



Springfield Historical Society

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TO:

www.historicalspringfieldnh.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



<u>May 25</u>	Celebrating Springfield's Graduates, Museum's Opening Day, Scholarship Awards and Waffles	<u>Aug 3</u>	Celebrating Springfield's Forests; Gile Forest, Town-owned; Wood Crafts Exhibit Sale, Kid Crafts; Conservation Committee Hike; Library Sponsored Talk on Easter Coyotes in NH; Pizza Bus
<u>June 22</u>	Celebrating Springfield's Volunteer Organizations	<u>Aug 10</u>	Party on the Patio – Celebrating the Finished Patio
<u>June 29</u>	Celebrating the Farm Kitchen: Making some Special goods	<u>Aug 17</u>	Ramble Round the Lake 5K Race
<u>July 6</u>	Celebrating the Red, White & Blue: Bake Sale, Hot Dogs and Root Beer Floats	<u>Aug. 17</u>	Humanities Lecture: TBD
<u>July 13</u>	Celebrating Summer: Recreation Committee's Summer Festival, Scottish Games and Forever Locked Display	<u>Aug 31</u>	Celebrating Springfield's Harvest: Bake Sale and Closing
<u>July 14</u>	Celebrating Bastille Day: Toasting the French 75 Cannon, its history and other WWI arms and Springfield's role.	<u>October 12</u>	ANNUAL MEETING with Live Music & Potluck Dinner (Pizza Bus)
<u>July 20</u>	Celebrating Our Vets: Making Oral History, Cemetery Tour and Pulled Pork Luncheon.	<u>November 9</u>	Celebrating Comfort Food: Sip-a-Soup & Puzzle Swap
<u>July 27</u>	Celebrating Springfield's Summer Homes: Wonderwell at Sunset; Bring a Picnic to Historic Talk, Tour and Enjoy!	<u>December 7</u>	Celebrating the Holidays: Rec. Committee

Volunteer!

www.historicalspringfieldnh.org



Springfield Historical Society

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Message to Members from the Board President



“Springfield is special!”, an oft-heard phrase in our community. The Historical Society decided it was time to celebrate all that is special about Springfield. This summer's events will be a continuous celebration of the town, its community and history. Celebrations already kicked off with the tradition of the Rubber Ducky Race. Tradition continued with a community potluck supper and fun stories told by Springfield's best around the Cracker Barrel.

Looking ahead, on May 25 we celebrate the town's graduates and scholarship winners with wonderful waffles and all the toppings! June 22 salutes Springfield's incredible army of volunteers. See the separate article for details!

The July 6th Red, White and Blue celebration includes one of our super bake sales, hot dogs and root beer floats. The party continues on July 13 when we join the Recreation Committee for its Summer Festival. A very special visitor will come home for the day: the Forever Locked Moose display! Originally found in Springfield's forests, the display is something not to miss.

An article in our last newsletter described the donation of a French cannon. Further research found just how significant cannon was in the WWI Allies victory. Join us as we raise a toast to the French cannon on Bastille Day – July 14 – with French 75 mocktails and a special exhibit of World War I weaponry. That theme continues the following week as Springfield veterans will be invited to tell their military story which we will capture as part of our ongoing oral history project. At the same time (July 20). the Cemetery Commission hosts a tour of the Pleasant View Cemetery. To top it off, there will be a traditional pulled pork lunch with all veterans invited to a free meal as a small way to say thank you for their service.

July closes with a special visit to the iconic Wonderwell estate – steeped in history that will be told by our own Gregory Bruss, followed by a tour and a potluck picnic as the sun sets over the Croydon peaks. Not to be missed.

In August the celebrations continue, including a celebration of the beautiful forests of Springfield. August 3 will have activities for all ages, including a hike, presentations on Gile Forest, Ausbon Sargent, Durgin and Crowell and the acres of woodland managed by the town. The Library will host a talk on “Becoming Wolf: The Eastern Coyote in NH!” Springfield's woodcrafters will be selling their beautiful wares and kids will be able to create wonderful art from bark, pinecones and more. AND Springfield's own Pizza Hero will be ready to fill you up!

There are more events all the way into December! Watch for flyers and ads highlighting all the activities or take a look on our website: www.historicalspringfieldnh.org. See you soon!

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.

Heritage Fund Update

The Springfield Heritage Fund's first year project is rolling along. Over the winter some Board members cleaned out the New Hampshire Room in the Library to make room for the inventorying project. Two stations have been set up – one for the computer and the other for the camera. And slowly the inventory is growing!

This year the Historical Society will launch a second project financed by the Heritage Fund. The focus will be on capturing the stories of Springfield's many veterans. The professional firm Story Catcher will do the filming on July 20. Each veteran will have the opportunity to share their military service history. On the same day the Historical Society will host a pulled pork luncheon free for veterans and for sale for others. Come out and enjoy some lunch and thank our vets for their service!



Buy-A-Brick for Scholarship

Did the Buy-a-Brick Campaign Reach its Goal?

As we go to press, the campaign nears its May 1st deadline. And we were only a few bricks away from the 200-brick target! The campaign not only collected funds for the bricks but also nearly \$4,000 for scholarships! Thank you for your support!

Next comes one final check of all the submissions and then ordering both engraved and plain bricks, enough for the pathway and patio in front of the Tool Shed. Ordering them all at the same time will ensure the pigment coloring will be the same throughout.

Two months later – hopefully mid-July – the bricks should arrive! After checking them for accuracy, damage and breakage, the installation will begin! If all goes as planned (and Mother Nature is nice to us), the work should be completed by August 9. A celebration will of course follow on August 10 – Party on the Patio!

What a special piece of Springfield these bricks tell. And we surely don't want to lose that history. So, in the coming month, the Historical Society will contact each donor asking to tell the significance of the engraving – the relationship to the donor, the Springfield connection and perhaps some dates or other historical tidbits. The responses will then be organized into a reference book that will help preserve the story of the bricks – and of Springfield!

Thank you for your continued support in preserving the town's heritage!

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New Acquisition: Arrived just by the April 15th deadline!

As we all rushed to get our tax returns done on time, the museum received a unique donation: the town tax collector's desk used from 1961 to 1981 by **Marjorie C. George**. Just imagine the simplicity of tax collecting in those days --- her office was just this desk with a few small drawers and cubbyholes located in the George's family home! Surely simpler times. The Historical Society thanks Warren George for this special contribution to preserving Springfield's history. The museum has an interesting collection of tax-related documents that will go nicely with the desk. Stop by and see it this summer!



Springfield runs on Volunteers!

When one thinks about what's special about Springfield, one has to include ALL the volunteers that make things happen for the community. There are the numerous individuals that volunteer to do things for the town – like the volunteer fire and rescue crew, or those that volunteer to be on the array of town committees or help run the elections. But there are also independent, non-profit volunteer organizations that make so much happen in Springfield. Our small rural village has 11 organizations that run and depend on volunteers to make Springfield a true community: Agriculture, Conservation, and Energy Committees; Friends of Fire & Rescue, Garden Club, Historical Society, Kolelemook Lake Protection Association, Friends of the Library, Recreation Committee, Mascoma Valley Snowtravelers and Sunapee Kearsarge Ragged Gateway. In late February, these organizations met for what became the "First Annual Summit" meeting aiming to better coordinate and collaborate their plans and activities. The diverse group identified several areas in common where all would benefit from improved collaboration and coordination. In discussing how to attract more volunteers or participants, it was agreed to hold a "Celebrate Springfield's Volunteer Day" on June 22 with all the organizations displaying their information. Participants left the meeting energized and full of new ideas on how to "work smarter not harder!". Being a volunteer doesn't have to be a burden – it can be fun –acquiring new skills, learning about new things and making new friends. At the same time helping make Springfield – Springfield!

Please come to the celebration of our volunteer organizations on June 22 to learn all that they do and perhaps you'll find something just right for you!



Representatives from Springfield's numerous volunteer organizations meet to better collaborate and coordinate programs and events. From l to r: Jessalyn Straniti, Jenn Roberts, Emily Rogers, Jim Bednar, Barbara Cooper, Laura Pauling, Steve Dzubak, Sue Chiarella, Steve Nolan and Ed Shank. Absent: Conservation Commission, Agriculture Committee and Sunapee Kearsarge Ragged Gateway.