

Canterbury Community Newsletter

Published for the community by the Canterbury United Community Church ~ February 2021

Making News ...

Town meeting in flux: Selectmen have decided that ballot voting will be held as scheduled, but the deliberative session may be postponed. *Page 4.*

School session on: As we go to print, the deliberative session for the upcoming school budget is on for Wednesday, Feb. 3. *Page 4.*

Presidents Day closings: Elkins Library and the Town Office and Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15.



Could it be? Possibly! After one year lost to COVID, the Canterbury Fair Committee is hoping for a comeback in 2021. *Page 4.*



Calling all masters: The Historical Society plans an archive celebrating artisans such as Brian Braskie and Lenore Howe. *Page 5.*

From the Pastor

Greetings Canterbury neighbors,

I came upon this poem by Edwina Gateway recently and found it served to remind me that even in tumultuous times it's of benefit to remember to allow for stillness. I share it in the midst of so much demanding our attention as a nation, as communities, and in our households.

God's Peace to you all in this time,
Pastor Sara

Let Your God Love You

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your God—
Love you.

Pastor Sara and the community church are here for everyone.

Contact us by email at
mycanterburychurch@gmail.com
or leave a message at 783-9365.

Pastor Sara is distributing a weekly at-home worship packet by email. If you would like to be added to the list of recipients, leave a message at 783-9365 or email mycanterburychurch@gmail.com.

Local Businesses, Here to Serve You ...

BACON ELECTRIC, LLC: Residential electrician serving Canterbury and the surrounding areas. We do new construction, remodeling, or any other electrical service needs. Licensed and fully insured. Call Zack Bacon at (603) 631-4325 or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/baconelectricllc.

MAID FOR YOU: Tired of cleaning? Wake up to a clean and sanitized home! Let us do the cleaning and you can have your weekends back. Fully insured and bonded (603)574-4878 www.maidforyounh.com

JOEL'S OIL: Our goal is to keep you warm at an affordable price. Our current price is just \$1.95 per gallon! delivery is available nights and weekends. Cash or check (Credit card accepted with 3% fee) Call or Text 603-892-5505

COLD GARDEN SPIRITS: Thanks for your business through 2020. No regular hours through the winter. Visit us by appointment or curbside pickup until we reopen for weekend hours again in April.

MAQ DESIGN: quality custom upholstery, slipcovers, and window coverings - curtains, valances, shades, and blinds. Fabric, supplies, pickup and delivery. maryann@maqdesign.net, 783-9640, maqdesign.net.

WHITE OAKS DAIRY FARM: Our store is open Saturdays and Sundays 10 to 6, weekdays 8 to 9:30 am and 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Or by appointment, call 783-4494. We have grass-fed beef, milk from grass-fed cows, bacon, sausage, relish, pickles, maple syrup, eggs and more. 142 West Road.

DEWEY SCHOOL: The Dewey School welcomes children ages 3-5 to nature based early learning at the historic Canterbury Shaker Village. Deweyschool.net.

RIVERLAND B&B: We are open and look forward to welcoming you to Riverland again. Visit our website, riverlandonthemerrimack.com, for details on adjustments we have made in light of COVID-19. 603-562-6059.

BROOKFORD FARM: Our farm store is open daily from 7 am to 7 pm. Pre-order for pickup Tuesday through Sunday. CSA subscriptions and bulk meat orders available too. Organic vegetables, krauts, aged meats, 100 percent grass-fed beef and dairy, pastured chicken, eggs, pork and lamb. Find out more at our website: brookfordfarm.com.



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NORTH FAMILY FARM: 2021 Organic maple syrup from the producer, available at local stores or by appointment at the farm. Check our website northfamilyfarm.com for more information, or call Jill and Tim at 783-4712.

CENTRAL ENERGY, LLC — When was your furnace cleaned last? Central Energy, LLC, "celebrating 85 years in business." Offering ductless A/C systems, traditional A/C installations and service, as well as all your oil heat needs for service, installations & annual cleanings. Oil tanks & water heaters too. Call Barry at 603-724-9603 here in Canterbury and visit us at www.centralenergy1.com.

CANTERBURY COUNTRY STORE: Open Mon.-Sat., 6:30-6; Sun., 8-5 and well-stocked. We'll bag items for pickup or delivery if needed. We've got our usual variety of great local food and locally made products, including sandwiches, meat, eggs, maple products, jams and jellies, jewelry, soap, scarves, and more. Call us at 783-9933 or check our website at canterburycountrystore.com.

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Dave Hazen - c 783-3300

Linda Stevens - Office Mgr.



Advertising, along with donations from readers, helps offset the church's cost in printing and mailing this newsletter!

Thank you to all for supporting the newsletter. May 2021 be a better year for you and for the world!



Cell: (603) 783-4746
bezansonelle@gmail.com Office: (603) 848-2410

More Great Local Ads!

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CANTERBURY WHOLE CHILD CENTER is accepting waitlist applications for children 3 to 12 years to nature/art based preschool, before/after/remote schooling assistance. 783-4370 or CanterburyWholeChildCenter@gmail.com for more information.

CANTERBURY CENTER BED and BREAKFAST: where history meets hospitality. Closed due to the pandemic pending further notice. It is hoped to reopen later in the spring. Advance bookings for later in the year can be made. Email scribnerlois@gmail.com or call 603 783 0206.

MAGOON TREE — Residential tree service and removal. 100' crane services. Log-length firewood for sale. Work year-round. Fully insured. Brian Magoon, 496-6835. magoontree.com.

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Over the past year, the number of advertisers in the Canterbury newsletter has expanded. We think it's a good time to step back and ask how to present these ads most effectively for advertisers and readers alike. We'll reach out to advertisers directly, but we'd love to hear from readers too. So please share any suggestions!

~ Mark and Brenda Travis, editors
newslettercanterbury@gmail.com

Craving local produce? It's available!

In the midst of winter, we wanted to let you know that you can still get local produce! The Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market has opened its temporary location for its in-person market. The market is located at 20 South Main St. (next to the Concord Food Co-op) and runs on Saturdays from 9 to noon. You can preorder your local produce on the Harvest to Market website at harvesttomarket.com/farmers-market/ Downtown-Concord-Winter-Farmers-Market. When you arrive for pick-up, you can pay with cash, debit/credit, check, SNAP/EBT tokens, or Veteran Value Bucks.



We are also still accepting vendor applications for the 2021 season. If you or someone you may know would like to apply to become a vendor, please reach out to our Market Manager, Julie Dewdney, at canterburyfarmersmarket@gmail.com. You can also find more information about becoming a vendor, including our requirements for Sale-able Products, on our website at canterburyfarmersmarket.com.

While you're visiting our website, check out our "Winter Vendors" page for the most up-to-date list of local vendors and their online/call-ahead shopping options.

In addition, the Canterbury Country Store also sells many local products, including Sanborn Meadow eggs, North Family syrup, White Oak Farm beef, Fox Smoke House products and Granite State Coffee, etc.

As a final note, we want to put you up to the challenge and share with us your go-to winter Crockpot recipes! You can share your recipes with us on Facebook or by email!

~ Emily Sullivan



We have a winner!

As we have done in years past, in December the church invited you and yours to snap a creative picture(s) around the star when you see it around town, and to send your pictures to the church office via email. Here is the winning photo and recipient of a \$30 gift certificate to the Country Store. Thank you for joining us in the fun!

~ Pastor Sara

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions ...

Town balloting is on, meeting may wait

The Selectmen have voted to hold the First Session of Town Meeting (election of town officials and zoning amendments) on the scheduled date of Tuesday, March 9. An Emergency Order issued by Gov. Sununu allows for the postponement of the Second Session (the Business Meeting to take up the budget and warrant articles). The Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the near future to determine the date of the Second Session. Following discussion with Ted Leclair and Sam Papps, they are considering a Saturday in May for an outdoor meeting. Look for updates on the town website, social media, the town email and in the newsletter.

The Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the 2021 budget on Monday, Feb. 1, at 6 pm in the meeting house. You can join by phone; see the town website for details.

~ Ken Folsom, Town Administrator

Fire Chief makes the case for vaccination

While the choice to get vaccinated against COVID-19 is personal, I am of the belief that this vaccine is a major step in restoring a sense of normalcy in our daily lives. All members of the CFD have been offered the vaccination for COVID as we have been designated a priority essential employee in regards to guidelines from the governor's office. We at CFD are committed to providing essential services to the town and keeping our members safe while doing so. All CFD responders, whether they have received the vaccine or not, will continue to adhere to CDC guidelines in regard to social distancing and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment on calls.

I am proud to be a member of this department, whose members continue to provide uninterrupted services to the town even though the risks for COVID exposure at times are significant. If you happen to come across one of our members, be sure to acknowledge his or her unwavering commitment to the town during this pandemic. I am certain they would appreciate your acknowledgement as they do your continued support.

~ Mike Gamache, Fire Chief

Two new cruisers await town meeting vote

We would like to remind everybody about town voting in March. Three years have lapsed since we purchased cruisers in 2018. We have put in a warrant article for two more to replace our 2011 and 2014 vehicles. The Selectmen have voted to recommend purchasing one hybrid and one gas. This will bring our fleet up to standards for the next four years.

Officer Bibeau has accepted a position with the Boscawen Police Department. We would like to thank him for his years of service. He started with Canterbury as a part-time officer in 2013 and served as a full-time officer from December of 2016. We wish him and his family the best.

~ Michael P. Labrecque, Police Chief

Deliberative school session is Feb. 3

A deliberative session for the 2021-2022 school budget will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, at Belmont High School



beginning at 6 pm. All warrant articles will be considered at this session. There will be opportunities for explanation, discussion, and amendment of each article. The conclusion of each article will result in voting either to add the article to the ballot for voting on Election Day

in its original form, or to add the article to the ballot for voting as amended. When the deliberative session is adjourned, the language of each article will be finalized, but there will be no decision on whether or not it is passed. On Election Day, March 9, voters will mark "yes" or "no" on each warrant article in the voting booths with the outcome of each article being decided.

Candidates for the one open school board seat in Belmont and the one open seat in Canterbury will also be on the ballot. Belmont residents will vote at Belmont High School and Canterbury residents will vote at the Canterbury Town Hall.

Individuals who qualify for absentee voting may contact Stacy Kruger, District Clerk, at 603-267-9223 ext. 5314.

Fair Committee crosses fingers, starts work!

Greetings, Canterbury Fair fans! We are going forward with plans for this year's Fair on the Very Last Day of July. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that we can gather together safely after a year of disappointment.

We will make a final decision before Memorial Day weekend to give our vendors and others time to make other plans in our crazy COVID world. We are always looking for volunteers, both new and returning Fair alums. There are always jobs to fill, from the Food Tent to the BBQ, from set-up to takedown, there's plenty of opportunities to help out. Let Bob Drew and me know if you'd like to help this year.

There will be a Zoom meeting in March for the Fair Committee and any others interested in helping. If you'd like to be notified of that or get added to the Fair email list, notify Rick at rick.crockford044@gmail.com

Thanks for keeping the faith and we can't wait to see you at the Fair!

~ Bob & Rick

Remembering and Appreciating

In memory: Pamela Ann (Fife) Fifield

Pamela Ann (Fife) Fifield, of Canterbury, died Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, at home with family by her side. Ann was born Aug. 16, 1930, in Concord, the daughter of Clarence and Mary (Glines) Fife. Following graduation from Tilton-Northfield High School, Ann attended UNH, where she studied horticulture.



Ann moved to Buffalo, N.Y., where she worked as a hospital photographer. She enjoyed traveling and spent the summer of 1950 touring Europe. She returned to Canterbury and married Stuart Fifield in 1956. Ann and Stuart owned and operated Windswept Farm. She was the office manager at Telecab/Continental Cablevision/Comcast for more than 25 years until her retirement in 1998. Ann's interest in communications technology continued into her nineties; it was not unusual to receive a call, text, email or Facebook message from her on her smartphone.

Ann grew up at Grand View Farm, working hard and enjoying friendships from all generations. Her involvement in 4-H began in her youth and continued as a leader and mentor until late in life. She was a lifelong member of the Canterbury United Community Church, where her passions were the choir and the flower committee. Ann and Stuart established the Frappe Bar at the Canterbury Fair. She found great satisfaction in her involvement with the Associated Women of NH Farm Bureau.

Ann's welcoming presence made her a friendly face in the community, and her gracious heart and love for her family were encompassed by her quiet strength and endurance.

She will be missed by her daughter, Mary Witschonke, and her daughters, Alison and Catherine of Canterbury; daughter-in-law Melanie and her children, Calvin, Alana and Gwentyth of Moultonborough; son Tom and his wife, LeAnne, and their children, Maegan and Thomas of Franklin; son Peter and his wife, Wendy and their daughters, Hillary, Naomi, Tara, Peta, Claire and Brooke of Franklin; sister Ruth (Wayne) Mann of Canterbury; brother Peter (Valarie) Fife of Canterbury; and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. She was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Stuart; son, David; sister Mary Ellen (Fife) Fifield; and brother Clarence Fife. Services will be held at a later date due to Covid-19 restrictions. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canterbury United Community Church.

We would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers for our mother during her illness, she truly appreciated them. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to you for the many caring cards and calls that we each received.

~ The family of Ann Fifield

Archive to honor Canterbury's creativity

Brian Braskie and **Lenore Howe** have given a collection of articles and clippings which chronicle their career as master craftsmen in the making of Shaker furniture to the Canterbury Historical Society. They began creating their heirloom furniture together in 1980 in their workshop on Old Tilton Road.

They were soon recognized in New Hampshire and nationally for their excellent work. The two shared a view held by other craftsmen who have been drawn to Canterbury. Lenore explained it this way: "We want to stay small. We want to be the best at what we do and be conscious of the quality every step along the way. This is a lifestyle, not just a job."

The Historical Society intends to create an archive dedicated to Canterbury craftsmen, artists, musicians and writers. This donation will supplement other materials we have and form the foundation of a record of creativity in Canterbury. You are invited to contact archivist Sam Papps to discuss a donation.

Keep those COVID-19 experiences coming: We have received some wonderful items documenting experiences in the pandemic. All submissions will be recorded in our archive. Please keep them coming whether they are drawings, photos, writings, or something else. Please send them to canterbury.nh.historical.society@gmail.com

~ Bob Scarponi, President

Shaker Village stewards tame apple orchard

Thanks to the **Canterbury Shaker Village Natural Resource Steward Volunteers** who participated in a unique session focused on the orchard. We had record turnout for training and hands-on application of lessons learned. **Jeremy DeLisle**, Fruit & Vegetable Field Specialist from the UNH Extension Service, and orchardist **John Haberle** explained why fruit trees require annual pruning to support fruit development and growth. They also advised on how to care for many of the century-old apple trees in the orchard. Following a brief tour of the trees, teams focused on two rows of McIntosh apple trees.

As usual, brush piles quickly multiplied between the trees and **Mike Barwell** nurtured the 50-plus-year-old tractor to life and roamed through the orchard to collect the brush. At the close of the session, the first row of Macintosh trees appeared fresh and healthy. Water spouts were neatly trimmed, suckers cut back at the base of trunks and all diseased branches had been removed. The trees provided a good example of successful pruning that will support abundant fruit in the season ahead.

With the training completed, we will continue to work in the orchard through the rest of the winter.

We thank Jeremy and John for sharing their expertise and guidance in the training.

~ Jenn Solms

Elkins Library: They Even Do Curbside Pick-Up!

The next Trustee virtual meeting is Monday, Feb. 8, at 7 pm.

Elkins Library is closed on Monday, Feb. 15, in honor of Presidents Day.

Open Hours: Mondays through Thursdays 9 to 5 and Saturdays 9 to 12

Elkins Library requires face masks. Please ring the doorbell before entering the building. Appointments are required for computer usage in 30-minute time slots. Please call 783-4386 to make arrangements. The Children's Room is closed for browsing. We are happy to find the materials you're looking for and have them ready for pick up. Drop-in is limited to four in the building at one time.

Curbside pick-up continues! Call us or link to our online catalog to place a reserve or email your request. You'll receive notification to set up a pick-up time.

Inter-Library Loans: The NH State Library has resumed this service allowing extended time for quarantining materials.

Adult Programs and Services:

Zoom event: A Libertarian Walks into a Bear. On Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 7 pm author Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling joins us to talk about one of the most ambitious social experiments in modern American history—the so-called Free Town Project. To register please fill out the form on the Elkins website email. You will receive the Zoom link the day before the program.

The Old Man Boring Book Club meets Thursday, Feb. 4, at 7 pm. Individually chosen non-fiction selections will be discussed at a virtual meeting. Email or call Sue for the Zoom link.

Keep Calm and Craft On: Wednesday, Feb. 10, at 11 am. We're meeting a week earlier this month to make a Valentine pendant craft. Kits will be available at the library. Please contact Sue to reserve your kit and for the Zoom link to join in.

Book Group: Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7 pm. Copies of *Valentine* by Elizabeth Wetmore are free to download on Hoopla and Overdrive. Details on accessing Hoopla are available on our website. For more on Overdrive, visit nh.lib.overdrive.com, then contact the library to register. The library has print copies. Please call or email Sue for the Zoom link to join the discussion.

Wi-Fi is available outside the library 24-7. Just choose [elkins_library](#). No password is required.

Frontier Soups: A variety of delicious gourmet soup mixes offers easy shortcuts to homemade that are healthy, delicious and contain all-natural seasonings with no added salt, no preservatives or MSG. Many are gluten free! \$8 each or 4 for \$30. A Friends of Elkins Public Library fundraiser, which benefits the library providing materials and programs.

Youth Services:

If you live with a young person please take a moment to pat them on the back and while you're at it, give yourself one too! You are utilizing your library like never before and we are so thankful for your support.

Join us Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 11 am for our **Winter Warm Up Event** on FaceBook Live with Judy Pancoast. Effervescent, energetic, and entertaining, Judy is a singer, songwriter and recording artist who radiates joy in her music. Open to all. Please contact the library or visit our website for details.

Book Time with Mrs. Baker: Enjoy a fun virtual experience for little ones! Sing, discover new rhymes and learn of the wonderful world of books. These YouTube Live productions can be found on our YouTube channel, website and Facebook page for all to enjoy and watch again and again!

Story Time-To-Go! These kits are created for young readers to promote literacy development. Each kit is based on the interests and reading level of the individual reader and contains books, activity sheets and multiple crafts with materials included. Call or email to receive your own kit. Many families are using these programs to complement a homeschool preschool program.

Teen Talk: meets every Tuesday from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm to discuss current events, share ideas and book suggestions. This wonderful group of young people is best suited for people aged 13 to 16.

Announcing NH Teen Ambassador Cate McDonald: For the first time, the YALS Flume & Isinglass Committee of NH has chosen Teen Book Awards Ambassadors to join efforts in creating this year's short lists of the best books for young people. Four teens were chosen from the entire state for this exciting new position. We are thrilled to announce that our own Cate McDonald has been chosen for this honor. Cate has contributed significantly to the growth of the YA section and the overall readership of our young community for years. She continues to provide innovative ideas and works hard to include her peers in library involvement. Join us in congratulating Cate!

Phone: 783-4386 **Website:** elkinspubliclibrary.org

Material requests: elkinslibrary@elkinspubliclibrary.org, 783-4386 or our catalog link on the website.

Mrs. Baker (Youth Services)
mrsbaker@elkinspubliclibrary.org

Susan LeClair (Director and Adult Services)
sleclair@elkinspubliclibrary.org

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and check out the "Elkins Virtual Library" page on our website!

What's up at CES? Plenty!

CES staff have been offering after-school academic support based on teacher recommendation since December. Academic support is available to students on an as-needed basis. This opportunity provides learners with pre-teaching, re-teaching/ review, interventions, and/or assistance with work completion. A late bus has been in place since the beginning of January. The late bus allows students who might not otherwise be able to participate in the opportunity to take part as well. We are pleased to be giving our learners more opportunities for coaching and support.

Special recognition goes to **Tabitha Sheedy**, our 2020 CES Kid Governor candidate. Tabitha competed with other fifth-grade students from schools around New Hampshire. **Mrs. Gingrich**, our enrichment teacher, collaborated with Tabitha on her platform, "supporting students experiencing homelessness." Tabitha and Mrs. Gingrich are currently working with **Officer Eric Adams** of the Laconia Police Department to create a project to assist homeless students.

CES learners recently enjoyed a virtual assembly with Simple Gifts, a musical duo out of Lemont, PA. The assembly included music from or influenced by Eastern Europe, the British Isles, India, China, Mexico, Scandinavia, Appalachia and more, with educational narrative and discussion throughout. Instruments included fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo, and recorder, as well as more unusual instruments such as a bowed psaltery, hammer dulcimer, and erhu. Simple Gifts explained and performed on each instrument, discussed how cultures are reflected in music and answered students' questions. The CES students asked wonderful questions and were a fantastic audience.

~ Erin Chubb, Principal

Need food? Call us to see if you qualify!

The Loudon Food Pantry is not bound by the same guidelines as the government's food stamp program when determining who qualifies to receive services. Food pantries usually have a little more leeway. Go to loudonfoodpantry.org and click on the Need Help? tab to see our guidelines, or call Sue at (603) 724-9731 to see if you qualify.

The process is simple and if you have all your paperwork, you'll receive food the same day as your appointment! Our office is located in Huckleberry Business Park, 30 Chichester Road, Loudon, or call 603-724-9731. You can find us on Facebook at LoudonFP.

We are open for donations and volunteers on Tuesdays from 10 to 6, Wednesdays from 10 to 1, and Thursdays from 10 to 4. Service is by appointment only.

In 2021, until it is safe again, we will continue to mask and glove up and service households by running lists out to their vehicles, pick and pack their choices then bring out their food. Currently, because of the upswing in cases, we are also feeding households double their allotments. This provides a safety net in case the pantry has to shut down from a COVID outbreak.

~ Sue Houck

Why use LED lights in your home?

Let's count the reasons!

Longer life: 30,000 to 50,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours for an incandescent or 8-10,000 hours for a Compact Fluorescent (CFL)

Greater efficiency: one-sixth the energy of an incandescent bulb, one-half or less of a CFL bulb

Less electricity: a lower electric bill and fewer greenhouse gases. (A 9-watt LED bulb vs. a 60-watt incandescent can save \$140 over the life of the bulb.)

No mercury in the waste stream (CFLs)

The Canterbury Energy Committee has received a donation of 250 LED bulbs due to the generosity of Resilient Buildings Group of Concord and Leeds Burchard of Salem. We plan to distribute these bulbs through the elementary school, the Loudon Canterbury Food Pantry and the Canterbury Housing Association.

~ Claudia Leiding, Canterbury Energy Committee

And it's a great time to tighten up!

This is the perfect time to give some thought to how well your house is protected against cold air infiltration and warm air loss. Weatherizing can greatly decrease your energy bills, but is often ignored because it is thought to be too expensive. What many people don't realize is that the NHSaves Energy Audits and Weatherization Program offers loans -- and discounts of up to 75 percent (up to \$8,000) to make these improvements!

Last year we had insulation added to knee walls and caulking to our house (three stories) with a zero-interest loan (for amounts up to \$2,000) from Eversource, based on our credit and repaid as part of our monthly bill. This program is available from all utilities. Qualification is based on your total energy usage (electricity, oil, propane, kerosene, and cord wood or pellets) and the size of your house. The fuel usage information is available from your supplier and the town Assessors Office can help with conditioned square footage.

The savings that we achieved amounts to over 100 gallons of oil. This is equivalent to sealing up 3 square feet of air transmission. (Think an open window all year!)

And the very best news: NHSaves will caulk and seal your house without charge! The sooner you act the better. Go to NHSaves.com, click on Programs and choose Energy Audits and Weatherization, then go to Test Your Home. If you have questions, would like a list of auditors, or want to receive future updates, please write to me at slhodsdon@gmail.com

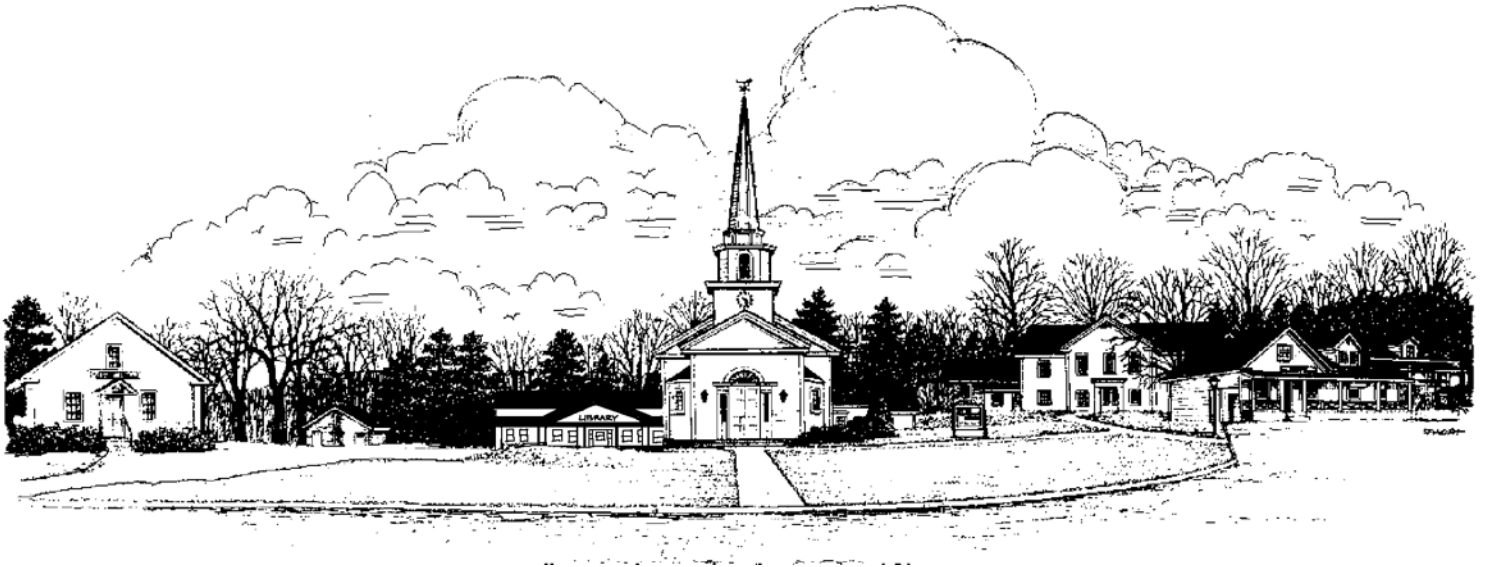
~ Sandy Hodsdon, Canterbury Energy Committee

CANTERBURY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Trail Notes: to the special pleasures of winter woods

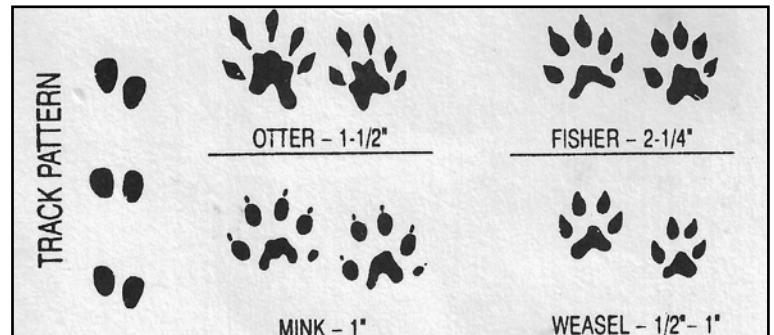
It's been a fine winter for woods walking since the big rain washed away the big dump. No snowshoes or traction needed (though some prefer to wear spikes for reassurance and safety). Hope the open winter continues and I can reestablish a regular walking schedule.

The distant views through the leafless woods are welcome, especially of Carding Mill Pond from that trail. You see the pond long before you get to it. Perhaps I can find the lovely bog/marsh I stumbled on when I was lost trying to find Schoodac from Baptist Road.

Winter woods have special pleasures, tracking being the best. We can become less visitors to the woods, more aware of our fellow creatures who live there, their tracks revealing their stories.

Of course the Indians understood that we share the world with the animals, and all life. Winter tracking can be a time to share what we have in common.

A playful otter provided me with perhaps the best example of this. I was walking down along our brook. Though frozen over in places, it's a lovely brook and has many openings in the ice overflows. I could see the otter tracks coming up the brook on the snowy ice of the frozen-over sections, then often



Otter tracks! From N.H. Fish and Game's pocket tracking guide.

disappearing where the otter swam under the ice. But also I could see where it had run on the ice then slid on it as it went back downstream.

Just before the old beaver swamps the otter left the brook and headed uphill to Shaker Road. There was a heavy crust covered with about an inch of light fluffy snow. At Shaker Road the otter turned to return to the brook, running and sliding on the crust all the way back down to the brook. I could see where the slides went under downed branches that were just high enough for an otter to go under. As good as it gets.

~ Dave Emerson