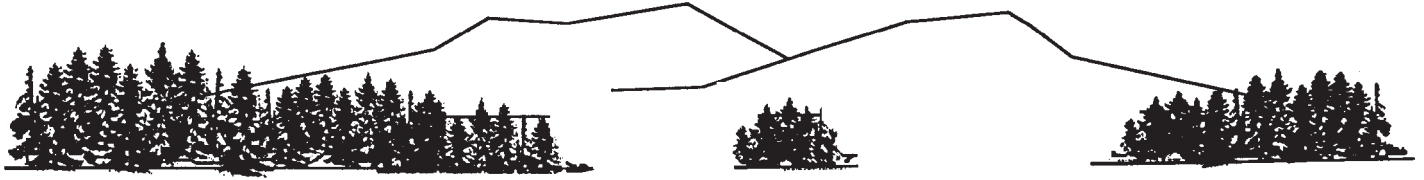


# The Tuftonboro Times



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A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Tuftonboro Association

Spring, 2026

## Meet Jenna Dancy: Tuftonboro's newest Selectperson

*Editors Note: Jenna Dancy was elected Selectman in the recent March 10th election. She was asked to give Times readers a look into her background and her aspirations as she starts in her new role.*

Over the past few years, Tuftonboro has become more than just where my family lives—it's become home. It's the place where we see familiar faces at the post office, chat in line at the store, and spend weekends on the sidelines cheering on our kids. Those everyday moments are what make this community so special.

My family has been rooted in Carroll County since 2013, and we've called Tuftonboro home since 2020. During that time, I've been grateful to be involved in the community—coaching youth sports, volunteering locally, supporting area businesses, and raising my family here.

Some of you may remember a moment from 2022 when two of our Highland cows took an unexpected journey through the woods onto Chip Albee's property on Ledge Hill Road. It was one of those experiences that quickly turned into a story—and one that made us feel like we truly belonged here. Since then, our herd has grown to twelve Scottish Highlands, which reflects both our commitment to this place and the lifestyle we've embraced.

## Selectmen honor Chip Albee's many contributions to town

Serving on a Selectboard is not always easy work. It requires time, persistence, and a willingness to take on complex issues that often don't have simple answers. Over nearly a decade of service, William "Chip" Albee has been part of that work in Tuftonboro.

During his time as a Selectman, Chip was involved in many of the town's key decisions and projects. He worked through budgets, infrastructure planning, and day-to-day operational matters, contributing to the ongoing responsibilities that keep a town running. In many of those discussions, he often served as a financial and legal compass—bringing attention to details, asking important questions, and helping guide conversations around cost and compliance.

Those connections and experiences are what led me to step forward and run for Selectman. I believe leadership should be steady, thoughtful, and grounded in a real understanding of the people and places it represents. In a town like ours, we're not strangers—we're neighbors.

Professionally, my background will be valuable in this role. I hold multiple degrees, including a Master's in Library Science, and have worked in the business information services department of an investment bank. That experience taught me how to work through complex information, evaluate sources carefully, and understand how data and policy intersect.

What that means in practice is that when an issue comes before the board—especially one that's new or unfamiliar—I know how to dig in, ask the right questions, and seek out reliable information before making decisions that affect our community.

As I begin this role, my focus is simple: to serve Tuftonboro with transparency, respect, and thoughtful decision-making. I care deeply about our town—our families, our schools, and the way of life we all value—and I'm committed to listening, learning, and doing this work with care.

Thank you for welcoming my family into this

One of the most visible outcomes of that work is the new Tuftonboro Police Station. This project came together over several years and required navigating multiple rounds of bids, funding challenges, and changing conditions. He personally visited the site regularly, reviewed every change order, and pushed contractors to find solutions without sacrificing quality. The result is a state-of-the-art facility featuring ballistic-rated walls, radiant floor heating, modern security systems, and a productive well. This building will serve Tuftonboro's police department for generations to come.

Chip's involvement extended to many other important initiatives across town. These include



**Jenna and Pete Dancy are pictured with their three children.**

Photo credit to Mackenzie Ann Photography in Wolfeboro community. I'm honored to serve.

**Jenna Dancy**  
Tuftonboro Selectman

FEMA-supported culvert projects designed to strengthen road infrastructure, the solar installation at the transfer station to reduce long-term energy costs, and the town's cell tower lease, which provides ongoing revenue.

Under Chip's leadership, the Board of Selectmen took meaningful steps toward restoring the Union Wharf Boat Ramp and Bulkhead, securing engineering contracts and advancing the permitting process to bring this important community asset closer to reality for Tuftonboro residents and visitors alike.

He also contributed to efforts like the Mirror

**Chip Albee, continued of Page 10**

### The Mission Statement of The Tuftonboro Associationm:

- *To be aware of, concerned with, and interested in the welfare of the community*
- *To work towards the conservation and preservation of the natural beauty and resources of the community*
- *To support various projects of charitable and civic purpose in the community*

# A new Moderator observes the counting of the ballots

Ever wonder what happens after you turn in your ballot at the Town House?

I took the opportunity to stay at the Town House on election day, March 10, 2026, and observe the ballot counting process from start to finish. As a candidate for Town Moderator, I had a vested interest, but anyone can attend as an observer. What I saw gave me a deep appreciation for the care, accuracy, and dedication that go into ensuring every vote is counted correctly, which seems worth sharing with our community.

Shortly after the 7:00 p.m. poll closing, volunteers gathered and took an oath to faithfully perform their duties, act impartially, protect the secrecy of the ballot, and make a true and accurate count of the votes. Within minutes, the room came to life. Ballots were first sorted by type; a significant task given that all three ballot types (local offices, state office special election, and zoning articles) are dropped into the same ballot box. The first step is to sort the ballots from the record 1,034 voters into those three categories. (Note: the school board ballots were driven to Wolfeboro under the careful watch of our police chief for counting.)

Eighteen volunteer counters worked at five tables, organizing ballots before counting could begin.

The Ballot Clerks began the process at 7:00 a.m., tallying the number of ballots distributed to voters throughout the day. The Town Clerk then compares the number of ballots distributed by the Ballot Clerks to the number of ballots pulled from the ballot box. These must match! This total will be used again to check the total number of votes counted at the end of the night.

By 7:30, sorting shifted to counting. Ballots were stacked in bundles of 50, and each pair of counters independently tallied every ballot to confirm matching results. This process ensures accuracy, but it's far more complex than simply counting to 50. For the 4-page, 16 article zoning ballots, both counters reviewed the 50 ballots 16 times, tallying a Yes, No, Blank, or occasionally both Yes & No. A ballot with both Yes and No is considered an "over vote" and both marks are ignored. If their results don't match, they repeat as often as required.



**The vote-counting process in Tuftonboro is open to all who want to watch the activity at the Town House. But don't interfere! These people are busy.**

Soon, the nine pairs of counters were working steadily. As each set of 50 ballots was completed, the tally sheet and ballots were bundled together and brought to the Town Moderator, who verified the totals before passing them to the Town Clerk for recording.

**"Accuracy was always more important than speed."**

As the evening progressed, some races were decided early, while others required counting well into the night. On this night, the longer zoning ballots took extra time and care.

One interesting moment occurred when the state representative special election results were announced. Because that ballot had only one question, it was the first fully counted, certified, and announced result. An Associated Press reporter, on hand specifically for that result, phoned in the Tuftonboro numbers, and within minutes, preliminary results, matching our numbers, appeared on the New York Times election results page. We were the first of the three district towns to report!

Beyond that moment in the spotlight, what stood out most was the commitment of the volunteers. Many stayed well past midnight. There were moments of fatigue and the occasional ballot that required a second or third look. But there was also teamwork, with people stepping in to help one another and to

ensure every count was accurate.

At 12:56 a.m., the final tally was completed.

Even then, the work continued. Ballots were packed into three separate boxes, one for each of the three ballot types. Each box was sealed with both red tape and a label signed by a Selectman, by the Town Moderator, and by the Town Clerk. The ballots were then secured in the Town Hall basement.

It was a long and impressive night. Our elections depend on neighbors willing to give their time and attention to this important work. Watching it firsthand, I came away with great respect for both the process and the people behind it.

We all owe thanks to those who volunteered that night. Their efforts ensure that every voice in our community is heard.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email [MulertModerator@gmail.com](mailto:MulertModerator@gmail.com) or [TownClerk@tuftonboronh.gov](mailto:TownClerk@tuftonboronh.gov) (Jen Coulter).

And to the voters of Tuftonboro: Thank you for the opportunity to serve as our next Town Moderator. I am committed to perform this role with fairness, integrity, and respect for every resident, as we all deserve.

**Mark Mulert**  
**Tuftonboro Town Moderator**

# Grange awakes from its winter sleep to fish chowder supper

Tuftonboro Grange #142 has been in its winter hiatus these past few months.

We had a nice get together to whither away the winter blues with a Valentine's Day Tea at the Tuftonboro Public Library. Sharing tea and goodies were Holly Clarke, Florence Perkins, Joy Perkins, Martha Peterson, Georgene Sellinger, and Nicole

Tenny. A good time was had by all.

Our regular meeting season started with our dues paying Fish Chowder Supper on April 10 at the residence of Florence Perkins. Members and visitors joined us at 5:00 pm for fish chowder followed by a brief meeting.

Come see what your local Grange is all about.

Feel free to contact Joy (603) 569-1887 or Florence (603) 569-2041 for more information.

**Florence Perkins, Secretary**  
**Tuftonboro Grange No. 142**

# Selectmen encourage volunteers to get involved in town

Tuftonboro is a special place — a community where neighbors know each other, where the natural beauty of the lakes and mountains is part of everyday life, and where the decisions that shape that life are made right here, by people who live and raise families here. That is one of the great gifts of local government, and it only works when people choose to be part of it.

If you have ever wondered about a road project, a budget decision, or what is happening with a local facility, the good news is that you can get answers. Tuftonboro's Selectboard meetings, Budget Committee meetings, and town presentations are all open to the public. You are welcome to attend, to listen, and to see firsthand how your tax dollars are being put to work. Sometimes simply showing up is the most powerful thing you can do.

For those who feel called to step forward, there are three specific opportunities where your help would make a real difference right now. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee is looking for volunteers to help evaluate and prioritize the town's long-term investments — from roads and bridges to public safety and facilities. Additionally, the Budget Committee is seeking a secretary to help support the important work of independent financial oversight on behalf of every taxpayer in town. The Conservation Commission is also looking for a secretary to help support its vital work protecting Tuftonboro's natural resources, open spaces, and the lakes and waterways that make this community so special. Each of these is a meaningful opportunity to contribute your skills and perspective to something that genuinely matters.

Tuftonboro has always been shaped by people who chose to get involved — who showed up, asked questions, and cared enough to make a difference. Whether you attend your first Selectboard meeting, raise your hand for a committee role, or simply come to next year's town meeting, know that your participation is not just welcome — it is what makes this community work.

To learn more about upcoming meetings or volunteer opportunities, please visit the Town of Tuftonboro website or stop by the town offices.

**Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen**  
**Bob Murray, Chairman**  
**Jenna Dancy, Vice-Chairman**

## Hikers release spring agenda; Rummage Sale is May 16

The Hikers Spring agenda is packed with activities that foster fellowship and community outreach.

In March over \$3000 of donations were made to thirteen local charities.

On April 16 Mary Hunter spoke on Historical Preservation.

On May 16 the Annual Rummage Sale is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Willing Workers Hall. The community is welcome to drop off donations on Friday May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please do not include any electronics, furniture, or large workout equipment. And be sure to drop in to

find bargains on slightly used clothing, jewelry, and household items.

The club's Annual Meeting will be held on June 4 at Trenta in Wolfeboro at noon. On June 11, an outing at Camp Belknap is planned. And on June 27, a Bake Sale will be held outside the Melvin Village Post Office from 8:30 to 11:30. Plan to stop by for delicious home-baked goods.

The primary goal of the Hikers is to support Tuftonboro students (and children of Hikers club members) with scholarships for two or four-year college, certified trade school, a certificate program in

higher education, or a graduate program. Applications were due April 10 and awards will be made in early June. In 2025, \$15,000 was awarded.

The Hikers is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please support their fundraising efforts. Membership is open to all women in Tuftonboro and surrounding towns. For more info see the "Hikers" Facebook page or contact Jill Cromwell at [schlichtercromwell@gmail.com](mailto:schlichtercromwell@gmail.com).

**Jill Cromwell, President**  
**The Hikers**

## North Shore, roast beef sandwich luncheon on April 18

The Tuftonboro United Methodist Church will be having a north shore, roast beef sandwich luncheon on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will also have gift basket raffles and a bake sale.

We are making plans as well for our second annual Strawberry Festival in June along with gift basket raffles and another bake sale. We are located at 129 mountain road (NH Route 171) Tuftonboro.

**Estelle M. Zedalis, Member**  
**Tuftonboro United Methodist Church**

## There is a great, new way to donate!

Contributors can now make a tax-deductible donation to The Tuftonboro Association via credit card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, or direct deposit. Best of all, the association will receive 100% of the gift with no servicing or handling charges applied.

A new platform makes it possible for supporters to donate without ever having to leave their keyboard, simply by going to the new Tuftonboro Association website (<https://tuftonboroassociation.org/>) and clicking on "DONATE" in the upper right-hand corner of the Home Page. Or use your cell phone and snap a picture of the Q-code in the lower right-hand corner of this article.

Either way, the entire contribution supports the activities of the Tuftonboro Association, such as *The Tuftonboro Times*, Roadside Clean-up, Candidates' Night, or maintaining easements and hiking trails in Tuftonboro like the Great Meadow Trail.

Administrative fees for the contribution platform are raised only through voluntary "tips" which may be as much or as little as the donor decides.

Of course, one can always donate the old-fashioned way: write a check, and mail it to

The Tuftonboro Association

P.O. Box 121

Melvin Village, NH 03850-0121

Either way, the directors will thank you.



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# Fire & Rescue offers springtime tips around cold water

It's Spring! And after a long, cold winter, it sure feels nice to see things come back to life and hear the peepers. Remember, if you are out on the water this time of year use extreme caution. Although the air temperatures have hopefully hit 70 degrees, the water temps are still slightly above freezing. If you end up in the water, you may not survive for very long. You will get hypothermia and possibly drown very quickly in those types of temperatures. Please wear an approved personal floatation device (PFD) any time you are on the water, especially in the early and late seasons.

## **Cold Water Survival!**

All boaters should wear a life jacket and dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Cold-water immersion causes many boating-related fatalities. It follows four stages, starting with cold shock, followed by swimming failure, then hypothermia and finally post-rescue collapse. Most cold-water drowning fatalities are attributed to the first two stages.

The initial shock of cold water causes involuntary gasping making it difficult to catch your breath and many people hyperventilate, faint, and drown before they are able to calm down their breathing.

The longer you are exposed to cold water, the more you lose your ability to move your extremities. If you haven't been able to get out of the water in 5-15 minutes, you need to stop moving. Movement will deplete your energy faster and increase heat loss.

Hypothermia is a condition in which the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Violent shivering develops, which may give way to confusion and eventually cardiac arrest or unconsciousness.

If you fall in the water, in any season, you need to know cold water survival skills. Many of our nation's open waters are mountain-fed, and water temperatures even in late summer can run low enough to bring on this condition under certain conditions.

It's important to remember:

Don't discard clothing and dress warmly with wool clothing. Clothing layers provide some warmth that may assist you in fighting hypothermia. This includes shoes and hats. A popular myth is that wet clothes will weigh you down in the water. They are only heavy when you are out of the water.

Wear your life jacket! This helps hold heat into the core areas of your body and enables you to easily put yourself into the HELP position. HELP (Heat Escape Lessening Posture) by drawing limbs into your body; keep armpits and groin areas protected from unnecessary exposure – a lot of heat can be lost from those areas, as well as the head.

## **Outside Fire reminders**

Spring outside fire season has begun. So please use caution if you choose to kindle an outside fire. With all the dry grass and leaves leftover from the winter, a fire can spread out of control very quickly.



**Tuftonboro's New Boat 2 out training. Members on board are FF Skip Galvin, Capt. Ken Greenwood and FF Kyle Williams at the helm. Photo by Chris Morgan**

You must obtain a written fire permit before kindling an outside fire, even if it's raining.

If you have questions on the status of the fire danger, please call the station at (603) 569-3381 or Dispatch at (603) 539-2262 for more information. Although a rare occurrence, an outside fire ban can occur. This is a result of dry conditions and high winds and can change from day to day, and from town to town. The threat of fast moving outside fires diminishes once the grass greens up and the leaves pop out.

Contrary to popular belief, the Department has no control over outside burning laws. (Other than local fire ban due to wind and dry conditions) They are controlled by the State of NH. We are only agents of the state when we issue permits. If you would like to see changes in the outside burning laws, please contact your local State Representatives and give them your input. I am sure they would love to hear from their constituents. For more information on outside fires and permits, please visit the Town's website and follow the links on the Fire Department's page.

## **Why is a permit required?**

Other than meeting the requirements of NH RSA 227-L:17, there are several reasons why permits are required.

Permits are the first tool in Fire Prevention and education.

It ensures that Forest Fire Wardens know where fires are occurring. Often, a citizen may call 911 when they observe smoke in an area. If the Department knows there is a Fire Permit for that area, they may investigate the call first without the need to send the entire fleet.

It allows the Forest Fire Warden to inform the public when unsafe fire conditions may be present or predicted. This is important during times of High Fire

Danger.

It gives the Department an opportunity to ensure that the fire is in a safe location and that the proper setbacks from structures are in place. (25 feet for Category I, 50 feet for all others)

It protects the air quality in the state by outlining the materials which may be burned (clean, untreated wood/brush no greater than 5 inches in diameter).

Other helpful information regarding outside fire laws can be found at the NH Division of Forest and Lands website ([www.nhdfl.dncr.nh.gov](http://www.nhdfl.dncr.nh.gov)). There is also link from the Department's web page on the Town's website.

Now is the time to renew your seasonal fire permits. They can be obtained online or at the Central Fire Station. There is a fee if you choose to renew online, but not if you obtain one in person at the station.

If you own a rental property and choose to allow your renters to have an outside fire, the renter needs to obtain a fire permit in their name. They must have written permission from the property owner to allow them to have a fire. We are dealing with an increasing number of issues where the renters are having a fire without a permit, or the property owner has a seasonal permit for the property, but is not present. Property owners, please make it clear to your renters on how to obtain a permit and have written permission for them if you choose to let them use the fire pit. If you choose not to allow them to have a fire, please remove the pit and pile of wood next to it.

## **Beware of falls in the spring**

Falls among the elderly are a common occurrence and happen for many reasons. Sometimes they are a simple "sit down", but other times they can be quite

**Rescue, continued on Page 10**

# Conservation Commission organizes “Spring Cleanup”

Scientific studies show that recreating outside reduces stress, improves fitness and health and helps you sleep better. Nearly all health conditions that can be measured are improved for people who go outside and exercise. Although it works, we are not talking about pushups and sit-ups here. We are talking about enjoying a pleasant stroll in nature when the weather is nice and the birds are singing. For most people, the best way to do this is on a developed hiking trail and there are many choices in our area. You can do it alone and enjoy the quiet and solitude or share the experience with someone special, a friend or a group of friends.

All our local trails are on land that has been conserved. This includes publicly owned and privately owned properties that are protected forever by conservation easements. Conservation Commissions and land trusts do this work as well as build and maintain trails for all of us to enjoy. These trails are built and maintained by volunteers. As new trails are being built and old trails are declining from use and need some refurbishment, we will need more volunteers to get it done. They say, “many hands make light work” so we are always looking for new “hands”.

Each spring the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission organizes a spring cleanup to get our trails up to snuff for the season. The TCC teams up with Lakes Region Conservation Trust volunteers to get this done. There is a lot to do at many different skill levels. Chainsaws are often needed to remove windblown trees. There is always encroaching vegetation to remove with clippers and pole saws. Sometimes digging tools are needed to remove tripping hazards or to prevent erosion or to drain water. Signs may need to be replaced or repaired or trail markers and paint spots replaced. Work often not considered is the cleaning and updating of information in trail head kiosks. Where natural history education is involved,



**From L to R, Eric Roseen, John Basel, Matt Moris, Ki Basil, Don Dow, and Dana Simpson on spring cleanup of the Hackl trails. This was one of four crews involved this year in spring cleaning the Tuftonboro trails. Photo courtesy Steve Wingate**

teaching points and accompanying messages may need to be moved or updated. There is a job for every level of fitness and every level of expertise.

This year we are scheduling spring cleanup for May 30 with a rain date of the 31<sup>st</sup>. We will meet at the town office parking lot at 8:30 am. Each volunteer will be assigned to one of the trails according to the work needed at that location. A team leader will have previously scouted that trail and estimated the work and skills needed. There will be maps available if needed. Volunteers are asked to bring tools of their choice like bush clippers, pole saws and chain saws (caps, helmet, hearing protection and heavy gloves, required). All volunteers are asked to dress for the weather, have work gloves, footwear with good tread, work gloves, water and insect repellent. After a short safety talk, each group will depart to their assigned

trail. We plan to be done by noon.

Current trail crew members will be informed by e-mail soon. New volunteers please send an e-mail to Mark Muler [mamulert@gmail.com](mailto:mamulert@gmail.com) or text him at 847-687-1561. Mark will put you on our trail crew contact list and keep you informed. You can call or e-mail Mark with any questions you may have.

If you are backpacker or hiker, here is your chance to give something back for all the pleasure you have received in the past. If not, come out anyway and meet some great people and have an enjoyable day outdoors. We guarantee that at the end of the day you are going to feel better and be proud of what you have accomplished. Remember what your mother said, “get off the couch, turn the TV off, and go outside and play!”

**Steve Wingate, Vice-Chairman**

**Tuftonboro Conservation Commission**

## Historical Society is spruced up and prepared for 2026

The 2026 Tuftonboro Historical Society season looks to be a very interesting with some great programs for all to enjoy.

We start off with Wednesday May 27 with a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. at the Willing Workers Hall. Dinner will be followed by “Stories of Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Tuftonboro and surrounding Towns”. Little known lives of local folks from before, during and after the war will prove that freedom’s heroes are buried here. Mary Hunter has cleaned the stones and documented over 60 soldiers who survived the war and added to our local town’s histories. Please bring a potluck to share and your own utensils. Beverages will be provided.

June 24 is our regular monthly meeting, but we are still working on the program.

The special event of the summer will be an afternoon open house in a unique area of town called Canaan Valley. Several of the resident craft people or hobbyists have agreed to open their workshops and yards to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday July 22. A carpenter, doll house builder, an artist of all things carving and a beekeeper will show you where they work. Maps will be available for your touring interests.

Sue Weeks will again have her barn sales July 18 and August 8. For more information contact her directly at (603) 520-0395.

We finally have the Museum building shingled. It took us a while but now it’s done!

The dugout canoe got another coat of oil last fall. This must be done every couple of years to keep the

canoe preserved.

The spring project is getting the porch support posts secured. We had to move most everything out of the porch and remove most of the floor to put a cement base under the posts. We will then replace the entire floor.

The Society supports itself and we always thank you for any donations to go towards our projects. We are a 501(c)3 corporation which means that all donations are tax deductible.

The Museum opens for the season on Wednesday July 1. We are open Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through the end of August.

**Jackie Rollins, President**  
**Tuftonboro Historical Society**

# Mirror Lake resident operates personal weather station

Most of us know about official National Weather Service stations which include research grade sites such as the Mt. Washington observatory, yet enterprising amateur meteorologists host 250,000 personal weather stations across the nation via a major network known as Weather Underground.

Personal weather stations can offer a more precise look at a place like Mirror Lake which often has weather patterns different from other spots in Tuftonboro. Onlookers can view the air temperature; the speed and direction of the wind; humidity; barometric pressure; energy from the sun both in terms of British Thermal Units (BTUs) and ultraviolet radiation (UVs); plus the rate and volume of precipitation specifically on Mirror Lake.

One personal weather station, KNHMIRRO17, is located on Mirror Lake and was installed and is managed by resident, Steve Cloutier. Real-time weather data is reported every 15-30 seconds, stored for historical purposes, and may be viewed on a smartphone or computer by going to [www.weatherunderground.com](http://www.weatherunderground.com), then typing in Mirror Lake, NH 03853. Or, to enter more directly, use <https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/nh/mirror-lake> as the web address. It is possible to view the hourly forecast, a ten-day forecast, or check in on any other personal weather station around the country found on the website by typing in a zip code.

Cloutier physically maintains the station, which is solar powered with a battery back-up, for darker winter days. The instruments are not required to meet the stringent standards set for the National Weather

Service but are in some ways more precise because they factor in the impact of the lake, surrounding mountains, and nearby terrain. Weather Underground maintains its own standards.

Cloutier and other residents have noticed that winds can intensify very rapidly on Mirror Lake, and lightning from an approaching storm may strike the water while the skies are still sunny. As a paddleboarder, Cloutier knows to paddle rapidly to the shore at the first sight of lightning.

Boaters, anglers, paddler boarders, and swimmers need to be aware of changing conditions. Checking on conditions listed on the weather station offers useful precautionary measures. One caveat is if the internet goes out, the weather station is similarly not available. Also, this one weather station provides excellent information regarding areas on the lake to the west, south and southwest within a 180-degree radius, while shots of the north and northwest are typically blocked.

The weather station is operational year-round and may be seen on Cloutier's dock in the warmer months and on his deck during the winter. Although the Mirror Lake data does not stretch back to 160 years ago, other personal weather stations have collected data throughout that period.

When asked what two facts our readers might want to be aware of regarding weather and Mirror Lake, Cloutier replied that it is essential everyone realize that Mirror Lake does not freeze consistently due to springs and moving water. Just because the ice is 14 inches in some areas, people venturing onto the lake in winter may find very thin ice or even open



**If he's not playing pickleball, Steve is tracking the weather on Mirror Lake**

water at other spots. The other warning is that storms tend to come up very fast on the lake so situational awareness is important. Be able to get to shore fast!

**Kathleen Sciarappa, President  
Mirror Lake Protective Association**

# Tuftonboro "Old Home Days" set for August 20-23

One of New Hampshire's most beloved traditions returns late this summer as Tuftonboro prepares to celebrate Old Home Days from August 20-23. The annual event, rooted in the statewide homecoming movement launched in 1899 by Governor Frank Rollins, continues to bring together residents, returning families, and longtime summer visitors for four days of community pride and shared history.

Tuftonboro — often called "The Diamond in the Heart of New Hampshire" — embraces Old Home Days with the same neighborly spirit that has defined

our town for generations. Spread across its villages of Melvin Village, Mirror Lake, Center Tuftonboro, and Tuftonboro Corners, the celebration offers a chance to reconnect, reminisce, and welcome newcomers into the fold.

This year's schedule is being finalized and will include a Concert at the Beach, a church luncheon, Historical Society events, and a variety of activities for children and families. A communitywide church service is planned, along with the traditional Town Picnic, continuing the longstanding tradition of shared

meals, local music, and easy conversation that makes Old Home Days a highlight of the summer.

Organizers are firming up the weekend and encourage everyone to "SAVE the Date!" For further information, contact Dennis Zilembo, Tuftonboro Parks and Recreation, at (603) 5694539, or Eileen Gil at (603) 3189393.

**Eileen Gil, Member  
The Tuftonboro Association**

# Police Department prepares for move into new quarters

This spring marks an exciting new chapter for the Tuftonboro Police Department, as preparations continue for the long-anticipated move into its new facility. The building is currently scheduled for completion this June. The department is fully prepared for the transition and looks forward to serving the community from a modernized space that is designed to better support its operations and public safety mission.

The department is currently fully staffed,

ensuring consistent and reliable coverage for residents and visitors alike. Officers remain committed to maintaining the high standard of service the community has come to expect, with a continued focus on professionalism and community engagement.

In addition to these developments, the Police Department has continued to use its drone, which has proven to be a valuable tool in both Tuftonboro and surrounding towns. From search and rescue ef-

forts to situational awareness during incidents, the drone program enhances the department's ability to respond effectively and safely.

As the move-in date approaches, the Tuftonboro Police Department remains dedicated to a smooth transition while continuing to prioritize the safety and well-being of the community it serves.

**Sgt. Thomas LaFavre  
Tuftonboro Police Department**

# Booths, games, and a live auction at the Melvin Village fair

On Saturday, July 11, the Melvin Village Community Church will host its 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Church Fair and Auction. This community tradition will feature a flea Market, crafters, clothing, and jewelry. Also, games, food, music, and a live auction. The Fair will run from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with the live auction beginning at 11:30 a.m. All proceeds support the many outreach and service ministries of the MVCC.

The Flea Market and craft booths are open to anyone wanting to sell items at the event – families with attic treasures or artisans with crafts to sell. You rent the space for a suggested donation of \$25, and the church provides the table and publicity. A 2026 Vendor Registration Form can be found at [www.mvccnh.org/fairauction](http://www.mvccnh.org/fairauction). We have limited space and have sold out the last few years so consider getting your registration in early!

As in the past, we will have drop-offs for clothing, books, jewelry, and live auction item donations every Saturday mornings in June from 9AM – noon at the barn across from the church. We are also reaching out to businesses and individuals for live auction items including artwork, sporting event tickets, watercraft (boats, canoes, kayaks, sunfish, paddle boards), golf outings, golf carts, or getaways.

Planning for the fair just started in March so as of



**Auctioneer Chris Coulter, at the Melvin Village church fair and auction, holds the crowd in the palm of his hand. This year, the auction starts at 11:00 a.m. on July 11**

this writing, specific details are not yet available. For certain, however, the Fair will feature the much-loved clothing/jewelry/linen boutique located in Willing Workers Hall (460 Governor Wentworth Highway, Melvin Village). Additional booths will include books (always a crowd favorite), jigsaw puzzles, and baked goods (located inside the church). Check the website in June for the specific artisans that the fair will feature. You can be certain there will be many households selling their “attic treasurers” and deals are sure to be had! The day will also include special

games for the children and traditional fair food, all on the Winnepesaukee shoreline.

For more information on how to donate items to the live auction, or for any questions related to the fair, please call the church office at (603)544-9661 or Debi Lynch at (484) 467-3242.

We look forward to seeing everybody at the fair on July 11.

**Debi Lynch, Chairman  
Melvin Village Church Fair and Auction**

## Camp Sentinel registration open; Women’s Retreat May 8-9



**Caleb and Lydia, summer campers at Camp Sentinel, showed up in January with a surprise visit to Pastor Kevin.**

On Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup> the Tuftonboro Parks and Rec hosted the town Easter Egg Hunt at Camp Sentinel. This is a special day where children come to search for 4000 plastic eggs hidden campus-wide and enjoy a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

Our annual Women’s Retreat will be held on Friday, May 8 and Saturday May 9. Spend the weekend at camp, fellowship with other women, and experience the stillness of the outdoors. Overnight and day passes are available. Check out our website at [www.campsentinel.org/events](http://www.campsentinel.org/events) for more information on the events at Camp Sentinel.

Camp registration is now OPEN! Sentinel offers programs for ages 5 and up including overnight and day camp. We strive to never turn away a camper because of financial need. Check out our summer program weeks: Day Camp is available the weeks of June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, and July 20.

Overnight Camp is available the weeks of June

28, July 5, July 12, and July 19. Find details on our website ([www.campsentinel.org/programs](http://www.campsentinel.org/programs)) about programs and scholarships.

We offer a unique camp experience especially for Homeschoolers on May 25-27. Come and enjoy time with friends while experiencing camp activities: canoeing, archery, team games, hiking, crafts, campfires, and s’mores! Families stay in cabins. Find out more about this camp or to sign-up by going to the website [www.campsentinel.org/programs](http://www.campsentinel.org/programs).

We are thankful for God’s provision and for campers, alumni, friends and churches who come alongside us in mission together. Hope to see you on the mountaintop again soon!

**Rev. Kevin Van Brunt  
Executive Director  
Camp Sentinel**

## 2025-26 brings record participation to Lakes Region Curling

It was the best of times, it was ... well, not the worst of times, but a challenging year all the same.

The 2025-2026 curling year (number 11 for Lakes Region Curling) brought an abundance of riches in terms of membership, with a total of 23 teams taking to the ice at Pop Whalen arena over the course of the Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 seasons.

As expected, the upcoming 2026 Winter

Olympics amped up the interest in curling. Even before the opening ceremonies in Cortina-Milan, registrations were brisk for the club’s annual pre-season learn-to-curl session in September. In the end, 11 teams signed on for the full Fall league—tying a record for membership.

In addition, the Fall 2025 season saw the deployment of LRCA’s first Instructional League.

This was a four-week session aimed at those intrigued by this Olympic sport but not yet convinced to commit for a full 10-week league.

The experiment was a rousing success, seeing 14 neophyte curlers working with experienced LRCA members to learn to basics of the sport – the rules,

**Curling, continued on Page 10**

# A Blast from the Past: Old Home Days 2017



# *A Blast from the Past: Old Home Days 2018*



### **Chip Albee, continued from Page 1**

Lake Watershed Management Plan and improvements to emergency response capabilities, including the addition of the Fire Department's airboat for water rescue operations, made possible in large part through the generosity of the Tuftonboro Firefighters Association.

What stands out over the course of his service is

the role he played in moving these projects forward and being part of the decision-making process during a period of continued investment in town infrastructure and services.

Local government often happens quietly, without much recognition. It depends on individuals who are willing to step forward and take on the responsibility of serving their community over time.

On behalf of the community, thank you, Chip Albee, for your years of service to Tuftonboro.

**Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen**  
**Bob Murray, Chairman**  
**Jenna Dancy, Vice-Chairman**

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### **Rescue, continued from Page 4**

dramatic. In any event, they should not be taken lightly.

If a hit to the head is involved it is important to get it checked out by a physician as soon as possible. One reason is to figure out why you fell and the other is to make sure there is no underlying damage because of the fall. A seemingly minor bump could

have caused major bleeding in the brain that may develop over days or possible broken bones. It is not an inconvenience to the ambulance, hospital, or a caregiver to ensure you are ok.

Please take some time to make sure your home, or the home of family and friends, are free of trip hazards. If people are frequently falling, they need to bring this to the attention of their physician to find out

why they keep tipping over.

I would like to thank all readers for their continued support of the Department. Please do not hesitate to call or stop by with any questions you may have. Have a great spring and stay safe

**Caleb Pike, Capt.**  
**Tuftonboro Fire & Rescue Department**

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### **Curling, continued from Page 7**

the scoring, and the skills of throwing a stone and sweeping it to its target.

For several staff members from Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro, the Instructional League was intended to serve as a winter team-building exercise. In the end, though, many of these veterans of the program came back to create two full teams for the club's Winter season.

Those new teams contributed to a record 12-team roster for the LRCA's winter league.

In addition to Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro, members joined from the far corners of the Lakes Region and beyond, from Alton to North Conway, Laconia to Dover, and just about every community in between.

This swirl of positive activity took place over the course of the year against a backdrop of unfortunate equipment failures at Pop Whalen, causing the cancellation of four sets of Sunday curling matches as well as the club's traditional end-of-season gathering and awards ceremony in December.

In addition to problems with an aging ice-making system, which failed twice – and turned the rink's ice sheet into a pool – the arena was plagued with repeated breakdowns of its Zamboni ice-surfacing machine. A rental Zamboni was expected to carry the arena through the end of its season at the end of March.

While the breakdowns were frustrating, the future is looking brighter as the Pop Whalen community rallies around a project to bring a new, all-electric,

laser-sporting Zamboni to the arena by this coming Fall. The result should be reliable, consistently high-quality ice for years to come.

The end of a Winter Olympics always brings a brief letdown for those who love winter sports, but the lesson so often learned is that the best way to beat those blues is to go out and take part in the sports that are so exciting. For Lakes Region curlers, that opportunity is only a brief summer away.

**Rich Masse, Director**  
**Lakes Region Curling Association**



**Sunrise in Tuftonboro**

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## April

7	4:00 pm	Tuftonboro Association Monthly Meeting	TFL
16	10 am - 12 pm	Readers' Choice Book Group	TFL
16	2:00 pm	Hikers' Program "Historical Preservation" by Mary Hunter	TFL
29	3:00. - 5:00 pm	History Book Group	TFL

## May

5	4:00 pm	Tuftonboro Association monthly meeting	TFL
7	2:00 pm	Hikers business meeting; New and 50-year Member Tea	TFL
15	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Drop-off for Hikers Rummage Sale	WWH
16	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Hikers Rummage Sale	WWH
21	10 am - 12 pm	Readers' Choice Book Group	TFL
27	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	History Book Group	TFL
27	6:00 pm	Historical Society Potluck supper; presentation by Mary Hunter	THS

## June

4	12:00 pm	Hikers' Annual Meeting	Trenta Restaurant
2	4:00 pm	Tuftonboro Association monthly meeting	TFL
11	2:00 pm	Hikers' outing	Camp Belknap
18	10 am - 12 pm	Readers' Choice Book Club	TFL
27	8:30 am - 11:30 am	Hikers' Bake Sale	Melvin P.O.
24	3 pm - 5 pm	History Book Club	TFL

## July

3	10:00 am	Mirror Lake Boat Parade (Rain date: July 5)	Mirror Lake
7	4:00 pm	Tuftonboro Association monthly meeting	TFL
10	To be determined	Grange Ice Cream Social	TGH
18	8:30 am - 12:30 pm	Historical Society Barn Sale	THS
18	To be determined	Grange Book and puzzle sale	TGH
22	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Historical Society Open House	Canaan Valley
29	10 am - 12 pm	Readers' Choice Book Club	TFL

### Weekly / Monthly Ongoing

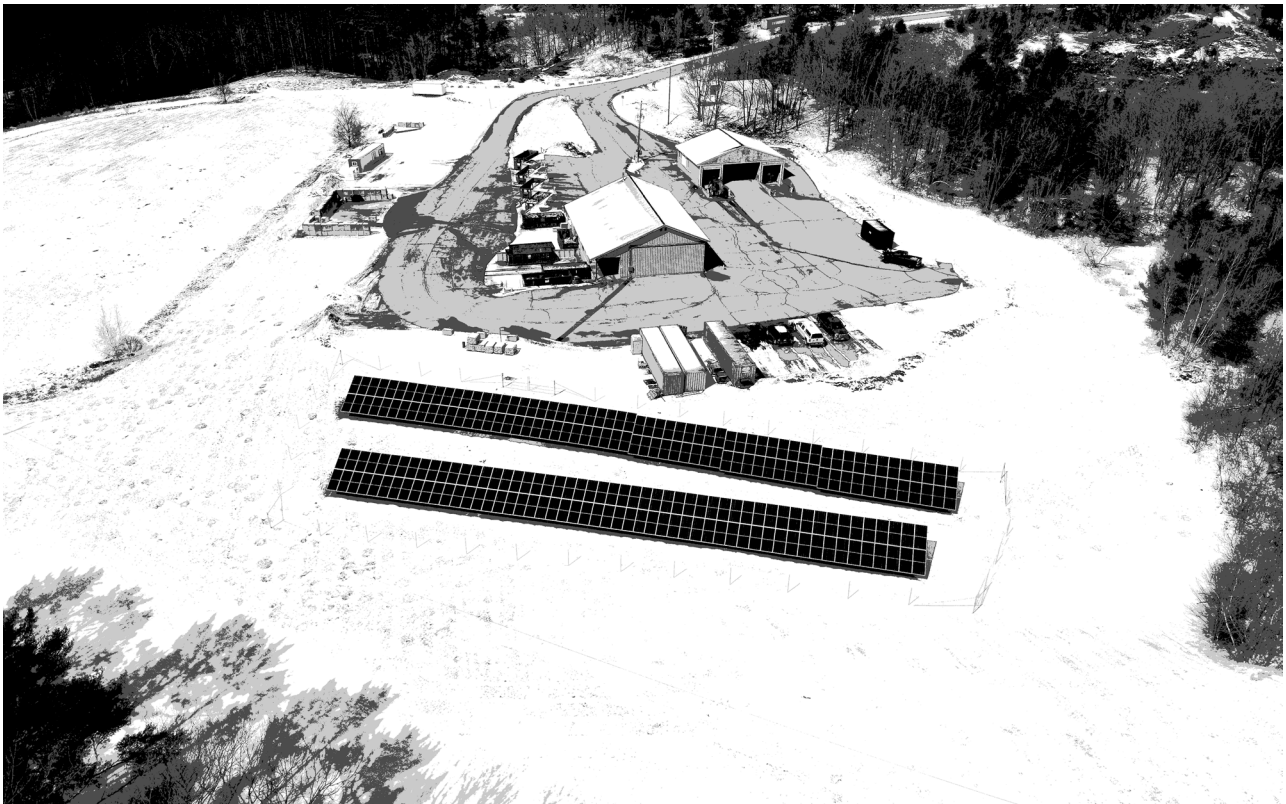
Rug Hookers	Tuesday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	TFL
Cribbage Group	Tuesday	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	TFL
Country, Bluegrass & Gospel Music Jam	Tuesday	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	OWC
Pre-School Storytime	Friday	10:30 am - 11:30 am	TFL
Puzzle group	Friday	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	TFL
Writer's Group	Saturday	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	TFL
Tuftonboro United Methodist Church Service	Sunday	10:30 am	TUMC

### Contacts:

Hikers	Jill Cromwell	schlichtercromwell@gmail.com
Sentinel Lodge	Kevin Van Brunt	kevin@campsentinel.org

### KEY:

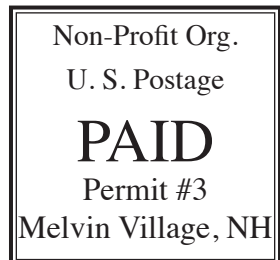
SL - Sentinel Lodge	Libby - Libby Museum	NWC - North Woods Camp
DMF - Davis Memorial Field	OWC - Old White Church	TCS - Tuftonboro Central School
TFL - Tuftonboro Free Library	TFS - Tuftonboro Central Fire Station	TGH - Tuftonboro Grange Hall
THS - Tuftonboro Historical Society	TTO - Tuftonboro Town Offices	TUMC - United Methodist Church
MVCC - Melvin Village Comm Church	WWH - Willing Workers Hall	TTH - Tuftonboro Town House



**Chip Albee was a driving force behind the town's decision to install solar panels at the Transfer Station. They are now reducing the municiple cost of electricty in Tuftonboro.**

**Photo courtesy of the Tuftonboro Police Department drone, Sgt Thomas LaFavre, operator.**

The Tuftonboro Association  
P.O. Box 121  
Melvin Village, NH 03850



**TUFTONBORO POSTAL PATRON**