

Benefits of birdwatching taking wing

By Austin Crosler

An avid bird watcher is on a full-scan search, this time for those of all ages and backgrounds in Granville and surrounding areas who share a passion for birdwatching.

John Dolyak, 30, of Granville recently received permission from village mayor Paul Labas to place bird feeders in both Veterans Memorial Park and Mettowoee Park.

"I think it's a neat deal," Labas said. "I know a lot of people are into birds. I tend to like them too."

Dolyak said he has firsthand witnessed at least 20 different species of birds in the Granville area and wants community members to enjoy with him what nature has to offer.

"I've always been an animal guy, I've always been the animal guy in Granville," Dolyak said with a laugh.



Photo courtesy of the Granville Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation

John Dolyak

"As I've gotten older, I've realized I wanted to worry about what's around me in the world. If we had a guide or guides, I definitely think it would bring more tourism to our town."

Dolyak mentioned some of his favorite locations in Granville to observe the birds to be the parks, the rail trail and along State Route 22. Dolyak finds it interesting to observe behaviors and tendencies of different species, like the intelligence of crows and the communication between chickadees.

He said there is an emotional and mental benefit to birdwatching that sometimes goes unnoticed, which is why he is heavily involved as an activity aide at the Granville Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

"Honestly, it's seeing birds do things that you wouldn't normally realize," Dolyak said. "I would like a

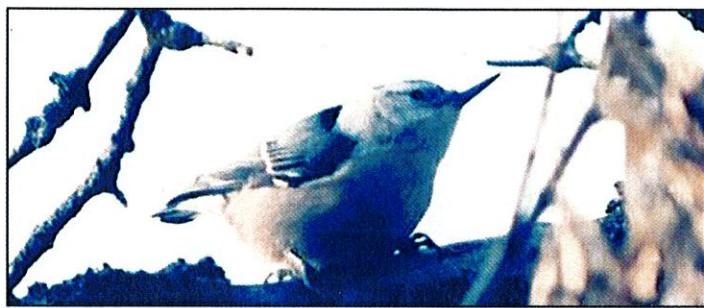


Photo courtesy of John Dolyak

A white-breasted nuthatch

club where we could do guided bird tours. I would like to get a group started and get people involved."

Dolyak's vision would be to have a group of birders gather together in mid-to-late February.

"It would be great to get a couple of people by then, but I would like to get off the ground by March," he said. "In the last couple years, we have had a lot of new faces come to our town."

More than anything, Dolyak wants individuals to look at birdwatching more as a lifestyle, not just a hobby.

"Honestly, the birds tell us how our climate is doing. Without them, we wouldn't know where our world is going," Dolyak said.

To contact Dolyak, call 518-804-3739 or send an email to cedarbluerobin@aol.com.

Town

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at the new town offices at 14 E. Main St.

"We're just cleaning up the odds and ends but the building's looking pretty good," supervisor Matt Hicks said.

"We're looking at the first week of April just so, with taxes being collected, we don't have to move all of the computers in the middle of tax season."

Bradt said the building is still "under construction" after going through one 20-yard dumpster already.

One bathroom has been completed and the other is 95% completed while the heating system was repaired and the wiring and code was brought "up to snuff," Bradt said.

Referring to the North Granville water district, town highway superin-

tendent Scott Taylor said the needle is moving in a positive direction.

After analysis of the entire district, Taylor and town clerk Jenny Martelle learned there are actually 219 registered accounts in the district, not 243. Taylor explained that some were outdated from previous years.

With the new updated system and technology of the water meters, Taylor can monitor when a meter is out of service or if a leak occurs.

"They're amazing. Now, we can tell that (a specific) house is frozen, it shows right on my computer in my office," Taylor said. "If there's a break in the house and that meter starts pumping water, it will automatically tell me there's a leak in that house. So once a week, maybe twice a week during the cold weather when we know it's coming, we'll run around reading meters. It takes us 10 minutes now and

it used to take us three hours."

In the water department, Taylor said 900,066 gallons were pumped from the time of last month's meeting to Jan. 13 with a daily average of 31,161 gallons.

Once an anticipated new well is drilled, Taylor expects the well to pump 20 gallons a minute.

With the recent weather, Taylor wanted to remind all North Granville water district residents to make sure they insulate their meters and put heat tapes on them so they do not break under cold, frigid temperatures, or to leave their faucet dripping so their pipes don't freeze.

There were no pressing changes to operation of the board during the mandatory annual organizational section of the meeting despite some laughter as to who on the board would be responsible for overseeing specific departments that fall under the town's watch, such

as cemeteries.

"For 2022, I think it's going to be a collaborative effort from the five of us to handle the cemeteries," Hicks said, because of the growing number of parcels the town is responsible for maintaining.

One change that was acknowledged by the board was the additions of Sarah Green and Alexander M. Budd as deputy town attorneys alongside the retention of Mike Catalfimo as town attorney.

Board member Ken Quick wanted to spread a message to those in select areas of the town of Granville who suffer from poor broadband connectivity to contact Slic Network Solutions. Quick said he did the week of the board meeting and representatives made a special appointment for him while workers were in the area of County Route 23 and Taylor Hill Road.

Arrest

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with the use of scales, a class A misdemeanor.

On Feb. 27, 2021, a Granville police officer had Judge Roger Forando sign a search warrant for property seized in a case from earlier that morning. The warrant was executed at 7:20 p.m. with three now-former Granville officers present, Sgt. Ryan Pedone, officer Keith Seebode and officer Ronald Taylor.

Pedone said he used bolt cutters to cut the lock off a black Vaultz bag and quickly observed what appeared to be a bag of cocaine along with a sandwich-sized Ziploc bag with several smaller bags of what appeared to be cocaine inside the Ziploc bag.

Pedone also located another Ziploc bag with crack cocaine inside, a set of brass knuckles, a digital scale, a plastic spoon with what appeared to have cocaine on it and a small plastic container with multiple pills, heroin and suboxone inside.

Upon further investigation, the three officers observed the first Ziploc bag to be inside a bigger Ziploc bag that had seven smaller bags of cocaine inside.

The seven bags of cocaine had respective weights of 10.16 grams, 16.98 grams, 27.59 grams, 31.44 grams, 30.80 grams, 30.77 grams and 30.90 grams, weighing in at an estimated 178.64 grams (0.4 pounds).

The bag of crack cocaine had an estimated weight of 54.47 grams.

The officers discovered a variety of drugs inside the pill container, including 15 pills of MDMA, one gram of

cocaine, 12 pills of alprazolam at 1 milligram apiece, one pill of clonazepam at one milligram, 21 bags of heroin, two pills of clarithromycin at 25 milligrams, three pills of Vyvanse, two suboxone sublingual strips, three-and-a-half pills of buprenorphine/hydrochloride, two pills of buprenorphine/hydrochloride at eight milligrams and one unknown pill.

The plastic spoon tested positive for cocaine.

All of the evidence was bagged and sent to the State Police Crime Lab for testing and approved weights.

On March 1, 2021, Forando signed a second warrant, this time to search Emrick's vehicle that was towed from Warner's Body Automotive on County Route 26 in Granville to the Granville Village Department of Public Works garage on Quaker Street. The vehicle

was secured and locked in the building.

The search warrant was executed on March 2 by Granville police, State Police, the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the National Guard Counterdrug Unit.

A hypodermic needle/syringe that appeared to be loaded was discovered along with a small blue plastic container that tested positive to being cocaine. Photos were taken and the items were taken into evidence.

On March 10, 2021, all the collected evidence was delivered to the State Police Crime Lab in Albany with the assistance of Investigator Hunt of the Whitehall police department.

Indictment warrants were issued on Sept. 30, 2021 and the warrants were entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), with the arrest formally occurring on Jan. 12.

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