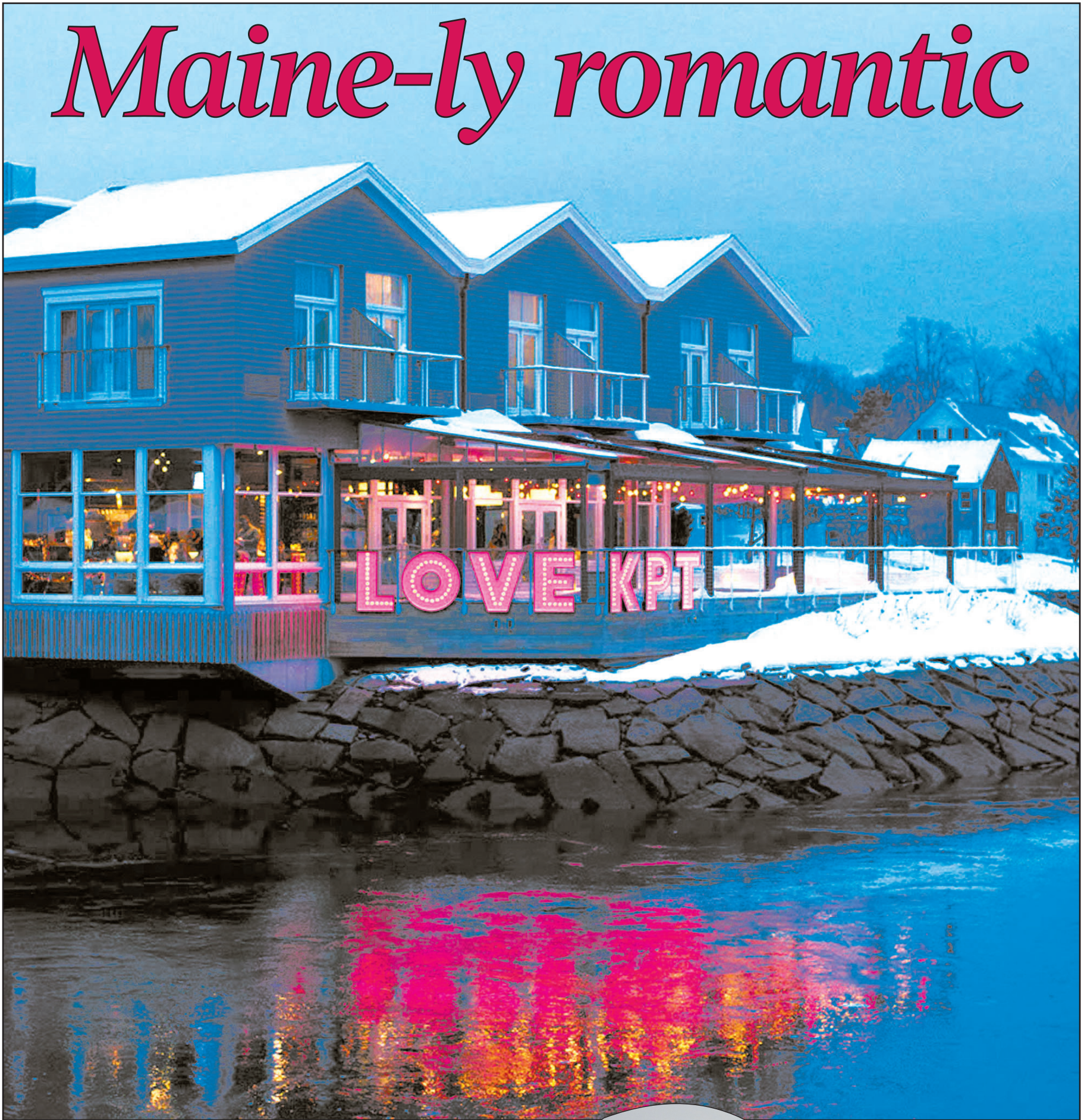


COVER STORY

Maine-ly romantic



Photos courtesy of DOUGLAS MERRIAM

The town of Kennebunkport celebrates love throughout February with its “Paint the Town Red” celebration.

Celebrate love, paint the town red in Kennebunkport

By PEGGY NEWLAND
Correspondent

The chipped-ice bar – complete with a frozen luge for pouring custom cocktails – is dazzling in the balmy air of February. It’s the kickoff event of Kennebunkport’s month-long celebration of all things Love – aptly named “Paint the Town Red” as the town is painted bright and ready for Cupid’s arrows. Velvet bows, fluorescent lights in shapes of giant hearts, twinkling pink walkways, red-plate specials, and red-tag sales of everything themed romantic. There’s even matching LOVE KPT heart sweaters for you and your dog, if you’re romantically disinclined.

“We will be pouring the Glenkinchie and Bulleit Rye down the ice chute,” the bartender tells me as he sets out single-malt scotch and small-batch bourbons. The theme with red

is romantically nautical, balloons in bunches and tented awnings lit up in twisted white lights.

“Straight into someone’s mouth?” I ask.

“Sure,” the bartender laughs. “Or this pink martini glass.”

He offers to make me a signature Negroni or Boulevardier, but I opt out because I am on my way to the Little Pink Book

of Cocktails class at Table restaurant in Upper Kennebunk Village. Walking over the bridge, seagulls screech out love songs while I watch a couple attach a lock to a heart-shaped (of course) fence of multicolored locks. They kiss and meander away toward chocolate shops with satinated boxes of Chilean Variado, sea salt toasted toffees and Mayan milk chocolates.

The mixology class is straight out of “Mad Men,” with a speakeasy vibe of black leather, dimmed lighting and a crackling fireplace surrounded on all sides by faded album covers from the 1960s. We aerate juniper for a cocktail called Aviation and learn the secret stir for martinis. The history of Navy-strength rum, the merits of wormwood and medicinal blends of absinthe are discussed in detail. After a boozy afternoon, it’s time for a nap back at the Kennebunkport Inn before returning to Table for a pop-up dinner featuring chefs from Earth Restaurant.

The funkily elegant lobby is patterned in red and blue and sports an electric red Christmas tree bedazzled with blinking lights. Jazz plays softly and secretive nooks of couches and overstuffed chairs beckon. Built in the 1890s for a tea merchant, the



rooms are stylish and historic in white and blue stripe with nautical wall prints. My room faces the Kennebunk River and I watch an elderly couple kayak past in bright yellow slickers and red stocking caps.

That night, my husband joins me for the festivities at Earth. The theme of the dinner is Tuscan and the waiter tells me they’ve been slow-roasting the meats for two days. With wrought

MAINE | PAGE D-2

Riding for cancer research has cyclist needing equipment



CHRIS GRAHAM
Chris' Mailbag

More than 1 million people in the United States battle cancer each year, the second leading cause of death.

There are many kinds of cancer, but all begin with excessive growth of abnormal cells. Evidence

found in human mummies in ancient Egypt tells us cancer is not new, but new advances against the diseases are being made every day.

A grandmother hopes Mailbag readers will help her grandson “gear up” as

he is accepts the challenge of a bike-a-thon for cancer.

Clothing, gear sought

“My teenage grandson is looking for bike riding clothing, including gloves, a helmet and any other accessories/equipment that

will help with the challenge he has taken on,” writes Sarah H. of Nashua (LTR 349). “If someone has any of these items they are no longer using, he would be most appreciative of them. He takes a men’s small-medium.

“Also, any beginner books on the subject would be helpful. He is very excited about this endeavor to help raise funds for cancer research. Thank you very much.”

MAILBAG | PAGE D-2

Grown-up child wonders what halted parents' divorce

DEAR ABBY: During my childhood, my parents fought loudly and often. When I was 12, they spoke to my sister and me about getting a divorce. I was heartbroken and fought back.

Like any kid in that situation, I was upset and scared. I told them they were being selfish and irresponsible for breaking up our family when they were the ones who chose to have children in the first place. They ended up staying together and never mentioned the D-word again.

It's 15 years later; they have now been married for 40 years. When I'm around, I still hear them squabble,



but nothing like when I was young. They obviously care about one another.

As an adult, I am plagued by guilt. Had I been older and wiser when they first contemplated divorce, I would have agreed that they were probably not a good match, and told them to do whatever they needed to be happy.

Did I do the wrong thing when I was young? Should

I say something now or leave well enough alone? I feel I may have kept my parents in a loveless relationship, and while I'm happy they're still together, I can't help but wonder if I should have kept my mouth shut. I'd appreciate your opinion.

— *Remorseful in the South*

DEAR REMORSEFUL: What you said when you were 12 may have affected your parents' decision about divorcing, but it was not the deciding factor. It may have slowed them down and made them think that as long as their children were minors, they should make a greater effort to keep the family intact.

By the time you became an adult nine years ago, they appear to have made peace and patched up their major differences. As you stated, "They obviously care about one another."

Because you carry feelings of guilt over this, if you feel comfortable enough to do so, talk to your parents about it. If not, then discuss it with a counselor, because blaming yourself for reacting as any 12-year-old would is wrong.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single parent of four children ages 5-13. I want to go back to school to better myself and make a better life for them because I am raising

them on my own. I keep putting off going back because something always comes up.

I'm afraid if I keep this up, then I'll never do it and will live with regret for the rest of my life.

I don't have a stable support system, and I work full time, so I'm also worried about having no time for my children, although I hardly have any now.

Most days I feel like a bad parent and want to cry. What would you recommend I do? Can you help me push myself?

— *Wants no regrets*

DEAR WANTS NO REGRETS: Set goals for yourself. Explore career counseling

at your nearest community college and ask for guidance about child care options. When you do, ask if you can take one or two classes a semester, rather than a full course load, and if any of the classes you need are held online. That way, you won't be spending a lot of time away from your children, and at the same time you'll be setting an example for them to follow about the importance of education.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Maine | A night of dancing follows dinner

CONTINUED FROM | PAGE D-1

iron chandeliers and a river stone fireplace, our roughhewn table is rustic and gorgeous. The bar stools are whittled pine.

The air smells of cedar and wood smoke as our first course trio comes to the table family-style. Wood-fired baked potato with peekytoe crab, cipolini onions and caviar on one plate, shaved grass-fed beef salad smothered in hot sauce and blood orange on another, and lastly, lobster and octopus, with fermented black bean aioli and sweet peppers. A pairing of Gruner Veltliner is perfect.

The second course is wood-fired asparagus, hearts of palm, black truffles with a mead vinaigrette, paired with Maso Poli pinot grigio.

We pass the plates like one big happy pop-up family for the evening, and when the third course arrives, we revel in braised pork shoulder, roasted loin, smoked sausages, Maine clams, wood-roasted beets with mint, broccoli rabe with pickled mustard seeds, and delicious Vermont grits.

A Negro Amaro from Salice Salentino, Italy, complements the "tender like butter" meats. For dessert, key lime pie with vanilla pastry cream.

We spill into the night lit up like electric love and cross over to a world of ice at David's KPT. Blinking lights spell out love in bold lettering as we walk through a makeshift forest of pines and cedar adorned in white. Hearts adorn the deck in all shades of hot pink and a band starts up with "Honky Tonk



Photo courtesy of DOUGLAS MERRIAM

Paint the Town Red at the Kennebunkport Inn in Kennebunkport, Maine.

MORE INFORMATION

The Kennebunkport Inn. One Dock Square. 1-800-248-2621. www.kennebunkportresortcollection.com. Ask for the February "Paint the Town Red" special or the Love KPT package, which includes a two-night stay, dinner for two, breakfast for two, arrival goodies of red wine, chocolate-covered strawberries, and a whoopie pie. Treat yourself to one of these events:

FEB. 12: Craft Beer Dinner featuring Allagash Brewing at Stripers Restaurant. Then head to Bandaloops for a Valentine's Artisan Market for pottery, scents, live music and romantic cocktails.

FEB. 13: Wines and Valen-

tines at One Dock Prime for wine tasting and education paired with small plates. One Dock Prime is the steakhouse of your dreams, with made-to-order cocktails and chef-cut steaks and chops, as well as seafood.

FEB. 20: Paris Cocktails Class at Old Vines Wine Bar. Then head to a Date Night Pop-Up Dinner at Table with farm-to-table courses.

FEB. 27: Bubbles and Truffles at Table Restaurant. Chocolate and champagne pairings.

Woman." Partygoers are dressed in festive red and they flicker and flash with the strobe lights of the band.

"You're back," the bartender says, recognizing me. "And you found some-

one in Valentine Town." He nods at my husband.

"Yep," my husband says. "She knows how to mix a mean cocktail now."

"Excellent." The bartender invites me behind the ice bar. I stir, not shake, a

perfect martini for my husband. The night is young, the stars are out, and the town of Kennebunkport is painted red all month.

Run, don't walk, to LOVE KPT, and find that moment of winter love.

Mailbag | Amplification telephone sought

CONTINUED FROM | PAGE D-1

A bike-a-thon for cancer research is a great way to raise awareness and raise money at the same time while riding around the city, through town or enjoying the scenery out in the country. Best wishes for success to this teen – great cause, great project! If you can help Sarah's grandson with any equipment, contact her at 891-0531 or dholt@juno.com. Let me know how things are going.

Needs amplification telephone

"I am writing on behalf of my mother-in-law, who is 94 years young and hearing impaired – 100 percent hearing loss in one ear and 85 percent in her other ear," says Marcia D., of Nashua (LTR 1,795). "She lives alone, and has an awful time hearing her bell. I am wondering if one of your readers has an amplified phone they are no longer using or would like to donate. This would help her out so much. She's on a fixed income and could never afford one.

"Thank you so much for all you do to help others in need."

Almost 40 million Americans have hearing loss, according to the Better Hearing Institute based in Washington, D.C., affecting not only one's ability to hear, but affecting personal and emotional well-being, as well. Acknowledging hearing loss can be difficult, and intervention by a caring family member or friend can be a life-saving call.

Anyone with an amplifying phone for a caring daughter-in-law to bring to her mother-in-law should give Marcia a call at 557-4738.

All about birds

"I have quite a few Birds & Blooms magazines," says Susan R., of Amherst (LTR 677). "I read them, and have learned so much about birds and gardening from them – the photos are wonderful – so I hate to throw them away.

"Also, I have a king-sized water bed – no heater, but one can be brought through Amazon."

Birds & Blooms, published by Reiman Publications, features proven birding and gardening advice, as well as up-close bird and flower photos, many submitted by readers. It is enjoyable, informative and a teaching tool for people

of all ages. You could even peruse them resting on a newly acquired waterbed, if interested in that item as well.

Susan can be reached at 424-4396.

Greetings: Recyclable cards

"I have used greeting cards that can be used for recycling by any persons or organizations," says Patty J., of Litchfield (LTR 2,236). "Can drop off if needed."

Cover art, serious and/or funny – from Santa and snowmen to the Easter bunny; get well to "Hey, you're swell;" birthday greetings, sincere and true, cards that say, "I'm thinking of you." Whatever's in the collection awaits your inspection, but first give Patty a call at 889-2400.

Used cards make great gift tags, too ... just trim, punch a hole and add string.

In view for you

"I have a 21-inch Panasonic TV, in good condition, for someone who could use it," says Therese T., of Nashua (LTR 2,905).

The company that was to become Panasonic was started on March 7, 1918. Founder Konosuke Mat-

sushita was convinced there was a huge untapped market for convenient, high-quality household electrical fixtures, and his manufacturing a two-way socket and an attachment plug proved lucrative and successful.

Anyone wanting to plug into the TV offer might want to connect with Therese at 888-3762.

Update

Bert the Picker, of Nashua (LTR 1,775), says, "The latest collection of VHS tapes, which included 'D-Day,' 'Free Willy' and 'The Alamo,' were picked up by a lovely lady from Nashua whose son lives in Colebrook. Apparently, his TV reception in the North Country is somewhat limited, and she knows he will enjoy the movies, especially 'The Alamo,' since John Wayne is his favorite actor."

The Mailbag does get around!

Contact Chris' Mailbag by sending mail to Chris' Mailbag c/o The Telegraph, 17 Executive Drive, Hudson, NH 03051, or email christine.graham33@gmail.com. Include full name and complete address, along with telephone number or email address for publication, if applicable. Items eligible for publication are for donation, trade or barter only; requests of items for sale or purchase will not be included.

HELPING HANDS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Helping Hands is a weekly feature that provides information about the needs of local nonprofit agencies. Please review your nonprofit's listing, and refresh it as needed. What are your current needs? Contact person? Hours? Send changes to kpalm@nashuatelegraph.com.

Adult Learning Center

4 Lake St., Nashua, NH 03060

NEEDS: ESOL and Adult Basic Education tutors for 1½-2 hours per week.

HOURS: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

CONTACT: Connie Cullen, 882-9080 ext. 208, or ccullen@adulthoodlearningcenter.org.

WEBSITE: www.adulthoodlearningcenter.org.

Anne-Marie House

180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH 03051

NEEDS: High-efficiency laundry detergent pods, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, copy paper, tall kitchen bags, and large garbage bags.

COLLECTION HOURS: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

CONTACT: 883-7338, ext. 1, or info@annemariehouse.org.

WEBSITE: www.annemariehouse.org.

Boys & Girls Club

of Greater Nashua

1 Positive Place, Nashua, NH 03060

NEEDS: Volunteers to help in new science program. Volunteers must be at least 15 years or older. Program runs 5-6 p.m. Mondays and Fridays. Volunteers can choose which day they would like to volunteer. Also looking for volunteers to mentor Club members, at least one hour a week. Mentoring activities vary.

COLLECTION HOURS: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

CONTACT: Bree Cosgrove, bcosgrove@bgcn.com or 883-0523, ext. 237.

WEBSITE: www.bgcen.com.

Corpus Christi Food

Pantry and Assistance

43 Franklin St., Nashua, NH 03064

NEEDS: The pantry is currently in need of toiletry items: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, dish detergent, tissues. Non-perishable items: canned meat, fruit, vegetables, juice, coffee, condiments, jelly, macaroni and cheese, muffin and pancake mixes and syrup are greatly in need. Thank you for any help you can provide.

COLLECTION HOURS: 10 a.m.-noon Mondays, Wednesdays; 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays.

CONTACT: Susan Dignan, 882-6372.

WEBSITE: corpuschristifoodpantry.org.

End 68 Hours of Hunger – Nashua

P.O. Box 7642, Nashua, NH 03060

PURPOSE: We provide bags of food each week to food-insecure children. Currently, we are in four of the 12 elementary schools here in Nashua.

NEEDS: Cans of soup, tuna, chicken, ham or pasta; fruit cups, oatmeal, snack foods (granola bars, etc.), crackers (Saltines or Ritz), plastic jars of peanut butter (18 oz.), jelly (20 oz.), mayo (small jars), boxes of mac n' cheese, ramen packets (not the soup cups).

Also: We are currently looking for a donated, permanent storage space. Preferably with heat and electricity. 500-1,000 sq. ft.

COLLECTION HOURS: Drop off at Terra Salon (formerly Verde Organically Gorgeous Salon), 137 Main St. Tuesdays-Saturdays; Homewood Suites, 15 Tara Blvd. (24-hour drop off location); Gregory J's Flooring and Design, 520 Amherst St. from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Keller Williams Realty Nashua, Trafalgar Square, Suite 101; Re/Max Properties, 169 Daniel Webster Highway; or call for pickup: 422-5000.

CONTACT: Sandy Gribbin, 422-5000 or nashua@end68hoursofhunger.org.

WEBSITE: www.end68hoursofhunger.org.

Front Door Agency

12 Concord St., Nashua, NH 03064

NEEDS: New twin bedding, healthy snacks for kids, juice boxes, paper towels, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, feminine products and 55-gallon black contractor trash bags.

COLLECTION HOURS: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

CONTACT: Nancy Paige, 886-2866, npaige@frontdooragency.org.

WEBSITE: www.frontdooragency.org.

Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity – ReStore

352 Amherst St., Nashua, NH 03063

NEEDS: Volunteers to help run our ReStore! Donations of new and gently used building supplies, appliances, cabinets, lighting, hardware, tools, non-upholstered furniture and housewares are also needed.

DONATIONS OR SHOPPING: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Closed Sunday, Monday.

DONATIONS, PICKUPS & VOLUNTEERS: 943-8980 or email restoremanager@nashahabitat.org.

WEBSITE: www.nashuahabitat.org/restore.

HEARTS Peer Support Center of Greater Nashua

5 Pine St. Extension, Unit 2K, Nashua, NH 03061

NEEDS: A freezer.

COLLECTION HOURS: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

CONTACT: Ken Lewis or Tom Doucette, 882-8400.

WEBSITE: www.heartspsa.org.

Humane Society for Greater Nashua

24 Ferry Road, Nashua, NH 03064

NEEDS: Iams Adult Cat Original dry cat food; Iams dry kitten food; 8½ x 11 white copy paper; gently used towels,

HELPING | PAGE D-5