

PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE NEWSLETTER BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

"It was the best kind of November. Cold and crisp, but not quite freezing, not icy." *Rainbow Rowell*

November 12, 2025

Leavitt's Cider Mill Celebrates 95 Years

Another piece of Pittsfield history, Leavitt's Cider Mill, celebrates 95 years of continuous operation this year!

We spoke with Laurie Houle and Jake Farmer recently and learned the cider press is truly a unique piece of New Hampshire history. The press was built in the 1890's and originally was housed in Gilmanton Iron Works. It was operated in Gilmanton for close to 40 years, powered by water. In 1930, Ruben Leavitt, Sr. bought the press and moved it to Pittsfield. Several components of the press are original, including the main drive wheel, which is made of wood.

Laurie Houle was fascinated by the cider press as a young child and began working at the mill at the age of 7. She shared that "Old Ruben" built the current cider mill building to house the press from Gilmanton. When she first started to work there, she wasn't tall enough to reach the apples, so Old Ruben made her a wooden stool, which she still has. Once the mill opened in 1930, production took off. They sold cider to a number of stores across the region. Every Saturday morning, Laurie and Old Ruben would deliver fresh pressed apple cider to markets in Pittsfield, Barnstead, Northwood, Chichester and Epsom.

In the early years, they bottled the cider in glass with metal caps. Old Ruben's wife would wash and boil the glass bottles which had been returned by customers, and they were reused.

Laurie bought the mill in 1985 and has kept the operation going with loving care ever since. She sources her apples from an orchard in Loudon. She typically starts with MacIntosh apples, then layers in other apple varieties as the season progresses. One "full press" uses over 20 bushels of apples and produces about 70 gallons of unpasteurized cider. The leftover pulp from the pressing process is called "pummey," which Laurie offers to local farmers for cattle feed. The mill operates today with the original motor, and most of the press mechanical works are original; however, they did convert to hydraulic electric power.

Over the years, Laurie and Leavitt's Cider Mill have been featured in a number of media outlets, including WMUR, *The Concord Monitor*, *The Boston Globe* and several others. It is believed that Leavitt's Cider Mill is one of the oldest mills in continuous use in New England, although Laurie believes there may be a similar press in New York state.

Laurie will continue to press cider and remain open until just before Thanksgiving. They are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. They sell gallon and half-gallon size jugs and the cider will keep (in the refrigerator) for 7 days. It also freezes beautifully. (Be sure to leave space in the container for expansion. Allow to thaw completely before shaking thoroughly prior to serving.) This cider is the real deal, it's 100% apples – no added water or sugar.

Make sure a visit to Leavitt's Cider Mill on South Main Street is on your list of things to do in the next several weeks. The cider is absolutely delicious and the mill store is a delightful and refreshing step back in time.



Pittsfield Town Crier

Would you like an event listed? Contact Andi Riel at pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com or 603-435-6346

Mon, Nov. 10 - Fri, Nov 14 - Pittsfield Elementary School Book Fair will be held in the PES Library. Hours are: Monday and Friday 8am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-1pm, Thursday 9am-8pm. Follow link below to set up your child's e-wallet, contribute money to the share a fair account to help all kids get a book, and to browse available titles!

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/.../pittsfieldelementary>

Thurs, Nov 13, 5:30pm - PES PTO will meet at the PES Library.

The **Pittsfield Players** present "**Urinetown, the Musical**" on **Nov 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 7:30pm** and on **Sun, Nov 16 at 2pm** at the Scenic Theatre, 6 Depot St. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by visiting the website at www.pittsfieldplayers.org or call 603-435-8852.

Mon, Nov 17, 5:30pm-6:30pm - Community Supper at the First Congregational Church. Cost is a donation. Come enjoy a delicious meal and visit with some new friends.

Tues, Nov 18, 6pm - The Josiah Carpenter Library, 41 Main St., will host "**Basics of Journaling** with Book Enthusiast, Anna Ackbarali." Seats are limited; please call 603-435-8406 to register. Refreshments will be provided.

Wed, Nov 19, 6pm - The Friends of the Josiah Carpenter Library will meet at the Library.

Wed, Nov 19, 6:30pm - The Suncook Valley Rotary Club will meet at the Pittsfield Historical Society, Oak St.

Thurs, Nov 20, 7pm - The Pittsfield Conservation Commission will meet at the Town Hall.

Sat, Nov 22, 8-3pm - Snowmobile Course sponsored by the Suncook Valley Sno-Riders for children 11 years old and older. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Please contact Joe at 603-608-6977.

Sat, Nov 22, 5-7pm - The Suncook Valley Sno-Riders will host a **Ham & Bean Supper** at the Pittsfield Community Center, 68 Main St. The cost is Adults - \$10, Ages 6-12- \$5 a variety of baked beans, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, drinks, and lots of desserts. There will be prizes! For information, please contact Mary at 603-520-3693.

Mon, Nov 24, 5:30pm - 6:30pm - Soup Night at the First Congregational Church. Cost is a donation. Come enjoy some wonderful soups and meet some new people.

Wed, Nov 26, 9am - Until the pies are gone! - The **Victory Workers 4-H Club's Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale** will be held at Dowboro Farm, 615 Dowboro Rd.

Sat, Dec 6, 9-11am - The Annual Children's Store will be held on Sat, Dec. 6 from 9-11am at the PMHS gym. Kids-Only shopping! Kids can shop for their family and friends and free gift wrapping is available. Donations of gently used or new items (no clothing please) will be collected. Watch for more information for collection sites.

Save the Date, Sat, Dec 6 - 8am-1pm - Pittsfield Elementary School PTO will be hosting their **Holiday Vendor Fair**, December 6th from 8am -1pm. Emails have been sent out to vendors of our past events. We still have some space available. \$40 for an 8'x8' space. This event has two other events overlapping at the same time, with Santa and Mrs. Claus making an appearance for 3 hours. Location - Pittsfield Middle High School, 23 Oneida St. For info, please email pittsfieldnhptovendors@sau51.org for more information.

Pittsfield Town Clerk/Tax Collector change in public office hours effective October 15, 2025:

Wednesdays - closed all day to the public to meet administrative obligations.

Modified Town Clerk/Tax Collector Public Hours:

Monday 11am - 7pm, Tuesday 8am - 4pm, Wednesday - closed to public all day in order to meet administrative obligations, Thursday 7am - 4pm, and Friday 8am - 4pm.

Pittsfield Senior Center - Barnstead Rd, Joy Church
Monday & Thursdays – 8-2pm , Wednesdays 8am
–1pm. Lunch – M & TH at 11:45am; Bingo M, W &
TH – 10-11:45am; Cribbage & Games – W-9-11am;
Breakfast & Bingo- Wed 9am; Walking at the Center-
M, W, TH- 8am-1pm; Sweatin to the Oldies- Mon at
8am-8:45am (**New Time!**) and Chair Yoga- TH
9:30am (**NEW time**). ?'s call Anne 603-435-8482
aalbers-reilly@capbm.org

PYW is collecting donations of *travel-sized
toiletries, prebagged snacks, mints, candies,
crossword/puzzle books, cards/card games for the
Meals on Wheels gift bags that our youth will
decorate, fill, and deliver to the Senior Center just
before Christmas. Last year, we received enough
donations from the community to make 50 gift bags!
We would love to reach that amount again this year!
?'s Ashley ashley@pittsfieldyouthworkshop.org
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/F9Y9KG1ZPVYA...>

BINGO hosted by Pittsfield Youth Baseball/Softball
Association Bingo. Every Saturday! Doors open at
3:30pm and bingo starts at 6 pm at Circle 9 Ranch in
Epsom.

End 68 Hours of Hunger - Volunteer Drivers needed.
Pittsfield needs volunteers to deliver food Thursdays
from 9:30am-10:30am. Please text or call
603-219-6343.

Pittsfield Youth Basketball Team Sponsors Needed!
pittsfieldyouthathletics@gmail.com

Parks & Recreation Committee Members NEEDED!
We plan lots of fun things for our town! Meet the
second Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Call Nicole
St.George 603-545-2402.

Secret Santa! The Pittsfield Firefighters Association
is collecting new, unwrapped toys and clothing for
children ages birth to 14 years - made possible
completely through generous donations. Each child
receives a toy and a warm outfit. Call the fire station
(603-435-6807) between the hours of 9am and 5pm.
We also accept monetary donations - can be made
out to Pittsfield Secret Santa Program, PO Box 392,
Pittsfield, NH 03263. Thank you to everyone who

helps make this program such a success!

**Pittsfield Food Pantry - Christmas Market Basket
Voucher Sign ups!** You must live in Pittsfield, have a
working phone number, and a street address. We
thank everyone for their generous donations!

Happy Birthday Wishes to Aunt Elaine Cannon on
Mon, Nov 10; to Donna Keeley on Fri, Nov 14; to Liz
Alberti on Sat, Nov 15; to Liz Dimmick on Thurs, Nov
20; and Sue Bleckmann on Wed, Nov 26. I hope you
all enjoy your special day!

A VERY Special Happy 90th Birthday wish to my
fabulous Father-in-law, Leon Miller on Tues, Nov 18.



Pittsfield Food Pantry

Located at 55 Barnstead Road, Bay 6 (near Joy
Church)

Hours: Monday: 11am – 2pm & 4pm – 6pm
Thursday: 11am – 2pm

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3, Pittsfield, NH 03263

Please call (603) 435-7300 during open office
hours to arrange for emergency pick-up of food
items.



Post-It in the Post
Do you have an interesting story to
share with your friends and neighbors?
Are you part of a community group
that has big news?
News@PittsfieldPost.org by 9 a.m. Friday
Submission Guidelines: www.PittsfieldPost.org

Rick Anthony Named High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year

Rick Anthony, longtime Physical Education teacher at Pittsfield Middle High School has been named the High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the New Hampshire Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance.

The Teacher of the Year award is presented to the high school physical educator who has made significant contributions to forwarding the objectives of the NHAHPERD organization related to physical education.

Mr. Anthony was nominated by former PMHS Principal Mr. Derek Hamilton and will receive his award at the NHAHPERD Annual Fall Conference Awards Banquet on November 6th in Waterville Valley.

The PMHS staff and the entire Pittsfield Panther community congratulate Mr. Anthony for earning this prestigious and well-earned recognition. Way to go, Coach!

Dr. Erik M. Anderson , Principal

Pittsfield Middle High School



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**Help spread the news in the
Gem of the Suncook Valley**

Please send a donation to the *Pittsfield Post*.

www.pittsfieldpost.org



Cook's Corner - Braised Pork Loin and Cauliflower "Stuffing"

Hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is just about 2 weeks away! If you're hosting this year, it's very likely your oven will be occupied with the turkey. But here's another main dish idea that can be done in your slow cooker. This Braised Pork Loin is absolutely delicious and the sauce is so festive. I've also included a side dish that can be prepared on your stove top. Cauliflower "Stuffing" is easy to pull together, tasty and healthy. Bon appetit!

Braised Pork Loin - Slow Cooker

1 (4 lb) boneless pork loin roast
Garlic powder, for seasoning
Salt & pepper, for seasoning
1 TBSP olive oil
¼ cup unsalted butter, softened
1 TBSP minced garlic
1 tsp dried oregano
1 tsp lemon zest
1 cup low-sodium chicken broth
1 TBSP cornstarch
1 cup fresh or frozen (but thawed) cranberries
½ cup golden raisins
¼ cup orange juice
3 TBSP honey
1 TBSP minced garlic

Pat roast dry with paper towels; season with garlic powder and salt & pepper, all over. Heat oil over medium-high in a large skillet. Add pork, and cook until browned on all sides, about 3 minutes per side. Remove from pan and place in a 6-quart slow cooker.

Stir together butter, garlic, oregano and lemon zest. Spread butter mixture over roast. Cover and cook on HIGH for 2 to 2 & ½ hours or until internal temperature of the roast reaches 145. Or cook on LOW for 5 to 6 hours.

Remove roast from the slow cooker; cover with foil and let rest for 15 minutes before slicing.

Meanwhile, pour the liquid from slow cooker through a fine mesh sieve into a saucepan; bring it to a simmer over medium-high heat. Whisk together broth and cornstarch in a small bowl; stir the slurry into the saucepan. Add the cranberries through minced garlic. Return to a boil, and cook stirring often, until sauce is thickened, about 5 to 8 minutes.

Slice the roast and serve with the sauce.

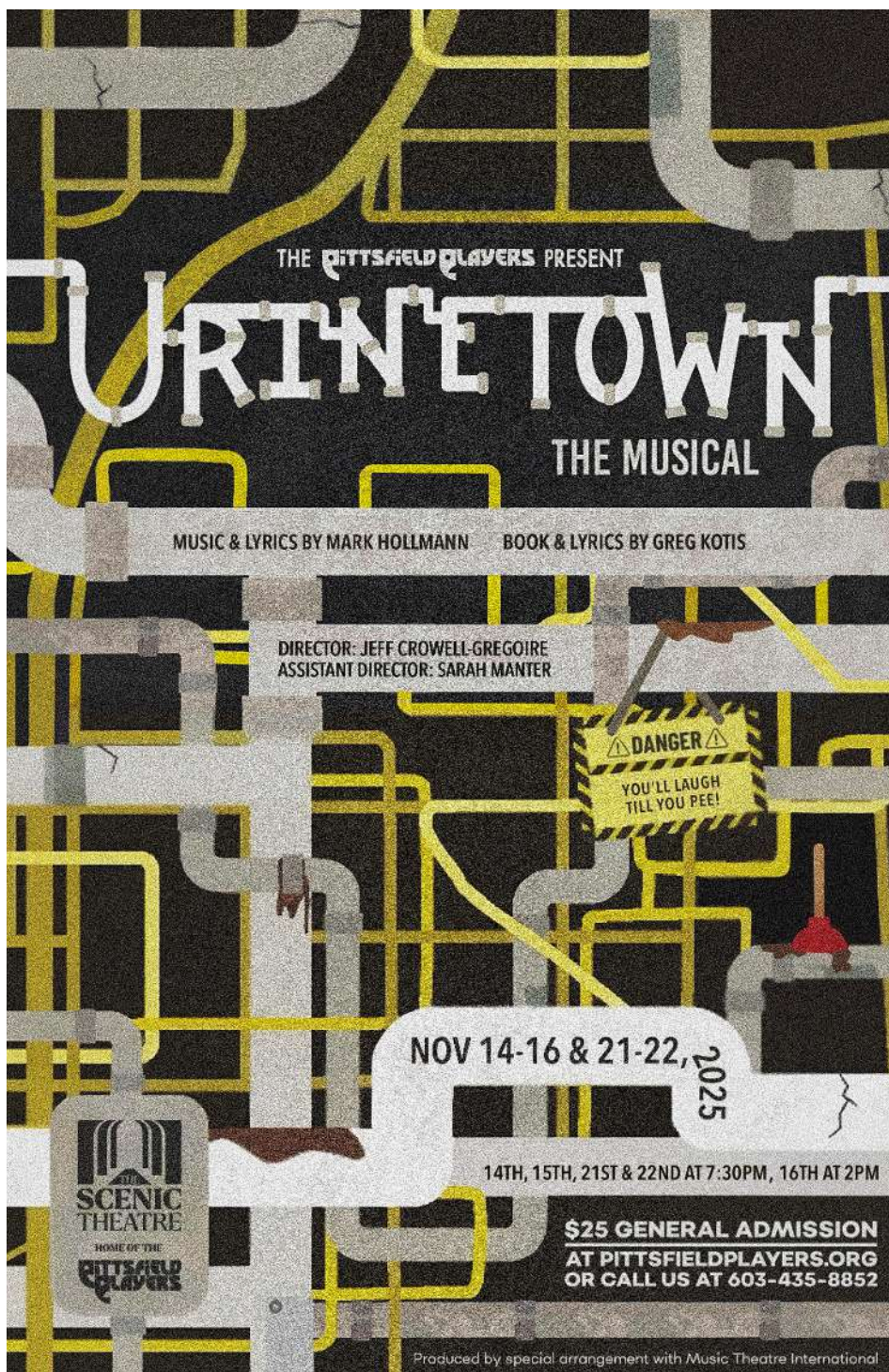
Cauliflower "Stuffing"

¼ cup olive oil
2 large carrots, peeled & chopped
2 celery stalks, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
2 small heads of cauliflower, broken into small florets (about 10 cups)
1 cup sliced mushrooms
1 & ¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp black pepper
½ cup vegetable broth
2 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
1 tsp rubbed sage

In a Dutch oven, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add carrots, celery and onion. Cook and stir until crisp-tender, about 10 minutes. Add cauliflower, mushrooms, salt & pepper; cook and stir 5 minutes. Stir in broth, rosemary and sage. Bring to a boil, reduce heat. Simmer, covered, until vegetables are just tender, 10 to 12 minutes.

Answers to Puzzle

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Jacket Cuff | Buttons on coat |
| Extra stripe on front right pumpkin | Extra leaf |
| One less stripe on fight hand pumpkin | Fence post |
| Extra stripe on middle pumpkin | Shoe |
| Mouse's ear | Hat |



Pittsfield Saves over a Ton of Plastic from going to Landfills

Wow! In just nine months, Pittsfield has submitted 2,027 pounds of plastic and earned two new benches for the community through the NEXTREX RECYCLING CHALLENGE PROGRAM, through the organizational efforts of Pittsfield Elementary School PTO and the Victory Workers 4-H Club.

The plastic recycling program will continue in our community and the South Pittsfield Community Club is taking over the project next. Please continue to save your plastic and bring it to one of the bins around town. (Bell Brothers Convenience Store, Danis Supermarket, Josiah Carpenter Library, Pittsfield Elementary School, Pittsfield Middle High School, Dowboro Farm Farmstand, and Clark's Grain Store.

SOUTH PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY CLUB



PITTSFIELD POST www.PittsfieldPost.org

The Pittsfield Post is a non-profit, free newsletter that serves Pittsfield citizens, businesses, town government, town schools and charitable organizations. The Post publishes relevant news, information, and special interest stories that impact residents, keeping the community informed and engaged.

The *Pittsfield Post* is published bi-weekly, in both print and digital formats, through the efforts of a volunteer team of residents.

Please support your community newsletter!

Checks made out to the non-profit: Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, memo: Pittsfield Post. P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. or Via our website www.PittsfieldPost.org

Send us your news!

Individuals, community groups and businesses, email us your news, opinions and creative work. Details are on our website. Deadline 9am on Friday.

News@Pittsfieldpost.org

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VICTORY WORKERS

PITTSFIELD, NH

Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 26TH
9AM TIL THEY'RE GONE!
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615 DOWBORO RD, PITTSFIELD

SAWYER'S HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

520 North Barnstead Rd. Barnstead, NH
603-496-9086

Country Farm home filled with New Hampshire handmade items just in time for the Holiday Shopping!

Open Hours

Friday, November 28th 9am-6pm
Saturday, November 29th 9am-6pm
Sunday, November 30th 9am-3pm

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Kickoff the Holiday Season in Pittsfield on SAT, DEC. 6

The PES PTO is sponsoring BREAKFAST WITH SANTA at the Pittsfield Middle High School Cafe from 7:30am - 10am. The menu is Pancakes, Sausage, and a drink. Breakfast is \$4 per person. Gluten free options will be available as well. Santa will be at breakfast from 8AM- 10AM and then he will be at the Vendor Fair until 11 AM. Santa will be there with a guest.



The PMHS Boys & Girls Basketball teams are sponsoring the Annual CHILDREN'S STORE- Kids Only Shopping at the PMHS Gym from 9-11am. Kids can shop for their family and friends. Free gift wrapping is available. Donations of gently used or new items (no clothing please) will be collected. Items for Men are always needed (think-flashlights, small tools, winter hats, gloves). Watch for more information for collection sites.

Pittsfield Elementary School PTO will be hosting their HOLIDAY VENDOR FAIR on December 6th from 8am -1pm. Emails have been sent out to vendors of our past events. We still have some space available. \$40 for an 8x8 space. This event has two other events overlapping at the same time, with Santa and Mrs. Claus making an appearance for 3 hours. Location - Pittsfield Middle High School, 23 Oneida St. For info, please Email pittsfieldnhptovendors@sau51.org for more information.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored Annual CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CELEBRATION will be held from 4-6pm at Dustin Park. Plans are still being firmed up but there will be Holiday Music, free cookies, cocoa, popcorn and candy canes; Holiday Storytime at the Library, PYW will be open for a Visit with Santa, Decorated Wreath Contest, Gingerbread House Display and Raffle, Hot food will also be available- soups, chili and more. This year we plan to have TWO teams of horses for wagon rides so more people can enjoy this fun activity.

The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce and Pittsfield Youth Workshop are sponsoring a DECORATED WREATH CONTEST at the Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration on Sat, Dec.6.

Everyone is invited to bring a decorated wreath (anyway you'd like). The wreaths will be displayed and the public will have a chance to vote for their favorite and select the winners. *** This year we will have a YOUTH DIVISION (ages 18 and younger) and an ADULT DIVISION. The winners will be announced at 6:05pm after the Tree Lighting and will receive a \$50 CASH PRIZE (for Adults) and a Special Prize for Youth- donated by PYW. Please drop your wreath off on Sat, Dec. 6 by 3:45pm at PYW (Pittsfield Youth Workshop, 18 Park St.) and please pick up your wreath by 6:15pm. Any wreaths that are not picked up will be donated to local groups. The contest is open to everyone! Get in the Holiday Spirit and show off your creativity. For more information, contact Andi Riel call or text 603-451-8762 or pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com



First Congregational Church Christmas Fair

The Dorcas Guild of the First Congregational Church, 24 Main Street, will hold its 2025 Christmas Fair, Bake Sale and Silent Auction Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. There are knits, crafts, ornaments, baked goods, the "Unique Boutique," and more! The Silent Auction ends when the fair ends at 2 p.m.; successful bidders will be notified then. Both the rear and courtyard doors will be open. Wheelchair accessibility is through the rear door, where there is handicapped parking. For more information, call the church office at 603 435-7471. Do not miss this delightful annual Christmas fair!

