

# Multiple pathways to success

BY JENNIFER SOTTAK  
LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

It's an understatement to say that those who work in the Laconia School District make a permanent impact on student's lives every single day. Every member of our school community has a hand in molding their young minds. Within every school day, the potential is there to change the trajectory of their path in life.

Those dreams are typically born out of connections students have made from experiences along their path. A student mesmerized by their teacher's ability to capture the attention of an entire class through story, may choose to pursue a career in education. A chance meeting with a police officer who stops to chat and show an interest in that child's day may influence the student to pursue a career in law enforcement. A family sitting together watching the last film about the walk on the moon may spark an interest in Aeronautics. Or a social worker who had a place in their home growing up, lending support and opening doors to services, may nurture the drive to help others through similar unfortunate events. Our job in school is to feed that dream and provide students with all the tools and opportunities they need to reach their goals.

The elementary years are spent on the development of the whole child. This means that while intellectual wellness and academics is a high priority, we also place priority on supporting wellness development in all areas for our youngest learners — including social, emotional, physical, and personal wellness. For many, this is their introduction to conflict resolution, managing their emotions, and using their developing language skills to communicate their needs.

Middle school is a time of enormous development in all areas. Students begin their journey of self-discovery and the struggle for autonomy to stand on their own. Their world opens a bit with the introduction to sports, drama, or clubs

held after school. This is also a time when students develop their communication skills vital to self-advocacy.

During high school, students can engage in an even larger variety of learning experiences. Of course, there are the courses like English, math, science, and social studies that all students are required to take to graduate. However, they also need credits in digital arts and physical education. Outside of those traditional classes, students have some choices to make to follow their own path. Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) are structured experiences connected to local businesses/agencies for students to acquire on-the-job exposure to potential future occupations. The Huot Technical Center, located on our high school's campus, offers robust, career-based programming in the following occupations: Careers in Education, Allied Health, Health Science, Plumbing and Heating, Building Construction, Law Enforcement, Culinary Arts, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Automotive Technology, Digital Media Arts, Computer Programming, Bio-Medical Technology, and Business Management. This gives our students real-world experiences, while making connections with employers around the community, to help make informed decisions about their future after high school.

Project Extra, our after-school program offered throughout the district, provides a variety of opportunities for students to stretch their learning. Community members are often invited in to display their achievements and positively influence their young minds.

The path widens after high school with a variety of avenues to consider. Some students may choose to jump right into the work force and live on their own, while others may decide to venture towards a two or four-year college. No matter the path, the staff in Laconia are present to help navigate their journey. Along their journey they may meet new

people who influence that path and possibly morph those dreams into new ones. Think back to the days you were in school and I'm sure you can name several people who influenced your life. I have had several experiences and individuals influence my own path, and I will say with great vigor, that they had a profound effect on me and led me to

where I am today.

Today's students are so fortunate to have multiple pathways towards viable and exciting careers. No path is the same, just as no student is the same. I'm so proud of the work we're doing all over the district, and the many ways we support our students every day.

*Jennifer Sottak is a student services administrator in the Laconia School District.*



## PUBLIC HEARING ALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Alton School Board will hold a Public Hearing Pursuant to 198:20-b

- Date:** Monday, April 8, 2019
- Time:** 6:00 pm
- Location:** Alton Central School Middle School Library
- Purpose:** To accept and expend unanticipated funds

## LRCS to hold annual celebration April 11

LACONIA — Lakes Region Community Services will hold its annual celebration on Thursday, April 11, at 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Beane Conference Center. The event brings together community leaders, supporters, donors, partners, volunteers, schools, businesses and participants in its programs and services.

This year's program, Strong Families, Strong Communities, will honor the LRCS Family Resource Center of Central New Hampshire. The center offers a growing number of families and children in the greater Lakes Region with specialized programs, services and outreach events.

The keynote speaker for the event is Lakes Region resident and former LRCS Executive Director Christine Santaniello. Santaniello serves as director of the division of housing and economic stability for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, leading a division that manages Family Assistance, Child Support Services, Child Development and Headstart Collaboration, Housing and Employment supports. She will address the state's priorities in strengthening individuals, families and community supports to build better outcomes for children, families and adults in New Hampshire, focusing on the role of Family Resource Centers.

"We are excited to have Chris return to share her vast experience, leadership and passion for building better outcomes for children, families and adults in New Hampshire. Understanding



SANTANIELLO

NHHHS priorities and the opportunities for collaboration is critical to developing and implementing resources and programs in our work to strengthen NH families," said Rebecca Bryant, president and chief executive officer of Lakes Region Community Services.

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a catered reception and musical entertainment, followed by Lakes Region Community Services' annual Community Partner and Employee Longevity awards and program at 5:30 p.m. The event wraps up at 6:15 p.m. with coffee

and dessert.

The 2019 Community Partner Award winners include Marti Ilg, director of Lakes Region Child-care Services, as Collaboration Hero; Tom and Liz Kelsey and the Linden Family Foundation as Supporter/Funder; and Navigating Recovery of the Lakes Region as Community Partner/Advocate.

"We are thrilled to spotlight the LRCS Family Resource Center this year, and recognize our dedicated employees, our many partners as well as the families who work hard every day to build a better future for their children," said Erin Pettengill, vice president of the Family Resource Center.

There is no charge to attend the event, but because seating is limited, reservations are requested by April 8. Contact Judy Maguire at 603-581-1504, or [judith.maguire@lracs.org](mailto:judith.maguire@lracs.org).

For more information about Lakes Region Community Services, contact Joanne Piper Lang at 603-524-8811, or visit [www.lracs.org](http://www.lracs.org).

The Four Corners Brick House  
IN HISTORIC GILMANTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**OPENING Tues. Apr. 2nd**  
New this year  
Gilmanton's Own Market at the BH  
Thurs. 1-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-4  
Tues.-Sat 10-5, Sun. 12-4, Closed Mon.  
267-6949  
525 Province Rd.  
Gilmanton, NH 03237  
[fourcornersbrickhouse.com](http://fourcornersbrickhouse.com)

### Legal Notice and Lien Sale Auction

To be sold at private auction, **April 2, 2019 @ 11:00 am** at Belmont Self Storage, 393 Laconia Road, Belmont, NH 03220. The contents of the following storage units, plus the costs of sale, open to all interested parties pursuant to the provisions of the storage contract with the power to sell items in the storage units of the following:

Matthew Baumgratz, 356 Laconia Rd. #3, Belmont, NH 03220; Karen Beaupre, PO Box 324, Belmont, NH 03220; Stephanie Carroll, 302 Durrell Mtn. Rd., Belmont, NH 03220; Kristina Cleveland, 30 Brittany Lane, Laconia, NH 03246; James Dyer, PO Box 853, Center Harbor, NH 03226; Daniel Elliott, PO Box 553, Belmont, NH 03220; Anthony Felch, 189 North Street, Laconia, NH 03246; Mitchell Hemlin, 22 Strafford St. #419, Laconia, NH 03246; Sherry Martin, 21 Arch St., Laconia, NH 03246; Eric Taylor, 200 Court St., Laconia, NH 03246