

Local News

New federal mortgage program announced at Better Homes AHEAD

BY DARIN WIPPERMAN
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LITTLETON — Through a partnership with federal officials, Affordable Housing Education and Development hosted the announcement of a new mortgage program on Friday. The product from the U.S. Department of Agriculture will help people buy highly energy efficient manufactured housing for placement in a mobile home park.

U.S. Rep. Annie Kuster, USDA Rural Housing Service Administrator Tony Hernandez, Rural Development State Director Ted Brady, and President Paul Bradley of Resident Owned Communities USA joined AHEAD as the program was announced. The festivities took place at the Better Homes AHEAD site on Cottage Street.

The Better Homes AHEAD lot includes three model homes, built with a focus on energy efficiency. One of the three models could be purchased using the new USDA mortgage program.

The three Better Homes AHEAD homes reduce energy costs by 30 percent compared to a standard manufac-



DARIN WIPPERMAN/LITTLETON COURIER

Mike Claffin, Executive Director of Affordable Housing Education and Development, spoke on Friday afternoon at the Better Homes AHEAD site on Cottage Street. He helped announce a new federal program that provides Rural Housing Service mortgages for energy efficient manufactured housing that will be placed in a mobile home park. Those with Claffin included, from left to right, Tony Hernandez, Administrator, Rural Housing Service; U.S. Rep. Annie Kuster; and, Ted Brady, USDA Rural Development director for New Hampshire and Vermont.

More than 22,000 New Hampshire families live in manufactured housing on leased lots, about six percent of the state's housing stock. Many of those homes are older models that are far less cost effective users of energy compared to Better Homes AHEAD

homes. Brady opened the event on Friday. He said Rural Development provided \$180 million to New Hampshire last year. "Each one of those dollars stands behind a person," Brady said. Rural Development focuses on expanding

housing opportunities, assisting communities with infrastructure projects, and promoting small town businesses. Brady said the new mortgage program is an example of how partnerships can allow families to see "the American Dream of affordable home ownership." The

new program is available for the first time in New Hampshire, Brady continued. AHEAD was vital to launching the new program, Brady noted. "They are the reason the North Country is looking better and better," he concluded. "I'm super excited to be working with our friends at USDA," Kuster said. She said New Hampshire deserves a better return on investment of the tax dollars sent to Washington, and USDA is making that happen. Hernandez said, "Housing is the conduit to family, neighborhood, and community."

Of the new program, Hernandez continued, "This is not a handout." People must qualify for the low-interest mortgage. In a statement, Hernandez added how older manufactured homes are "notorious energy hogs." He continued, "By encouraging the purchase of a newer, energy efficient home, USDA can

save the homeowner money, reduce the risk of default, and fight climate change."

Recalling his youth in Delaware, Claffin said he understands how families can flourish in manufactured housing communities. He said Better Homes AHEAD is dedicated to providing people the "energy efficient homes they deserve."

Bradley echoed Claffin's sentiment. He said both AHEAD and USDA merit praise for services "vitaly important to low and moderate income home owners."

The median home price in the state is \$229,900. The Better Homes AHEAD two-bedroom manufactured home eligible for the new USDA program starts at only \$45,100. Brady estimated that home would have a mortgage of about \$200 under the new program announced last week. For additional information, go to: www.betterhomesahead.org or <http://www.rd.usda.gov>.

Good news fills Co-op's annual meeting

BY DARIN WIPPERMAN
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LITTLETON —

Founded in 2009, the member-owned Littleton Food Co-op strives to provide a variety of local foods as another option for grocery services in the region. All the hard work has paid off, as the Co-op looks to expand floor space and pay patronage rebates to members for the first time. Details were provided during the Co-op's annual member meeting, which took place last Wednesday at the Opera House. Board President Irish O'Brien welcomed the public to the meeting. "I'm really happy to see the turnout. Thank you all for joining us," she said. General Manager Ed King discussed how the

Co-op has provided "a real boost to the local economy." In 2009, the store had \$5.4 million in sales, 1,200 members, and 42 employees. For this year, sales are estimated to reach \$9.6 million, with nearly 5,000 members, and 74 employees. O'Brien said the Co-op's work with local vendors "helps make us responsible community partners." Several Co-op suppliers, including Prospect Farm in Lisbon

and Joe's Brook Farm in Barnet, Vt., provided samples at last week's meeting. The growing number of customers at the Co-op created the need for the expansion project. As O'Brien said, "We're basically out of space." King added, "We're really looking forward to this project." The expansion, which will add nearly one-third of the Co-op's current space to the west side of the

building, should break ground next summer, with possible completion by the end of 2016. Architect Gregg Gossens, based in Montpelier, Vt., provided an overview of the plans for the expansion. Energy efficiency is central to the project's goals. Decreasing energy used for refrigeration is the number one way to save energy for a grocery store, Gossens said. From ensuring fresh air in the store to utilizing solar energy, the project aims to provide more choices for customers while helping the planet, as well. Onsite offices, in addition to expanded grocery space, will be part of the expansion. The offices and employee break areas are slated for a mezzanine overlooking the main level shopping area, based on Gossens' presentation. The Co-op seeks to minimize the amount of disruption shoppers will experience during the expansion. The store will communicate with the community about the expansion so as to keep the public informed as the process unfolds. From employees who serve as expansion liaisons to a Facebook page, information on the expansion will be readily available. Information about the expansion, including the slides from the project presentation, are available at: <http://www.littletoncoop.com/expansion>. With the enhanced ability to serve the community, King said, the expansion will "set the Co-op on a good sound footing for decades to come." King said the Co-op will provide the first patronage rebate next

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THE COLONIAL
Bethlehem, NH • 603.869.3422 • BethlehemColonial.org

Hungry Heart
THURSDAY, SEPT. 3 AT 6:30 PM
FREE & Open to the public
Screening followed by Q&A with film director, Bess O'Brien, health professionals and an individual in recovery
Sponsored by: ACHS & North Country Health Consortium

The End of The Tour
SEPT. 5-13 (No shows Fri 9/4, Thurs 9/10, Sat 9/12)
SHOWTIMES: Sat 7:00; Sun-Tues 7:30; Wed 5:30; Sat 9/11 at 9:15; Sun 9/13 at 7:30.
Director: James Ponsoldt; Cast: Jesse Eisenberg, Jason Segel, Anna Chlumsky, Joan Cusack; R, 1 hr. 45 min.
"Despite a premise that seems anything but cinematic, THE END OF THE TOUR is an offbeat and fascinating film." —St. Louis Dispatch
MR. HOLMES: Sat 9/5 at 9:15 & Sun 9/6 at 2:30

MOVIE SHOWTIMES: See individual listings
BUDDY NIGHT: Wed @ 5:30 (2 for 1 tickets); 25 & under 2 for 1 nightly
Delicious Concessions: Fine Chocolates, Coffee & Tea, Beer & Wine & more
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SHOWS & TIMES FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY 9/4

THE TRANSPORTER REFUELED PG-13
DAILY 4:00 7:20
FRI SAT SUN LATE SHOW 9:20

NO ESCAPE PG
DAILY 4:00 7:00
FRI SAT SUN LATE SHOW 9:05

INSIDE OUT PG
IN 2D-DAILY 5:10
SAT THRU MON EARLY MAT 1:00
IN 3D-SAT THRU MON 3:05

SINISTER II R
DAILY 7:20
FRI SAT SUN LATE SHOW 9:20

BARGAIN MATINEES DAILY 4
BARGAIN NITE TUESDAY 4

JAX JR. CINEMAS
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NEW! THRILLING DIGITAL 3D • PRE-SHOW TRIVIA • GIFT CERTIFICATES • ADULT \$7 • CHILD/SENIOR \$5

1 TRANSPORTER REFUELED PG-13
2 MINIONS Matinee Shows Only PG
JURASSIC WORLD Evening Shows Only PG-13

SHOWTIMES IN BOTH CINEMAS			
Monday-Thursday	—	—	7:00pm
Friday	—	—	7:00pm 9:15pm
Saturday	1:00pm	4:00pm	7:00pm 9:15pm
Sunday	1:00pm	4:00pm	7:00pm

SAT. & SUN. 1pm Tickets \$5

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NH'S 1ST ALL-DIGITAL 3D MOVIE THEATER!
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Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars
FRIDAY, SEPT. 4 • 8 PM
TICKETS: \$25; \$19; \$15
Doors & Patio open at 7 serving beer & wine
"...a blend of old school, West African party grooves, roots reggae, gospel and marching band brass... guaranteed to put a smile on your face." —NPR
Sponsored by Amoskeag Beverages and Moat Mountain Smokehouse & Brewing

COMING NEXT
Sept. 12 Shemekia Copeland

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE AT: BethlehemColonial.org and Catamountintz.org
OR AT THESE LOCATIONS: Maia Papaya, Bethlehem, NH; Littleton Food Coop, Littleton, NH; and through our contributing partner Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury, VT

MAIN STREET, BETHLEHEM, NH • EVENT LINE: 603.869.3422
www.BethlehemColonial.org