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TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010

IT'S THE LOCAL NEWS

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local Polling Places

Sunapee Students Attend Harvard Model Congress

by Katie Richardson
InterTown News Service

SUNAPEE – Sunapee Middle High School (SMHS) Social Studies teacher Marcia Spencer presented three students with Harvard Model Congress awards at the March 3 school board meeting.

Harvard Model Congress is a government simulation for high school students run by undergraduates at Harvard College. Students assume the role of various government leaders engaging in debates, trials, caucuses, press conferences and testimonies. The program allows students to learn about and develop an interest in the process of American government. This year's Harvard Model Congress took place from Feb. 25-28 at the Boston Sheraton Hotel.

Spencer stated that SMHS was the only school in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont to participate in the event, this being the fourteenth year of the school's involvement. She commented that Sunapee was up against many larger schools and complimented all participants saying, "They rose to the occasion, they were not daunted." A total of sixteen students attended the program.

Adam Whittier received an award for his performance as an opposition analyst for the West Wing, Lane Dubreuil for his role as a lobbyist for the American Red Cross and Taylor Knapp for her representation of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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Broadband Consortium to Hold Informational Forum

ENFIELD – Town and school officials, chambers of commerce, community business and civic leaders, economic development councils, industrial development authorities, and interested citizens are invited to attend an informational forum on Monday, March 15, at 2 p.m.

The forum will be held in the Enfield Community Building, 308 Route 4 and will cover the various broadband initiatives that are being conducted for the benefit of the towns, citizens and businesses of the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee region and the entire State of New Hampshire.

Warner Selectmen Honor Local Artist David Carroll

by Kimberley Brown Edelmann
InterTown News Service

WARNER – Before meeting at the Town Hall on March 2nd, Warner's three Selectmen, David Hartman, David Karrick and Clyde Carson visited the home of David and Laurette Carroll. There, they presented David with a copy of the Town of Warner Annual Report 2009 which is dedi-

cated to him. David, a longtime Warner resident, is a respected naturalist, artist, lecturer and author. Even with a MacArthur Fellowship to his name and five successful books under his belt, the most recent of which earned him a finalist title in the prestigious 2009 National Book Awards, David was completely and sincerely "blown away" by this very

special local recognition.

Returning to the Town Hall, the Board of Selectmen with Town Administrator Laura Buono went to work with a full agenda in front of a small, but engaged group of citizens.

First up, Rebecca Courser, executive director of the Warner Historical Society, presented the Board with a proposal for a new summer cultural event that would take place on four Saturday evenings at the Town Hall. At the "Tory Hill Reader's Series" evenings, poets and writers will read from their writings and then engage in interactive question and answer sessions with the audience. Afterwards, mingling and light desserts will be enjoyed outdoors under a festively-lit tent. Courser also hopes the local Warner businesses will make good use of the events, opening their doors to customers who she believes will come not only from Warner, but from as far as Concord and Lebanon.

The selectmen generally liked the idea and assuming insurance and other details are successfully worked out, will give their blessing to the proposal.

Next up, Jean Hand expressed concerns about Warner's Conservation Plans and specifically wanted to

know where the selectmen stood on the concept of handicapped access for trails. Hand shared that in New London, steps have been taken to provide "overlooks" on some conserved lands, allowing publicly-funded land to be enjoyed by more citizens. The Board felt the point made was an excellent idea for future consideration and something that should be discussed with Warner's conservation committee, as well.

In relation to conservation, Jim Hand asked about the long-term plans for Warner land conservation. Jim McLaughlin from the conservation committee, who was also in the audience, pointed out that the full 108 page "Town of Warner Conservation Plan" goes into great detail about conservation targets and locations. It is now available on the Warner website.

Next up was Martha Mical representing the Warner Assessment and Tax Map Information Office. Warner residents with land in current use were asked to provide updated information to the office by March 1, as part of a mandatory five-year review.

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LEARNING BY DOING – Above, Marissa John, visiting from Bangalore, India, helps collect sugar maple sap at Kearsarge Meadows in Warner.

Visit any professional maple sugaring house in New England and you can learn the magic behind the creation of "Liquid Gold," from tree to table. Listen to their stories and you'll often hear how they got started boiling sap in the backyard. So, does that mean anyone can make their own maple syrup at home? Absolutely!

Next week, learn how one pair of Warner residents ventured into their winter hobby of maple sugaring and how you, too, can get started sugaring at home.

Photo by
Kimberley Brown Edelmann

Newport to Raise Water and Sewer Rates

by Minette Sweeney
InterTown News Service

NEWPORT – The Newport Board of Selectmen meeting held on Monday, March 1, was attended by Selectmen Virginia Irwin, chairman, Jeffrey Kessler, vice chairman, Beverly Rodeschin, Elizabeth Maiola, Gary Nichols; Daniel O'Neill, town manager, Paul Brown, finance director and Larry Wiggins, public works director.

A public hearing was held regarding water and sewer rate increases. Brown presented the Board with two options for the sewer rate increases, one for a four-year period and one for a nine-year period.

There was spirited discussion and dismay over the necessity for such a large jump in rates, sewer rates in particular.

Brown explained that the increases were needed to stabilize and fund necessary projects like the town's share of the phosphorous removal project and the well project.

At this time the projected cost for a new well is about \$2 million and Brown feels that an expenditure of \$176,000 (to ensure the well is put in the very best place) makes sense.

O'Neill stated the town's water is already close to capacity usage and if steps aren't taken to improve future output the town might be turning away business and industry.

He explained that Gilman Pond won't meet the minimum, state requirements and should the town have to close Pollard's Mills due to ground water contamination from the old landfill there would be major trouble.

A first vote to accept option one as it stood with a first-year increase of 25%, followed by a three-year increase of 10% each, was voted down and in the end the Board

unanimously passed a one-year increase of 25% with plans to look at the issue again next year.

Kessler moved to accept the four-year increase of 10% per year on the water rates, Irwin seconded.

Nichols said that he feels the Board is renegeing on what the public was told four years ago. He felt a one-year hike in water rates would be acceptable at 10%, but not four years. He added that the town wouldn't be attracting much new business with high property taxes as well as water and sewer rates.

Nichols reminded the Board that three years ago the town was asked

to take a big hit with promises of no more and yet now they are being asked to take another one.

Kessler said he felt that to make a 10-year prediction and find seven years later that you're falling behind is probably normal given the economic conditions of the nation. He feels that part of the water (and sewer) costs should be added to the general tax rate, as is done in most other, New Hampshire communities.

The possibility of leaks in the system were pointed out as the infra-

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JUMP ROPE FOR HEART – Area schools recently participated in American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart." Above, Bradford Elementary third grade student Ruby Hill, who broke her wrist playing soccer, was unable to jump rope, so she was the timer and she rang the bell to let jumpers know when to start and stop. (InterTown News Photo by Gayle Hedrington)

Daylight Saving Time begins

on Sunday, March 14. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour at 2 a.m. and replace your smoke alarm batteries.



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