

# JAFFREY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 2022

"In dedication to the betterment of our community"

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For many years, Carolyn Edwards, owner of Sunflowers Cafe, has supported the programs and events of the Chamber. Carolyn has sold the restaurant. We wish her the very best as she enters the next chapter in her life! Thank you, Carolyn. Best wishes from all of us.

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Ground Breaking, Friday, September 3, 2021



A new runway is born

## Jaffrey Airfield Open After Major Improvement

Jaffrey Airfield Silver Ranch, a privately owned, public use facility, has been an important and integral part of Jaffrey and the Monadnock Region's quality of life and economic development for over 75 years.

Originally built in 1946 by private initiative, enterprise, and finance, the field was improved and expanded in 1960 by the joint participation of businesses, the Town of Jaffrey, and the State of New Hampshire, to meet the growing needs of local employers such as New Hampshire Ball Bearings Company, DD Bean and Sons Company, Annett Lumber Company, and several other business establishments making regular use of the field for business travel. Over the years, the airfield has played a major role in attracting and growing a number of other key employers to Jaffrey, Rindge, Peterborough, New Ipswich, and beyond.

The Airfield has inspired youth, supported business, employment, tourism, recreation, and learning. It also provides the infrastructure for important life safety services such as fire, police, and medical evacuations. The field has been the venue for many memorable events such as the Jaffrey Jubilee celebrations, charity fundraisers, the ever popular Fall Fly-ins for Antique and Sport Aircraft during the 1960's and 70's, visiting and hiking opportunities, Senior Saturdays, the Conant High School Class of 2020 outdoor graduation held during the first year of "COVID," the Jaffrey Festival of Fireworks, a partnership with

the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce and Atlas Fireworks for many years, drawing crowds of as many as 25,000 on-site spectators, and more.

In 1968 an official United States Weather Reporting Station was established at the field. This weather station is part of a national network which gathers weather data for use in creating the forecast we all use and is the reason that millions of viewers see "Jaffrey" on their TV screens every day. Sometimes we even make national weather news, as with the record-breaking Halloween Storm of 2011 when Jaffrey reported 31.4" of snow on October 29 & 30!

All of these events and activities have been of public service and at no charge to anyone, but the day finally came when the old 1961 pavement could no longer be patched together--an activity which had eventually become an everyday, all consuming, and unwinnable endeavor against all odds.

The cost of paving, which was about 25 cents per square yard back in 1961, had become nearly \$15 per square yard by 2021 and was out of reach without outside help. Once again, a public/private partnership was needed. Fortunately, the State of New Hampshire recently established a new program called "AIM" or the Airport Improvement and Maintenance program, funded by a state tax on aviation fuel. Jaffrey Airfield became eligible in the program's second year as the first major project under the new program, which requires both a state and a "local" share of the cost. The

*Jaffrey Airfield continued on Pg 2*



“Goodbye old runway!” Second full day of work. Wednesday September 8, 2021 - “The Continental Army” at work. Paving begins, Friday, October 22, 2021

## Jaffrey Airfield continued from page 1

project goals included: improved safety and usability; restoration and preservation of irreplaceable infrastructure; support of local employment and economic development; and the preservation of the natural environment and our rural character, while maintaining a vital and fast connection to the outside world for individuals and businesses.

After more than two years of planning and preparation, the project got underway on September 3, 2021. Following the removal of the old pavement, considerable earth moving to lower the “hump” mid-field, and laying down of a crushed gravel base, the actual paving took place on Friday, October 22 and was completed in just one day. This was a remarkable feat involving 29 or 30 very large triple-axle dump trucks and tractor-trailers, making multiple round trips from a plant in Litchfield, NH to deliver the “hot-top.”

Additional grading, loaming, and seeding of the grass areas on each side of the new pavement continued through early November. The runway officially reopened on November 13, 2021, two weeks ahead of schedule. Late November and most of December saw the installation of a new state-of-the-art wireless, solar-powered runway light system.

By spring, 2022, if all goes well, the grass will sprout along both sides of the new pavement, eventually creating a flat smooth grass landing surface for gliders and many classic aircraft which prefer smooth grass to hard pavement. Also, spring of 2022 will see the painting of bright new reflectorized white runway numbers and a runway centerline.

A gala rededication and open house is in the planning stages for June or July 2022, just in time to help kick off the year-long celebration of 250 years since Jaffrey’s founding in 1773.

The runway preservation and improvements project totaling \$573,055, as originally conceived, is being funded by a \$458,444 state grant to be matched by a \$114,611 “local share.” Like most everything else, the project encountered some surprises – unexpected subsoil conditions, price escalations, and an upgrade to the lighting system, totaling an extra \$60,000, none of which will be shared by the State, bringing “local share” to about \$175,000, of which a little over half has already been contributed.

Being a non-NPIAS, privately owned, public use airport, Jaffrey Airfield received no FAA funding and still needs significant financial support from those in the flying community and from individuals and area employers who can and who would like to help raise the remaining matching and contingency dollars needed to complete this important project. If you or your company have already contributed, we gratefully acknowledge and thank you for your generosity. If you have not yet contributed, but are able and willing to support our effort, please contact Lee or Harvey Sawyer, at [lee@silverranchairpark.com](mailto:lee@silverranchairpark.com), phone 603-532-8870, or send your generous contribution to “Jaffrey Aero Fund,” 190 Turnpike, Jaffrey, NH 03452.

If you would like additional information or a tour of the project, please give Harvey a call, 603-532-8870.

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## Member News

### New Leadership at Monadnock Developmental Services for 2022

Mary-Anne Wisell is now the Executive Director of Monadnock Developmental Services (MDS) effective in early December. She succeeds Alan Greene, who recently announced his retirement after 20 years in the position. Sheila Mahon has been chosen to be the new Director of Operations at MDS, filling Mary Anne Wisell's previous role.

Mary-Anne Wisell started working in the disability services field in the late 1980s as a direct support professional for children and adults. She came to MDS in 2002 as an adult service coordinator and has served as the agency's Director of Operations for 15 years. Wisell is a member of the Keene Lions Club and 100+ Women Who Care Cheshire County and was honored as a Health Care Everyday Hero by the Keene Sentinel this past summer. A graduate of Keene State College, she lives in Keene with her husband Rick and has two grown children and a grandson.

Sheila Mahon has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for almost 35 years. Beginning her career at the Monadnock Worksource and ACCESS, she came to MDS in 1993, working in both service coordination and employment services. In her most recent role, she has been the director of Monadnock Center for Successful Transitions (MCST), focusing on employment and community supports. For more than a dozen years, Sheila was an adjunct instructor at Keene State College, teaching Transition Planning & Programming. A graduate of Keene State College and Antioch University New England Graduate School, she serves on the Board of Directors for Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) and is a member of the Hancock Fire Department Auxiliary. Sheila and her wife, Ellen, live in Hancock.

Monadnock Developmental Services provides services to more than 1,000 individuals in the Monadnock Region. Mary-Anne Wisell has taken the leadership reins to direct its full range of

services including children and adult case management, family support, direct care, day services, transition, supported employment, early intervention (ages birth to three), advocacy, and respite. MDS is one of ten area agencies designated by the State of New Hampshire and works with more than a dozen partners in the area to provide these services. For more information, visit [www.mds-nh.org](http://www.mds-nh.org).

### Monadnock United Way Provides Online Tax Filing

Monadnock United Way (MUW) announces the launch of this tax season's MyFreeTaxes.com site. For the 12th year, United Way is providing online tax filing software, accessible through MyFreeTaxes.com, to help taxpayers easily and accurately file their taxes from their computer or smartphone. MyFreeTaxes® is a free and easy way to file federal and state tax returns for free.

"Taxes can be a source of confusion and stress for Americans," notes Kate Cote, Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager at MUW. "Many of us are intimidated by the complexities of taxes and afraid to make a mistake that will cost money. With MyFreeTaxes, you can take advantage of all the tax credits and deductions you qualify for. That's especially important now, as so many are struggling in the wake of the pandemic."

Key features of the online tool include:

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## Member News

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MyFreeTaxes is FREE for all returns and includes schedule C options. A list of the tax forms included in this free offering is available by visiting MyFreeTaxes.com. MyFreeTaxes users can also contact Monadnock United Way for

additional resources or to find ways to volunteer to support the community

### How Should Investors Respond to Inflation?

For more than a decade, inflation has been essentially dormant. In recent months, though, economists have expected an up-tick but were still surprised by the sharp jump in the April Consumer Price Index (CPI), which rose 4.2% from a year ago. As an investor, what can you expect if we do enter a more inflationary environment?

First, it's useful to understand the main causes of the recent spike in prices. Part of the explanation is simply a result of increased economic activity in the spring of 2021 over the same period a year ago, when prices collapsed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. And this reopening of the economy

has also resulted in a surge in demand for travel-related services such as hotels, airfare and rental cars. Another contributing factor is a widespread shortage of manufacturing materials that have limited production and driven up prices for an array of consumer goods.

Will this inflationary pressure continue? It's not easy to make predictions of this nature, but, for now, the Federal Reserve seems to believe the recent price hikes are temporary, and, as a result, will continue its policy of keeping interest rates low. But a few more months of higher-than-expected inflation could change the Fed's view and its actions.

In any case, how should you as an individual investor respond to even the potential threat of rising prices? You'll need to keep in mind that inflation affects different types of investments differently. Consider fixed-income securities such as bonds, which pay a set interest rate – the coupon rate. Because rising inflation erodes the value of a bond's future income, bond prices typically fall during inflationary periods. This is particularly true of longer-term bonds, due to the cumulative effect of the lower purchasing power. On the other hand, stocks – especially those of larger companies – tend to do well during inflationary periods, which might not be that

surprising, considering that a company's revenue and earnings may increase at a rate similar to that of inflation. Of course, "stocks" is a broad term, and some industries will do better than others when inflation is on the rise.

Even if inflation keeps advancing, you may not want to make significant changes to your investments. For example, although their prices may fall, bonds can still be valuable assets, since they can help reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. And if you've already got a good mix of stocks appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance, there's probably no need to shake things up.

Here's one more thought to keep in mind about inflation: It serves as a reminder that you'll always need to have a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments in your portfolio to avoid losing purchasing power. As we've seen, inflation won't always be in hibernation.

Ultimately, your own actions and decisions will determine your success as an investor, but you'll still want to be aware of how a development like inflation can affect the economy and the financial markets. If we are entering territory we haven't seen in a while, it pays to stay alert.

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## Member News



### Jaffrey Woman's Club Donates 150+ Crocheted Hats

A plan that was started during the early part of the 2021 Covid pandemic came to fruition on Friday, December 3, 2021. The Jaffrey Woman's Club has a Statement of Purpose that is repeated at each of their meetings, and one of the lines is "To our community, our service." During that early 2021 meeting, one of the members mentioned that each winter their church has an Advent Tree which is decorated with children's hats, scarves, and mittens for later donations to area children.

The JWC Board of Directors decided that crocheting, knitting, or sewing the items was a good way to help the community. Vicki Arceci from The United Church of Jaffrey received 151 handmade hats, scarves, and mittens for the church's Advent Tree.

JWC members Sue Sturges, Caren Lewis, Susan Schenck and Cathy Mills crocheted their fingers on the nubs while working on this undertaking. Meredith Walker, a leader in this endeavor, joined them with her knitting expertise. From the Jaffrey Recreation Center knitting group, they also received several beautiful donations from Janice Beaulieu.

The JWC would like to continue this project in 2022 and maybe add Project Linus blankets to the mix. If you are interested in participating in either project, you can email them at [jaffrey-womansclub@gmail.com](mailto:jaffrey-womansclub@gmail.com) or go to their website at <http://www.jaffreywomansclub.org> and drop us a line for more information.

**Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center Receives Funding from the TD Charitable Foundation**

### Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center Receives Funding from the TD Charitable Foundation

Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center received a \$10,000 grant from the TD Charitable Foundation to support America Reads.

Since 1998, RSVP's America Reads program has provided literacy support to struggling students in grades K-3 to help them become proficient readers by the end of third grade. Volunteers also serve children in Head Start and Pre-K programs by engaging them in literacy activities designed to increase their school readiness.

The TD Charitable Foundation believes organizations such as RSVP play a significant role in sustaining vibrant, thriving communities. They have a legacy of supporting not-for-profit

institutions and their important work throughout our region.

In support of their mission, TD recently launched TD Ready Commitment, which refocuses their giving to impact positive change by increasing financial security, environmental quality, inclusive communities and equitable health outcomes. For more information, visit <https://www.td.com/ca/en/about-td/ready-commitment/>.

Their contribution reinforces that working collectively as a community to address critical social needs, we can set the community's children on the path for academic and professional success, healthy futures and a productive social and civic life.

Monadnock RSVP is an AmeriCorps Seniors grantee and receives funds through their RSVP program. They are a program of Monadnock Family Services

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## Member News

### CVTC Awarded NH Charitable Foundation Community Grant

Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) has been awarded \$60,000, evenly spread out over three years, from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Community Grants Program. This competitive, multi-year grant supports the general operating expenditures which allows CVTC to remain ready to serve the unmet transportation needs of Monadnock Area residents. CVTC serves 34 communities including all of Cheshire County and 11 towns in Hillsborough County by providing "no-fee" rides to essential services (health care, grocery shopping, pharmacy, post office) through the kindness of vetted, volunteer drivers.

Upon receiving the grant, Ellen Avery, Executive Director of CVTC, said, "Being on the receiving end of the Charitable Foundation's acknowledgment

of CVTC's impact is quite a distinction. We thrive in this partnership as the grant is unrestricted and allows us the flexibility to direct funds where most needed. It is a win-win!"

This grant was made possible by gifts from the following New Hampshire Charitable Foundation funds: A. Erland and Hazel N. Goyette Memorial Fund, Community Crisis Action Fund 2021, and the Delphinium Fund.

### GFA Federal Credit Union Awards Three Employees for Their Commitment and Dedication

GFA Federal Credit Union recently held its annual employee appreciation event. The event celebrates the contributions of all employees to the organization throughout the year. The highlight of the evening is the presentation of three awards given to standout employees for their commitment and dedication to GFA and their members.



(Left) Joshua I. Brier, GFA President and Chief Executive Officer, selects Rebecca Caranci as the 2021 President's Gold Standard of Excellence Award recipient. (Center) Kelly Ouellet is presented with the 2021 GFA Unsung Hero Award. (Right) Paula Enright receives GFA's first Rookie of the Year Award.

The President's Gold Standard of Excellence Award, selected by Joshua I. Brier, President and Chief Executive Officer, is presented to an individual acknowledging and rewarding their exceptional work and positive impact that they have had on the organization, members and the community. This team member possesses commitment, experience, strong leadership, accountability and is always engaged, responsive, respectful, and considered an expert within

their area of the organization. Selected as the 2021 recipient was Rebecca Caranci.

"Time and again, Becky has demonstrated her unwavering commitment to our members, teammates and GFA. She has never shied away from any professional challenge that has come her way and is always up for developing new skills and learning. Her caring and supportive approach has won over the teams that she's led, and she has the confidence of leadership



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## Member News

to bring our electronic and digital offerings forward for our members,” remarked Joshua I. Brier, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Nominated and selected anonymously by the GFA staff, the long-standing Unsung Hero Award is given to someone who makes a substantive contribution without fanfare and without desire to seek recognition. They go about their job quietly, can always be depended on, and perhaps is the one that is always going the extra mile for a fellow co-worker, member, or the community. Receiving multiple nominations and an overwhelming percentage of the votes, Kelly Ouellet is the 2021 winner of the GFA Unsung Hero Award.

“Kelly is always willing to go above and beyond for fellow employees, departments, or GFA members. A wealth of knowledge who will not hesitate to assist when needed, always with a smile on her face, she handles each encounter with professionalism, kindness, and efficiency. Kelly devotes

many hours volunteering each year, representing GFA at various community events, wearing her GFA gear proudly,” noted Rebecca Caranci, VP/Member Resource Services.

New for 2021, the Rookie of the Year Award is presented to an employee who is within their first two years of employment and has shown outstanding performance in their role. The first recipient of this award was presented to Paula Enright.

“Paula is an exemplary worker who tackles her job with tenacity, resilience, and humanity in her extremely important role as a collector at the Credit Union. Paula joined GFA in July of 2021 and hit the ground running. She comes in each day with a positive attitude that is recognized throughout the lending team. Not only does she excel in her role, she also is always willing to help other areas within the lending department. Within the broader GFA community, Paula exudes positivity and is a pleasure to work with,” said Tom McGregor, EVP/Chief Lending Officer.

## Coming Events

- January 26..... Woodbound Inn - Wednesday Night Buffet
- February 1....Last Day to Submit Petition Articles for Town Warrant
- February 1..... Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
- February 2..... Woodbound Inn - Wednesday Night Buffet
- February 5..... Jaffrey Town Budget Committee Public Hearing
- February 23 ..... Chamber Annual Meeting via Zoom
- February 24 ..... Jaffrey Candidates Night – Via Zoom
- March 1 ..... Chamber Board of Directors Meeting
- March 8 ..... Jaffrey Local Election
- March 12..... Jaffrey Town Meeting
- March 16..... Food for Thought Luncheon Series
- July 11..... Ron Despres Golf Tournament (Rain date July 18)



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