



CONCORD

New values coming out

Lower-cost residential properties expected to take on more tax burden

By CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN
Concord Monitor

Concord taxpayers should keep an eye on their mailboxes toward the end of this month.

Long-awaited property values as a result of the citywide revaluation are expected to hit the mail on June 22, according to the city assessor, Jonathan Rice.

These new assessments are preliminary, and anyone who thinks the value of their property was determined incorrectly can appeal it with a hearing. The window to request one is June 29 to July 22, though this is subject to change. Instructions for how to do so will be listed on the notice, and remote hearings are an option.

Notably, the estimated tax rate just approved by the Concord City Council and the tax rate in place now will not be applied to these new values. A new tax rate based on the updated assessment will be announced in the fall. The rate is expected to decline, though homeowners' tax bills are not.

SEE REEVALUATION A6

KEARSARGE REGIONAL

Theater director retires

By ADDISON MASON
Concord Monitor

Sandy Nelson admired the walls backstage at Kearsarge Regional High School, covered with signatures and notes from past students showcasing the theater productions they participated in.

Nelson, the theater director, ran her hands over a section featuring all the productions she's been responsible for. Over her 15 years with the school's theater department, she has strived to create a safe space for all students to express themselves and be vulnerable.

The wall is just one tradition that welcomes everyone to the-

SEE DIRECTOR A6

SCHOOLS

On Rundlett grounds, past resurfaces

As construction gets underway, crews begin hunting for time capsules beneath the surface

By CATHERINE MCLAUGHLIN
Concord Monitor

When Principal Jay Richard arrived at Rundlett Middle School in 2023, he found a strange box – metal, the size of a shoebox and bound in white athletic tape – and some manila envelopes tucked away in a closet in his office.

Time capsules. He could tell from the “Don’t open until” messages penned on each one. Most of the dates in the messages had passed, 2017, 2010, et cetera.

“It was just here,” he said. “I think, maybe, someone had forgotten about it.”

He kept them safe, but for the most part let them be.

Fast forward to this week, when construction began in earnest on the site for a new middle school, and Richard remembered.

Over the last few days, he and teachers Amy Schaeffner and Regina Wall have gone through the collection and cataloged what’s known. Many of them were put together by ninth-grade anthropology classes, from when Rundlett was a junior high.

Each envelope contains messages from past students, along with hand-drawn maps, pirate-style, for where the boxes or bins were buried.

On Wednesday, four metal trash cans that last touched air in 1992 – from the Concord High School graduating class of 1995 – were carefully



MATT CASHMAN / Courtesy

Four metal trashcans, a time capsule from 1992 Rundlett students, were unearthed Wednesday as construction begins on a new middle school.

SEE TIME CAPSULES A6

HELPING HANDS: Retired teacher Laura Russell schools hunger at Warner Food Pantry



ALEX MILLER / For the Monitor

Laura Russell, a volunteer at the Warner Food Pantry, tends to the Tray it Forward seedlings.

‘Food is a human right’

By LILA DE ALMEIDA
Concord Monitor

Laura Russell spent her career as a middle school teacher talking about the dangers of food insecurity. When she retired in 2023, she figured, “Well, I should put my money where my mouth is.”

That’s what she does every Tuesday at the Warner Food Pantry.

During a shift at the start of June, she bounced from the back room, where she assembled snack bags for clients with children, to the white board, where she wrote all the produce available that day (including broccoli florets, plums and bok choy). At the front, she greeted clients — all of whom she knows by name, and many of whose cars she instantly recognized when they pulled into the parking lot.

“Understanding that everyone walks a different path in life, it’s really important to know that and to be reminded of it,” she said.

The brightly lit pantry has aisles separated by metal shelves stocked with anything from canned green beans to adult diapers. The freezer at the back contains miscellaneous treasures: frozen fruit, popsi-cles, hamburger meat and even Maryland-style crab cakes, courtesy of a local donor.

In all, it looks like a scaled-down version of a grocery store, complete with three shopping carts. That’s no accident. When clients compare it to Market Basket, “that’s exactly what we want to hear,” Russell said.

Giving patrons agency in what goods they can take home limits their food waste, but beyond that, it simulates normalcy.

“We just try to provide the most dignified, positive, non-judgmental experience with the clients,” said Russell, who taught at the Derryfield School in Manchester for 11 years.

She relishes connecting with others in the community who care about food insecurity as much as

SEE HELPING HANDS A5

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