



# The Monadnock SHOPPER NEWS

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## Airport Storage Now Open In Swanzey *Convenience, Reasonable Rates, 24-Hour Access*



Bob and Christina Furlone announce the opening of their newest facility, Airport Storage, in Swanzey. (Photo by Diane Stolar)

By Diane Stolar

Bob and Christina Furlone, already seasoned self-storage facility owners, have opened the brand-new Airport Storage, located at 251 Old Homestead Highway (Route 32) in Swanzey. Technically, the facility is part of the Airport Business Center (also owned by the Furlones), which is also home to Powers Generator, Baudelaire, True North Networks, and Swanzey Solar. Airport Storage, with its own entrance, is “next door” to the Business Center. Bob tells me that, “In addition, there is an approximately 100 kW (AC) solar array on the property that is tied to the Eversource grid comprised of approximately 310 solar panels. There is also additional land available for further development.”

Airport Storage, like most self-storage facilities, offers a variety of unit sizes at very reasonable rates. Monthly rates are: \$70 for a 10x10, \$88 for a 10x15, \$105 for a 10x20, and \$135 for a 10x30. The facility is fenced and gated, with a fully paved and lighted yard, and offers 24-hour access. No long-term lease is required.

Although Airport Storage has not been open very long, the facility is immediately visible to anyone driving down Old Homestead Highway, and word travels quickly. Thus far, customers have been very appreciative of the friendly and helpful service.

Bob Furlone is a native son of the Monadnock Region. He grew up in Spofford, attended Chesterfield School and later, Keene High School, graduating in 1971. One delightful piece of Bob’s family history is that his grandfather, Alphonse, sold Madame Sherri the land on which she built her “Castle,” her summer retreat. Bob recalls having met her one time when he was quite young.

Along the way, he lived in Colorado and California for about five years, but decided he liked it better here and returned to his roots.

He started American Construction, Inc., which he owned for 28 years, in 1985, and the business was based in Marlborough from 1986 to 2013.

In 2002, he built Minnewawa Mini Storage, also in Marlborough. “There were very few storage facilities in the area when we first began in 2002,” he says, “and we found that demand tends to be for a facility nearby the unit renters’ homes.”

He bought the current property on Old Homestead Highway in 2005, and built new buildings in 2006 and 2011.

What accounts for the burgeoning business in self-storage facilities? It only continues to grow. According to one source found in a web search, there are 88.6 square miles of self-storage facilities in the US, nearly three times the size of Manhattan, representing 52.35 billion square feet. The same source indicated that one in 10 families across the country has a storage unit. Not only are people using self-storage for longer periods of time, they plan on using it again.

What’s the allure of self-storage units? Lots of reasons. Retirement is a common one. Folks may want to downsize their living space, but aren’t yet ready to give away excess furniture or items having sentimental value. Divorce is another frequent reason. Units are often used for business purposes: storing furniture, files, computers, printers, and other accessories that aren’t immediately needed. Those traveling frequently often will put bulky items or valuables in a secure storage unit while they’re away.

For people without a basement or a garage, a small storage unit is perfect for seasonally used tools and items. The same is true for sports or hobby equipment. Storage facilities also allow people to de-clutter their immediate living areas without having to make quick or irreversible decisions about what to do with things that are near and dear to their hearts, giving them both the needed space and the time to make decisions at their leisure.

Moving? The new place may not quite be ready, but the old place has been sold. Those taking on significant renovation projects at home often want to re-locate important or valuable possessions during that process, and a short-term storage rental can meet those needs beautifully.

Baby on the way? Need the guest room to become a nursery? Have you been offered a job elsewhere in or outside of the country for a year’s time? Will you be renting your living space while you’re gone? If you choose to rent it fully furnished, there are things that you want securely protected. The list goes on...limited only by imagination and individual needs. Wouldn’t it make more sense to store a college student’s things near the school rather than attempting to bring everything (the TV, refrigerator, couch, lamps) back home – only to turn around at the end of the summer and take them back? It’s easy to see why storage facilities provide an ideal solution to both long and short term problems.



Cassie Eaton was the first customer at Airport Storage in Swanzey. Her home is on the market so they are preparing to move and want to clean out the attic and garage in preparation. Eaton planned ahead so she could get the size unit she wanted, and it was right on Route 32 so it’s easy and convenient to drop things off on the way by.