PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE NEWSLETTER BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

Maya Angelou

December 18, 2024

Pittsfield Coding Cats Robotics Team Receives Judges' Trophy Award

The Pittsfield Coding Cats Robotics Team competed in the FIRST Lego League Qualifying Tournament in Wolfeboro on November 16th. Although they did not score high enough to qualify to move forward to the State Championship level, they did receive the Judges' Trophy Award for their excellent Innovation Project called "Right Whale Entanglement." With only about 360 Right whales left in the North Atlantic oceans, the team felt they had to come up with a possible solution to help both lobster fishermen and the whales. The whales get



entangled in the lines that mark the trap line's location and then cannot feed on the krill or feed their young. The team's solution includes sinking the buoy and spool of rope with the heavy traps, locating it later using an



attached GPS and then releasing the buoy with a hook to float to the surface. This results in no rope left dangling in the water where the migrating and feeding whales would get entangled. The team was commended for their research and outreach to help the whales. The Lego designed Award will live at Pittsfield Elementary School in the trophy case with their model lobster boat and Innovative Solution model. The team wants to thank Whitegate Investment Financial and the Wolfe family for their support. They also want to thank UNH and their Ocean Discovery Day docents, experts, and students who helped the team by patiently answering their questions and giving feedback to their ideas. *Kathy Mahanes* for the Pittsfield School District

Pittsfield Historical Society's Annual Meeting

Pittsfield Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at the Society's headquarters on Main and Oak streets. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

Due to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays, the next publication of the **PITTSFIELD POST** will be January 8, 2025. The **POST** volunteers wish all our readers a very happy holiday season and new year.

Pittsfield Town Crier

Would you like an event listed? Contact Andi Riel at pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com or 603-435-6346

The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce would like to THANK all the groups, organizations, businesses and volunteers that worked together to make the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration a successful day. It takes many people to pull off this event. Everyone seemed to be **enjoying** themselves! Happy Holidays to ALL!

Wed, Dec 18 - 7pm - JUDGING for the Chamber of Commerce sponsored Holiday House Decorating Contest. Any and all residents (and businesses) of Pittsfield are invited and encouraged to decorate their house/building for the holiday. Let's "LIGHT UP" PITTSFIELD! To register, please call or text Louie Houle at 603-848-1553. There is no entry fee and the winner will receive a \$100 prize!

Mon, Dec 23 - Soup Night at the First Congregational Church is CANCELLED but please mark your calendars to join us on Mon, January 27. The cost is a donation. You can try a variety of soups and visit with some wonderful people.

Tues, Dec 24, 7pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service - Join your friends and neighbors, and bring
the whole family to a wonderful traditional
candlelight service Tuesday, Christmas Eve, 7pm, at
the First Congregational Church, 24 Main Street,
Pittsfield. The service includes beautiful music by the
Chancel Choir and the JuBellation Handbell Choir,
scripture lessons, the story of the first Christmas, the
sanctuary shimmering in candlelight, and the singing
of "Silent Night." Include this lovely evening service in
your holiday plans. Parking and wheelchair access
are available at the rear of the church at Chestnut
Street. For more information, call the church office at
(603) 435-7471.

The **Pittsfield Youth Workshop** (PYW), 5 Park Street, has After School Hours: Drop-In on: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Friday 3pm-6pm; and Weds 1pm-6pm. The food pantry at PYW continues to be stocked with snacks, beverages, mealtime essentials, and basic toiletries during Drop-In hours. Questions? Call Zach or Ashley at (603) 435-8272 or text at (603) 234-9788.

NOTE: The PYW will be closed for the holidays 12/23/24 - 1/1/25.

The Gabriel Douglas Anthony 21 Foundation was established by Gabe's family, after his death, to provide roadside safety equipment to all high schoolaged drivers. Please visit the website https://gda21foundation.org to learn more about this wonderful Foundation or, even 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

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 or text us at (603) 341-2691, and we will gladly arrange a pickup. We will have an online inventory where you can browse the donated shoes. Closer to basketball season, we will be available for in-person selections to ensure every child gets the right fit. Donations will be accepted and split equally between Pittsfield Hoops 603 and Pittsfield Youth Athletics.

Dowboro Farm, 615 Dowboro Rd is open for the season: Thurs - Sat, 9:30am-6pm; and Sun, 10:30-4pm. The Dowboro Farmstand has many trees available - starting at \$15. Also, there are beautiful kissing balls, wreaths and fresh green arrangements available, too!

Senior Center Schedule - Monday & Thursday 8-2pm and Wednesday 8am -1pm. Activities include: Senior Community Lunch - M & TH at 12pm; Bingo M & TH at 10-11:45am; Cribbage & Games on W at 10-12pm; Walking at the Center on M, W, TH at 8am-1pm; Sweatin' to the Oldies on M at 9am; and Chair Yoga on TH at 9am. If you have questions, please call Anne at (603) 435-8482.

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

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 or kprice@sau51.org

Josiah Carpenter Library is in need of the following items throughout the year and would greatly appreciate any and all donations from patrons and town residents: Contact paper, small reward stickers, party favors/prizes, glue sticks, sticky-back googly eyes, construction paper, markers, pocket folders, cardstock, cotton balls, apple juice, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, and microwave popcorn. All of these items go to benefit the staff and visitors who participate in various adult and children's programming provided by the library. Donations from you would allow for the annual budget to provide more for patrons throughout the year. For further information, call (603)435-8406.

The **Pittsfield Conservation Commission** wants to hear from you! Please complete this anonymous survey to help us understand your joys, concerns and hopes regarding Pittsfield's natural spaces: https://forms.gle/zyyFqpiWGBShEehs6

Josiah Carpenter Library is collecting homemade mittens and hats (no scarves please) for Pittsfield Elementary School. They have plenty of yarn if you need some! Call (603)435-8406.

Ready to spread some holiday cheer while supporting the arts? Join us in helping the Pittsfield Players at the Scenic Theater with their Christmas Wreath Raffle! Here's why you should get involved: Every ticket you purchase not only enters you for a chance to win a beautiful wreath of your choice but also helps fuel our local theater community. Tickets are just \$5 for one, \$10 for three, or \$20 for eight - and every ticket brings us closer to our goal of selling 100 tickets! Want to join the fun? Email Allissa Estes at allissa.g.estes@gmail or text at (603) 817-9840 to grab your tickets today. You can Venmo directly at ThePittsfieldPlayers, or make cash arrangements with Allissa! Let's deck the halls and support local talent together! Happy Holidays, and thank you in advance for your generosity!

The **Pittsfield Clothes Closet** will be open on Tues, Dec. 24, and will then be closed from 12/25/24 to 1/6/25. It will reopen on 1/7/25.

Happy Birthday wishes to Rich Hillsgrove on Fri, Dec. 20.

A very Special Happy 80th Birthday wish to Aunt Carolyn Davis on Thurs, Dec. 19.

Happy Anniversary to Fred & Liz Hast on Wed, Dec. 18.

PITTSFIELD POST www.PittsfieldNHCommunityCenter.org

The Pittsfield Post is a non-profit, free newsletter that serves Pittsfield citizens, businesses, town government, town schools and charitable organizations. The newsletter publishes relevant and important news, information, and special interest stories that impact residents, keeping the community informed and providing a forum for dialogue.

The Pittsfield Post is published bi-weekly, in both print and digital formats, through the efforts of a volunteer team of residents.

Please support your community newsletter.
Checks should be made out to the non-profit: Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, memo: Pittsfield Post. P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. Donations may also be made on our website.

Send us your news! Individuals, community groups and businesses, email us your news, opinions and creative work. Details about submissions are on our website. Deadline is 9am on Friday.

Pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org

What is important to you?

- Local news and updates?
- New businesses in town?
- Information about the schools?
- Classified ads for local opportunities?
- Recipes? Puzzles? Poetry? Student submissions?
 - A calendar of local events?
- Letters/opinions from residents and/or potential local political candidates?
- Special Editions regarding PMHS Graduation or Local Elections?
 - A local publication that can print your own submissions?



The Pittsfield Post, a free bi-weekly newsletter (every

other week), provides all this and more. A printed version of the *Post* may be found in various stores and the Post Office in Pittsfield on alternating Wednesdays; a digital subscription will send it directly to your email inbox; or you may find it at your convenience on the webpage:

www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org And it's all at no cost to you! That's right. Nada, zip, zero.

How can that be? Well, the *Pittsfield Post* is a nonprofit organization that relies solely on donations and advertising. *And now is a time when we could use more of both from our readers!* As you well know, living costs continue to rise, and the *Post* faces that same reality.

Recently we published several expanded issues, including one entire additional publication to bring you the latest Pittsfield election coverage. There were letters from interested readers, statements from local candidates in response to questions presented by the *Post*, ads and comments from all parties, and news of upcoming events. Our small group of volunteers offered additional personal time for content management, page layout, editing, and delivery. It was a big task for a small group, but we think our efforts were worth it. And we hope you think so, too! The sad fact is that all our expanded efforts, while creating added costs, do not necessarily translate into added revenue. That brings us to the bottom line. We need your help.

Please donate! Any amount will help to defray costs. The easiest way is to go to our webpage: www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org. Click on the 'Donate' button and give by using PayPal, credit card, or debit card. Or, you could send a check made out to Pittsfield Center Development Corporation (PCDC), [memo: newspaper], PO Box 253, Pittsfield, NH, 03263. Lastly, anyone who volunteers on the *Pittsfield Post* staff would be happy to accept a check or cash donation. We'll see that it gets to the right place!

Donations are totally tax deductible. And if you have suggestions or questions for us, we're always listening! Contact us at: pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org
Thank you for your continued support!

Gail Allard
Pittsfield Post Volunteer

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







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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			appy hew hew	5:30pm School Board meeting, PMHS Media Center 6pm ZBA meeting, Town Hall	3	4
7 1-4 pm Pittsfield Historical Society Open House	6:30pm Victory Workers 4-H meeting, PES 6:30pm American Legion, Town Hall	9-11am, Diaper Pantry, First Cong. Church	9:30am J. Carpenter Library Trustees meeting, Library 4pm Community Development Com.Town Hall 6pm Budget Com. meeting, Town Hall	5:30pm PES PTO meeting, PES 7pm Planning Board meeting, Town Hall	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		6pm Selectboard meeting, Town Hall 7:15pm Parks & Rec meeting, Community Center	6:30 pm Rotary Club, Historical Society 6pm Budget Com. meeting, Town Hall	5:30pm School Board meeting, PMHS Media Center		
19	5:30pm Community Supper, Congregational Church	6pm Friends of the of the Josiah Carpenter Library Mtg.	3pm Community Development Com. meeting, Town Hall 6pm Budget Com. meeting, Town Hall	7pm Conservation Commission meeting, Town Hall	24	25
26	5:30-6:30pm Soup for You! Congo. Church 6pm Old Home Day Com. Meeting	6pm Selectboard meeting, Town Hall	29	30	31	

Dear Crabby:

I am disturbed by how many school districts are being disrupted by conflicts over transgender students in sports programs. What can I do to lower the heat on this subject? *Soccer Pop*

Dear Pop: Get your friends to tell their School Board members that if they can't deal with these gender issues they ought to get their schools out of competitive athletics. And probably out of the courtroom.

Then tell these board members to put their effort into teaching the students how to read, understand basic mathematics and learn something about science. *Crabby*





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Panther Updates

Note to Readers: To better inform our community about school district activities, each month the *Pittsfield Post* will publish a portion of the reports submitted to the Pittsfield School Board.



Pittsfield Elementary School News

I am excited to share some outstanding news regarding the 2024 federal accountability determinations finalized by the New Hampshire Department of Education: Pittsfield Elementary School is officially in good standing! This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication, hard work, and care of our staff in supporting students and addressing their diverse needs. The positive impact of these efforts is evident in our growth data:

- English Language Arts: 55% of our students exceeded their growth measure for the year, placing Pittsfield Elementary in the middle 50% for student growth across the state.
- Mathematics: 62% of our students exceeded their growth measure for the year, placing us in the top 25% for student growth statewide!

Last year, we set the goal of meeting students where they were and helping them grow—and the results are nothing short of extraordinary. This success is not achieved in isolation but is a direct result of our collective focus to support students and foster their growth. In the future our students' growth should build to an increased percentage of students in the "proficient and above" category. The dedication, expertise, and commitment of our staff have been instrumental in achieving this milestone, and it is a testament to the strength of our school community.

A new slogan, "Reading 20 minutes a day is the Panther Way," has been developed to inspire students and families to prioritize reading. Students are designing bookmarks featuring this slogan, which will serve as a reminder of the importance of daily reading.

Kristen White, Principal and Kyle Hodsdon, Vice-Principal, PES

Pittsfield Middle High School News

The Middle and High School 2024 federal accountability determinations for student learning growth are both in good standing. With these determinations Pittsfield's elementary, middle and high schools are all in good standing for the first time since 2017.

On November 18 seniors participated in *ApplyNH*. In collaboration with Granite Edvance, seniors had access to admission counselors to apply for admission to any NH college, university, or trade school (all application fees were waived). A total of 21 seniors participated and were accepted to a wide range of NH schools. The college admission counselors visiting PMHS also helped students apply to schools out of state, such as Mercy College, College of Charleston, and the University of New Haven. Our partners from Granite Edvance returned on December 10 to present *Financial Aid 101* that provided an overview of the federal financial aid process, review scholarship searches, and highlighted the importance of meeting deadlines.

Students in tenth grade and above, with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, were recently notified of their eligibility to apply for membership to the National Honor Society. Applications, which included an essay, were due prior to the Thanksgiving Break. The PMHS Faculty Council reviewed applications and made selections, in preparation of our annual induction ceremony held on December 16.

The Winter Concert was held on December 11. Mr. Dzengelewski, our new music teacher, thoughtfully and creatively organized the production. Students enrolled in band and chorus classes performed along with additional students that expressed an interest and were able to participate in rehearsals.

Derek Hamilton. Principal, PMHS

Special Education Paraeducators 101

Some students at the Pittsfield School District have special education paraeducators prescribed in their Individual Education Programs (IEPs) by the IEP team. Paraeducators, also known as rehabilitative assistants, are adults who are hired to either behaviorally or instructionally support some students with disabilities (not every child with a disability needs a paraeducator). Paraeducators at Pittsfield also cover duties in the buildings, such as: recess, lunch, arrival, dismissal, or other duties as assigned. The main role of paraeducators is responsibility for reinforcing academic skills, delivering accommodations, social/ behavioral redirection, cuing, and/or prompting. Paraeducators are only assigned to classes based on individual student IEP needs and as determined by the special education teacher and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

There are three main different types of paraeducators hired at Pittsfield School District. The first is Paraeducator I. A Paraeducator I has at least a high school diploma and has the desire and skill to work with youth with disabilities. Paraeducator II is a professional that has at least an associate's degree, equivalent college credits, or has a certification from the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) for their Paraeducator II license. Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) are another type of paraeducator we hire. RBTs are prescribed by an IEP team and work with some students who have Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) programs.

Charlene Vary, Director of Student Support Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join your friends and neighbors and bring the whole family to a wonderful traditional candlelight service Tuesday, Christmas Eve, 7 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, 24 Main Street, Pittsfield. The service includes beautiful music by the Chancel Choir and the JuBellation Handbell Choir, scripture lessons, the story of the first Christmas, the sanctuary shimmering in candlelight and the singing of "Silent Night." Include this lovely evening service in your holiday plans. Parking and wheelchair access are available at the rear of the church at Chestnut Street. For more information, call the church office at (603) 435-7471.



Pittsfield Post Volunteer Opportunity: Biweekly Email Newsletter & Website Coordinator

Are you passionate about communications and looking to make a difference? The *Pittsfield Post* seeks a reliable, detail-oriented volunteer to manage and distribute our biweekly email newsletter and update our website. The prepared newspaper document will be sent to you as part of the team for conversion to email format. Basic knowledge of email marketing platforms, such as MailChimp, or similar, and website content management, such as Wix, or similar, would be helpful. The work can be done at home and requires about two hours every other week. Training will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience and contribute to the local news of the *Pittsfield Post*, which has been in operation for over 5 years! If interested, please contact us at pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org We look forward to hearing from you!

2024 Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration THANK YOU!!!

The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce would like to THANK ALL the organizations, businesses, volunteers and community members who worked to make the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration day such a great success.

THANK YOU to......

- * PES PTO for hosting Breakfast with Santa, and the Vendor/Craft Fair
- * Suncook Valley Rotary Club (Fawn Byers) and PMHS Boys & Girls Basketball teams (Jay Darrah) for sponsoring the Children's Store

At the Tree Lighting....

- * Zach Powers (PYW) and Mark Riel for playing the holiday music
- * Pittsfield Players Christmas caroling
- * Stoneboat Farm horse & wagon rides
- *Joe Darrah assisting with horse & wagon rides, and installing all the holiday banners
- * All the cookie donations from the Victory Workers 4-H Club, Circle of Home & Family members, South Pittsfield Community Club members, and Park St. Baptist Church members
- * Parks & Recreation Committee donation of cocoa
- * Roberta Maxfield & Robin O'Malley cocoa making & serving
- * Pittsfield Police Association (Jay & Heidi Darrah) popcorn
- * Bob Giegerich
- * Jolene Wood, Zach Townsend, Clayton Wood pictures with Santa
- * Pittsfield Youth Workshop (PYW) opening the building for inside space for Santa, hot food, Gingerbread House display and raffle, and Decorated Wreath Contest
- * Josiah Carpenter Library Staff Holiday Storytime
- * Volunteers who made all the hot food Dawn Facella, Jen Walter, Ted Mitchell, Tobi Chassie
- * Liz Dimmick for serving the hot food all night
- * Granite Image poster design and printing
- * Pittsfield Fire Department
- * Pittsfield Police Department
- * Catamount Lodge #107 donation of Christmas tree for raffle
- *Globe/MSA generous donation
- *Sanderson Trust Fund generous donation
- * A Special Thank you to Louie Houle for decorating the TWO Christmas trees and hanging the wreaths in Dustin Park, and to Fuzz Freese for decorating the gazebo.
- * A Very Special Thank you to Mark Riel for all the behind-the-scenes help with all the logistics could not do it without you!!

Cook's Corner

Cranberry Buttermilk Pound Cake

This cranberry studded pound cake is certain to bring smiles and make your holiday even more festive. The fresh cranberry sauce really makes this cake quite special. You might also want to add a generous dollop of whipped cream or a scoop of vanilla icecream. This pound cake also makes a lovely hostess gift. Wishing you all a very happy holiday! Bon appetit!

Cranberry Buttermilk Pound Cake

3 cups all purpose flour

1 tsp baking powder

1 & 1/3 cups butter, softened

2 & 1/2 cups sugar

1 TBSP vanilla extract

6 eggs

½ cup buttermilk

1 cup coarsely chopped fresh cranberries

1 recipe Fresh Cranberry Sauce (see sauce recipe at right)

Heat oven to 325. Grease and flour a 10-inch bundt cake pan. In a medium bowl, combine flour and baking powder. In a large bowl, beat butter with a hand-mixer on medium to high until light and fluffy, 30 to 60 seconds. Add sugar, beat until mixture is pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Beat in vanilla extract. Add eggs, one at a time, beating on low after each addition, until well combined.

Alternately add flour mixture and buttermilk to the beaten mixture, starting and ending with the flour mixture. Fold in cranberries. Spread the batter into the prepared bundt cake pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 75 to 85 minutes. Cool on a rack for 15 minutes. Remove cake from the pan and continue to cool on a wire rack.



Fresh Cranberry Sauce (for serving)

In a medium saucepan, combine 1 & ½ cups fresh cranberries, ½ cup cranberry juice and ¼ cup brown sugar. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cook, uncovered, stirring from time to time, until mixture thickens and cranberries burst, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool before serving.

