



President's Message

Carol Figueroa



Happy Labor Day Weekend -

The new club year has begun!! We are looking to plan some events while considering social distancing so that we can get together. Please stay tuned and keep a look out for Evites and also please check the monthly newsletter for any information on the club.

Our service coordinators were busy in August putting together the backpacks and school supplies for the Merrimack's Welfare Department. This is one of many projects that we are involved in that supports the Town of Merrimack. Tammy and Pat will be putting together additional projects that will continue our mission of service along with Julie and Robin who are putting together our fundraising efforts for the MFF Charitable Fund.

During the summer, we donated \$4700 from the MFF Charitable Fund to 3 local organizations; Bridges, Merrimack Community Food Pantry and St. John Neumann Food Pantry. Our first fundraiser for the charitable fund is being planned – our Fall Yard Sale. It will take place on Saturday, October 3rd at the Merrimack Town Hall. We were not able to host the spring yard sale so we are hoping this fall event will be very successful. The Fall and Spring yard sales are important fundraising events for the charitable fund. Please mark your calendar with the date and hopefully you can help out at the event. Our VP, Catherine, is putting together interest group leaders for this club year. These interest groups are integral to the social aspect of our club. We have a couple of interest groups that were active last year that will continue with their current leaders. But if there is group or event you would like to organize or would like additional information, please be sure to contact Catherine at interestgroups@mffnh.org. The interest groups could not exist without the membership to lead them.

I look forward to seeing you this fall. If you have any questions or concerns please be sure to reach out to me or any of our board members. You can find links to our emails on the contacts page on our website – mffnh.org

Be safe and be well.

Carol

September calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sep 15	07:00 PM	Board Meeting
Please see the Evite for additional information		

Vice President

Catherine Pepler



Greeting Members,

I am writing to you to let you know we are beginning our new year. You have a new board and we are very much looking forward to meeting you in the near future. Covid 19 has certainly created challenges for each of us in many ways. I am hoping you and your family have remained well. Please know the Merrimack Friends & Families Board is here for you. Please do reach out to us. Simply send a note to info@mffnh.org and we will respond directly to you.



Although we have not been able to have gatherings together, know the Board continues seek ways to engage membership. One area is through our interest groups. I am hoping you may be interested in leading one of the groups and working with members to identify social activities. Right now we have the ability to meet outside during the warm weather and be able to maintain social distancing and wearing masks inside or having less than 6 feet distancing. These activities could be monthly, bi-monthly or even a one-time event. Please consider getting involved in the social aspect of the club. We would love to see more interest groups be formed.

Some of the interest groups that could have an event set up: Adult Socials/Couples Night, Business Networking, Game Night, Health & Fitness, Men’s Night Out and Recipe Swap, Walking/Hiking, Breakfast/Lunch Meet ups are some things to consider. .

If you are interested in organizing or need additional information to run an event please contact us at info@mffnh.org. We would love to have more social activities set up this spring and we hope you will consider joining us in planning these activities.

In health, wellness and friendship,
Catherine Pepler, Vice President



Treasurer

Bev Coelho



We still have a few MFF t-shirts available for \$20.00. You can order and pay on the website or email me. All sizes are available from small to x-large.



Secretary

Dorian Walters

Stay tuned for updates as the club year gets underway.

Ways and Means

Julie Akers & Robin Johnson



It is Fall Yard Sale time! The MFF Board has decided to have our annual Yard Sale at the Town Hall parking lot on Saturday, Oct 3. MFF will take steps to keep everyone healthy and safe including wearing masks, social distancing and modifying our checkout process. In order to make this work we will need lots of volunteers to commit to helping with set up and especially hauling leftovers to the town dump at 1:00. Please let us know if you have a van, truck or trailer and can help. Starting at 6:30am on Oct. 3 please drop off your gently used donations, folding tables and pop-up canopies and tarps we could borrow. Proceeds from the yard sale will go to our charitable fund. Thank you!

Service

Tammy Ditman & Pat Teden



Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, money and/or time to fill backpacks for the children of Merrimack. Pat Murphy at the Merrimack Welfare Dept. stated "There were several children who came with their parents to pick them up today and I loved the excited light in their eyes when they first spied the backpacks." It is so nice to know these kids are starting the school year with everything they need.



Currently we are talking to the Public Works Dept., trying to lock down a date for the Lawrence Road cleanup. We are looking at the end of September or Mid/late October. Watch for further information via an Evite. The Adopt-a-Road cleanup usually happens once each Spring and Fall, but the Spring was cancelled... SO there should be plenty to clean up. The town supplies trash bags, trash grabbers, orange vests and collects the full trash bags when we're done. We do this on a Sunday morning because the dump is closed and there is very little traffic.

Since many of our usual service projects involve being inside, we are looking for new outdoor innovative projects. Do you know of any in town? Help MFF continue to provide for our community. Give us your ideas. Email us at service@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org. Thanks.



Membership

Wilma Cunningham & Beth Voorhees



Welcome to our 2020-2021 Club Year. Membership will be planning some informational get-togethers so keep your neighbors and friends in mind to join us. Beth and Wilma are scoping out Covid-safe locations for coffee or drinks. And perhaps some other type of gathering later in the fall. Keep an eye out for Evites, and please join us. It will be so nice to see each other, even social distanced.

Just a reminder that it's dues time. Don't miss this opportunity to stay involved with the charitable and service aspects of MFF. And of course, the always fun social aspects.

Wilma and Beth





Publicity

Beth Milliken



I hope everyone had a good summer. As much of a good summer as you could anyway, under the circumstances. Welcome to our new club year! I'm so excited to be able to continue to be part of MFF! As I take on the job of publicity for our great group, I want you all to know that I will do my very best to help us get the word out. To help me do this, 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.

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!!



Laura M	09/05
Beth F	09/17
Nancy M	09/30



Interest Group Happenings

Secret Sisters

Secret Sisters:

Are you interested in joining *Secret Sisters*? It is so much fun!

Here are the details in a nut shell. Each Secret Sister will complete a questionnaire about herself (available on the MFF website and via email). The deadline to submit your **completed questionnaire** is **Monday, September 21st**. After we receive them, we will match everyone up with a Secret Sister. That person may use the information provided in your questionnaire to pick out a special gift for you each month! We will get together three times throughout the club year for gift exchange potlucks (see the Evites for more info). In May 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!

The gift exchanges will occur anonymously every month from October through May, and every participant should give AND receive a gift each month. 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. But try your best to keep yourself a secret - that's what makes this so much fun! The value should be kept around **\$15 for your monthly gift**. And we also ask that no one "double dip" and buy one large, more expensive gift to count for multiple months.

We would love to have you in this group, but also want to make mention that unlike our other interest groups, **this is a commitment for the entire club year**. We ask that once you join us, you understand that a very special woman (your Secret Sister) is counting on your full participation. There is **no fee to join Secret Sisters**. However, we ask that you pay your annual membership dues to the club before participating.

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact Jill Mitchell! You can print the questionnaire from the website. Or we recommend typing/saving a copy to your computer so that you have it handy for next year – trust us, you'll have so much fun you'll want to join the group again! You may send completed questionnaires via email or in person to Jill.

Here's to another great club year!

Jill Mitchell





Fitness Friends

Welcome to the new year! Stay tuned for upcoming information.



Lunch Bunch

Welcome to the new year! Stay tuned for upcoming information.



Ladies Night Out

Welcome to the new year! Stay tuned for upcoming information.



Recipe Swap

Welcome to the new year! Stay tuned for upcoming information.



Crafters Unite

Welcome to the new year! Stay tuned for upcoming information.



Book Club

Sadly Vivian's work has taken away the ability to run book club this club year so a new leader is needed. Vivian has pass down information to give you. Thank you for all your years of being book club leader, Vivian!!



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? 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!

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