



The Monadnock SHOPPER NEWS

The Original Keene Shopper – “The Weekly with a Heart” – 61st Year of Community Service / December 12-18, 2018

River Valley Community College: High Quality, Affordable Education



Nursing student Tamika Marciniac takes a “patient’s” blood pressure in the mock lab set up at River Valley Community College, while her teacher, Associate Professor Julie Shores, observes.

By Lori Catozzi Cook
with Tamika Marciniac

My River Valley Community College Experience, by Tamika Marciniac
The small town feel of River Valley Community College makes being an adult learner – with tons of other responsibilities – easier to manage. I am married with three kids ages four, seven, and nine, so the responsibilities are nonstop. Two years ago, my family was considered homeless; we weren’t living in cardboard boxes on the side of the road, but if it wasn’t for my mother-in-law, that very well could have been a possibility.
My husband worked many hours doing construction work and was barely making what we needed to pay for rent. I was a school bus driver in this area for about five years and every summer bills piled up because if there was no school there wasn’t a paycheck. The cost of heating during the winter weather was more than we could afford. We applied for housing and were accepted but there was a waiting list; so we waited, homeless, for almost a year. I do not ever want to feel the way I felt during that time. Things were out of control.

River Valley Community College has given me the light at the end of the tunnel. My teachers are so friendly, and I can tell that my success is all they want. The faculty has been nothing but helpful about every little question I may have. They are my school family, always looking out for me. This is exactly how my experience has been for the past year here at River Valley Community College. I have been accepted here more than anywhere I have ever been.
I am now on my way to getting my Associate’s Degree in nursing. In 2020, I will be a registered nurse. I am also the vice president of the Flo (after Florence Nightingale) Shots – our nursing club; we are hoping to participate in our community in various ways. The opportunities at River Valley Community College are here if you really want them.

River Valley Community College – which is fully accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education – turns dreams into reality by providing a high-quality and affordable education that prepares its students for the careers they imagined.

RIVER VALLEY, page 18

Emerald Street, Keene’s Not So Hidden Gem

A lot is happening on Emerald Street in Keene. With businesses moving in and buildings being renovated, Willard Williams of The Toadstool Bookshop, located at 12 Emerald Street, was inspired to suggest the “Emerald Street, Keene’s Not So Hidden Gem” promotion that can be found in this paper.
“We have been very pleased with the reception (since the bookshop moved to Emerald Street in 2016),” said Williams, “and are excited to see so many other businesses moving in and updating other buildings along the street. I believe there is the potential for this to become an attractive destination.”

Emerald Street’s history is long and varied. The street was laid out in 1851. According to the book *Upper Ashuelot*, the early history of the street indicates that it was a road to the gas works.

According to a *Monadnock Moments* article by Alan Rumrill, in June of 1886, the Thompson-Houston Electric Company was granted a license to erect poles and run wires for Keene’s first electric light system. The first generator was located on Emerald Street, supplying power for street and commercial lighting.

EMERALD STREET, page 10

Holiday Open Sugar House December 16th At Woodard’s

Woodard’s Sugar House in Surry will hold its first annual Holiday Open Sugar House on Sunday, December 16th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

According to Mark Woodard, the event will offer the chance to fill Christmas stockings with something sweet this holiday season. “Woodard’s Sugar House invites everyone to our second annual holiday sale,

offering 20 percent off our premium maple products,” he added. “We will have free samples available. Enjoy hot chocolate and warm maple syrup on plain donuts.”

The sugar house is located at 1200 Route 12A. For more details, call 603-358-3321 or visit www.woodardsugarhouse.com.

Renowned Painter John C. Traynor’s New Show Helps Raise Money For Whitcomb Hall Refurbishment

Reception December 15th Will Include Raffle Prize Of A Traynor Painting

Acclaimed American Impressionist John C. Traynor will host an artist reception on Saturday, December 15th from 1 to 5 p.m. at Whitcomb Hall located at 17 Main Street in West Swanzey. His show, “Then and Now – West Swanzey, New Hampshire” – a 30-year retrospective, features oil on canvas paintings that showcase both the beauty of the town during all four seasons and some of its residents. Many of the paintings are on loan from collectors across the country exclusively for the show.

During the reception, raffle tickets will be sold for \$20 each or three for \$50, offering the chance to win Traynor’s painting, *Bells Chiming at Whitcomb Hall*, a 16”x20” oil on linen which retails for \$8,000. In addition, a poster of one of the show’s featured paintings, *Stepping out on California Street*, will also be sold during the show. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales and poster sales will be donated to help with the refurbishment of Whitcomb Hall’s second-floor auditorium.

In addition to having captured bucolic beauty and vignettes of local life from around the world on canvas, Traynor has been painting pictures of landmarks and people in the village of West Swanzey for the past 30 years, enamored by its covered bridges, old mill, Ashuelot River and community church.

TRAYNOR, page 15



“When I moved to Swanzey, it just came alive for me and seemed like an idyllic spot for a painter,” says Traynor who frequently creates his paintings outside Whitcomb Hall and other parts of Swanzey.

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Emerald Street... 10-11
Moments In Time: Edie Clark... 16

BIRTHDAYS.....25	ENTERTAINMENT.....21-23	GREEN.....19	MYSTERY PHOTO.....23
CLASSIFIEDS.....25-27	FAMILY.....13	HEALING.....24	PETS.....9
COOKING.....17	GARDEN.....12	MONEY.....14	REAL ESTATE.....27

40,303 Mailed Weekly
Mailed Into Every Home In Keene And 36 Area Towns
Total Circulation 42,750