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Sustainability During a Pandemic

Annual Forum Postponed

New Hampshire's first COVID-19 case was identified on March 2 when a group of us was enthusiastically planning Sustainable Hanover's annual forum. Our program was to showcase new voices in the format of "pitches" by community members for action on a wide variety of energy, environmental, and community concerns. On March 16 we were ecstatic to have received twice as many pitch applications as we had expected. But unfortunately, the coronavirus outbreak was already sobering. We reluctantly decided to postpone our April 29 forum to an as yet unknown future date.

Since then - and especially inspired by the 50th anniversary of Earth Day - environmental leaders and climate change experts have begun to envision the post-pandemic world, one where the new normal is more sustainable and kinder to the earth, our one and only home. For our community, will we be able to maintain some of this slower pace of life - drive fewer miles, do with less instead of acquiring more, and stay as connected with family, friends and neighbors? We would love to hear your thoughts for an article in the next Sustainable Hanover Newsletter. Please email us at sustainablehanovernh@gmail.com. Until then, stay safe and be well! *Yolanda Baumgartner & Judi Colla*

Energy, Environment and Community

Six things to do while social distancing

1. Support our local businesses. See how in the article by Dennis Robison. A vibrant Main Street is an essential part of a healthy community.
2. Mark your calendar to attend town meeting virtually on June 23. [Vote YES for Article #25](#) to approve an exchange of property between the Town Dartmouth, and the Trescott Company. This will enable the Town to install a ground mounted solar array on Grasse Road, adding the

capacity for Hanover to reach 100% renewable electricity for municipal operations.

3. Enjoy biking on near empty roads. Consider pedaling to work when commuting days return. Watch for announcements to test-ride an e-bike through the E-Bike Library Loan project (currently on hold until our project partner Hanover Parks & Recreation re-opens).
4. Recycle your food scraps. Now that you are eating at home and cooking more, consider composting even if you don't have your own backyard composter. Try [Nordic Waste's composting service](#). Their drop-off service at the Co-op is very popular. When it seemed Nordic might have to suspend this service due to new pandemic safety regulations, customers swiftly adapted their bag tying to help Nordic meet the State's compliance rate for solid waste handling.
5. Keep informed and in the loop about what's happening in your town. [Subscribe to Hanover's E-News](#) to receive town bulletins about coronavirus, Sustainable Hanover programs, and other community news. You will be able to select the categories of news you'd like. Also this is the place to sign up for the Town's Code Red Emergency Notification System.
6. Stay connected with your neighbors. Does your neighborhood have a listserv or emailing list? Several neighborhoods in Hanover have these lists as a way for neighbors to communicate, whether to offer or ask for help, share neighborhood news, post wildlife sightings, including the ever-popular bear visits, etc. Email us at sustainablehanovernh@gmail.com to find out if there is a list in your neighborhood or if you'd like ideas about how to start one.





Who Knew?

Judith Pettingell, member

Sustainable Hanover Neighborhood Action Group

Who knew this frightening time could bring unexpected gifts to our lives, our environment, and our connections with others?

Our efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to friends and families adhering to physical, although not social isolation, has been working. As a result, though, most stores are closed and the streets of our town and neighborhoods are shockingly empty, looking not unlike a ghost town.

But positive change has emerged from our confinement. Fewer cars on the road mean a significant decrease in harmful emissions. And our restricted travel has meant many thousands of highly polluting airplanes have been grounded. As travel by car, bus, or plane has drastically diminished, so has the pollution from the gas they burn and from the highly polluting petroleum refining process making that fuel.

Multiply what each of us has done during these last few weeks by the millions of other people around the world. These changes both here and abroad have meant a dramatic improvement in our environment, sufficient so you can imagine why people living in Shanghai and Beijing, for example, are living with clean air, enough to see the sun for the first time in decades.

On a personal level, I'm enjoying the gift of time that's made me more inwardly focused on my surroundings, both inside and out. Time spent in my gardens, especially discovering the brilliant red of rhubarb unfurling its leaves, the teeny bits of purple kale and chartreuse lettuce breaking through the earth, the circle of tight knots of the fiddleheads just barely visible, and the four one inch asparagus tips soon to be

joined by many more, has been joyful. And in my house, slowing down and taking stock of my "stuff" has surprised me by how unimportant much of it now seems.

And Zoom? I so treasure visibly connecting with my sons and grandson. I want more!

The questions before us now are how to use the gift of time and reflection to understand what we've learned about the connectivity between our fragile environment and lifestyles and, in understanding the answers, how to keep the need, as we move forward to effect positive change, a strong priority.

Support Local Businesses

Dennis Robison

The Sustainable Hanover Committee held its April meeting (virtual through Zoom) reviewing some of the many activities going on in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the end of the meeting, Co-chair Yolanda Baumgartner invited Hanover Town Manager Julia Griffin to update us on how the town is doing, particularly Main Street businesses. Was there anything that residents could do to help?

What followed were some comments and exchanges between Julia and committee members resulting in this special edition of the *SHC Newsletter*. While there was a litany of concerns, there were also testimonials to the resiliency and creativity of the human spirit, right here in downtown Hanover! Our small businesses, the base for any economy, are doing remarkably well at reinventing themselves, particularly restaurants.

For example, Lou's, a Hanover institution, has done a major shift from being a crowded sit-down eatery to take out and delivery as well as providing a food truck for Dartmouth construction workers.

Someone asked if take out is really safe? Julia indicated everyone was taking every precaution – you pay by credit card which you insert into the terminal, a receipt will be produced and no physical contact takes place. Food preparation and packaging is also being made safe and the risk is extremely low that the virus will be transmitted. (see [NPR article](#) “How Safe Is It To Eat Takeout?”). If you don’t want to risk leaving your home, consider buying gift cards to use in the future.

Restaurants are not the only businesses moving to take out and delivery. One person shared an the experience getting needed help from Hanover Hardware. A request was made over the phone, payment submitted and curbside delivery completed the transaction without any difficulty. Need a book? Call Still North Books. You can pick it up outside their door.

So, we can all help. As many of you probably know, the *Valley News* has been publishing a full page display of businesses in the Upper Valley who are providing take out, delivery and curb side services. A partial list of those in downtown Hanover is below. For a complete list see the April 8 edition of the *Valley News*:

Base Camp Cafe 3 Lebanon St. 603-643-2007
www.facebook.com/basecampcafe2014

Candella Tapas Lounge 15 Lebanon St.
 603-277-9094 www.facebook.com/candellaTapasLounge

Dirt Cowboy Cafe 7 S. Main St.
 603-643-1323 www.dirtcowboy.com

Han Fusion 3 Lebanon St. #15
 603-643-8888 hanfusionnh.com

Lou's Restaurant 30 S. Main St.
 603-643-3321 lousrestaurant.com

Ramuto's Brick & Brew 9 South St.
 603-643-9500 ramuntospizza.com

SamosaMan 6 Allen St. 833-472-6672
samosa.com

Sushiya 72 Main St. 603-643-4400
hanoversushiya.com

TukTuk Thai Cuisine 5 S. Main St.
 603-277-9192 tuktukthaicuisine.com

Umpleby's Bakery 3 S. Main St.
 603-643-3030 umplebys.com

Hanover Hardware 7 S. Main St.

603-643-2308 stores.truevalue.com/nh/hanover/3578

Still North Books & Bar 3 Allen St.
 603-676-7846 www.stillnorthbooks.com
Main Street Kitchens 24 S. Main St.
 603-643-9100 [https://main-street-kitchens.com/](http://main-street-kitchens.com/)

Community Resources

If you need help or can offer help to others during the pandemic, check out these resources:



Online at <https://vitalcommunities.org/covid-19/>

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Get Connected. Get Help.™
 An Initiative of Granite United Way

Call 211 or online at <http://www.211nh.org>



Online at <https://uvstrong.org>

