



The Monadnock SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 56th Year of Community Service / February 4-10, 2015

Yesterday & Today Edition – Largest Ever!



These men are at the Spofford Village blacksmith shop that was in business circa early 1900s. The blacksmith shop was in business for many years.
(photo courtesy of the Historical Society of Cheshire County)

This week, *The Monadnock Shopper News* presents the 54th annual “Yesterday and Today” Established Edition. This year’s annual section is the largest ever with a record number – 444 – local businesses and organizations participating.

Readers can learn about the Faulkner and Colony Woolen Mill, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. There is local history from Dr. Lesure’s Veterinary Medicine to a picture of the Enna Jettick Aerocar. Readers can learn about a local Finnish family and see three photos of workmen raising the railroad tracks on Keene’s Main Street.

For more history of the Monadnock Region, see Section III of this week’s paper.

Community Groups Such As Colonial Theatre Enrich Life For All In The Monadnock Region

By Mary Gamache

Life in the Monadnock Region is enriched by the area’s non-profits. We can observe their benefits to the area’s citizens on a daily basis. Friends of the Library, Monadnock Humane Society, Cheshire County Historical Society, MoCo Arts, Home Health Care and Community Services, the YMCA, The Colonial Theatre, and many sports clubs are but a few of the dedicated groups that enrich our region.

This diverse group of organizations fills a need that the community has identified. They benefit everyone from infants to seniors. According to the NH Center for Non-profits, “The number of registered

non-profits reflects the depth and breadth of the work being accomplished, the uniqueness of each city and town, and the diversity of each organization’s purpose.”

It is bleak to imagine life in the region without them. For example, without The Colonial Theatre, a vibrant draw to the downtown area would be lost.

Without it, where would we go to see independent films or see nationally recognized entertainment, from impressionist Rich Little to the live webcasts of the Metropolitan Opera? We would need to travel to Manchester or Concord to enjoy the wonder of the arts on a large stage.

GROUPS, page 14

Women-To-Women Dynamic Is Focus At Talon Tax Services

Linda Clark, an experienced tax specialist, has joined Talon Tax Services. With seven years in the business and over 13 years as a small business owner/manager, Clark is familiar with the ins and outs of business on a personal and business level.

With Talon, she’ll lead a tax team that includes Patricia Lotito and Doris Reese. The team is unique because, while they can work with anyone, they specialize in the woman-to-woman dynamic, especially single women, divorcees, and seniors. It’s an important focus in today’s market because they know that nearly 90 percent of women will be solely responsible for their financial situation at some point in their lives. Simply put, many women are more comfortable confiding in another woman for financial advice.

Says Clark, “Any big life change creates the need to get answers to a whole new set of financial/tax questions.”

According to Lotito, financial advisor and Talon co-owner, “We’ve seen a high volume of women who come to us for financial advice, and it generally starts with taxes.”

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Shown (l-r) are Patricia Lotito, Linda Clark, and Doris Reese.

Leon’s Auto Center, J&L Auto Body

New Owners, Same Great Service



Ben Russell (R) and David Philipkoski purchased Leon’s Auto Center and J&L Auto Body. This 35-year-old business is forging ahead to offer the same great services that the people of Cheshire County have come to rely on.

(MSN photo by AI Struthers)

By Lori Catozzi Cook

There’s been a “changing of the guards” so to speak, at Leon’s Auto Center and J&L Auto Body at 600 Main Street (Lower Main Street) in Keene.

Now under new ownership, this 35-year-old business is forging ahead to offer the same great services that the people of Cheshire County have come to rely on.

“Everything that Leon’s did then, we do now,” says Ben Russell, about the business he purchased with David Philipkoski, who is now the chief financial officer at the auto center. “We are the largest independent (auto

center) in the area, and we are truly a one-stop shop.”

Russell started working in the auto industry in his youth and built a reputation among his peers as being a great technician. He met Philipkoski during his younger years when he worked for the David Ford dealership on Marlboro Street which Philipkoski owned.

Russell worked at David Ford until the dealership closed in 2010, which at that point Philipkoski “retired.” Russell started working at Leon’s Auto Center and J&L Auto Body where he flourished.

LEON’S, page 14

Best Of Monadnock: Voting Extended Online Through This Tuesday, February 10th

The ballot will remain online for a bit of extra time for last-minute voters in the 2015-2016 *Monadnock Shopper News* Readers’ Choice Poll. The poll is a chance to vote for your favorite local places and businesses. Readers are invited to fill out the ballot at www.shoppernews.com, under Readers’ Choice Awards. Online votes will be accepted through Tuesday, February 10th.

The *Monadnock Shopper News* will publish the Best of Monadnock section on June 24th.

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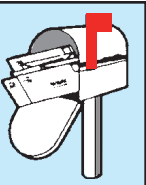


Yesterday & Today – Sect. III



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EDITORIAL & COMMENT

"Create each day anew." - Morihei Ueshiba

Leon's Auto Center, J&L Auto Body – New Owners, Same Great Service

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Bret Durfee works on a diesel truck at Leon's.

Enjoying the auto industry as he does, Russell saw "opportunity knocking" when he caught wind that his employers – Leon Watkins and John Fontaine – were looking to sell the business. He contacted Philipkoski and the two collaborated to formulate a business plan.

"I worked with Ben for 14 years. So I knew his work ethics," Philipkoski says, about uniting with his former employee. "He is really driven."

"Leon Watkins and John Fontaine have built a very successful business, and Ben Russell and David Philipkoski are committed to keep it going strong," adds Jackie Stromgren, the business office manager and employee for over 13 years.

Customer service and satisfaction are first and foremost at Leon's Auto Center and J&L Auto Body. This becomes very apparent by the number of community "Best of Monadnock" votes year after year – ranking Gold for the categories of Auto Body, Mechanic, and Towing.

This locally owned and operated auto center is all about community, and has been behind many local

non-profit group activities, such as Pumpkifest, Monadnock Humane Society, Keene Youth Hockey, Toys for Tots, and others.

The service department at this local auto center is fully equipped with the latest in auto care technology, which allows the mechanics to provide everything from safety inspections and lube/oil/filter changes to engine and transmission repairs. Leon's Auto Center and J&L Auto Body also have two certified diesel technicians.

The professional technicians in the auto body shop at Leon's Auto Center and J&L Auto Body provide customers with expertise to perform anything from minor dents to major collision reconstruction, and they work directly with the customer's insurance company to handle the repair.

Leon's Auto Center and J&L Auto Body carries a large inventory of cars and trucks priced to move. Visit www.autofixer.com to see the inventory. There is also a Car Finder area on the Web site to search for a specific make, model, and year.

And, for those who need help selling their car, the sales team at this local auto service business will handle everything for customers through the auto center's consignment program.

Leon's Auto Center and J&L Auto Body hold WreckMaster certification, which is the highest standard for the motoring public, providing professionalism and leadership for towing and recovery operators across North America. The professional towing team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for towing and emergency roadside assistance.

For more details, call 603-357-7004.



John Beam ensures that everything is running smoothly.

Recipes For The Chinese New Year

COOKING, Continued from page 8

flavors blend (you can skip the refrigeration step if time is short). Heat a wok or large skillet over high heat until it smokes, about 3 minutes. Lower heat, add peanut oil, swirl around, and add garlic. As soon as garlic starts to color, about 15 seconds, turn up heat to high; add beef orange mixture. Stir quickly and add the red pepper flakes. Stir, cooking, until meat loses its

redness, about 1-2 minutes longer. Add soy sauce and orange juice, stir, and turn off heat. Serve immediately over rice. 4 servings.

Nancy Adams is a native of Peterborough and resides in Hancock. She and her husband, Bud, have raised four sons. She has been featured as one of Yankee Magazine's great New England cooks. Nancy welcomes suggestions – send them to: 22 Birch Road, Hancock, NH 03449.



Luke Donforth Calls Free Family Contra Dance At Keene Public Library

The Keene Public Library is sponsoring its First Friday Family dance on February 6th at Heberton Hall at 60 Winter Street. This month, Luke Donforth will bring fresh new dances, accompanied by the new local group, the Live Free and Pie Contra Dance Orchestra.

Donforth is a contra caller, choreographer, musician, and dancer. As a caller, he brings a warm and inviting playfulness to the stage. He has been all around the country calling dances, and has a growing reputation as one of the finest callers of the present generation.

The Live Free and Pie Contra Dance Orchestra is mostly made up of young folks who are engaged in playing music at the highest possible levels,

learning about the old-time New England dance traditions and music, and enjoying a weekly gathering of people of all ages.

"We evoke the sound of the contra dance bands of the early 20th century," says Hunt Smith, fiddler, violin maker, and co-founder of the band with his wife, Allison Aldrich Smith. "We are continuing a tradition that has been unbroken in this region for over 200 years." The band's members range in age from 13 to 70, with most of the musicians in their teens and early twenties.

The library holds dances every first Friday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more details, call 603-352-0157.

Fly Tying Wednesdays At Keene Senior Center

Fly Tying will be held on Wednesdays beginning February 11th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Keene Senior Center at 70 Court Street.

Phil Hilliker and Andrew McDonnell will lead this class. Participants should bring a vice, shears, a bobbin,

and 6.0 thread. This class is limited to eight people. This is free for members and \$3 each class for non-members.

For more details or to reserve a spot, call 603-352-5037 or visit www.thekeeneseniorcenter.org.

Community Groups Such As Colonial Theatre And Monadnock Humane Society Enrich Life For All In The Monadnock Region

GROUPS, Continued from page 1

This organization was formed in 1991 with the intent to restore the aging building and continue live entertainment in our town. Since 1995, when the stage completed its extensive renovation, there have been over 350 live performances on those hardwood boards.

The Colonial continues to bring well-known entertainers to the center of town, and this helps all of our downtown merchants. This was all accomplished by local citizens and volunteers. It is a shining example of what a committed group can do.

Another example is the Monadnock Humane Society. This organization was started in 1875 but continues 140 years later, providing a huge service to our community. Over its long history, it has changed to meet the evolving needs of the society it serves. At its start, it served women and children.

Today it serves mostly our small animal companions with adoption, boarding, daycare, training, and cruelty investigations. Recently, the organization struggled with finding willing board members to serve on its board of directors. But the wonderful Monadnock community stepped up, and now MHS has a full functioning board of directors to continue meeting the needs of our animal residents.

All of the local non-profits are in need of citizen support. If you have time, talent, or treasure that you would like to share with a local organization, do not hesitate to reach out. If you do not have the time, please consider a donation; if you have no money but have abilities to share, consider offering your expertise.

Find an organization that speaks to your heart and make the call today.

Women-To-Women Dynamic Is Focus At Talon Tax Services

TALON, Continued from page 1

The team's goal is to provide superior financial advice for each client while taking the "laundry service approach" out of the process. Unlike other tax preparation services where you drop off, come back later to pay and pick up, Talon values the individual experience. Says Clark, "I think it's fair for the individual to know what's happening with their financial life, and I want to help them not only pay their fair share, but to receive their fair share, too."

Clark's team is currently offering a \$99.99 flat rate (base 1040 return), which is unique because many chain or franchise tax services charge by the form.

Talon is located at 116 Main Street in Marlborough. Since 2002, they've offered a full range of financial planning, retirement planning, and tax services. For more details, tax or financial questions, or to book an appointment, call 603-876-5041 or visit www.talonrs.com.

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