



## President's Message

*Carol Figueroa*



Happy Fall!

As a social and service club we have begun to make plans for the upcoming club year. The calendar is starting to fill with many planned activities despite the current climate. At this time, I would like to thank all the board members for stepping up to volunteer and help plan some of these events. Catherine, our VP, is still looking for members to volunteer as interest group leaders so that the social part of our club will have many activities planned. If you are interested in organizing an activity or leading a group please contact Catherine.

To view the current MFF happenings please check out the calendar. You can get to the calendar via the link on the websites home page - [www.mffnh.org](http://www.mffnh.org). You will also receive an Evite for each of the events planned so please be sure to RSVP so that the organizer knows who will be attending. Hopefully you can participate in some of the fun activities planned this fall. It's always fun to get together with our MFF friends.

Coming up this Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> is our first big fundraiser of the club year – the Fall Yard Sale. The Fall and Spring yard sales we host every year are important events for raising monies for the charitable fund. I hope you will have time to help out with this event. Please be sure to RSVP to the Evite. The next fundraising event this month will be held at Merrimack's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Party at Wasserman Park on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. This is a big community event and it's always a big success. We will be selling hot dogs, chips, cupcakes and water at the event along with hosting a pumpkin toss game for the kids. More information will be coming soon via Evite from Ways and Means.

This is also the time to get your membership dues in. Your dues help run the club so it is important to either send a check to our P.O. Box 1516 or pay online via our website under the membership page ([www.mffnh.org](http://www.mffnh.org)). Any questions regarding membership please contact Beth and Wilma at [membership@mffnh.org](mailto:membership@mffnh.org).

We look forward to seeing you at our October events!

In Friendship,  
Carol

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## October calendar

| DATE                                            | TIME     | EVENT                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Oct 03                                          | 7:00 AM  | Yard sale              |
| Oct 10                                          | 9:00 AM  | Andres Institute Hike  |
| Oct 13                                          | 7:00 PM  | Board Meeting          |
| Oct 18                                          | 9:00 AM  | Adopt-a-road cleanup   |
| Oct 24                                          | 12:00 PM | Halloween party        |
| Oct 28                                          | 7:00 PM  | Secret Sisters Potluck |
| Please see the Evite for additional information |          |                        |



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## Vice President

*Catherine Pepler*



Hello MFF Members!

Fall is here and all its glorious foliage colors. Hope you are getting out to enjoy the warmer days and cooler nights! What are some fun adventures you can participate? Apple picking, hikes, bike rides, hayrides to pick your pumpkins and don't forget the corn mazes! All can be done effectively keeping social distancing. In September we held a couple informational meet ups. Although we did get to see a few members, we were hoping for more of a turn out. Plan to join us on the next one and plan to bring a friend to learn about our wonderful organization and how we support our community while having fun and being with new and old friends.

So how do you know what is planned? The MFF Calendar is kept current. Have you check it out lately? All calendar events are followed up with evites with the details of the activity. Something that you are interested in and feel other members might join in that is not on the calendar? Let's hear it...send me a note and I can help you in the planning, calendar, Evites. Through your active participation our organization gets more visibility. Why is that important? First, we bring like-minded people together that like to have fun, volunteer and give back to the community. And will contribute to MFF's greater success in fund raising.

Why do I mention fund raising? This year our fund raising aided MFF to provide substantial checks to Merrimack Community Food Pantry at St. James, St. John Neumann Food Pantry, Bridges Domestic & Sexual Violence Support. These services have been greatly impacted as a result of COVID19. In the past we have identified other community services to support though your support, work and contributions of your membership.

In my last note, I asked for you to think about stepping up to lead a group activity. I am happy to let you know we have a few in place. I am asking that you think about leading or co-leading. Don't worry you can make it a one time or a reoccurring activity. Won't you give it a whirl? I am here to help you, just reach out to explore your ideas and let's see where it goes? You might be surprised in the fun we will have together!!

What is new on the calendar? Upcoming events include the MFF Yard Sale, Merrimack's Annual Halloween Party, hike at Andre's Institute of Art, Adopt a Road Clean UP, Secret Sisters. Watch for the Evites with details! Hope to see you there!

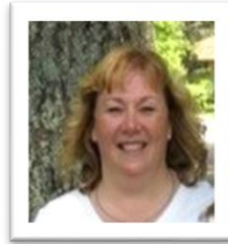
In friendship,  
Catherine Pepler  
MFF VP





## Treasurer

*Bev Coelho*



Yes, it's that time of year for your renewal of your dues. You can mail a \$25.00 check to MFF PO Box 1516, Merrimack, NH 03054, give your check to a Board Member or charge your dues on your credit card through our Website. If you charge your dues there is a \$1.00 fee to help cover most of the fees that we are charged to accept credit cards. Your dues help pay for expenses like insurance, the PO Box, postage, the Website, and miscellaneous fees like credit card fees. Without your dues our Club could not operate, so thank you for renewing your dues!

Thanks,  
Bev



## Secretary

*Dorian Walters*

Just a quick reminder to send me any Friends in Deed needs!



## Ways and Means

*Julie Akers & Robin Johnson*



Saturday, October 3 is the date for MFF's annual Fall Yard Sale! Precautions will be taken to ensure a safe environment during this big fundraiser. We are planning for masks, gloves, social distancing at the check-out table and individually wrapped bake sale items in to-go bags. We still need to borrow tables, tarps, canopies and could use some more help hauling leftovers to the dump at 1:00. We also



need shoppers! While you are having fun checking out all the fabulous items don't forget to renew your MFF membership if you haven't already. Thank you for any help you can give to make this fundraiser a huge success and we look forward to seeing you there.

Also, the Halloween Party at Wasserman Park will look different this year. Saturday, October 24 is the date but instead of an evening event it will be held from 12:00 - 3:00. MFF will be selling food and organizing a game for children to play. Only 300 attendees will be permitted and they must be Merrimack residents. Families will walk along one loop through the park to enjoy the games, activities, music and food. There will be one entrance and one exit from the park. Social distancing precautions will be in place. Please watch for an evite with more detailed information about how you can help with this fundraiser. You can volunteer an hour or two bake Halloween themed treats (individually wrapped) or donate money so we can buy supplies. Thank you in advance for your help and Happy Halloween.

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## Service

*Tammy Ditman & Pat Teden*



The follow-up to our successful Backpack Project last month is to work on a beautification project; we will clean our adopted road in town on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 AM and we are typically done in 1-2 hours. Please join. We will meet at the entrance to the Merrimack Transfer Station, and don our fashion gear of orange vests, trash grabbers and trash bags which are supplied by the town. Please bring your own gloves and masks – we of course will maintain a social distance. Basically we simply walk the length of Lawrence Road bagging the accumulated trash. We leave filled trash bags along the road for the town to pick up later. This is a great project for you, your family members including teens (a consent form is required for participants under 18 years old). The initial evite has already been sent. Look for the reminder evite if you missed the first.

In November we will support Operation Care for Troops by filling Christmas stockings for U.S. troops overseas. The shopping list for this event will be circulated in early October and donations will be due by November 11<sup>th</sup>, which appropriately enough is Veteran's Day. If you and family members have extra time in the intervening weeks, please consider writing upbeat holiday messages for our soldiers on Christmas cards. The Operation Care for Troops always appreciates more cards.

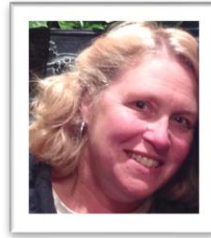
Thanks! Pat and Tammy



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## Membership

*Wilma Cunningham & Beth Voorhees*



Time is getting short to renew your membership. If you haven't, hop on line, give your check to any board member, or mail your check to P.O. Box 1516, Merrimack. Thanks, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Membership is planning two informational events in October. We expect to have a socially distanced gathering at Able Ebenezer either on Friday evening, October 9 or Thursday evening, October 15. We would also like to plan a Saturday morning coffee later in the month. Watch for the Evites.

Have you added the Evite app to your phone? It keeps all the MFF Evites in one location for ease of referral. No more searching through a multitude of e-mails.

Here are some pictures of our September gathering at the Thirsty Moose. A great time was had by all!!



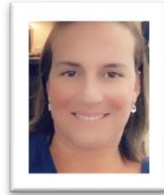
Happy Fall,  
Beth and Wilma





# Publicity

*Beth Milliken*



Hi all. Please remember to send me any pictures you take, along with a short blurb to tell me what the picture represents. It's so important to show people what we do, this helps with donations, interest in activities, and, of course, membership. You can email me any items you have at [publicity@mffnh.org](mailto:publicity@mffnh.org).

Hoping to see you all getting together, safely of course, having fun and raising money to support our town!  
Stay Safe,  
Beth M



# Happy Birthday!!



|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Melissa W | 10/02 |
| Nicolle S | 10/06 |
| Tanya R   | 10/08 |
| Pat T     | 10/14 |
| Dawn L    | 10/24 |



# Interest Group Happenings

## Secret Sisters

It is time to begin the fun! For those of you who have signed up for Secret Sisters, you should have received your Secret Sister's questionnaire in the mail (with some basic instructions)! Remember, half the fun is trying to keep yourself anonymous. Don't let her know who you are!

You may use the information provided in your Secret Sister's questionnaire, or use your own judgment, to bring your Secret Sister a small gift each month from October through May. We will get together three times throughout the club year for gift exchange potlucks, with the first potluck happening this month on **Wednesday, October 28** (see the Evite invitation for more info). At the May potluck we will reveal who each person's Secret Sister has been. And then in June, you will give a "thank you" gift to the not-so-secret-anymore Sister who had been giving gifts to YOU for the previous eight months! Remember, when a potluck occurs in a given month, this is where the gifts should be exchanged – no need to deliver them anywhere else. If you cannot attend a potluck (or you're uncomfortable attending an in-person event at this time), be sure to arrange something with me or another member so that everyone still gives AND receives a gift!

In October, January, and May, you should bring your gift to the potluck events in an unmarked brown grocery bag (with the recipient's name on the inside so that I know who to give it to). On non-potluck months, you can slyly bring your gift to her house when you think she won't be home, you can ask another member to help make your delivery, or watch Evite and bring it to an event that you know she will be attending... you have plenty of sneaky options.

Remember, unlike other interest groups, this is a commitment for the entire club year. A very special woman (your Secret Sister) is counting on your full participation. Make sure you've paid your annual MFF membership dues! And if you still have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me!

*PS. No, I do not know who my OWN Secret Sister is – I had help in randomly assigning the Secret Sisters for this very reason. Hey, I want to be surprised, too!*

*PPS. For those of you who have participated in Secret Sisters for a number of years now, it is quite possible that you could have been assigned someone that you've already had before. That's okay – if you duplicate a gift idea from the past, we should all be so lucky to be spoiled with a great gift twice!*

This is going to be so much fun!

Regards,  
Jill Mitchell





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**Fitness Friends**

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

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**Lunch Bunch**

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

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**Ladies Night Out**

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

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**Recipe Swap**

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

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**Crafters Unite**

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

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**Book Club**

We are still looking for a new book club leader! We know the book club was always very active and engaged so please consider coming aboard as the new leader!!

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# Member News & Kudos

Do you have some exciting news you'd like to share about yourself or something you're involved with? Have some news about another member, not necessarily club related, that you think deserves recognition? Births, condolences, promotions, new jobs, new homes, jobs well done, well wishes, etc...send an email come newsletter submission time just like you would do a personal and it'll be listed here. Pictures are welcome as well!

Did you know that we've been doing the following for \*many\* years??

\*Easter Baskets for welfare dept. - 18 yrs

\*Adopt-A-Road - 7 yrs, twice each year

\*Stockings for Soldiers - 6 yrs

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## Don't forget to support us while you shop!

**Support  
Merrimack Friends & Families  
Charitable Fund Inc.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)