

[View this email in your browser](#)



Hello, Colrain neighbors!

Welcome to the May, 2021 issue of the Colrain Clarion.
Stay safe!

HAPPY SPRING! It's here!!

To place a Want ad, please contact [Betty Johnson](#).
Please see instructions at bottom of newsletter as to how to submit.

Colrain Firefighters

Pancake Breakfast!

Come get your
pancakes, sausage with
local syrup 7 - 11 at the
Colrain Central School
this SATURDAY APRIL
24th — Drive thru!!



Dennis Piana

I open the door to Brahms and birds, woodwinds, reeds,
Seeds from last year's fronds flying to Newfoundland
And step across the open meadow with Aaron Copeland
Singing, sunny sky, wind-blown clouds, water running
Underfoot, I see too late Solomon's Seal, and April bear.



NOTE: Biweekly updates are posted [here](#).

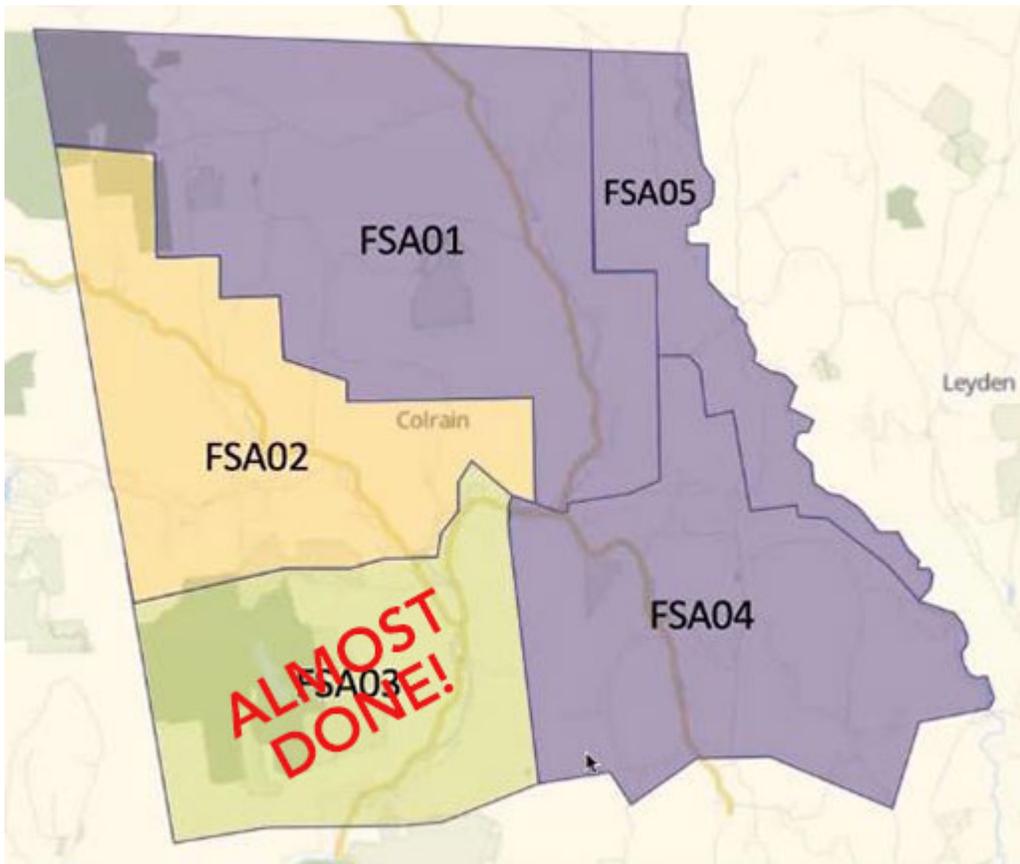
COLRAIN BROADBAND IS HERE!!!

*Over 65% of our 874 households
have signed up.*

Sign up now [HERE!](#)

Colrain Fiber Service Areas (FSAs) are being built out

signed up there are now connected or are being scheduled for connection.



Dozens of homes have been connected in the past few weeks and many more are being scheduled. Fiber is still being installed on the utility poles and has not been completed in all parts of town—this work will continue into June. As each section of town is completed, homes will be scheduled for installation.

From a new and satisfied customer

"We feel very fortunate to be in the first section of town to be hooked up. The process was easy from start to finish. In a matter of two and a half hours we went from a 2.2mb connection via Verizon DSL, to a 1000mb connection with Colrain fiber.

"So far we have found the service everything it was advertised as. Yes, the speed increase is notable, but the real benefit is in the fact that the fiber

simultaneously, with ease. Families with students in the home, people working from home, will have no trouble with multiple connections. This fiber connection is the current 'state of the art' and we want to thank the Broadband committee and those involved in bringing this to reality.”

If you have specific questions regarding the project, please [email](#) them to us. Or leave a message by calling (413) 624-3454, then press #.

Be sure to read the
[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page](#)
for answers to your many questions
about the service and installation process,
speed, and TV options.

Town of Colrain—Highlights

See the Town [website](#) for more information, including the latest news on the Town’s response to COVID-19.



Town Offices remain closed to the public but still “open for business.”
Foyer is open 24/7 and has public notices, minutes and forms.
Please transact business by phone, mail and email.

May 1st. That's the absolute latest date to get your payment made!

Town Election - May 3rd!

Town Election Date:

Monday, May 3, 2021, 12 noon-7pm

Colrain Town Office, 55 Main Rd.

This year's ballot includes:

- Board of Assessor member (3 yrs.)
- Constable (3 yrs.)
- Two Library Trustees (3 yrs.)
- Town Moderator (3 yrs.)
- Selectboard member (3 yrs.)

Write-in Candidate for Selectboard

There is a movement in town to write in Thom Griffin to fill the Selectman's seat that Mark Thibodeau leaves open as he ends his term. Thom has quite a bit of experience serving the Town on the Planning Board and Finance Committee, etc. He indicated that if elected he will serve! Make sure and put that "h" in his first name to make it official...

Absentee and Early Voting (two different things!)

See [here](#) for the details on how to submit an absentee ballot, and other details on early voting. You can vote by mail but you must request a ballot using this [form](#).

Select Board Sets FY 22

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Schedule

Meeting):

Select Board Open ATM Warrant	Monday	3/28/2021
Select Board Close ATM Warrant	Friday	5/14/2021
Select Board Vote to Approve ATM Warrant	Tuesday	5/18/2021
Constable Posts ATM Warrant	Wednesday	5/19/2021

Annual Town Meeting Wednesday June 16, 2021

May voters place articles on the warrant?

Voters may “insert” articles in the warrant. They have to do so before selectmen “close” the warrant.

At least 10 registered voters of the town must sign a written request. Those who wish to add items to the Warrant such that they can be voted on at Town Meeting should consult the Town Coordinator to ensure wording is correct and effective and that procedures are followed. More info [here](#).

ANNUAL STREET LISTING REMINDER!!!

If you haven't returned your annual street list form, you can still vote but you must show identification and fill out an affirmation of current and continuous residence.

Voters in Colrain should know that one of the duties of the Town Clerk is maintaining the annual Street list. This is how the Town ensures that you and your family members are indeed residents.

Reminders will be going out soon. Questions?
Contact Colrain Town Clerk, [email](#) or 413-624-7100

Job Opportunity

Inspector of Animals for the Town of Colrain

Interested? Please [email](#) or call Kevin Fox, Town Administrator, (413) 624-6306

Key Town Committee Openings

There are a number of town committees that need members. All committee members except for the Finance and Planning Boards are appointed by the Selectboard. Finance and Planning Board members are appointed by the Town Moderator.

Please inform the Town Clerk or the Board of Selectmen of your interest. If you have specific questions about duties, time commitments, etc., contact the committee chairs directly:

Finance Committee (2 needed): [Chair Doug MacLeay](#)

Planning Board (2 needed): [Chair Bobby Slowinski](#)

Colrain Energy Committee (3 needed): [Chair Peter Brooks](#)

Personnel Committee (1 needed): [Chair Ellen Weeks](#)

Board of Registrars (1 needed): [Chair Eileen Sauvageau](#)

Note: a member of the Board of Registrars must be a registered voter, may hold no other office in town, and cannot serve as an election worker. They register voters and operate voter registration sessions, assist with street lists, certify signatures on nomination papers and petitions, and more. "We could use a Republican as the Board of Registrars is supposed to have equal numbers of each party if possible."

website [here](#) (Home page under “Calendar of Events”).

“Thank You and we look forward to and appreciate everyone’s cooperation and assistance during this emergency situation.” ~ Town of Colrain Selectboard



Colrain Police News

Stay in touch with the latest news from Chief Chris Lannon and his team [here](#).

Colrain Firefighters

Mud Season continues. See notices about roads (and in general keep in touch with our dedicated team) on the Colrain Firefighters Facebook page [here](#).



Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association

Keep up with our dedicated team [here](#).

Help for Families during the Stay at Home Order

Click [here](#) for this page of resources FRCOG has shared with towns:

- The Look4Help Resource Directory – up-to-date information on local resources for families in need.
- An updated list of emergency food support available in the region.
- Resources for families on: talking with children about COVID-19, stress and anxiety, educational resources for kids while schools are closed, volunteer opportunities, and more!

Help with Rent/Mortgage Payments

Are you or someone you know having difficulty making rent or mortgage payments because of the Covid-19 pandemic? If you fall within certain income guidelines there is help.



- If you have a disability, call Stavros at 413-256-0473 x 201. ([Flyer](#))
- For families go here: [Franklin Co. Regional Housing Authority](#) ([Flyer](#))
- Community Action can also assist with other bills in addition to rent: (413) 475-1570 (Flyer in [English](#), [Spanish](#))

Also, zero-interest deferred payback loans are available for rehabilitating homes with health and safety violations and for energy efficiency improvements. Call Jen Morrow at 413 863-9781 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Small Business Assistance

News from the Franklin County CDC

We are still helping to distribute Forgivable Loans through the CARES ACT MICRO ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: FRANKLIN COUNTY AND NORTH ADAMS. These are FORGIVABLE LOANS FOR UP TO \$10,000 for businesses with fewer than 5 employees who have experienced a loss due to COVID.

- Franklin County and North Adams [Information](#)

OTHER NEW FUNDS:

MassDevelopment's **Commonwealth Places** supports projects that create destinations for residents and visitors to shop or dine. Non-profits and other community groups can apply for seed grants (between \$250 to \$7,500) or implementation grants (up to \$10,000 unmatched, or up to \$50,000 matched by crowdfunding donations). Applications accepted on a rolling basis until June 30, 2021. For more details, go [here](#).

National RURAL RELIEF SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS Program. Rolling applications can be submitted from Jan 26-Feb 2. Small businesses in rural communities are eligible. Go [here](#).

In addition to these funds, we always are available for business counseling, business assistance, and links to business development.

Looking forward to working with you and making 2021 a much better year.
Amy Shapiro [email](#)

Local Vaccine Updates

LifePath Vaccination Access Helpline (413-829-9285) is available to provide assistance with vaccination registration to those who do not have internet access or computer skills, need transportation services to their vaccination appointment, or are not able to leave their homes to attend a vaccination clinic.

Anyone who leaves a message will receive a call back from one of the volunteers when local appointments are available.

For local vaccine updates call the Franklin Regional Council of Government's Vaccine Information hotline. It is an updated recorded message. (413) 774-3167 ext. 153, or visit [here](#).

FREE COVID Testing now available in Greenfield by CIC Health at GCC in the Sloan Auditorium, as part of the state's

News from Our Schools



Mohawk Trail Regional School Districts

Always get the most up-to-date (and rapidly changing) information directly from the district: [website](#).

For all topics surrounding COVID-19, go directly [here](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

Community members can also view the superintendent's **monthly virtual updates** at <https://vimeo.com/mtrsd>.

Colrain Central School

For the latest news and updates, visit us at our [Website](#) and on [Facebook](#).



For **PTO News**, please go to our [Facebook](#) site.



diverse electives in the arts and beyond, inclusive athletics, personalized college counseling, our spacious campus located along the Deerfield River, and our warm and welcoming community. Generous financial aid is available.

Rolling admission for select grade levels for the 2021-22 school year is now open! Fill out an inquiry form [here](#) and contact [Katherine Anderson](#), Admission Associate, with questions. Several of our current families are from Colrain—let us know if you'd like to be put in contact with one of them!

Griswold Memorial Library—NOW OPEN!!

GML is open for Express Browsing!

One person or family at a time may enter the building. Please be as quick as possible in finding materials and checking out, as someone else could be waiting! **Masks and social distancing are required.**

Please use hand sanitizer or wash your hands before touching anything, and look with your eyes (not your hands) as much as possible. Please let us know how we can help!

Did you know? We've extended our service hours!

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Fridays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

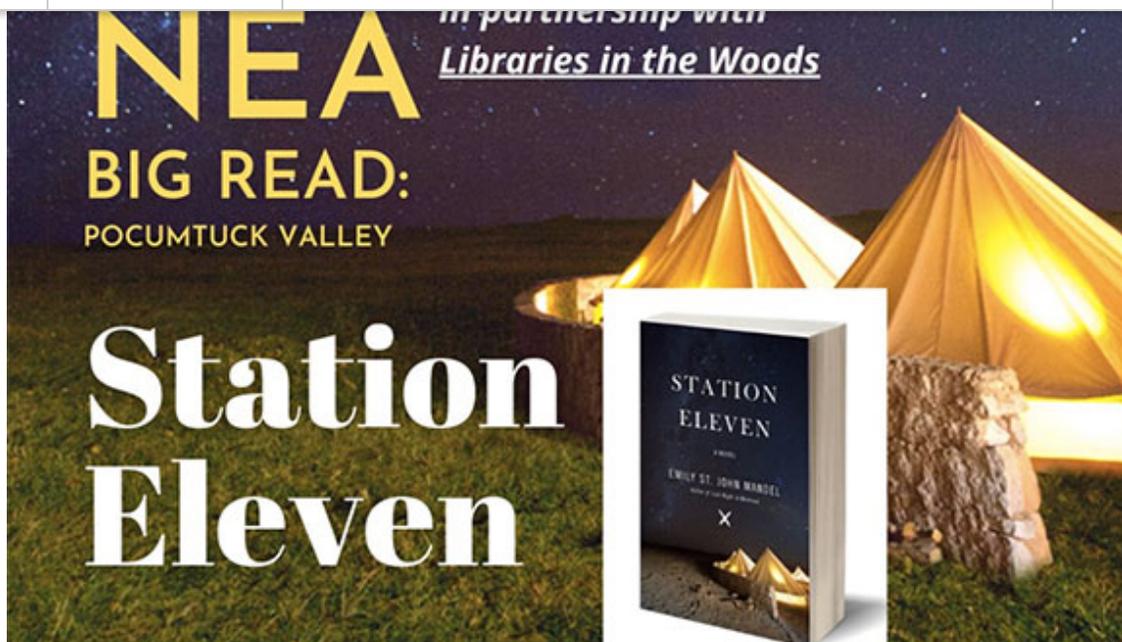
**Check out our line-up
of May programs!**

Make May flowers! Pick up a Take & Make Craft kit from GML, and join Ms. Betty on [YouTube](#) to make your own bouquet of sparkling flowers!



Stories and Songs Online!

Join us the first three Fridays of the month—or whenever you like—for movement, activities, and books to build pre-literacy skills for kids ages 0-6. Find us on [YouTube](#) at Griswold Memorial Library Colrain!



Hilltowns book discussion:

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel**

Wednesday, May 5 at 2:00 on Zoom

Get together with neighbors from Colrain, Heath, and Shelburne Falls to discuss the NEA Big Read: *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel. How would the collapse of civilization affect our hilltowns, in particular?

[Email](#) to register.

Carol Purington Poetry Collective

Friday, May 7th at 6:00 by Zoom. The Carol Purington Poetry Collective meets the first Friday of every month, to honor our love of poetry and our late friend, Carol Purington. Bring a poem to share, or come just to listen.

The Griswold Memorial Library presents

EARTH RHYTHMS!

Songs & Stories for the Whole Earth



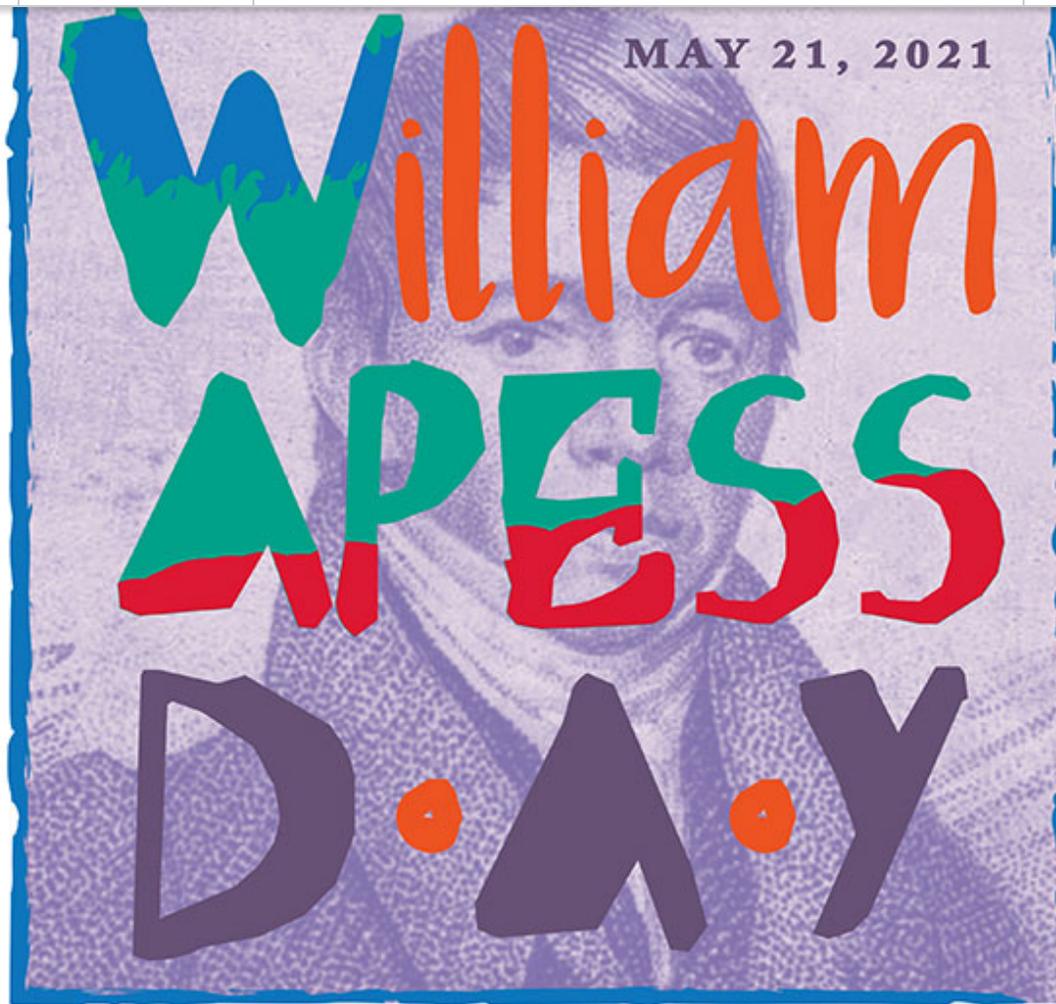
**Saturday, May 15
11:00 am**

a socially distanced outdoor participatory
program for all ages



A socially distanced outdoor participatory program with Parents' Choice Award-winning Performers Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell. (View full poster [here.](#))

Saturday, May 15th at 11:00 on the library lawn!



**GML Presents:
the first annual William Apess Day Celebration!**

Join Drew Lopenzina, Rhonda Anderson and friends in celebrating William Apess (1798-1839) of Colrain, Massachusetts, on the anniversary of the Mashpee Declaration of Independence:

Friday, May 21st at 6:00 on the library lawn.



Your feedback and questions are important to us!
Please [email](#) or call us at 413-624-3619.

Website: <https://colrain-ma.gov/gml>

Peruse our catalogue and place holds [online!](#)

Colrain Historical Society

[Facebook](#)

Child Labor in Colrain



Children have long worked on family farms, but as industrialization increased more and more boys and girls worked in factories as well. This undated photograph from the Historical Society's collection of young workers at the Griswold mill in Colrain shows barefoot boys in the front and girls in flat-brimmed hats at the back. In 1883, the law allowed 10-year-old children to work in factories, but not during school hours, although they could after age 12.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, enacted during the Great Depression, strengthened the existing laws. It prohibited the employment of children under the age of 16 from working in manufacturing and mining. G. William Pitt—later the founder of the Colrain Historical Society—wrote in his diary about the experience of his mother (Mabel Dayton Pitt, 1873-1954) as a child laborer in a cotton mill very similar to the one in Colrain:

“Feb 11, 1938 Mother was telling me today of how, as a little girl of 10 in the Beaver Mill (North Adams) she had to hide behind the door in the ladies toilet when the

opinion, her boss, the town clerk said so. I got mother, a mere baby, carrying her way at 10. I shall always think of her as that little black eyed girl now."

~Colrain Historical Society

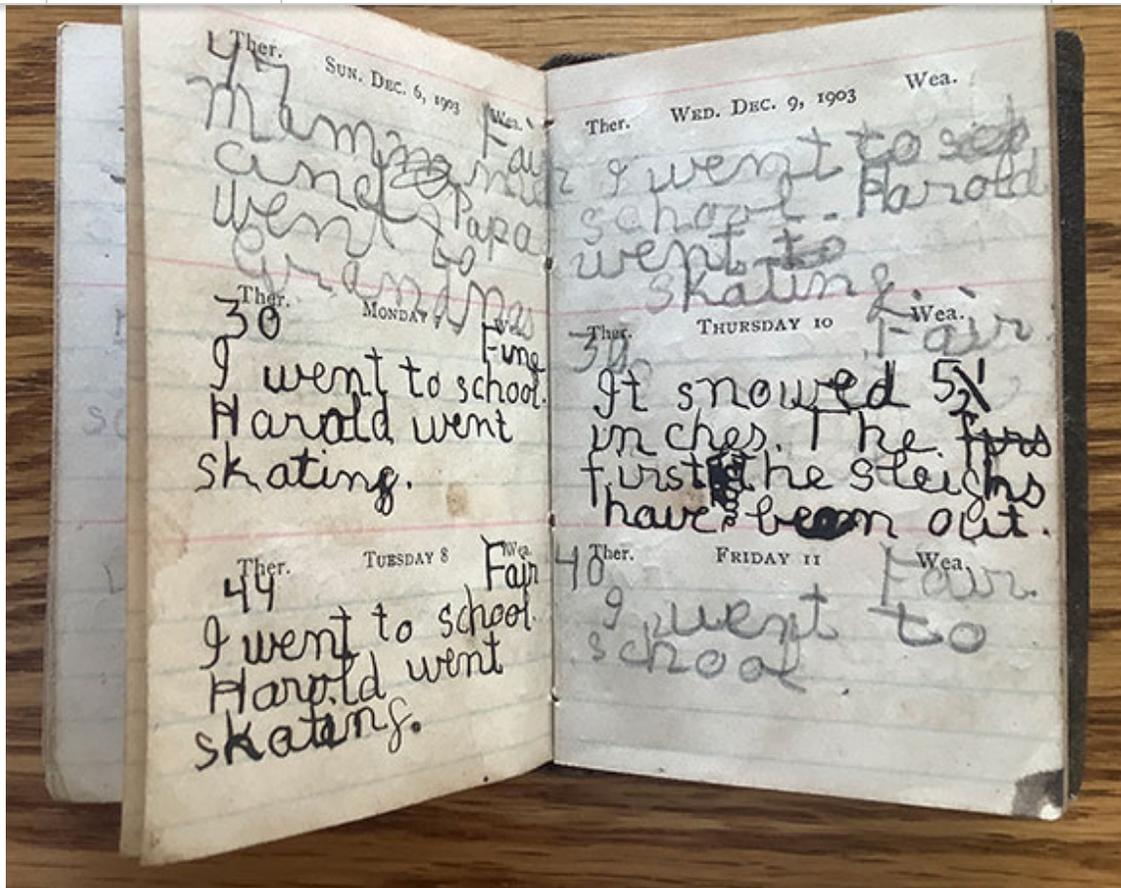
Catamount Hill Association—

The Diary of Hap Davenport

(Last month the CHA shared the following piece on Hap's Diary. It was so delightful we are repeating it. We wondered who Harold was since he seemed to have all the fun! According to the CHA, "Harold Paul Davenport (1892-1992) was Elmer's brother and older by 3 years. Too bad that Harold got to go skating while apparently Elmer only got to go to school. There is no justice when you're only a little kid...")

A tiny diary measuring only 2 1/4" by 3 1/14" is the newest addition to the Catamount Hill Association's archive. It was faithfully kept by the 7-year-old Elmer "Hap" Davenport starting January 1, 1903.

Hap was a great-grandson of Paul Davenport, the Revolutionary War veteran who donated land where the Catamount Hill schoolhouse stood. After graduation from Brown University in 1916, Hap taught at Deerfield Academy. Later, he received a Master's degree from Columbia University and became a school superintendent in Thomaston, Connecticut. He also authored two local histories, *As You Were Shelburne* and *The Puzzle of Catamount Hill*.



In his diary Hap Davenport (1895-1969) noted the weather and events of the day. Here are some sample entries with their original spellings and capitalization.

Jan. 19 fair. Papa went to annual bank meeting

Feb. 5 Cold wind I got a letter from Jennie

Mar. 18 cloudy I went down to the church supper and did not much to eat

April 20 present The school did not keep today

May 2 Fair We took the carriage to Noise to be polit

May 4 Fair Williams wagon most went over the wall.

June 6 Fine I went on a picnic

July 4 Warm Fine I had 3 bunches of fire-crackers

Aug. 11 Fine We went to catamount haying.

Sept. 17 Fine I went to cattle show

Dec. 10 fair It snowed 5 1/2 inches. The first the sleighs have been out

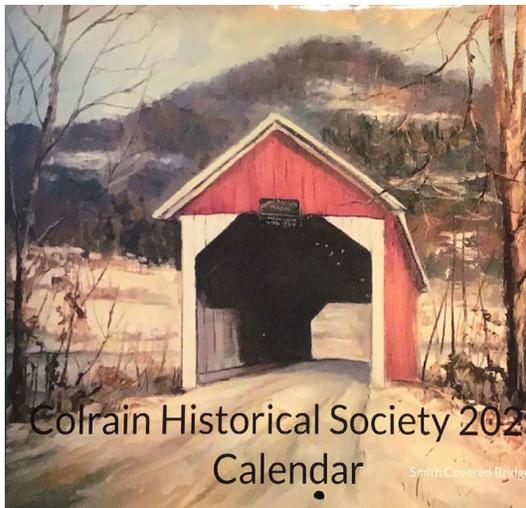
Friends of the Arthur A Smith Covered Bridge

Colrain Tote bags and Tee Shirts and Colrain Historical Society calendars are for sale to benefit the Colrain Historical Society's campaign to reopen the Pitt House Museum. Tote bags and calendars are available at Hager's Farm Market, Pine Hill Orchards and the Catamount Country Store.

For ordering with local pickup or delivery or shipping please [email](#) your request.

Totes and tees are \$20, and Calendars are \$15.

Shirts are available in Youth X Small through Adult 3X Large.



“Be part of this community effort. Help us grow,”

asks Board Chair Belden Merims.

To lend a hand—or an idea—

call Belden at 624-3453,

Joan McQuade at 624-8818,

or Debby Wheeler at 624-8800 (or [email](#)).

believes that our rural communities should be safe & welcoming places to people of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientation & gender identity.



We commit to actions to amplify the voices of oppressed people & work towards justice with kindness.

Follow the **West County Kindness Project** [here](#)

Council on Aging

May Take-out — Thursday May 20th

Pick-up location:

Old Upper Mill, now Slowinski Wood Products, 6 Foundry Village Road
This location will provide more room for socially distanced pick-up.

Thank you to Matthew Slowinski.

Pickup time: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Sandwiches from Pine Hill—choice of Turkey or Corned Beef
(All sandwiches will be made with white bread & no tomatoes or condiments.)

Colrain residents only

Sign up by calling Elaine at 624-3604 or Kathy at 624-3351 May 13th

LifePath, an Area Agency on Aging (AAA), is a private, non-profit corporation that develops, provides, and coordinates a range of services to support independent living. We have been providing family support and home and community-based services for elders and persons with disabilities living in Franklin County since 1974. [Website](#)

Spring Groups and Trainings: <https://conta.cc/3mJf9FM>

Groceries for Elders

The Western MA Food Bank's Brown Bag program is for people over the age of 55 who meet certain income guidelines. Click [here](#) to see if you qualify. Pickup is at the Senior Center in Shelburne Falls the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 12-1pm. For more information call (413) 625-2502.

Colrain Churches

Call individual churches for service information.



Colrain Community Church

306 Main Road

413-624-3808

[Facebook](#)

Join us for our Sunday worship service at 10:30 am, either in person (**socially distanced, of course**), listening in the parking lot on 97.1 FM, or on [Facebook](#) livestream.

First Baptist Church of Colrain

81 Foundry Village Road

413-624-8886

[Facebook](#)

Sunday, May 2: *Missions Sunday*

Sunday, May 9: *Mother's Day*

Sunday, May 30:

Memorial Day Worship Service



Tune in to FM 100.1 for those who are sitting in their cars.

Radios tuned to this frequency are in the downstairs Fellowship Hall and in the Coffee Time/ Classroom area for those not wanting to brave the cold but still wanting more physical distance.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask.

Indoor seating is at socially distanced spacing.



River Valley Christian Church

345 West Leyden Road
at East Colrain Chapel
413-774-7169

[Facebook](#)

Sunday worship service at 9:30 am.

There is Sunday School, with social distancing.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask. Seating is spaced 6 ft apart with a separate room for those who feel the need to further distance.

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

Church Street

413-625-6405 [Website](#)

Masses on Saturdays at 4:00 pm.

Due to the Covid-19, **masks and 6ft social distancing are required.**



[channel.](#)

Local Shopping Opportunities

Catamount Country Store

113 Main Road, Colrain

413-624-9611

[Facebook](#)

Sunday 8am-6pm

Monday – Saturday

6am-8pm

Order cut off time for the
deli is 5 pm on Sunday;

7 pm Mon-Sat.

Masks required.



Call in your order for curbside pickup (413) 624-9611



Graves Glen Farm

104 Wilson Graves Road,
Shelburne

store: 413-624-3972

cell: 413-522-9786

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Farm store is open 7 days.

7am-7pm on the honor system.

Cash or check accepted.

This Centennial farm sells grass fed beef, farm raised pork, maple syrup, hay, straw, compost, eggs, milk, cheese and more.

Hager's Farm Market

1232 Mohawk Trail,
Shelburne
413-625-6323

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Hours:

Market Monday-Sunday
7:30 am - 6:00 pm



Grill Mon-Sun: 7:30 am - 1:00 pm

We are a family farm, offering maple products, cheese, our own meat, produce, and much more.

Looking for a quick meal or snack? We have a great selection of grab-n-go items, including breakfast sandwiches, hot and cold sandwiches, pizza by the slice, chicken tenders, soup, chili and chowder. These items are available all day. **Shop our [online store](#) today and pay when you pick up.**



Parsons Family Farmstand

88 Jacksonville Rd.
Colrain, MA 01340
(646) 799-6686

[Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Will reopen the first week in July.

Providing farm fresh produce for over 50 years from our family to your table.

Pine Hill Orchards

248 Greenfield Rd, Colrain
413-624-3325

Farm Store hours:

Wednesday – Monday 9 am to 6 pm

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED
AT ALL TIMES!**



Window pick up available again. We now accept SNAP.

We offer hot and cold grab and go options until Food Trailer opens up this spring.

We slice Boars Head Meats and Cheeses to order Daily till 4pm.

We offer Personal Shopping...

You can find our weekly updated product lists in the "Latest News" section of the [website](#).

Call (413) 624-3325, [email](#), [Facebook](#) message us your order.

Walk-Ins Welcome!

“Want Ads” and “Services.”
Instructions for submitting at the end of this section.

Services

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: People call our help line to ask for a ride, a reference, or other assistance. Please feel free to call, and we will do our best to help you out as needed. Indoor chores like light housekeeping, meal prep, rides, and minor indoor repairs. Outdoor chores like snow shoveling or yard help.

We are compiling a list of people of all ages willing to lend a hand occasionally for seniors or disabled persons, helping people without family nearby.

their homes. Contact: Amy 774-6907

Colrain Center for Conservation and Wildlife

If you find orphaned, injured, or ill wildlife and need help, please call 413-768-8928.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, send a check payable to CCCWR, 107 Hillman Rd., Colrain, MA 01340

Or make a donation by going to the [website](#).



Fruit tree pruning: We can help you restore abandoned fruit trees & maintain trees of any age. One-on-one lessons and consults available. Contact Ruth and Robin 413-773-8325, robinc23@yahoo.com

Pet Care & Beyond: Pet sitting, drop-in visits, and “doggy daycare.” Serving Franklin County & Southern Vermont. Contact Ruth Ayers at ruth.a.ayers@gmail.com or 413-773-8325 about references & rates.

For Sale

Shoestring Farm— Plants for Sale

The 2021 gardening season is finally here. Our offering of roadside pickup plant sales begins Sat April 24th.



**HELP WANTED?
A SERVICE to offer?
FOR SALE or FREE?**

IS THERE A DEADLINE? Be sure to state it.
WANT TO RUN IT IN MORE THAN ONE ISSUE? Let us know.
If you don't, it will only run once!

Please use this format:

State Category: **FOR SALE or FREE or SERVICE or HELP WANTED**

Name of item for sale/service offered or desired:

Short Description (one to two lines, if possible):

LINK/name/contact info:

The DEADLINE for contributions is the 14th of the month.

Please send your listing to [Betty Johnson](#).

A few links to cultural resources outside Colrain

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

<https://franklincc.org/tourism-home>

Great Falls Discovery Center

<https://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/events-calendar/>

Hawks and Reed Performing Arts Center

<https://www.facebook.com/HawksAndReed>

Artspace

on our website at [ArtspaceGreenfield.com](https://www.artspacegreenfield.com).

Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association

<https://www.shelburnefalls.com/>

Valley Advocate Events

<https://valleyadvocate.com/events/#/>

Valley Arts Newsletter

<https://www.valleyartsnewsletter.com/>

Thank you for reading!!

Until next time!

Sincerely,

Betty Johnson

Robin Brooks

Lynn DiTullio

Painting of the Covered Bridge at top by Marshall Looman of Colrain

Photograph below taken by or gifted to Bill Cole of Colrain.



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

