

# The Fitzwilliam

# Newsletter

*published by volunteers for the benefit of the town*



Vol. XLVI N0.538

MARCH 2026

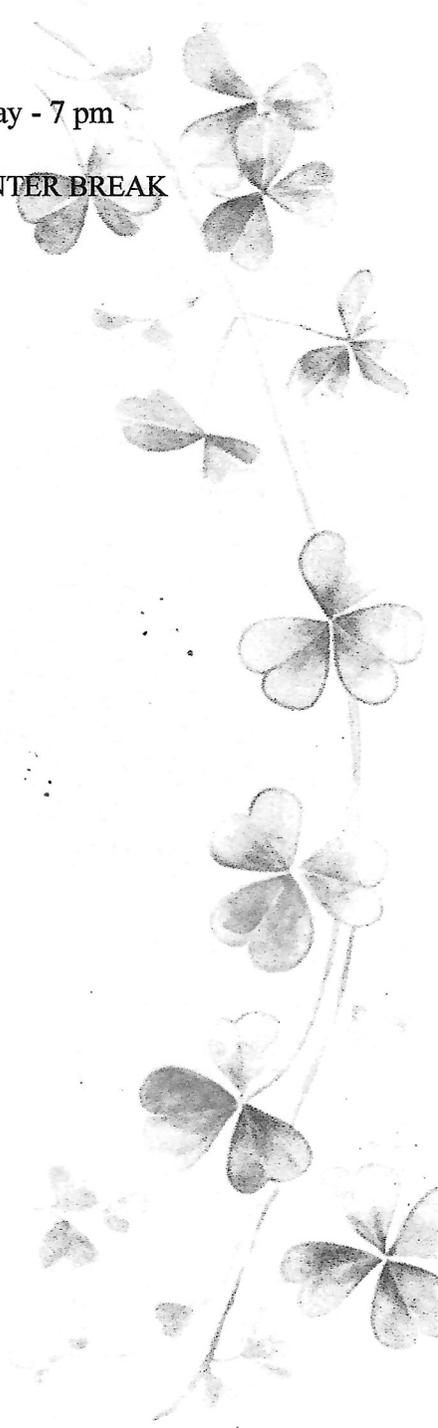
## WEEKLY MEETINGS & EVENTS

AA Meeting Fitzwilliam Community Church - Every Sunday - 7 pm

### MARCH EVENTS

- Mon. 2 MONADNOCK SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM WINTER BREAK  
Library – Trustees Meeting – 5:30 pm
- Tue. 3 Bible Study – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 10:30 – 11:30 am  
Water District Annual Meeting – Town Hall – 7 pm  
Agricultural Commission – Town Hall 10:30 am  
Economic Committee – Town Hall – 7 pm
- Wed. 4 VFW Auxiliary – VFW Post Home Winchester – 6:30 pm  
CANDIDATES NIGHT – Library 7 pm
- Thu. 5 Lenten Supper – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 5:30 – 6:30 pm  
Gap Mt. Lions Club – Village Pond Community Ctr. Troy – 6:30 pm
- Sat. 7 Troy Sr. Citizens Breakfast – Sam Paul Memorial Ctr. – 8 – 10 am
- Sun. 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2 am Set clocks forward one hour
- Mon. 9 Book Group – The Wager - Library - 7 pm
- Tue. 10 VOTING AND TOWN MEETING DAY (see Selectmen article)  
NO SCHOOL – Monadnock District - Workshop  
Community Luncheon – Fitzwilliam Community Church – Noon – 1p  
Board of Adjustment – Town Hall – 7 pm
- Wed. 11 Crochet a Shamrock – Library – 6 pm  
Fitzwilliam Fire Dept – Fire Station – 6:30 pm  
VFW - VFW Post Home Winchester – 7 pm  
Yarn Swap – Library 6 pm
- Thu. 12 Lenten Supper – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 5:30 – 6:30 pm  
Recreation Commission – Library – 7 pm  
Historic District Commission – Town Hall – 4 pm
- Mon. 16 Novel-Tea BG – Library 6:30 pm  
Conservation Commission – Town Hall – 7 pm
- Tue. 17 St. Patricks Day  
Planning Board – Town Hall – 7 pm  
Bible Study – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 10:30 – 11:30 am
- Wed. 18 Yarn Swap – Library – 6 pm  
Associated Sportsmen Club – 7 pm
- Thu. 19 Lenten Supper – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- Fri. 20 First Day of Spring  
NO SCHOOL – Monadnock District - Workshop

March events continued page 2



**Fitzwilliam Village**  
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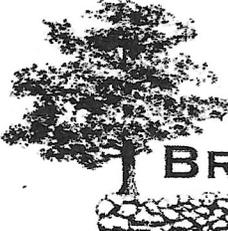


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**THE TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS**

The Trustees of the Trust Funds (TotTF) are elected to safely manage money held at a reputable investment firm that has been set aside by the town or has been bequeathed or donated to the town for various purposes. Generally, the TotTF serves only as stewards for accessing accounts and disbursing appropriate amounts to preserve the trusts for the long term, and not as decision makers regarding how the money should be spent.

Many of the trusts are capital reserve funds that, through warrant articles, set aside money for multiple years to help to keep the town budget and taxes predictable from year to year even when some expensive items are purchased only sporadically.

Other trusts serve specific functions. These include perpetual care and general funding for the town's cemeteries, general funding and building support for the town library, and bequeathed funding for improvements to the village common and town hall. Use of these funds follow requests from the duly elected cemetery trustees, the library trustees, and the select board, respectively.

Finally, there are trusts for the benefit of the public in general as well as resident individuals and families. Civic beautification and education are enhanced by the availability of funds for the town garden club. The town's visiting nurses association can draw on funds to help support food security and other health-related needs for town families. The TotTF awards first-year monies from four scholarship trusts to graduating Fitzwilliam seniors to further their education at the institutions of their choice and acceptance. For more information on scholarships, see the Town's website (<https://fitzwilliam-nh.gov> *Select Trustees of Trust Funds under Boards & Commissions*). And, in cases of extraordinary circumstances, the select board through the town's welfare officer and department has funds available to assist in the provision of human welfare services to individuals or families in need.

We thank Fitzwilliam's taxpayers and those whose generous bequests make Fitzwilliam a much better town for all us residents over the long term.

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**March events continued**

- Sat. 21 Teddy Bear Clinic – Library – 10 am
- Mon. 23 American Legion Post 38 – Library – 6:30 pm
- Tue. 24 Bible Study – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 10:30 – 11:30 am
- Wed. 25 Cooking the Book – Library – 6:30 pm  
FREMS – Depot – 7 pm
- Thu. 26 Lenten Supper – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- Sun. 29 Palm Sunday
- Mon. 30 Tweens & Teens – Library – Earrings – 6:30 pm
- Tue. 31 Bible Study – Fitzwilliam Community Church – 10:30 – 11:30 am



**UPCOMING APRIL EVENTS**

- Fri. 3 – Good Friday
- Sun. 5 – EASTER SUNDAY
- April 26 – May 4 – NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK

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**TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT**

Scholarship funds are made available annually to Fitzwilliam residents living in the Town for two or more years. These scholarships are awarded by the Fitzwilliam Trustees of the Trust Funds in support of first-year costs. For MRHS students, application forms are available from the MRHS Guidance Counselor, Bethany Maynard. Instructions for completing the applications are on the form. Applications are due Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026. For other students, applications are available on the Town's website ([https://fitzwilliam-nh.gov>Select Trustees of Trust Funds under Boards & Commissions](https://fitzwilliam-nh.gov>SelectTrusteesofTrustFundsunderBoards&Commissions)) and at the Selectmen's Office in the Town Hall or at the Town Library. The deadline for these submissions is also March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at the Town Hall.

In their wills, generous Fitzwilliam residents created scholarship trusts to enable high school graduates to continue their education in college or in some cases in technical or trade school. These are the Amro Streeter Trust, the Louis J. Petkiewicz Trust, the Thomas B. Lacy Trust, and the Kenneth D. and Jane W. Roberts Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are sourced by combining funds from some or all of these Trusts.

The Kenneth D. and Jane W. Roberts Trust provides substantial scholarship funds for Fitzwilliam high school graduates and has done so for many years. The Thomas B. Lacy Trust was funded by Mr. Lacy's family. Mr. Lacy was community-minded and interested in the Town's young people and their education. He served on important Town committees, including the Trustees of the Trust Funds and the Board of Selectmen. The Amro Streeter Trust was endowed by Mr. Streeter. Before the construction of the MRHS in Swanzey, Fitzwilliam high school and junior high students traveled by train to either Troy, NH, or Winchendon, MA for schooling. Mr. Streeter was a train conductor and State Line resident who provided money to students completing their high school education in Winchendon. Penny and Louis Petkiewicz funded the Louis Petkiewicz Trust. They greatly appreciated the scholarships given to their two daughters for college expenses and stipulated that their awards be limited to the Fitzwilliam applicant with the highest grade-point average.

The Town remains grateful for these donors whose contributions further advance the education of its student residents.

Fitzwilliam Village Water District

## Fitzwilliam Village Water District Update

*Information for Residents Regarding Proposed Town Management of the Village Water District*

### What is happening, why is it happening, and what does it mean for me?

#### What is being proposed:

The proposal is for the Town of Fitzwilliam to take over management of the Fitzwilliam Village Water District. The District is proposing to dissolve, contingent upon a Town meeting vote to acquire and operate the District's system.

#### Why is this being proposed?

Since 1967, the water district has been operated by community volunteers and supplied by private wells. The water system is aging and in need of upgrades to maintain its supply and compliance with New Hampshire Safe Drinking Water standards. Many residents within the district rely on this system for their drinking water and do not have land suitable for drilling private wells. Managing the District's systems requires technical expertise, long-term planning, and time commitments that exceed what a district volunteer board can reasonably provide without the administrative support.

#### What does it mean for me?

##### If you live in the water district \*and are a current user\*:

You will continue to pay your water bill as usual, but the system will be managed by the Town. The Town will operate and manage the system under the existing contracts with the current certified operators. This will reduce administrative costs by eliminating the need for separate district meetings, financial reporting, accounting, and other requirements. The Town can perform those functions using its existing employees that are already performing those functions and reimburse itself for the costs incurred in support of water operations. RSA 38:29, II.

##### If you \*do not live in the water district\*:

Your property taxes will **\*not\*** increase as a result of this proposal. The costs for Town water service are assessed upon "persons who are served by the water system, or whose lands receive special benefit from the water system." RSA 38:27. The Town will reimburse itself for its all of its costs "in support of water operations, including but not limited to financial audit, facility insurance, treasurer compensation, and office support." RSA 38:29, II. However, community facilities you use – such as Mr. Mike's, Dunkin, Mexica, the Town Hall, and the Library – will continue to receive safe and reliable water service.

The vast majority of the 145 (+/-) public water systems providing water utility service in New Hampshire are owned by Towns. Town ownership and operation will maintain local control at lower costs than as a stand-alone district which is not a viable long-term solution.

Voting on this proposal will take place at Town Meeting this winter.

For questions or more information, please contact the Fitzwilliam Village Water District Committee. Multiple information sessions will be held leading up to Town Meeting.

## FITZWILLIAM COMMUNITY CHURCH

March is a very busy month for us at Fitzwilliam Community Church -- we are observing the season of Lent. Far from being somber, this Lent our emphasis will be on hospitality and good meals in good company. Our **Lenten Suppers take place on Thursday nights at 5:30 pm** (March 5, 12, 19 and 26). These are simple potluck suppers for fellowship, followed by a devotional reading and discussion. They are free and all are welcome.

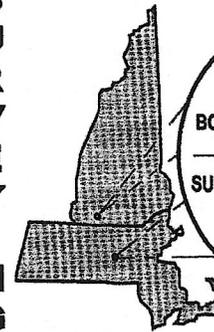
Our monthly **Community Luncheon will take place Tuesday, March 10 from 12pm - 1:30pm**. This has proven to be a very welcome event in our community, where people gather for a nourishing lunch of soup, breads, and sides. It is our way of welcoming anyone who might need a good excuse for getting out and visiting together. It is always free, and we offer rides for those who need transportation. Just call the church at call 603-585-3352. We can also deliver meals for those who need them.

All are welcome at our services, whether you believe a little or a lot, whether you were brought up in church, haven't been back in a while, or have never tried church at all. You will find us to be a group of seekers, more interested in exploring the big questions together than assuming we have all the answers. Come as you are, and see if we have something to offer you. We wish you and your families a blessed and rich Lent and Easter season



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## Sunday Supper

### Sunday, April 12

live fiddle music by Randy Miller

5:00 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres

5:30 p.m. Dinner

#### Appetizers

Fresh Baked Bread    Homemade Tomato Cheddar Soup  
Tossed Salad    Pumpkin Fritter with Maple Syrup

#### Two Entree Choices

Baked Haddock  
New England Pot Roast with Gravy

#### Two Dessert Choices

Chocolate Brownie with Ice Cream  
Apple Crisp

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The Fitzwilliam Farmers' Market committee and vendors are ready for the 2026 season.

The 2026 Fitzwilliam Farmers' Market season will begin on Saturday **May 23** 9am-1pm on the Fitzwilliam Common and will continue through the season on the first and third Saturdays through October 3. The vendors will sell a variety of items such as: Vegetables, Flowers, Fruit, Bracelets, Succulents, Meat, Breakfast breads, Coffee Cakes, Jams, Jellies, Confections, Home Décor, Cookies, Homemade Cards, Honey, Handcrafted chairs, Spice Packets, Crochet items, Sourdough Bread, Linens, Aprons, Bags, Lemonade, Finnish Baked Goods, Flower Seedlings, Fudge and more.

If you would like to be a vendor or know someone who might want to be a vendor contact us at [fitzfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:fitzfarmersmarket@gmail.com).

Our Food Contests for 2026:

June 6 Kids/Adult Cookie Contest

July 4 Cupcake Contest

August 1 Salad Variety Contest

September 5 Meatball Contest

October 3 Chili Contest

Contact [mmsr@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mmsr@myfairpoint.net) with your interest

2026 Musicians:

May 23 - Rik Ekstrom

June 6 - Brandon O'Neill

June 20 - Rik Ekstrom

July 4

July 18th - Rik Ekstrom

August 1 - Brandon O'Neill

August 15 - Rik Ekstrom

September 5 - Brandon O'Neill

September 19 - Rik Ekstrom

October 3 - Gary Girouard

Invite your family and friends, bring a chair, to meet up and enjoy all of the festivities happening.



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## For Kids

### Preschool (Ages 3-5) Storytime Weds at 10:30:

Come read, craft, learn and have fun with Ms. Veronika weekly. Please register in advance.

### Storytime for Big Kids (K-2) Tuesdays, 3:30-

4:30: Get your passport ready to explore with Ms. Boo. Please register in advance.

### Thursday Afternoons at the Library at 3:30:

Take the bus! Register ahead of time.

March 5 – Bird Feeders

March 12 – St. Patrick's Day Cupcakes

March 19 – Clay Lions & Lambs

March 26 – Board Games/BINGO

**Lego Robotics Club:** Mondays, March 9-April 20 at 3:30pm for grades 4-6. Space is limited. Registration required.

**Read to Milo at 10am:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Practice your reading skills with Milo, a therapy dog who loves books. No registration required.

### Sat, March 21 at 10am: Teddy Bear Clinic--

Bring in your stuffies for some repair, or just a regular check-up with our "hospital staff". We'll check the stuffed friends' temperature, blood pressure, and conduct eye screenings too. If needed, we'll have a surgical table for stitches, band-aids and ribbons. No registration required.

## For All:

**Winter Reading BINGO – For All Ages!** Read books for the chance to win prizes! Turn in your cards by March 9.

**Peeps Diorama Contest:** Design a Book-Themed Diorama using Peeps & enter our contest to win a prize! Dioramas can be dropped off March 30 for display through April 3.

## For Adults

### Wed, March 4: Candidates' Night –

Meet the candidates & ask your questions.

**Mon, March 9 at 7pm: Book Group – The Wager by David Grann** Copies are available.

### Wed, March 11 at 6pm – Crochet a Shamrock!

Crochet a seasonal shamrock with step-by-step instructions. Registration required.

**Wed, March 11 & 18 at 6pm: Yarn Swap!** – We ARE accepting unused yarn, needle hooks & notions in good working order. We ARE NOT accepting other crafting supplies, books, patterns finished or partially finished projects. Collecting Yarn: March 2-10.

**Mon, March 16, 6:30pm: Novel-Tea Book Group – And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie.** Copies are available.

**Wed, March 25 at 6:30pm: Cooking the Book Group—The Book on Pie by Erin Jeanne McDowell.** Copies are available.

**Sat, March 28 at 10am: Pysanky—** Make Ukrainian Easter eggs. Registration is required.

**“Stitch & B\*@#!” at 6pm:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. **Coffee Hour** every Sat at 10:30.

**Home Delivery:** Homebound (long or short term) and can't get to the Library? We can deliver. Contact for info.

## Tweens & Teens:

**Mon, March 30 at 6:30pm: Polymer Clay Earrings –** For Grades 5-9. Register in advance.

## Selected New Books For Kids

Wildest Thing/Martin  
A Bear, a Man, and a Donut  
Van/Bernstrom  
Birdy/ Moss  
Is It Spring?/Henkes  
Unsettling Salad/Reynolds  
Iguana Miss You/ Boyton  
It's My Bird Day/Willems

## Selected New Fiction

The Final Score/ Winslow  
Life, a Love Story/Berg  
Theo of Golden/Levi  
The Keeper/French  
The Hadacol Boogie/ Burke  
The Astral Library/ Quinn  
Daughter of Egypt/Benedict  
It Girl/Pataki  
Python's Kiss/Erdrich

## Selected New Nonfiction

Burlington for Bernie/Chaisson  
Your Journey to Successful  
Parenting/Rogers  
A World Appears/Pollen  
When the Forest Breathes/Simard  
And many more...



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**CONFETTI RICE SALAD**

- 1 box (7 ounces) long grain, wild, or brown rice
- 1 cup walnut pieces
- 1 cup sweetened dried cranberries
- 3/4 cup chopped yellow bell pepper
- 3/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped red onion (or Vidalia onion)
- 3/4 cup raspberry walnut vinaigrette
- 1 cup mandarin orange slices, drained

Prepare the rice according to the package directions. While the rice is cooking, heat the oven to 325 degrees F, place the walnuts on a cookie sheet, and toast them in the oven for 6 to 8 minutes, stirring once or twice to toast evenly. When the rice is cooked, place it into a large bowl and toss it to fluff. Add the cranberries, peppers, onions, and vinaigrette and toss well. Set aside for 1 hour at room temperature to let the flavors blend and the rice absorb the juices. Just before serving, adjust the flavor, adding more vinaigrette if necessary. Add the oranges and walnuts, saving a few to garnish the top, and toss to mix.



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### FITZWILLIAM GARDEN CLUB

The Fitzwilliam Garden Club resumed activities in February after a winter break. Club member Maureen Dion helped us make toadstools for our gardens using ceramic pots and paint.

We will take a field trip to the Currier Museum in Manchester in March to see the floral arrangements made by members of the NH Federation of Garden Clubs called "Bloom. A Floral Palette." Member Anne Wenniger will be one of the exhibitors using floral design to complement the paintings.

On March 23, club member Michelle Davis Tarr of Michelle Davis Wellness will offer a Yoga for Gardeners program. Michelle will help us learn how to use our bodies to stretch and prevent injuries when we are gardening.

Scholarship applications are available to Fitzwilliam residents planning to attend college. Applications are available at Monadnock High School, Town Hall and the Library. Deadline to return them is March 28.

Looking forward, our plant and bake sale will be held on May 30. We will publish more information as we get closer to that date.

Come share our love of gardening and learn more about ways we can help wildlife and the environment. We always welcome new members. Our Facebook page provides information about what we do, but you can also email us at [fitzwilliamgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:fitzwilliamgardenclub@gmail.com) for more information. Spring is coming!

### ATTENTION READERS

The Fitzwilliam Newsletter has finally moved to our permanent home on the Fitzwilliam Town Website, where you can access it free of charge. Paste the following into your browser.

<https://fitzwilliam-nh.gov/>

Then click on Residents at the top of the page and select News & Announcements.

You can open the newsletter to read, or download it to be printed on your printer.



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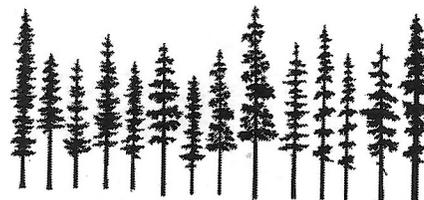
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**FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**TOWN MEETING & VOTING – MARCH 10, 2026**

The Board of Selectmen encourages all residents to participate in this year’s Annual Town Meeting. **Voting** will take place in the **Lower Hall of the Fitzwilliam Town Hall** on **Tuesday, March 10**, from **11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, on **Articles 1 through 9** of the Town Warrant. At **7:00 p.m.**, the **Business Meeting (Town Meeting)** will begin in the **Upper Hall** of the Town Hall. The Moderator will read each warrant article, and voters will have the opportunity to discuss, amend if desired, and vote on each article.

The complete warrant and proposed budget are printed on **colored paper in the back section of the 2025 Annual Report**. We hope to see many residents attend and participate in Town Meeting.

**2025 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**

The **2025 Annual Town Report** will be available for pickup beginning **March 3, 2026**. Copies may be obtained at the **Fitzwilliam Town Hall, Library, and Transfer Station**. The report is also available online at **fitzwilliam-nh.gov**.

**2025 FINAL TAX RATE**

The Town’s **2025 tax rate** has been finalized, and tax bills were mailed at the end of January. Town departments, the Budget Committee, and the Board of Selectmen work diligently each year to develop a budget that meets departmental needs while remaining mindful of the impact on taxpayers. The Board of Selectmen has the authority to use **Unassigned Fund Balance** to help offset the tax rate. The State of New Hampshire recommends that towns retain between **5% (minimum)** and **17% (maximum)** of fund balance. This year, the Board voted to use **\$500,000** of Unassigned Fund Balance to offset the tax rate, resulting in a retained balance of **10.07%**. This action reduced the overall tax impact. The total tax rate increased by **\$0.95 per \$1,000 of assessed value**, **Tax Rate Comparison**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Town	\$3.45	\$3.65
County	\$2.54	\$2.37
Local School	\$11.07	\$11.94
State School	\$1.21	\$1.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18.27</b>	<b>\$19.22</b>

**TEMPLETON TURNPIKE BRIDGE**

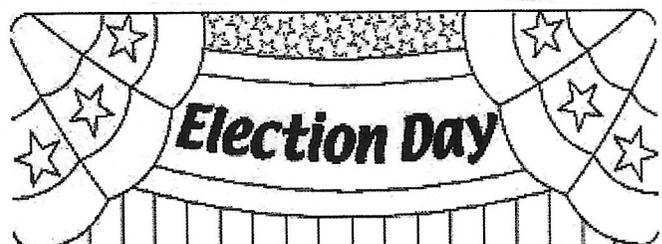
We have received the approved wetlands permit from NHDES. As part of this approval, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must complete a review. The Corps has up to 30 days to determine whether additional information is required or if an individual federal permit will be necessary. No work may proceed without authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We would like to thank Tom White for his assistance with the preparation and submission of this application. His expertise was greatly appreciated.

The culvert for this project has been manufactured, and delivery will be scheduled as soon as authorization is received and the project is able to move forward.

Board of Selectmen

**MAUREEN O'BRIEN, M.S.S.A**

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**TOWN CLERK NEWS**

The Local/MRSD Election will take place on March 10, 2026. Polls will be open from 11am-7pm at the Town Hall. Town Meeting will immediately follow the closing of the Polls at 7pm. If you will be unable to attend the Election (Polls 11am-7pm) you can apply for an Absentee Ballot at the Clerks office or you can get the application online at the Secretary of State office website. The Town Clerk's office will be open on Monday, March 9 from 3-5 to accept Absentee Ballots and applications/ballots for the Local/MRSD Election on March 10.

Dog Licenses are being renewed now, they expire on April 30. To license a dog, it is \$10.00 (sprayed/neutered is \$7.50). You can renew online but new dogs need to be licensed in the office.

We are processing new Transfer Station applications which is new in 2026. One sticker is \$10.00 with additional (same household) for \$1.00 each. If getting the sticker please let us know first (before any other transactions) and have the registration with you. Stickers are plate specific so we will need to know your license plate number. It is a process but we can do it!

We are processing registrations for car/truck, trailer, boats etc. Remember, you can renew 4 months early with no extra fees (so we are processing May now).

Heidi L. Wood, Town Clerk  
[fitzclerk@fitzwilliam-nh.gov](mailto:fitzclerk@fitzwilliam-nh.gov)  
603-585-7214



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G. Hagstrom (advertising) 585-6884  
 T. Robbitts (informational contributions)  
 D. & R. Tremblay (record keeping & subscriptions)  
 J. Wilkinson (calendar & articles) 585-7146  
 B. Young (informational contributions)  
 And other contributing friends & neighbors  
**Mail ALL PAYMENTS** to Fitzwilliam Newsletter - PO  
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**Send News articles** to our PO box or to  
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 64 Lower Troy Road  
**Mail advertisements** (with enclosed payment) to our PO  
 Box or email them to fitznewsadvertising@gmail.com  
**Deadline: All news and ads - 15th of each month.**  
**OUT OF TOWN SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
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 www.fitzNHcommunity.org

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4	\$29	\$57
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**VITAL STATISTICS**

**BIRTH**

None to report

**DEATH**

Jan. 15 Donald Matthew Raitto, Jr  
 Jan. 19 Donald Francis Gravel  
 Jan. 28 Gary Stanley Gorzelany

**MARRIAGE**

None to report



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