

# The Tuftonboro Times

Vol XXV, No. 3

A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Tuftonboro Association

Summer, 2023

## Highway marker dedicated at “Grave by the Lake” site

Have you seen the new state historic marker on the Melvin Village Community Church grounds? The Tuftonboro Historical Society was an informational contributor to the research which led up to the placement of the sign.

Members of the Society participated in the dedication of the marker, which took place on May 3, 2023, at the church. In addition to historical society members, participants included representatives from the NH Commission on Native American Affairs, the Winnepesaukee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the NH Division of Historic Resources.

Society and DAR member Mary Hunter spoke about the Grave by the Lake history, along with



**The new marker stands next to the old beside the Melvin Village Church.**

remarks by Rep. Sherry Gould of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation.

Did you know the original “Grave by the Lake” marker was the first in New Hampshire and dedicated in 1955? It was installed through “an effort between townspeople, archeologists, and the Native American Community.”

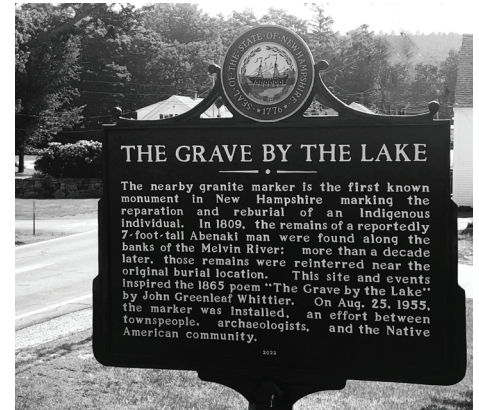
Welcome to another season of the Tuftonboro Historical Society.

The Society just had its first Market in the Barn of the season on June 24. The next one is July 29. For more information contact Sue Weeks at (603) 520-0395.

The Museum is now open Wednesday and Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., through August 30. The summer display is “Abenaki Tower - 100 Years”. Karen Burnett Kurie has put together a wonderful display depicting the tower’s history. Mark your calendar to visit the Museum this summer. You won’t be disappointed.

Wednesday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. the program will be excerpts from Elias Bryant’s Civil War diary, with Sue Weeks.

Saturday, August 26 will be the annual Craft Day with local crafters. Anyone interested in selling their crafts, or demonstrating their craft, please contact Jackie Rollins at (603) 496-8212. This activity is in conjunction with Tuftonboro’s Old Home Days.



**This historical highway marker was dedicated on May 3 in Melvin Village.**

Each September our society likes to travel to historic places or other Historical Societies. This year it will visit Cornish Maine’s Historical Society at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in carpooling, or just going as a group, meet at the Historical Society Museum at 9:00 a.m. Cornish has some great restaurants so plan on lunch after visiting their museum.

There is an Historical Society event calendar and a newsletter that are available at the Museum and the Tuftonboro Town Office.

**Jackie Rollins, President  
Tuftonboro Historical Society**

## Selectmen solicit bids for new police station to start in fall

Summer has arrived, finally! Believe it or not, the Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen is only about two months away from getting back into the budget season and creating a budget for 2024. In the meantime, the Selectmen are looking forward to many summer activities planned by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Please check out the calendar of activities found on the town website and on page 11 of this edition of *The Tuftonboro Times*.

While the Board is still waiting for the state to complete the permitting process to begin work on Union Wharf, the police station is making progress. Through an RFQ process (Request for Qualifications), three potentially qualified general contractors have received bid documents. By the time this publication

hits the mailboxes, a contractor will likely have been chosen. Work on the new station is expected to begin in the fall.

The Selectmen have recently reviewed and updated the Town Personnel Policy, which hasn’t been done in quite a few years. They are also still working with solar vendors to find the best configuration for a solar system for the town with the intent of having a presentation ready for budget season.

The Melvin Village Fire Station will soon have a new generator installed, completing generator installations at all the town fire stations.

While not everyone in town travels Ledge Hill Road, those who do may have noticed the new blinking stop signs recently installed on the Ledge Hill Road

and Durgin Road intersection of Rt. 171 (Mountain Road). There have been many accidents at this intersection, with vehicles blowing right through the intersection without stopping. At the town level, apart from grinding rumble strips into the pavement, all has been done to improve the safety of this intersection. It is hoped that the blinking red lights will capture the attention of drivers who would otherwise fail to see the stop signs.

Over the winter, the access ramp to the lake at 19 Mile Bay beach took some damage. Some of this damage can be attributed to the forces of Mother Nature, and some of the damage is likely from human carelessness. Repair of this damage is being

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# Great Meadow phase one completed; river trail loop is next

After completion of the first trail segment and the observation deck, the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission wanted to hold a trailhead celebration to thank all those who helped get the trail this far along and to take a group photo around the new kiosk for



**Volunteers Dana Simpson (L) and Peter Rizzo contemplate adding a board walk across soggy ground. Photo by Steve Scapicchio, Trail Master.**

posterity. We chose a day late in the season to allow the trail to dry out from spring rains. As the day approached the weather forecast looked like certain rain. So, we sent out announcements and rescheduled the dedication to the planned, rain date for the following Saturday. As that day approached, again, the forecast was for certain rain and, in addition, possibly damaging thunderstorms. With the summer activity season about to begin we decided to postpone the dedication this time to next fall. Stay tuned for a new date in or after September.

Meanwhile the volunteer trail construction crew has been busy. They added bench seats along the back rail of the observation platform. Now you can take a rest after arriving, have a snack, take in the scene, or just sit quietly to observe wildlife.

There is a section of trail between the last boardwalk and the last bridge that we thought would stand up to trail traffic. Regular trail use by the public, however, is showing that trail is receiving too much wear. While it is holding up so far, there are clear signs that it will not hold up for much longer. Although it was disappointing not to get started on the new loop, we decided to extend the last boardwalk to the last bridge to protect that area of wet soil before moving on. Fortunately, we had enough lumber stockpiled to do this job. We have only two more sections to go

to complete this part of the project. There were just enough volunteers to send a small group to get started brushing out the beginning of the new River Trail loop. We are hopeful that we can have a good portion of this trail to show off at the celebration in the fall.

You may remember that Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG), based in Union NH, pitched in with Wolfeboro/Tuftonboro Land Bank at a critical time in 2022 to help us acquire a critical parcel in the Great Meadow, next to the trailhead and parking area. We needed MMRG's support to meet a very narrow window of opportunity, and both groups came through to make it happen. Previously, MMRG merged with the Dan Hole Land Trust, which expanded their area of operation into Ossipee and Tuftonboro. Subsequently, they have an opportunity to conserve another critical area in the Melvin River watershed. Please read the following article by Veronica Bodge, Land Agent for MMRG. They are currently raising the funds to complete the transaction. Please consider donating to MMRG and joining as a member. Also, thanks for your continuing support for the Great Meadow Trail. It's not too late to sign up as a trail volunteer, at [conservation@tuftonboro.org](mailto:conservation@tuftonboro.org).

**Steve Wingate, Vice-Chairman  
Tuftonboro Conservation Commission**

## Bicksler Easement seeks to conserve 150 acres in Tuftonboro

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) proposes to permanently conserve 150 acres of mostly undeveloped habitat in Tuftonboro, NH through the Bicksler Conservation Easement Project. This beautiful privately owned parcel includes 1,100 feet of frontage on both sides of the Melvin River that flows into Lake Winnepesaukee. The interior of the property is mixed with forests, wetlands, fields, swamps, old stone walls and a breathtaking view of the Ossipee Mountains.

The Bicksler Conservation Easement boasts pristine and highly valued natural landscapes and resources worthy of permanent protection. According to a state assessment tool created by New Hampshire Fish and Game, over 80% of the property falls within the highest two ranking categories for determining priority conservation areas. This easement would

also further MMRG's primary goal of connecting conserved properties into "greenways", which support wildlife migration, habitat restoration, responsible recreation opportunities and other conservation goals. In addition to the Bicksler Easement, MMRG has conserved 856 acres in the immediate area and is currently working on 3 additional potential projects, making this area one of the most active conservation hotspots in our service area.

MMRG's mission is to conserve key natural resources within their nine-town service area and connect them within a permanently protected network of greenways and open space. By conserving this Bicksler Conservation Easement, MMRG is taking another step towards its conservation goals in the region. Funds supporting these conservation projects like the Bicksler Easement are raised through public

and private grants as well as individual donations from community members. All personal gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law and are guaranteed to support conservation projects. You can help keep Tuftonboro's rural character intact by giving towards this project. Donations can be made via mailed check or securely online at <https://mmrgnh.org/donate>.

Checks should be made payable to Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and mailed to:

MMRG, Attn: Tuftonboro Projects, PO Box 191, Union, NH 03887.

MMRG thanks you for your support and welcomes any questions via email to [greenways@mmrgnh.org](mailto:greenways@mmrgnh.org).

**Veronica Bodge, Land Agent  
Moose Mountains Regional Greenways**

## Willing Workers Hall to undergo repairs and improvements

In the heart of Melvin Village, Willing Workers Hall has long been used by the Melvin Village Community Church and our community for meetings, gatherings, special events, and even a nursery school in the not-so-distant past. Following public health guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hall was closed for social gatherings. While the pandemic continued, an engineering assessment was performed that raised

some safety concerns. The decision at the time was to not reopen until further investigation was completed.

Earlier this year, a working group was assembled to investigate, provide recommendations, and develop a plan for reopening. The group includes both church and community members and has been meeting on a regular basis. To date, they have recommended design of a replacement effluent disposal system and

are working with contractors to identify appropriate structural and cosmetic enhancements. The objective is to return Willing Workers Hall to full use as soon as possible while maintenance projects are identified and scheduled. Please stay tuned and thank you for your continued support.

**Bill Marcussen  
Volunteer**



# Conservation Commission shares Earth Day with TCS

The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) shared this year's Earth Day celebration with students at the Tuftonboro Central School (TCS).

With connection to nature being at the heart of this day, the TCC set the intention of getting all students outside to connect with the natural world in their backyard. The students participated in a nature scavenger hunt in the wild space around the school and had the opportunity to investigate and explore the biodiversity that our great town has to offer. Curiosities were sparked as they discovered animal signs, explored various types of trees and plants, searched for insects, and took in all the signs of spring!

Also, the Tuftonboro Central School fourth, fifth, and sixth graders participated in the 2nd annual Earth Day Essay Contest sponsored by the

Tuftonboro Conservation Commission. This essay contest was created as a fun and engaging activity that could invite students to think critically about the meaning of Earth Day and ways to help support the Earth in a positive way.

The 4th graders wrote in response to the following prompt, "In your opinion, is it important to take care of our Earth?" The 5th and 6th Graders wrote in response to, "Is there a way you can help the environment by changing one of your daily habits?"

The TCS students put in great effort and did an amazing job writing thoughtfully and creatively. The TCC would like to thank the TCS teachers and students for taking part in this annual activity.

**Laurel Podsen, Member  
Tuftonboro Conservation Commission**



**Contest winners (left to right) Back Row: Sydney Lynn, Vincent Crowder, Sam Saxby, Justin Walsh, Oliver Leavitt-Carlson, Nathan Warner Front Row: Judy Hall, Naomi Clark**

## Board members share thoughts on Libby vote failure

Members of The Board of the Friends of the Libby Museum wish to explain what happened to the plans to restore the museum building. Tuftonboro residents were huge contributors to the fundraising effort but, sadly, the effort failed.

\$2.2 million was raised over the course of four years by The Friends of the Libby Museum (a non-profit with a small voluntary board). This was a substantial portion of the total \$4 million cost for a complete restoration. The Friend's portion was to be donated to the Town of Wolfeboro (the town's Selectmen are The Libby Museum Trustees, since 1956). The Town of Wolfeboro required The Friends to raise their full \$ 2.2 million before they would put the project forward to voters to ask for the Town's share towards the restoration (\$1.4 million).

In March, over 50% of Wolfeboro residents voted in favor of saving The Libby, but the vote was short of the 60% needed for Wolfeboro to borrow its share of funds. It missed the threshold by just 49 votes out of 1,495 ballots cast.

The result was that Wolfeboro could not raise its share for the Museum's restoration, and officials have given no indication of how they might find a way forward. Thus, the \$2.2 million raised through donations by The Friends is being returned to each donor. The implications of the Town failing to raise its share were explained to all Wolfeboro residents prior to voting day in a town-wide mailing from The Friends, as well as at numerous public meetings.

Why not try again in 2024? Years of effort to get the restoration project on the ballot in Wolfeboro dampened confidence in the commitment of town officials to restoring the Museum and saving its rare collection. Multiple studies over 25 years made it clear that full restoration, not repairs, are needed. However, the Wolfeboro Selectmen decided after the vote to solicit more advice on priority repairs that can be done with the Town's capital fund held in reserve for the museum. The benefits of restoration, such as insulation and much-needed temperature/moisture control, won't be achieved and the museum building

and its contents may soon be beyond repair.

The Wolfeboro Selectmen decided they would open the Libby Museum again this summer, despite the Friends' negative opinion. The Friends are concerned about the level of mold (assessed by experts) and the lack of annual measuring of the wall movement, recommended by engineers. Because of this, the Friends will not be sponsoring any kids' programs or live animal shows.

The Libby is open this year from June 1 to Columbus Day, Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Friends of the Libby Museum are grateful for the strong support from Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro residents who recognized the importance of saving the Libby Museum and why saving such an historic place is meaningful to us and our communities.

**Alana Albee and Kari Lauber  
Friends of the Libby Museum**



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# They're having way too much fun over at Mirror Lake!

Mirror Lake residents are enjoying a festive summer as the newly formed Mirror Lake Protective Association Community Engagement team, composed of Beth Argeros and Fran O'Donoghue, rally people around parades, parties, boat competitions, and a large yard sale!

Over the last couple of years, Beth has championed a Mirror Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade, which last season added a live band. This year, although postponed a few hours by rain, those in the parade were thrilled to glide slowly around the lake in motorboats, kayaks, canoes, or on a paddleboard, while the band played exciting marches. At one point eighteen vessels were counted! Cheered on by those

on decks, porches, and beaches there was much flag waving. Our musicians included: Claudia Bissett playing saxophone and piccolo, Tom Bissett on drums, Joe Ewing on baritone horn, Lance MacLean on tuba, and Val Zanchuk on the trumpet. They are all invited back!

Other Mirror Lake events have been designed to bring people together who live on the lake, near the lake, or visit the lake to get to know one another better.

There will be an afternoon Boat Social in the middle of Mirror Lake on Wednesday, July 19, at 4:00 p.m.; a Mirror Lake Mingle at the Bistro 19 restaurant at Kingswood Golf Club on Wednesday August 2 at 5:00 p.m.; a Community Yard Sale on Saturday,



## Paul Revere Sciarappa alerts Mirror Lake residents "the boats are coming!"

August 5, at a time and location to be decided. And for kids of all ages, an opportunity to try out their own construction and sailing skills with cardboard boats in an event on Sunday, August 20, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lang Pond Beach. This is a prelude leading up to the Tuftonboro Parks and Recreation Cardboard Boat Race in late August where the Mirror Lakers can try again. Young or old, creative boaters of all ages are welcome!

Everyone is invited to the MLPA Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, July 15, at the Tuftonboro Fire Station on Middle Road.

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



**And the band played on...Mirror Lake! Claudia Bissett: piccolo and saxophone; Tom Bissett: drums; Joe Ewing: baritone horn; Lance MacLean: tuba; Val Zanchuk: trumpet**

# Abenaki display features scavenger hunt, trivia, and prizes

The Abenaki Tower and Trail Association (AT&T) is celebrating the 100-year birthday of the Abenaki Tower with an exhibit at the Tuftonboro Historical Society Museum. Visitors can complete the exhibit's scavenger hunt, answer the trivia questions and/or solve the Abenaki scrabble word puzzle to win up to three prizes. Check out the Abenaki Exhibit during July and August. The museum hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The AT&T is also offering a reward to anyone who can provide evidence of, or more information about, any of the following:

Proof the tower was used to spot airplanes during WWII.

Details related to the fire on September 27 at the Abenaki Tower mentioned in the 1938 Tuftonboro Town Report.

Information about Joshua Q. Litchfield, one of the originators of the tower, as captain of the Mt. Washington.

Pictures, or at least the wording, of Abenaki Tower signs during the mid 1900's.

Email details to Karen Burnett-Kurie at [karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com](mailto:karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com) for your reward.

Do you have a family tradition of dropping your pumpkins off the tower after Halloween? Did you celebrate a special occasion at the tower? Did your father enjoy scaring you during nighttime trips to the tower? Any tower stories are wanted. They will be

published in a collection of Abenaki Tower Stories to be released next year in conjunction with the centennial. Send your tower stories to Kristina Kieffer at [skindwall@gmail.com](mailto:skindwall@gmail.com).

Centennial Tee-shirts, long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts and jackets are now available. Along with mugs, magnets, bags, and other memorabilia. Look for our booth at various Tuftonboro/Wolfboro events. Or contact [Karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com) if you want more information. All proceeds will go toward the tower rebuilding fund.

**David Dyer Burnett, President  
Abenaki Tower and Trail Association**



# Diver Hans Hug will return to Tuftonboro for presentation

On September 22 the featured speaker at the Tuftonboro Association Annual Meeting will be well-known scuba diver Hans Hug of Exeter. The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Tuftonboro Free Library, 221 Middle Road, Center Tuftonboro.

Mr. Hug will present "The Wrecks of Winnepesaukee" which will focus on the underwater history of the Big Lake, showing videos and sonar images of shipwrecks seen while diving. Hug has been an avid diver for over thirty years throughout New England, exploring sites from Cape Cod and Cape Ann to the Connecticut River.

Using sophisticated side-scan sonar equipment,

he has located more than seventy wrecks in Lake Winnepesaukee, including large pieces of the original steamer Mount Washington. His recent discoveries will be of great interest to those interested in Lake Winnepesaukee history.

Because of the anticipated popularity of this presentation, it is requested that those planning to attend R.S.V.P. to [timeseditor@roadrunner.com](mailto:timeseditor@roadrunner.com).

For more information, visit Mr. Hug's website: <http://www.sonarsar.com/>.

**Steve Brinser, President  
The Tuftonboro Association**



**Experienced scuba diver Hans Hug will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of The Tuftonboro Association.**

## Police Department continues to deal with staffing problems

This summer is keeping your Tuftonboro Police Department very busy. There have been several accidents and involved cases.

The department still has one vacancy, which means there are gaps in coverage that must be filled by the Carroll County Sheriff's office and the New Hampshire State Police. Vacancies in law enforcement are stretching all departments in the state thin. Health issues have stretched Tuftonboro even further.

Some applicants have reached out to our

department with interest but then fail to show up for appointments and tests. To add to the difficulty, the town's benefit package is no longer competitive compared to other law enforcement agencies. It is hoped that the vacant position can be filled, but it is unlikely Tuftonboro will attract a certified officer. That will mean it will take about a year before a new hire can work on their own.

That would get the department up to four officers. Many towns have slightly more than one officer for

every 500 residents (2.1 per thousand is the average). Although Tuftonboro has about 2,500 year-round residents, the town sees a very large seasonal increase in its population.

I hope to have more positive news about our staffing for the fall newsletter. Have a safe summer.

**Chief Andrew Shagoury  
Tuftonboro Police Department**

## Local and state officials address highway safety issues

Work goes on throughout the year to help improve our local road network. Lately, two issues that have concerned town residents revolve around safety. It seems our community has increased throughout the COVID lock downs, as people who live in large cities have sought a way to help insulate themselves from the threat of the virus. The increase in traffic has resulted in near misses, and there has been one fatality on our local roads. No one wants to see any more. Two areas that have been noted over time as safety hazards are the Ledge Hill Road/Durgin Road intersection with Route 171, and Route 109 at 19 Mile Bay.

The 19 Mile Bay Wharf, lying directly across Union Wharf Road, is a publicly accessible pier with a free-to-use boat launching ramp. It is used year-round for access to Lake Winnepesaukee and the usage in the summer months is particularly heavy. Pier 19 Convenience Store is a very strong draw and has marine gas available for sale throughout the boating season. Toss in the ready availability of all sorts of food and supplies, including ice cream, and it is easy to understand why boaters have this spot on their regular route around the lake. The safety issue surrounds crossing State Route 109 to get to the convenience store from the pier and back. Road traffic from the north driving south have very poor sight lines until they come around the bend in Rt # 109 at Union

Wharf Road, and by then it can be too late to stop for the foot traffic crossing 109.

This issue has been under discussion for many years and has involved considerable coordination with state NH DOT officials to help mitigate the safety concerns. In late 2022, after a long gestation period, an agreement was finally reached between the town and the NH DOT Commissioner for the installation of a crosswalk and a "rectangular rapid flashing beacon." An agreement was signed by all parties: town selectmen and the NH DOT Commissioner. White Mountain Survey delivered a report that included overall design, drawings, and specifications to the selectmen. The town issued a request for proposal that was published in the local newspapers. Unfortunately, there were no bids received by the close of the solicitation and the selectmen are deciding what their next move will be. Still, the town hopes to get the project going soon.

The second road safety issue concerns the local intersection known as "The Four Corners" at the crossing of Ledge Hill Road and Durgin Road with Route #171 (Mountain Road). This intersection may seem innocuous to some, but there have been multiple near misses of vehicles turning north onto Mountain Road with vehicles traveling on Route #171. Drivers on the town road (Ledge Hill Road) driving up to the

intersection have no sight line south, forcing them to inch out onto 171 to see if the coast is clear. Equally, drivers going north on 171 cannot see the intersection of the town roads and do not know vehicles are trying to pull out onto 171 to travel north. The bulk of the local traffic is just trying to drive to the transfer station, but the crossing can get very busy, regardless of the time of day. The town and the state have been talking for years about possible solutions, without reaching a consensus.

To accomplish something positive, stop signs with flashing LEDs have been installed to try to remind drivers of the intersection, along with smaller signs reminding drivers 'Crossing Traffic Does Not Stop'. These new stop signs required the state to review and approve the town's proposed solution, and the execution of an agreement with NH DOT. Even though the work was performed on the town roads, as the roads cross the state-owned route, the NH DOT concerns had to be allayed. These efforts, it is hoped, will improve awareness. A more complete solution would involve a substantial rebuild of the whole intersection.

**Mark Howard, Chairman  
Tuftonboro Board of Adjustment**

July 7, 2023

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This issue of the *Times* kicks off the Tuftonboro Association's primary fundraising effort for the year. Your donations are the association's sole means of support. Over the last few years, COVID-19 concerns have sharply reduced the social interactions that are the hallmark of the association and the town. Our activities are recovering but your financial support is critical to our operations. We are a 501(c)3 organization which means all donations are fully tax deductible.

Since 1965 the Tuftonboro Association has been dedicated to working with members of our community who are concerned with, and interested in, the welfare of the town. Our interests include the conservation and preservation of Tuftonboro's natural beauty and resources, and we support projects of a charitable and civic purpose in the community. Our major, ongoing activities include:

- Great Meadow Wetlands Trail - Working with the Town's Conservation Commission to open public access to the Great Meadow via Sodom Road. Wonderful progress has been made, and the first phase of the trail from the parking lot to the viewing platform is complete. A return trail back to the parking lot is contemplated. Mother Nature prevented a grand opening celebration this spring which is now planned for the fall.
- The *Tuftonboro Times* - "The Voice of the Community" is published four times a year and distributed free to every Tuftonboro mailing address. It is also available online on the Tuftonboro town website and mailed First Class (on request) to out-of-town addresses.
- Candidates' Night - A forum (usually held in February) that provides residents with the opportunity to interact with candidates for local offices.
- Town wide roadside cleanup - Typically held in late April, to coincide with Earth Day, to cleanup local roads after the winter thaw.

Our annual meeting on September 22 will feature Hans Hug as guest speaker. Hans will present "The Wrecks of Winnepesaukee" with a focus on the underwater history of the Big Lake, showing videos and sonar images of shipwrecks seen while diving. Hug has been an avid diver for over 30 years throughout New England. Using sophisticated side-scan sonar equipment, he has located more than 70 wrecks in Lake Winnepesaukee, including large pieces of the original steamer Mount Washington. If you have questions please contact Steve Brinser at 759-5285 or <[sbrinser@roadrunner.com](mailto:sbrinser@roadrunner.com)>.

Please remember, *all* our activities and projects are funded by your donations. This last year has been hard on the association, and our available funds are now at a low point. Any amount you can donate will be gratefully accepted! Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Steve Brinser*

Steve Brinser, President  
The Tuftonboro Association



# Maps and murals enhance the Free Library experience

Another season of summer reading is underway!

The Tuftonboro Free Library's annual Summer Reading Program started on June 21 and continues through August 4. If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late. Stop by the library and register today. Child readers earn raffle tickets for checking out books and take chances on winning one (or more) of eleven special prizes. Adult sponsors support our young readers by pledging to match the number of books read with donations to the Lakes Region Humane Society. The prize raffle will be held August 4, and donations will be collected at the library from August 5 to August 11. Last year, kids checked out close to 800 books from the library, and sponsors donated over 500 items and \$350.00 to the Humane Society. Can we read and collect even more this year?

Summer programming includes a visit from Mad Science of Maine on Friday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m. Mad Science will be presenting a program entitled 'All Together Now', which explores how collaboration, partnership, and working together relates to the nature of chemical bonding by conducting several chemical reaction experiments. This program is geared toward younger children, but all ages are welcome to attend.

On Wednesday, August 9 at 2:00 p.m. we will be joined by a naturalist from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center who will introduce you to some of the owls of New Hampshire. Meet live owls up-close and in-person and learn what is myth or fact about these amazing nocturnal birds. This program is designed for all ages. Both programs (Mad Science of Maine and Squam Lakes Natural Science Center) are free, and registration is not required.

The Readers' Choice Book Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. They will discuss *The Daring Ladies of Lowell* by Kate Alcott



**Have you seen the wildflowers behind the library? You should see them in color!**

on July 20, *These Silent Woods* by Kimi Cunningham Grant on August 17, and *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin on September 21st.

The History Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. They will discuss *River of the Gods* by Candice Millard on July 26, and *The Attention Merchants* by Tim Wu on August 30. Copies of books for both reading groups will be available in advance at the Circulation Desk.

Summer art displays will feature work from artisan wood turner Nicholas Moore in July and donated arts and crafts from local artists for the annual Arts & Crafts Raffle sponsored by the Friends in August, and paintings and hand-crafted items from Nichole Hunter of Endeavored Art in Milton Mills, in September.

Permanent art displays include the recently

acquired collection of framed maps (from worlds both real and imagined) that are hanging throughout the library, and the newly commissioned mural of Tuftonboro landmarks that brings some much-needed color to the large meeting room. A special thanks to free-lance artist Sheryl Bentley for designing and creating the mural, and a huge shout out of appreciation to the Friends of the Tuftonboro Library for providing the funding for both the maps and the mural, and for all the work involved in locating, hiring, and meeting with the muralist to bring their vision to life. If you haven't seen the maps or the mural yet, be sure to plan a visit to the library soon.

Until then... Happy summer to all!

**Dennis R. Guilmette, Director  
Tuftonboro Free Library**

## Friends of Library welcome "On Golden Pond" author

The Friends of the Tuftonboro Library are pleased to announce that author Ernest Thompson will be the guest speaker at the Friends Annual Gala on September 15 at the Todaro Center at Camp North Woods in Tuftonboro. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. and will include the Annual Arts and Crafts Raffle. If you would like to donate a picture, artwork, a basket of goodies, gift cards, knitted items, quilts, or anything else you can think of for our raffle, please let the Friends or the library know.

Mr. Thompson is the Oscar-winning author of the play, *On Golden Pond*, and has published his

first novel, *The Book of Maps*. It has recently been selected as a Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award Finalist. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

In addition to winning an Academy Award, Mr. Thompson has won two Golden Globes, a Writers Guild Award, and a Broadway Drama Guild Award for Best Play. His work has been nominated for a Tony, an Emmy, and a British Academy Award. His more than 35 plays have been seen in theatres around the world.

Tickets will go on sale in August. For more information, or to leave your name and number on a

wait list, contact Carolyn at [csundquist@roadrunner.com](mailto:csundquist@roadrunner.com) or the Tuftonboro Library at (603) 569-4256.

The Friends have also commissioned a mural for the program room. Muralist Sheryl Bentley of *A Brush with Life*, has created an artistic concept of Tuftonboro. The mural may be finished by the time you read this! Check it out next time you are at the library.

We always welcome new Friends. There are information packets at the front desk in the library.

**Carolyn Sundquist, President  
Friends of the Library**

## Methodist Church celebrates Old Home Days in August

The Tuftonboro United Methodist Church will be participating in Tuftonboro Old Home Days on Saturday, August 19, at the church from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a luncheon from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The luncheon will feature three types of sandwiches, along with condiments, drinks, and cookies. There will be tables for baked, craft, plant, almost new, and new items, as well as raffles and, of course, the ever

popular "bargain basement". The historic church building is located at 129 Mountain Road,

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

# Hikers “Queen of the Greens” golf tourney raises funds



**Hiker Scholarships were awarded to seven Tuftonboro graduates on June 15 at Kingswood High School. Pictured left to right: Helen Hartshorn and Phyllis Tessier (Hiker Scholarship Committee); Aiden Thompson, Ella Santulli, Lauren MacPhee, Abby Fournier, Amber Dolliver, Catie Clegg, Will Danais.**

Despite almost constant rainy days for the past several weeks, the sun was shining on Bald Peak on June 15 as 20 foursomes competed in the Queens of the Greens Women's Golf Tournament at Bald Peak Colony Club. This event marked the end of our 2022-23 season raising funds for scholarships for local students and donations to area nonprofits.

This year's scholarship awards went to seven Kingswood High School graduating seniors who are beginning their higher education journeys as well as

ten students who are currently in schools of higher education.

Nonprofit organizations receiving donations were Camp Invention, Caregivers, End 68 Hours of Hunger, Families in Transition, Granite State Adaptive, Granite VNA, Kingswood Youth Center, Lakes Region Humane Society, LIFE Ministries Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Tuftonboro Library and Wolfeboro Children's Center. Many thanks all who have supported our year-long fundraising events!

You may have noticed the beautiful flowers blooming in the Triangle Garden in Melvin Village. Ann Haley, a former president of our organization, was inspired to plant this garden in memory of all passed Hikers. She, along with other Hiker members, maintained the garden, planning new plants each year for all to enjoy. Upon her passing in 2017, the Hikers renamed the garden “Ann's Garden” to honor her commitment to the community. Ann's Garden continues to be maintained by Hiker members.

Are you a Facebook member? If so, you might like to follow the Hikers on their page. News and pictures of past activities and upcoming events are posted frequently. Search Facebook for “thehikerstuftonboro” to find our page.

The Hikers' annual meeting in mid-June at Birch & Vine Restaurant included the installation of officers for the coming year, committee reports highlighting the year's activities, and a lovely lunch.

While we do not hold general meetings in July or August, officers and committees are busy preparing for resumption of meetings on September 7 with a full slate of activities including our Fall Rummage Sale (October 21) and holiday events.

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Tuftonboro Free Library. New members are always welcome! If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Pat Jones at [pdjwolf2@gmail.com](mailto:pdjwolf2@gmail.com) or call/text (603) 515-6536.

**Pat Jones, President  
The Hikers**

## Cemetery Trustees get hands dirty cleaning gravestones

Did you know the Town, through its elected Cemetery Trustees, maintains most of Tuftonboro's cemeteries? With more than 50 under the Town's care, this is not the sleepy job you may have imagined. The Trustees' aim is to maintain the beauty and original aesthetics of these final resting places. In 2023 rules and regulations are being reviewed, grounds will be maintained, some trees may be felled, walls repaired, and new signs will be made where they are needed. This is in addition to our regular work of approving and demarcating burial requests. Details can be found on the Town's web page.

Twenty volunteers got their hands dirty at the Tuftonboro Corner Cemetery on June 3 learning to

clean stone markers from the expert, Jessica Davis (see photo). She also does painstaking work repairing damaged stones where they have fallen or broken.

If you'd like to be part of caring for our cemeteries, the next morning of hands-on work will be on Saturday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town House Cemetery, cleaning around gravestones. Please bring your own workbenches, trowels, grass clippers, and the like, as we will be clearing grass and weeds from flat stones and corner markers.

**Tuftonboro Cemetery Trustees:**  
**Susan Weeks, Chair**  
**Carol Bush, Secretary**  
**Alana Albee, member**



**Jessica Davis cleaning.**

## Enjoy Country, Gospel, and Bluegrass on Tuesday evenings

It is Summer now and the Snowbirds are back. It is the time to stop by The Old White Church and enjoy an old-fashioned jam session. The Tuftonboro Country, Bluegrass and Gospel Jam session continues weekly at the historic Old White Church in Center Tuftonboro.

Musicians and listeners alike gather on Tuesday

evenings at 6:30. The jam sessions are open to singers, instrumentalists and fans of country, bluegrass, and gospel music. If you are a musician and can sing or play a guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, dobro, or harmonica come and join the jam. Sing along or just listen. There is no admission charge, but donations

are appreciated and help support the jam session. The Church is located on Route 109A, just across from the Tuftonboro General Store & Post Office.

Everyone is invited to attend the jam session Tuesday evening at 6:30.

**Joe Ewing  
Music Meister**



# Tuftonboro General Store teams up with The Refuge BBQ

We are fast coming up on two years since Erin and Dave Dauphinois purchased the 201-year-old Tuftonboro General Store (150 Middle Road, Center Tuftonboro) from Erin's parents, Terri and Greg Heppie. Many changes and improvements have been made, some more difficult to implement than others.

The first hurdle to overcome was a continuation of the mail delivery at the General Store. The store is not an official USA Postal unit, and so a negotiation ensued to keep the postal boxes and the rural route at the store. A petition supporting continuation of both services was signed by many in the community, especially postal box patrons. In the end the postal boxes stayed but the home delivery route is now the responsibility of the Melvin Village Post Office (448 Gov. Wentworth Highway, Melvin Village). Questions regarding home delivery should be directed to the Melvin Village Post Office. Erin says that post office boxes at the Tuftonboro General Store are still available to rent.

Changes to the interior layout of the store, painting, lighting, and the move of the Community Table opened up the space and gave a clear view to

the kitchen area. The plan was that the kitchen would become functional again. This involved inspection by the health department, resulting in a list of upgrades that included new walls, flooring, wiring and plumbing. This spring Erin and Dave got the OK to reopen, with one last inspection to go.

Mid-June saw the re-opening of the kitchen, which has become the home of another family business, **The Refuge BBQ**. The principal "Chefs" are Travis and Alison Cummings of Tuftonboro. They prepare Brisket and Bacon Brisket pulled pork sandwiches topped with their own sauces and served on homemade rolls. Two choices of homemade sides, cole slaw and corn salad, are also available daily. Just the smell of all that good food was enticing. The opening day event featured tastings of local wines from Whipple Tree Winery, Summit Winery, and the Sap House Meadery. These products can also be purchased in the store.

Also new at the Tuftonboro General Store are daily offerings of hot breakfast sandwiches, chocolate croissants, cinnamon rolls, muffins, and nitro cold brew as well as regular coffee. All breakfast offerings

include a friendly smile and easy conversation!

Other changes at the store include a Porta-Potty for public use, a courtyard in front of the connecting buildings, new period porch lighting, and air-conditioning so the cheese, fudge and patrons will not melt. There is a new stand for the scale that will safely and accurately weigh in deer during the hunting season. It was made and installed by Dwight Pennell. Coming soon are new hand-carved signs.

The store hours are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The store phone number is 603-569-9859. Follow the Tuftonboro General Store and The Refuge BBQ on Facebook!

Take a moment as you pass through Center Tuftonboro to stop and say "Hello" to Erin or Mary Griffin, a long-time resident of Tuftonboro who Erin often calls the "matriarch" of the store. On Tuesdays you will meet Terri and Greg who "babysit" the store for Erin.

**Joan Magrauth**

## Gentle yoga and ballroom dancing offered by Parks & Rec

The Tuftonboro Parks & Recreation Commission will hold gentle yoga classes at 19 Mile Beach. Classes are held every Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Classes will run throughout the summer and end on August 25. Classes are open to all area residents 18-years and older, however, children 12 and up are welcomed with an adult. The cost of each class is \$10.00, using Venmo or cash. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat or towel, water, warm clothing,

and a smile! Classes are under the direction of Deb Leahy, a 500-hour yoga certificate. She can be reached at (978) 332-6620.

The commission has also offered area residents an opportunity to learn or improve their dancing skills by having a drop-in program at 19 Mile beach. The program will begin on July 11 and continue Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. thru August 8. The instructors are Erin and Dave Dauphinais who

taught two sessions in Tuftonboro this past winter and spring. The program was so successful that they decided to continue it for people who love to dance! The program is free of charge and is open to beginners and experts.

**Dennis Zilembo, Director  
Parks and Recreation Commission**

## In heat of summer, curlers think about their winter sport

With the opening of a fully renovated Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Center early this year came a revitalized Lakes Region Curling Association (LRCA) program. After a nine-month hiatus during construction on the arena, the nine-year old organization saw an overwhelming demand for its Winter 2023 curling league.

Members registered from near and far, with Wolfeboro addresses dominating but complemented by those in Tuftonboro, Moultonborough, Alton, and communities as far away as Rochester, Lee, Laconia, and New Hampton.

Marking the Pop Whalen ice sheet with five curling lanes enabled the LRCA to support 10 teams of four or five players each. A few years ago, organizers could have only dreamed of that level of interest, but the club's increasing profile in the region, along with the introduction of an online registration process, helped move many from merely curious to converted.

Experienced curlers offered two learn-to-curl sessions over the course of the winter program. The first was aimed at newly registered curlers without experience as well as members of the public eager to explore the ancient Scottish sport. Then, during winter school vacation, LRCA members hosted a learn-to-curl session sponsored by Wolfeboro's Department of Parks and Recreation. The turnout for the latter was impressive, considering that it took place during a heavy Saturday snowstorm.

With full-season teams full-up since the start of the season, many of those attending the learn-to-curl sessions opted to register as alternates, making them available to fill in when full-time team members could not play.

The resulting swelling of registrations foretells an expected increase in demand for the 2023 fall season. Registration for the fall curling season for existing LRCA members will begin online at [lakescurlingnh.org](https://lakescurlingnh.org)



**A new LRCA banner will fly at Pop Whalen Ice & Arts Arena this winter.**

[org](https://lakescurlingnh.org) on August 9. Registration will be open to all on September 1.

A "Learn to Curl" session plus a member practice is scheduled for September 24. Another practice session will be held on October 1 for members and persons that have been to a Learn to Curl. The fall

**Continued on Page 10**

# Camp Sentinel begins 75th season in Center Tuftonboro

Summer camp season has begun, and Camp Sentinel is entering its 75th camp season with lots to be thankful for. Campers are arriving and enjoying time in nature!

Located in the foothills of the Ossipee Mountain Range in Center Tuftonboro, New Hampshire, Camp Sentinel was established in 1949 and offers a fun, quality overnight and day camp for youth, adults, and families. Sentinel hosts year-round rustic retreats for groups up to 200 guests. Its Mission: "The purpose of Camp Sentinel is to create a welcoming environment for Christian relationship building and spiritual renewal. Within the stillness of God's Creation and through the guidance of the staff, people are moved

from discovery into authentic relationships with others and with Jesus Christ."

## Why Camp Sentinel?

Parents trust Camp Sentinel with their children and they come back each year because Camp Sentinel is a place where children are loved and cared for by caring mentors and role models.

## What are the benefits of Camp?

Campers enjoy time in the outdoors, and this is healthy for our mind, body, and spirit.

Campers become emotionally secure in their identity as a child of God, loved by God.

Campers have fun and make new friends living in a temporary community.

Changed Lives. At Sentinel a caring community helps campers to discover the truth that God loves them and has an amazing plan (HOPE!) for their lives.

Camp Sentinel offers overnight and day camp throughout the summer. For more information or to sign up please visit [www.campsentinel.org](http://www.campsentinel.org) or call the camp office at (603) 539-4839.

Join us for our next Community Dinner on Sunday, September 24th from 4-6pm. RSVP to [admin@campsentinel.org](mailto:admin@campsentinel.org).

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

## Abenaki Tower gets facelift prior to next year's centennial

Renovations and repair have been the order of the day at the Abenaki Tower. Much of the wood on the observation deck was replaced last fall. Since then, there has been minimal new graffiti and carving on the new wood.

This spring, Karen Burnett-Kurie organized multiple volunteer days to stain the Tower, clean up trash, and remove graffiti. Most recently, secretary of the Abenaki Tower and Trail Association, Thanks go to Steve Wingate for identifying the boards that needed replacing. Steve also inspected the tower last fall, reporting that its structural integrity is fine. Karen's volunteer team also repainted the main sign. An informational kiosk in the parking lot, courtesy of Steve Wingate and the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission, will soon be installed.

Recently, the association's annual meeting was held at the Tuftonboro Historical Society Museum in Melvin Village. As best we can tell, this was the 100<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the AT&T, after the first meeting in 1924!

A mailbox with a logbook has been added to the observation deck on the tower for people to write notes when they visit.

Karen also organized an historical exhibit about the Abenaki Tower, which opened on June 15 at the Historical Society. Karen and others gave an informal panel presentation about the Tower's history at the Historical Society on June 21.

Denise Ferriman built a float for the July 4 Wolfeboro parade. Karen, Denise, and Stina Kieffer organized a booth for the July 8 Melvin Village Church Fair, where they offered Abenaki-branded merchandise for sale. Karen's team will also have a booth at the August 24-26 Tuftonboro Old Home Days. Please reach out to Karen if you would like to volunteer! ([karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com](mailto:karen.burnettkurie@gmail.com))

Gary Burnett applied for a highway historical marker about the tower and the area's Abenaki history, to be placed on Route 109. The wording has been approved and the sign is awaiting production. It is expected to be installed in time for

next year's 100th anniversary.

Peter Ferber, the popular Wolfeboro artist who has produced many well-known paintings and prints, is creating an Abenaki Tower centennial painting. Peter's original watercolor artwork will be reproduced in a series of limited-edition prints and posters to support fundraising efforts. <https://theartplace.biz/peter-ferber/>

Karen has designed and ordered mugs, t-shirts, bags, ornaments, coasters, magnets, framed photographs of the Tower's view, etc. to raise awareness of the Tower as a community asset.

The AT&T wishes to thank everyone who has donated. Donations to the Abenaki Tower and Trail Association are used to maintain the Tower and to amass funds to replace the Tower in the future. The current tower is almost 45 years old, and it is showing its age.

**David Dyer Burnett, President  
Abenaki Tower and Trail Association**

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## Selectmen, continued from Page 1

investigated by the town engineer, hoping to find a solution within the bounds of the construction permit the town has from the state. The repairs that will have to be made will be expensive. While the Board is investigating ways to keep lake access open to all, Tuftonboro shouldn't have to continue to make repairs year after year from damage that could have been avoided in the first place.

Hopefully by the time this article is published, the town will have received the new, 10-wheel dump truck that was ordered last fall. This truck was made

available to purchase by using grant funds along with the trade-in value from the town's existing truck.

Both the Fire and Police Departments have purchased the vehicles that were in warrant articles at Town Meeting last March and are awaiting the final fit-up of equipment before they are put into service.

The Selectmen are wishing the best to Cathy Pounder, the current Administrative Assistant who recently turned in her notice of departure. Cathy has been a major contributor to the success of the Town of Tuftonboro management. She is a major player behind the scenes and has kept the Selectmen pointed in the right direction. While her departure is a loss for

the town, her next employer will benefit greatly from her years of municipal knowledge as well as her personality. With Cathy's departure, the Selectmen have advertised for both an Administrative Assistant and a Town Administrator.

Best wishes to all this summer!!

**Tuftonboro Board of Selectmen  
Guy Pike, Chairman  
Bob Murray  
Chip Albee**

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## Curling, continued from Page 9

season begins on October 15 with a nine-game season for ten teams.

Like other users of the Pop Whalen Ice and Arts Center, LRCA members are looking forward to the addition of a rink manager to the Pop Whalen staff. The position is intended to bring a professional focus to

maintenance of the arena and the condition of its ice.

**Rich Masse  
Lakes Region Curling Association**



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## July

15	9 AM	Mirror Lake Protective Association Annual Meeting	TFS
20	10 AM - Noon	Readers' Choice Book Group	TFL
22	4 PM – 6 PM	Tuftonboro Grange Penny Sale (drawing begins at 6:00 PM)	TGH
26	7 PM	Excerpts from Elias Bryant's Civil War Diary (by Susan Weeks)	THS
26	7 PM - 9 PM	History Book Group	TFL
28	10:30 - 11:30 AM	Mad Science of Maine	TFL
29	8:30 AM – Noon	Barn Sale, Tuftonboro Historical Society	THS

## August

2	5 PM	Mirror Lake Mingle	Bistro 19
9	2 PM – 3 PM	Owls of New Hampshire	TFL
17	10 AM - Noon	Readers' Choice Book Group	TFL
20	8:30 AM - 11 AM	Well Water Testing Event (Conservation Commission)	TTO
20	10 AM	Kids Cardboard Boat Race	Mirror Lake
25-27	various	Tuftonboro Old Home Days	
26	8:30 AM – 1 PM	Craft Sale, Bake Sale & Farmers Market at the Barn	THS
30	7 PM - 9 PM	History Book Group	TFL

## September

17	8:30 AM – Noon	Barn Sale, Tuftonboro Historical Society	THS
21	10 AM - Noon	Readers' Choice Book Group	TFL
22	7 PM – 9 PM	The Wrecks of Winnepesaukee, presented by diver Hans Hug	TFL
24	4 PM – 6 PM	Community Dinner (RSVP to <a href="mailto:admin@campsentinel.org">admin@campsentinel.org</a> )	SL
27	7 PM - 9 PM	History Book Group	TFL

### Weekly / Monthly Ongoing

Knit Wits	Monday	6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	TFL
Rug Hooking Group	Tuesday	10:00 AM - Noon	TFL
Country, Bluegrass & Gospel Music Jam	Tuesday	6:30 PM - 8 PM	OWC
Writer's Group	Saturday	Noon - 2:00 PM	TFL
Tuftonboro United Methodist Church Services	Sunday	10:30 AM	TUMC

### During July & August:

Abenaki Tower Centennial Exhibit	Wednesdays & Fridays	2-4 PM	
	Saturdays	10 AM - 2 PM	THS

### 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



Summer is here at Camp Sentinel where Pastor Kevin can be found cooling off with the kids in Dan Hole Pond.

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

Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

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