill its constitutional responsibility to fund education, and have Granite Staters taxed fairly in doing so," Sheehan said. "Until the State increases its share of school funding, and ends the special treatment of property owners in a handful of communities, students and taxpayers around New Hampshire will continue to be harmed by our upside-down school funding system."

Noah Telerski, NH School Funding Fairness Project

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To provide coverage of the **November 5 Election**, including candidate profiles for the NH Senate and House of Representatives, the *Pittsfield Post* will be published on October 23 and October 30.

The deadline for publication on October 23 is 9am, October 18. Deadline for publication on October 30 is 9am, October 25.

## **Pittsfield Town Crier**

Would you like an event listed? Contact Andi Riel at [pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com) or 603-435-6346

**Wed, Oct 9, 6:30pm** - It's time for another play reading at The Scenic Theater! Join us on for a captivating reading of "Deadline" by Don Zolidis. Don't miss out on the excitement—mark your calendars! This play will keep you on the edge of your seat... Trust us, you won't want to miss this one!

**Thur, Oct 10, 5:30pm** - The **PES PTO** will meet at the PES Library.

**Sat, Oct 12, 8:30-9:30am** - FREE Community Breakfast at **Joy Church**, 55 Barnstead Rd. All are welcome!

**Sun, Oct 13, 1-4pm** - The **Pittsfield Historical Society Museum** will be open. Stop in and check out all the wonderful artifacts from Pittsfield.

**Mon, Oct 14, 6:30pm** - Josiah Carpenter Library **Mead & Read Book Club** will meet at Over the Moon Farmstead.

**Wed, Oct 16, 6:30pm** - The **Suncook Valley Rotary Club** will hold their monthly meeting at the Pittsfield Historical Society, 4 Oak St.

**Sat, Oct 19, 10am-3pm** - **Victory Workers 4-H Club and Dowboro Farm** will host Fall Festival at 615 Dowboro Rd. There will be games, animals, luncheon, demonstrations, Make-It Take-It crafts, fashion show, public speakers, pony rides, and the Farm Stand will be open. FREE to the public. Please bring a canned good for our Fall Food Drive to support the Pittsfield Food Pantry.

**Sat, Oct 19, 5-6:30pm** - The **South Pittsfield Community Club** will sponsor a Turkey Supper held at the Club House, 444 Dowboro Rd. All you can eat - Eat in or Take Out - turkey, stuffing, butternut squash, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, drink and homemade pies. Prices are: Adults -\$12, Children Ages 6-12- \$8, and under age 6 are FREE.

**Sun, Oct 20, 2pm** and **Mon, Oct. 21, 7pm** - The **Pittsfield Players** are holding auditions for their Holiday Show, "It's A Wonderful Life" at The Scenic Theater! Directed by Meggin Dail and assisted by John Chinn, this is your chance to shine in a show that truly captures the magic of the holidays!

**Thur, Oct 24, 6:30pm** - a "Meet Your NH House Candidates" forum will be held in Chichester at the Grange/Town Hall on Main Street. This is the ONLY opportunity to meet the candidates before the election on November 5th. All five House candidates for District 13 (Chichester and Pittsfield) have been invited: Allard, Aures, Kelly, Schroth and Wood. Only two will be elected in November to serve in Concord. Bring your questions and hear in "real time" from all the candidates on the ballot.

**Sat, Oct 26, 12-4pm** - **Harvest Fest Chili Cookoff and Pie Baking Contest**....F.B. Argue Rec. Area, 35 Clark St. Do you love and enjoy making chili and/or pie? Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share, and would you like to taste others' recipes? Harvest Fest is looking for people to register to make chili and/or bake a pie. Register by sending your name to [minnibump@gmail.com](mailto:minnibump@gmail.com) You will get a registration form to bring with you and your chili and/or pie at Harvest Fest. As part of the registration you will be asked to list all the chili and pie ingredients, including known allergens. The chili and pie with the most votes win! Prizes will be awarded for the favorites. Again, to get a registration form, email Minni at [minnibump@gmail.com](mailto:minnibump@gmail.com)

**Sat, Oct 26, 6:30-8pm** - The **PES PTO** is sponsoring the Trunk or Treat event at the Globe/MSA parking lot.

**The Gabriel Douglas Anthony 21 Foundation** was established by Gabe's family after his death to provide roadside safety equipment to all high school-aged drivers. Please visit the website <https://gda21foundation.org> to learn more or, more importantly, to donate. You may also contact the Foundation at GDA21 Foundation, 98 Main St., Pittsfield, NH 03263; 603-470-6927 or email [gda21foundation@gmail.com](mailto:gda21foundation@gmail.com)

**Mon, Oct 28, 5pm** - The **PHS Alumni Association** is meeting to work on the annual fundraising project. If you are free and would like to help fold newsletters and adhere labels, we could use some extra hands!! See you then!

**The Pittsfield Youth Workshop (PYW)**, 5 Park Street, has After School Drop-In Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri - 3pm-6pm, and Wed - 1pm-6pm, Stop in and check out the schedule! The food pantry at PYW

continues to be stocked with snacks, beverages, mealtime essentials, and basic toiletries/self-care products for PYW youth - open during Drop-In hours. For more information, contact Zach Powers or Ashley Perron at (603) 435-8272 or text at 603-234-9788.

**Pittsfield Hoops 603**, in partnership with **Pittsfield Youth Athletics**, is committed to fostering the growth and development of our local youth through basketball. We're reaching out to our wonderful community for support. We are in need of basketball shoes to donate to players who might not have access to the proper footwear. Your generous donation will ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate fully and safely in our program. If you have new or gently used basketball shoes in any size, please consider donating them to our cause. Every pair makes a difference! Drop-off location is at Bell Brothers Store. If you can't make it to the store, please email us at [pittsfieldhoops603@gmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldhoops603@gmail.com) or text to 603-341-2691, and we will gladly arrange a pickup.

**Dowboro Farm**, 615 Dowboro Rd is open for the season: Thurs -Sat, 9:30am - 6pm; and Sun, 10:30-4pm. **The 4-H Young Entrepreneurs** have stocked up the store. Please come and check it out!

**Senior Center Schedule** - Mon & Thur, 8-2pm, and Wed, 8am-1pm. Activities include: Senior Community Lunch – Mon & Thur at 12pm; Bingo – Mon & Thur, 10-11:45am; Cribbage & Games – Wed, 10-12pm; Walking at the Center – Mon, Wed, Thur, 8am-1pm; Sweatin to the Oldies – Mon, 9am; and Chair Yoga – Thur, 9am. For more information or if you have questions, call Anne at 603-435-8482.

**Fri, Oct 18, 6-8pm:** Paint Night - Join us for Paint Night with **Joy Church**. It is \$20 per person for a 11x14 painting. Please pay Darlene or Anne.

**Every Sat, BINGO** at Circle 9 Ranch in Epsom, hosted by **Pittsfield Youth Baseball/Softball Association** **Bingo**. They have a great menu of food items along with their games, and it all benefits the children of Pittsfield for their baseball/softball program. Doors open at 3:30pm and Bingo starts at 6pm.

**Pittsfield Youth Athletics Association Basketball** Registration is now open. Ages 4-12, \$50/player. Deadline to register is Nov. 8. Coaches and Sponsors are needed. For information, please visit the website

at [www.pittsfieldyouthathletics.com](http://www.pittsfieldyouthathletics.com) or email [pittsfieldyouthathletics@gmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldyouthathletics@gmail.com)

**The Pittsfield Historical Society** continues to raise funds for the commemorative garden on the museum grounds. The "BUY-A-BRICK" project affords an opportunity for people to buy a brick to honor loved ones past or present, or anyone you wish to remember - even you!. The bricks cost \$100 each and may be engraved with 3 lines of 18 characters each for a 4"x 8" brick. Stop by the museum at 4 Oak St. to see the current garden and the surrounding grounds. Please visit [www.pittsfieldhistory.com](http://www.pittsfieldhistory.com) for a donation form and instructions. For more information, please call 603-435-8004.

**PES and End 68 Hours of Hunger** are joining forces to create positive change! Are you eager to help our community bag and deliver groceries for families in need? This impactful program ensures groceries are available over the weekend. To sign up your family, go to <https://registration.end68hoursofhunger.org>. We're seeking community heroes to assist with weekly bagging and delivery every Thursday morning. To learn more, contact Mike Curtin or Kate Price at [mcurtin@sau51.org](mailto:mcurtin@sau51.org) or [kprice@sau51.org](mailto:kprice@sau51.org)

Come down to **LEAVITT'S CIDER MILL** and get some delicious fresh cider! This year marks 94 years of business! The mill will be open Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4pm, until Thanksgiving. Address: 49 S Main Street, Pittsfield. Phone number (603)435-8750.

**Happy Anniversary** wishes to Cathie & Dana Tuttle on Sun, Oct. 6.

**Happy Birthday** wishes to Alice Young on Sun, Oct. 6, and to Norm Tuttle on Sun, Oct. 13. I hope you both enjoy your special days!

**A VERY Special Happy 98th Birthday wish to Pearl Cheney on Tues, Oct. 8!**

**Want to see the pictures in color?**

Subscribe to receive the *Post* by Email by scanning the QR code. Or go to:



[www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org](http://www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org)


**THE PITTSFIELD YOUTH WORKSHOP**

Join the Youth **HAUNTED HOUSE** Comittee!

Thursday, 10/17 @ 4pm **Planning Meeting #1**      Thursday, 10/24 @ 4pm **Planning Meeting #2**

**Set Up:**      Tuesday, 10/29 3pm-6pm  
 Earn Service Learning Hours!      Wednesday, 10/30 1pm-6pm  
    Thursday, 10/31 3pm-4:30pm

Participate in the Haunted House for additional Service Learning Hours!




**THE PITTSFIELD YOUTH WORKSHOP**

JOIN US FOR **PUMPKIN CARVING** @ PYW!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD  
 START TIME - 2:30PM

PRIOR SIGN UP REQUIRED.  
 COME BY PYW AND PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST!



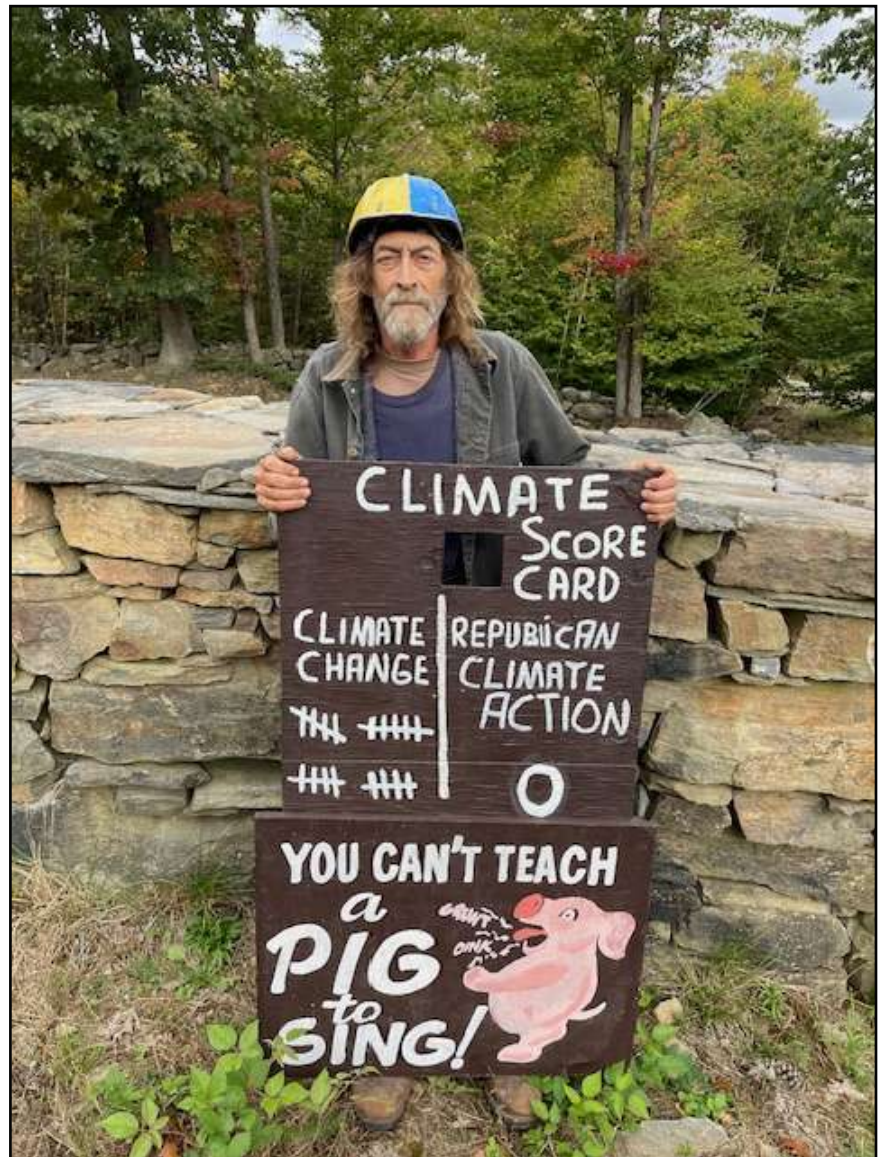


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# Finding Common Ground Jim Allard & Sally Kelly for State Reps



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## Valley Artisans Open House

Valley Artisans of Epsom invites you to attend our 43rd Open House and the following demonstrations:  
Saturday, October 12 from 11-1, Artisan Judy Leshinski, jewelry designer, will be demonstrating the technique of hand-knotting necklaces using natural gemstones and freshwater pearls.

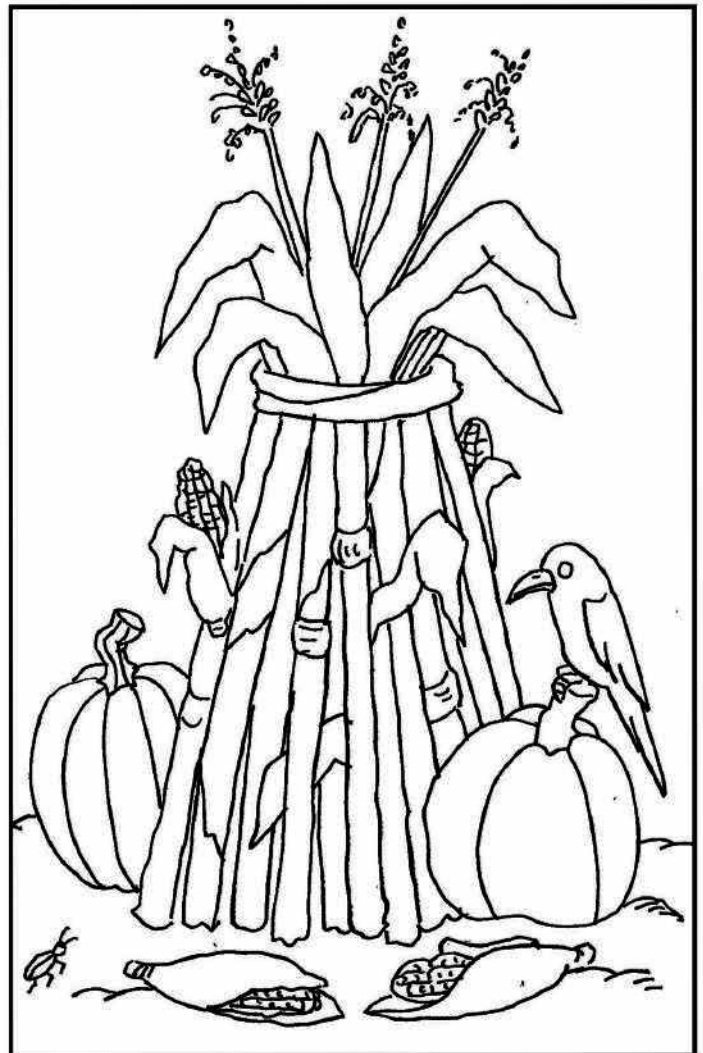
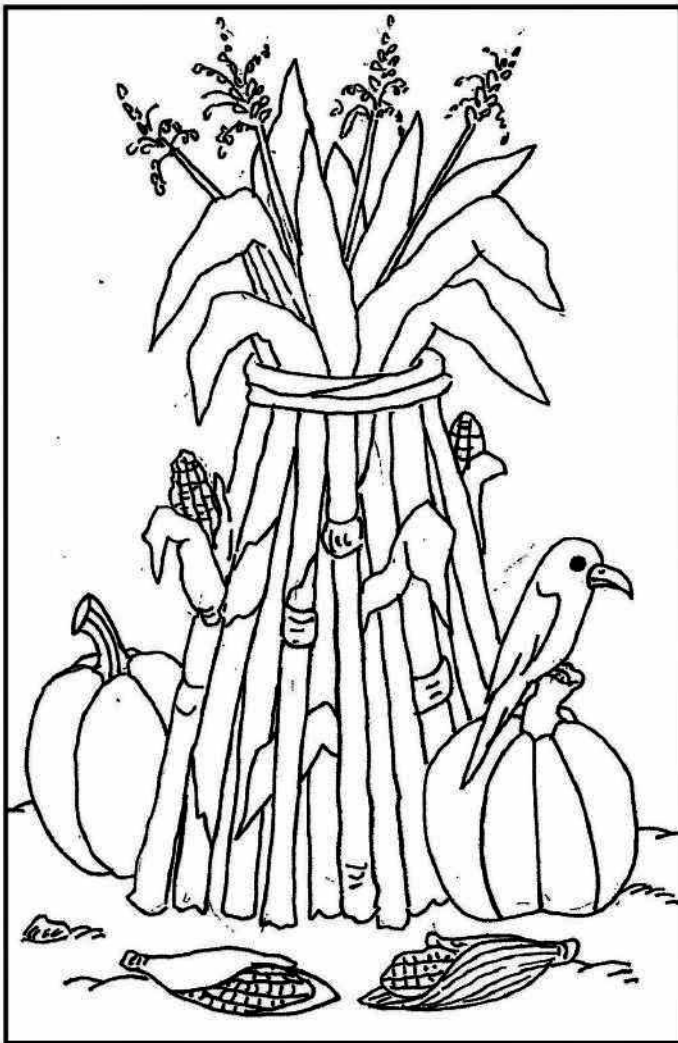
Sunday, October 13 from 1-3, Artisan Jackie Nyberg, a ceramic artist, will create functional pottery described as narrative, colorful and joyful with a bit of whimsy. Come & watch her create sculptural pumpkins that can be displayed alone, stacked or even used as candle holders!

Monday, October 14 From 11-1, Artisan Jean Martin, felter and floral designer, will demonstrate making fairy houses from native NH materials.

Monday, October 14 from 2-4, basket maker Kelly Coffin will demonstrate pine needle basket making.

Light refreshments will be served in celebration of our 43rd year. 10 Goboro Road Epsom; shop hours are 10am-5pm. For more information call 603-736-8200, email [nh.valley.artisans@gmail.com](mailto:nh.valley.artisans@gmail.com) or go to [FB.com/valleyartisansnh](https://www.facebook.com/valleyartisansnh)

### FALL CORN SCENE - FIND THE DIFFERENCES



How many differences can you find?



**Cook's Corner**  
**Sweet & Sour Pork**

Fall tends to be a busy time of year: kids' homework, school activities, sporting events, volunteer group meetings....Here's a healthy and delicious dinner option that's quick and fast to the table. To keep this meal low-carb, I typically serve this over cauliflower rice, but regular rice is just fine. You might pick up a box of frozen spring rolls and pop those in the oven for a fun side to this meal. Bon appetit! *MP Christakos*

- 1 lb pork tenderloin, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 TBSP Chinese 5-Spice powder
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ½ red bell pepper, cut into bite-sized pieces
- ½ yellow bell pepper, cut into bite-sized pieces
- ½ orange bell pepper, cut into bite-sized pieces
- ½ red onion, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- Any one of the following: 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper, 1/8 tsp crushed red pepper or 1 tsp fish sauce
- 1 cup chopped broccoli
- 1 cup fresh (or canned in juice) pineapple, cut into bite-sized pieces
- ¼ cup jarred sweet & sour sauce

Place pork in a bowl, season with the 5-spice powder and mix well.

Heat 2 TBSP oil in a large skillet over high heat. Stir fry the pork until slightly pink inside, about 5 minutes. Remove pork to a plate.

Add remaining 2 TBSP oil to the pan. Stir fry all the veges through garlic until crisp-tender, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add the spice of your choosing (cayenne, crushed red pepper or fish sauce) and stir to combine. Add broccoli and pineapple, stir fry another 3 minutes. Stir the pork and accumulated juices into the skillet. Add the sweet & sour sauce, stir well to combine for about 1 to 2 minutes until everything is heated through.

**Advertising in the POST**

Costs begin at \$4.00 for a brief classified ad. Guidelines and order forms are located at [www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org](http://www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org)



**Post-It in the Post**  
 Do you have an interesting story to share with your friends and neighbors? Are you part of a community group that has big news? Email: [pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org](mailto:pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org) by noon on Friday.  
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## Meet Your NH House of Representatives Candidates

On Thursday, October 24, a "Meet Your NH House Candidates" forum will be held at the Chichester Grange/Town Hall on Main Street at 6:30pm. Please join us!

This is the only opportunity before the election on November 5 to meet all the candidates and ask any question you would like. All five House candidates who are seeking to represent Pittsfield and Chichester have been invited: Jim Allard, Cyril Aures, Sally Kelly, Dan Schroth and Clayton Wood.

Two of these candidates will be elected in November and will serve all of us from Pittsfield and Chichester, in Concord, come January. This is an excellent time for you to hear in "real time" from all the candidates on the ballot before voting. *Sally Kelly*

## Are Sally Kelly and Jim Allard Really Your Voice?

The beauty of this election for NH state representatives here in Chichester and Pittsfield is that we can review the voting records of four of the five candidates on issues important to us. One of Jim Allard's last votes in his last term was to oppose a parental rights bill. Polls show that NH residents overwhelmingly favor an open relationship with their children's school staff, where they are informed about all aspects of their children's school day. Sally Kelly, who sent her own children to private school, opposes school choice. Did she see what plenty of other parents have seen, that the literacy and numeracy rates in our public schools have been consistently declining for almost 50 years? Those who are looking carefully also see the inverse relationship of cost per student per year for NH public schools students during that same period. In NH it exceeds \$20,000 per student per year as compared to private schools, which are often less than \$14,000. Ms. Kelly happened to have the financial ability to choose private school for her children. What about you? Reps. Clayton Wood and Cyril Aures have used their voices to amplify yours, not suppress them. They voted for parental rights. They voted for school choice. They also showed their common sense and attention to fairness in competition when they voted for girls' sports for girls. Help Reps. Wood and Aures continue getting it right, voicing what their constituency actually wants! See you at the polls on November 5. *Diane Rider*

## It's time for our Annual Penny Sale!

On Saturday, November 2, the doors will open at 4pm for you to come and check out all the great items we have this year!

Tickets will be sold in sheets of 25 tickets and 1 door prize ticket for \$5/sheet or 6 sheets for \$20. You then get to select which items you want a chance to win by entering a ticket (or more) for the prize.

We will also have a 50/50 cash raffle and food concessions! 50/50 tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5, or 30 for \$20.

Door prizes will be drawn at 4:30pm, 5:30pm, and 6pm. Raffle prize drawings will start at 6:15pm.

You must be present to win any of the drawings. We will have food, entertainment and door prizes for everyone who joins us early.

If you are interested in making a donation of prize or cash towards the event, please contact us through messenger or [suncookvalleyrotary@gmail.com](mailto:suncookvalleyrotary@gmail.com) Donations may be dropped off during normal business hours at Northway Bank in Pittsfield. All donations must be turned in by October 31st.

You can find FAQs about the penny sale online at <https://suncookvalleyrotary.org/SitePage/penny-sale>

Looking forward to seeing you all! *Fallon Reed*, Suncook Valley Rotary

### Find the Differences

#### Answers:

- 1 (3) extra leaves on corn shock
- 2 Extra corn tassel
- 3 Eye on bird
- 4 Position of bird
- 5 Shading on leaf
- 6 Stripe on binding leaves
- 7 Ear of corn on ground on right
- 8 Ear of corn on ground on left
- 9 Pumpkin stem
- 10 Pumpkin stripes
- 11 Pumpkin stripes
- 12 bug

We're running again!



& Cyril



Vote Nov. 5th!

We are proud of our accomplishments in the 2023-24 biennium at the State House:

Passed emergency powers reform, preventing a future governor to declare a permanent state of emergency. HB 2 *Sununu*

Protected freedom of expression on college campuses. HB 1305 *Sununu*

Passed a prohibition on mask mandates by public schools. HB 1093 vetoed

Accelerated the phaseout of the Interest and Dividends tax, HB 2 *Sununu*

Passed a ban on sex reassignment surgery on minors. HB 619, *Sununu*

Passed a bill protecting women's sports. HB 1205 *Sununu*

Protected children in foster homes from a long list of vaccine mandates (including a COVID vax) that don't apply to other children in our state. HB 408 *Sununu*

Reduced regulatory red tape that stands in the way of affordable childcare in our state. HB 1584 *Sununu*

Expanded safe haven protections to save the lives of infants born to parents who are unable or unwilling to care for them. HB 1607 *Sununu*

Improved our state statute relative to local tax caps. SB 383 *Sununu*

Passed bill protecting privacy & safety of women & girls in bathrooms, locker rooms, prison facilities, & certain athletic competitions. HB 396, vetoed

Passed shared parenting, a policy that a majority of Republicans have been promoting for over a decade. HB 185 *Sununu*

Passed bail reform, keeping criminals who have a history of prior convictions off the streets while awaiting a judicial hearing.

HB 318 *Sununu*

Passed election integrity measures aimed at increasing transparency & accountability. HB 243 *Sununu*

Clayton Wood

Cyril Aures



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