



## Springfield Historical Society

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Jim Bednar, President  
Pixie Hill, Vice President & Secretary  
Gregory Bruss, Historian  
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TO:

**Annual Meeting  
Potluck & Live Music  
October 12, 2024**

[www.historicalspringfieldnh.org](http://www.historicalspringfieldnh.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

### Annual Meeting Notice

The SHS Annual Membership meeting will be held on **Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>** at the **Springfield Meeting House**.

- "Punch on the Patio" 5:00
- Potluck Dinner 5:30-6:30
- MEETING 6:30-7:00
- Live Music with Tyler Road 7:00-9:00

*We look forward to seeing you there. Celebrate the unveiling of the new patio and conclusion of the Buy-A-Brick campaign. During our brief meeting we'll provide you an update on all that we have accomplished and are working on to fulfill the mission of the SHS.*

**Volunteer!**

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## Springfield Historical Society

# Summer-Fall 2024

### Message to Members from the Board President

This summer's multitude of events at the Historical Society Museum certainly confirmed that "Springfield is special!" Some activities celebrated our traditions such as recognizing the scholarship awardees with wonderful waffles or the farmer's kitchen demonstrations of making soap and cheese. The Ramble Round the Lake tradition continued with strong support from our business community and lots of fun for all who participated. Other events were new but sprung from Springfield's community – like the volunteer fair where 11 organizations shared all the opportunities to work and play together. The organizations' enthusiasm will make this an annual event. The appearance of the Forever Locked Moose display at the Summer Festival is also likely to become an annual event. Bastille Day was celebrated with lemony mocktails and a special exhibit of World War I weaponry with Peter Plunkett provided fascinating details of the "War to End All Wars."

July closed with a special evening at Wonderwell estate, where an overflow crowd was enthralled by our own Gregory Bruss, who presented a well-researched talk and slide show of the numerous summer homes in Springfield.

The celebration of the beautiful forests of Springfield was a circus of events including a table full of children creating bouquets of flowers from pine cones.

And of course, Springfield does like food – bake sales, Pixie's hot dogs, pulled pork, potluck suppers and root beer floats! YUM!

There are still three more events to close out 2024! Our annual meeting on October 12 with a potluck supper and live music by Tyler Road is always fun. The tradition of the Sip a Soup lunch continues on November 9, a great community gathering. And this year bring your puzzles to swap! Lastly, we'll be at the Holiday Fair on December 7 with lots of stocking stuffers, gifts, arrangements and poinsettias.

As I reflect on this summer, I feel great satisfaction at the community's participation. With all the competing summer activities, it was rewarding to see new faces along with our long-time supporters and friends, people of all ages, and families with little ones.

Lastly, thank you. Thank you all for your participation and support. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped at the museum, serve meals, set up and take down tables and tents and so much more. And thanks especially to the members of the Board of Directors that do so much to make our town special.

Jim Bednar

#### MISSION STATEMENT

*SHS is the responsible steward of Springfield's legacy by preserving and sharing Springfield's cultural heritage from the beginning through today to ensure current and future generations know, understand, and appreciate our history.*

## *It's Not Over Yet!*

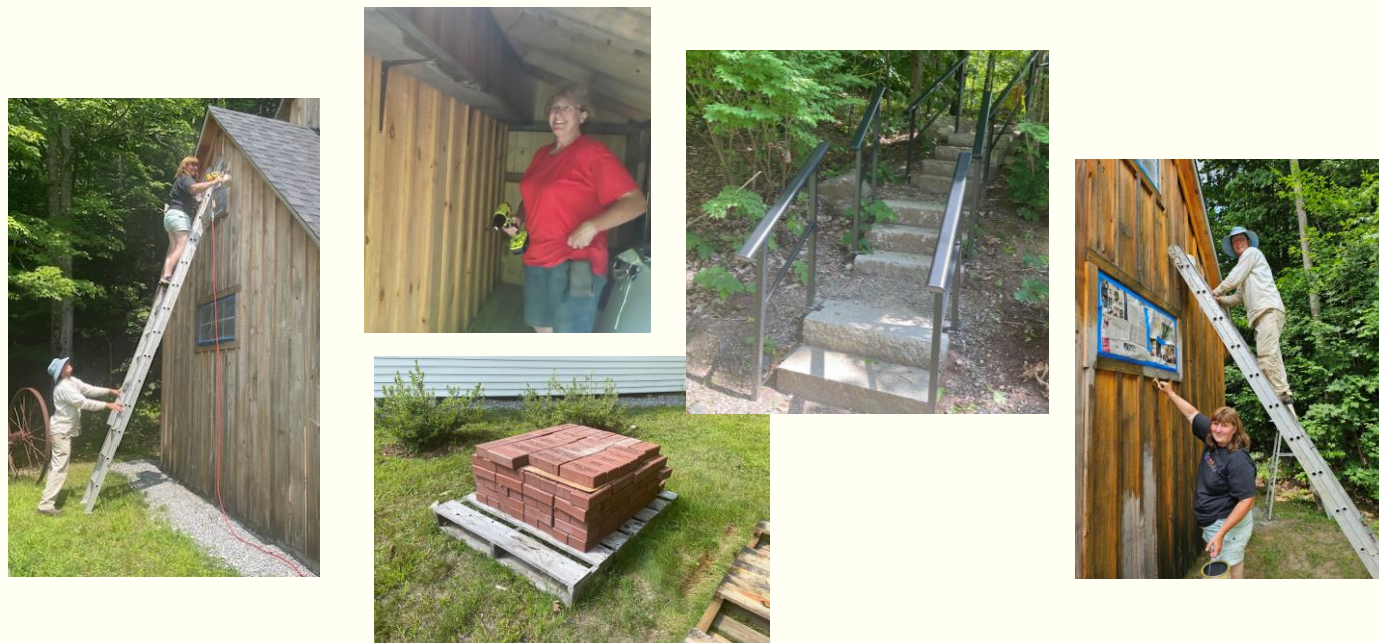
Summer may be over but the Historical Society has more planned! The Annual Meeting will take place on October 12 at the Meeting House. This year will be a particularly special program with “Punch on the Patio” kicking it off at 5:00 as we celebrate completion of the patio in front of the Tool Shed with all the engraved bricks. Springfield’s famous potluck supper will follow a short meeting. And the live music starts at 7:00 with the return of the wonderful group Tyler Road. Sure to be a fun evening! A month later on Saturday November 9 the annual Sip a Soup luncheon will bring the community out to enjoy tasting the variety of scrumptious soups, salad and bread from the Blue Loon bakery. And of course, all can purchase a container of their favorites to save for a cold wintry night. A new feature will be the puzzle swap which promises to be amazing. We keep discovering more and more puzzlers in Springfield! Doors open at 11 until 2.

The year wouldn't be complete without Springfield's Holiday Bazaar – Saturday December 7. The Historical Society will have lots of great stocking stuffers, arrangements and poinsettias. And behind the scenes the Historical Society will be busy on key projects that will help preserve Springfield's heritage. By early next year you will be able to view some of our veterans as they described their experiences in the service. And come visit the New Hampshire room in the Library to see the progress we will be making on cataloging the collection. So many fun things to experience! Come and join us!

## *Sprucing Up The Place*

With the hard work of many of our friends the Historical Society and grounds are looking really good!

- Hats off to Tim Hayes and Cody Osgood for installing the handrails on the granite steps.
- Thank you Kevin Roberts and Todd Longley for the work on the patio and walkways
- Thank you Pixie and Alison for staining the Tool Shed – it looks great!
- Thank you Missy for helping put up a shelf in the storage shed
- Thank you Pixie and Alison for maintaining the garden
- Thank you Poul and Angela for bringing the brick project to a successful conclusion!



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## *Oral History Project Update!*

The original plan was to film up to 9 veterans on July 20<sup>th</sup>. However, the preparation work --- finding willing veterans, interviewing them and transcribing the interviews – was taking a lot more time than expected and there were not enough vets to make for a full day. So, the filming was postponed until August 10. But the pulled pork lunch and the Cemetery Commission tours went ahead as planned. It was a great day with lots of veterans stopping in for lunch and telling stories about the vets pictured on the walls of the Meeting House. And other people combined the cemetery tour with lunch. All in all, a successful day!

As August 10 approached, we were all excited as we anticipated a full day of filming vets recounting their varied stories of service. Jim Bednar had done pre-filming interviews of each of 7 veterans, Don Hill was prepared to moderate/facilitate the filming and Theresa Chamberlain was ready to go. Then the call came on the Thursday before the filming – COVID! Theresa was really sick. So, the filming had to be postponed yet again.

The number of Springfield citizens who served in the armed forces is quite large and seemingly disproportionate to Springfield's overall population. The history goes back to the Revolutionary War as documented in the museum and in the cemetery. A separate filming will be an introduction to the thinking behind the project and highlight the monuments and museum's artifacts that tell the story of the many that served.

We have rescheduled the filming to October 26<sup>th</sup> and, if all goes as planned, we will do a second round of filming in 2025. Some of the stories are quite special and worth the wait!

## *Preserving Springfield's History*

This article is going to be different from the usual “new finds” piece. The reason for that is straightforward. A while ago I was asked to give a talk on the Summer Homes and early summer people who came to Springfield at the beginning of the 20th Century. What an undertaking it turned out to be! My only real resource was the archive materials we have at the museum. It was a wonderful privilege to access those photographs, articles and memories that had been donated over the years to the Historical Society entrusting them to preserve that story for residents in the future. It reconfirmed for me just how important it is for the Historical Society to have such documents and to make use of and share them.

This article then is an appeal to any and all of you. Please remember the Historical Society when you are cleaning out attics or back closets or the old storage shed. Even the seemingly trivial piece might hold valuable information about the people who loved and called Springfield their home no matter how brief or long the time. If for very understandable reasons you might not want to part with these items and family memories, just allowing us to reproduce, photograph or make copies of them for our ever-growing archive would be of enormous value.

After we are gone and can no longer sit around and share stories and memories these odd bits of paper, or photographs, records, diaries and letters will preserve the Springfield we know for those who will inhabit these hills and woods after us. Please stop by when the Museum is open to peruse the collection or contact me at [gregorybruss@gmail.com](mailto:gregorybruss@gmail.com) with any questions or information to share.

Gregory Bruss