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The Balsams will still go first

By [Tricia L. Nadolny](#) / [Monitor staff](#)

Despite being under renovation, The Balsams Grand Resort Hotel will retain its status as host to the state's first voters in the first-in-the nation primary.

As per tradition, the hotel will welcome voters of Dixville Notch at midnight Jan. 10, where residents of the small community will place the first votes of the New Hampshire primary, Scott Tranchemontagne, the company's spokesman said.

The resort was sold last week to Daniel Dagesse and Daniel Herbert, Jr. after two earlier deals fell through.

The hotel is currently closed for the season, but Tranchemontagne said the new owners are prepared to reopen the resort - and buy some extra oil to heat the space - for the tradition to continue.

"They have the electricity on right now but they're not heating the hotel," he said. "They have some heating oil on site and they'll make sure that they have enough heating oil to get the hotel heated and nice and warm and comfortable for people to vote."

According to the resort's website, the hotel was first granted the early voting status in 1960. In order to maintain the right, every resident of the community must be present at midnight for the vote. After a head count in the hotel's Ballot Room, the residents enter booths and cast their votes.

Tranchemontagne said the new owners, both New Hampshire businessmen, are excited to take part in the unique tradition.

"It's a special opportunity to be able to vote first in the first-in-the-nation primary. They understand it and they appreciate it. That's why they care so much about preserving it. That's why they're going through an extra step here to reopen it to preserve that tradition."

Tranchemontagne said further details about the event will be released soon.

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