



\$1,150,000 Settlement

Compiled by members of the Richmond Rooster Staff,
Marie Knowlton and Bob Weekes

For a number of years the Town of Richmond and 12 of its officials have been involved in a lawsuit filed by the Saint Benedict Center (SBC) over its planned 10,000-foot expansion. This lawsuit alleged religious discrimination by both the town and the named individuals in the exercise of their duties as town board members and sought damages reportedly in excess of 7 million dollars. Another group, the Intervenors (abutters of the SBC and some concerned citizens) instituted a second lawsuit challenging certain court findings as the case moved along. This second lawsuit was filed by resident John Boccalini, et al, and has not sought monetary damages.

During this extended period of time there has been no official communication from our elected select board members informing residents about where these lawsuits stand. We understand that the court has insisted that certain matters be kept confidential while legal proceedings were underway. However, this matter has had a tragic impact on community relations, and continuing this cloak of secrecy has led to allegations about supposed court findings and rumors of a negotiated secret settlement reached between our Select Board, the town's insurer (the Local Government Center or LGC) and the SBC, including damages to be awarded.

As your town newspaper, the Richmond Rooster believes that residents deserve to be updated on this matter, the most critical one to confront our town in decades, even if our elected officials feel they still can not speak on the record. Therefore what follows is our good faith effort to summarize what has happened. In so doing we have striven to report fact, not opinion, as the Rooster's objective is to keep residents informed, not to add fuel to the fire. We also must admit that we are not lawyers, but we have tried to cut through much confusing (to the layman) legal language and provide honest and accurate answers to the main questions that seem to be on residents' minds.

We believe the main points are these:

- Residents have heard and read claims that 12 elected or appointed officials of the Town of Richmond (the so-called "Richmond 12") were guilty of exercising religious discrimination against the SBC in the discharge of their duties while serving on town boards. However, the Court did NOT find these officials guilty of anything and affirmed their right not to be held liable for their actions.

- Among the 30 original conditions handed down by the

Planning Board governing SBC's plans to expand its operations, the Court found that some conditions were based on zoning regulations that fell under RLUIPA statutes and did, in fact, violate the rights of a religious institution.

- The town (Richmond's Select Board), the town's insurer (LGC) and the SBC subsequently entered into private negotiations to modify some of the conditions and reach a settlement on damages to be awarded to the SBC. The modifications to the original conditions were then submitted to the Court for approval where they became part of the public record.

- The LGC, Town of Richmond and SBC Inc. reached a private agreement to pay the SBC \$1,150,000 in damages for town zoning laws that violated RLUIPA statutes. These damages, we understand, will be paid not by Richmond's taxpayers but by the town's insurer, LGC.

- The Intervenors filed motions alleging that certain of the conditions as modified in these secret negotiations unfairly favored the SBC and also that a settlement could not be finalized without involving the ZBA and Planning Board whose authority in dealing with zoning issues supersedes that of the Select Board

- The court then deferred ruling on the proposed modifications to the original conditions negotiated privately between the town and the SBC, pointing out that the town's Select Board could not effectuate a settlement involving modified conditions without input or agreement of the appropriate land use boards. The court further directed the Select Board to schedule open meetings (in accordance with NH's Right to Know laws) to resolve these matters, with the objective of reaching agreement on modifications to the original conditions that would be acceptable to all parties under the law.

So the remainder of this case has not yet been settled. And rather than attempt to report on day-to-day developments (the Rooster is a monthly, after all), we wanted to give our readers a general idea of where things stand while the parties involved work on the specifics. When there is more to report, the Rooster will try to do so...fairly and accurately.

Editor's Note: The most recent Court Order along with the accompanying motions, replies, and objections of the case appear in their entirety on Rooster's website at <http://www.therichmondrooster.org>.

Town Clerk's Office

Dates to Remember
Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

July 5, 2010 CLOSED for the July 4th Holiday

Notes From Town Hall
Selectmen's Office

On May 27th, the Selectmen held a hearing on posting weight limits on Fish Hatchery Road from Route 119 to Mill Road and on Sandy Pond Road. RSA 231:191 states: "The governing body of a municipality may establish maximum weight limits...when the highway agent determines that such highway requires postings to prevent unreasonable damage or extraordinary municipal maintenance expense." We thank the many of you who came out to discuss the issues.

The Road Agent, Dana Taylor, with the able assistance of Abby Connell, did a Powerpoint presentation describing the current status of Fish Hatchery Road. She noted ruts, pot-holes, edge cracking, lateral and converse cracking and trenching. The Road Agent withdrew his recommendation that a weight limit be imposed on Sandy Pond Road because there is no other access point and the road is in relatively good condition. His recommendation for Fish Hatchery Road is based on the condition of the road, which he characterized as the worst road in town, adding that it is dangerous for motorcycles, and trucks are forced to drive in the middle of the road which is a safety issue. Taylor said Mr. Leel, technician from UNH's Technology Transfer Program, recommended posting the road to heavy truck traffic.

RSA 231:190 states "The condition of such roads may at times necessitate that certain limits...be placed upon the weight of vehicles that can safely pass across such roads, so as to avoid causing damage which may result in hazards to public safety or excessive municipal expense. The general court urges municipalities to exercise this authority in ways that do not unreasonably infringe on the efficient movement of unprocessed natural resources, manufactured goods and other commercial products essential to a healthy state economy."

Posting a weight limit on Fish Hatchery Road could infringe on a local gravel pit operation located on Mill Road. Mill Road from Route 32 cannot be used to access or leave the gravel pit due to weight restrictions on the bridge crossing on Mill Road. The northern portion of Fish Hatchery Road would be used to access Mill Road.

If roads are posted with a weight limit, RSA 231:191 indicates

that "for any owner of land or a commercial enterprise served by such highway, who demonstrates that such limits would entail practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship...shall be granted an exemption unless the exemption would be detrimental to public safety. For the purposes of this paragraph, "unnecessary hardship" shall include any weight restriction which results in significant interference with a commercial enterprise or land use which existed prior to the posting of the weight restriction."

The Selectmen decided not to post a weight limit on Fish Hatchery Road at this time. A long range plan to reconstruct the road and several short term repair options will be considered. Thanks to all members of the public who voiced an opinion.

New Hampshire Legislative News
July 2010

Barbara Hull Richardson

The House and Senate held special sessions on June 9th to attempt to reach consensus on the state budget for this 2010 year. The Committee of Conference, consisting of a few members of each body, had been unable to come to agreement. Rules for this special session were accepted in the House on a vote of 319 to 39. More than two dozen amendments were drafted to add to House Bill 1, the budget bill. There is an estimated 295 million dollar gap that needed to be filled in order to achieve a balanced budget. Some of the major items included in this bill are: repeal of the interest and dividend tax extension to LLCs (Limited Liability Companies); establishment of a committee to study business taxes; transfer of 80 million dollars relating to adequate education grants from 2011 to 2010; an increase in the tobacco tax on products other than cigarettes; allows towns, village or school districts to call a special meeting without having to go to Superior Court. This budget bill does not include gambling but includes language setting up a gaming oversight authority.

The legislative committee examining the alleged Financial Resources Mortgage fraud is authorized to hire a consultant to review the state's organization as it relates to securities regulation, financial transactions and the financial services industry. The cost of the review would be paid for by the Banking Department, State Department and Bureau of Securities Regulation. This budget bill would also create a citizens' task force to study state revenue and expenditures. House Bill 1 passed the House by a vote of 177 to 167. The Senate passed House Bill 1 by a vote of 14-10.

The House defeated Senate Bill 1, their gambling bill, by a vote of 191 to 141. So the budget has passed for 2010 and there will be no increase in gambling.

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 and any old Telephones, Radios or Electric Fans

CALL DANNY WAHL at 603-239-7200

This is my last legislative news article as I am not running for re-election in the House of Representatives. I am privileged to have spent 18 years in this position and I am deeply grateful to everyone in both towns who have supported me. I wish my successor as rewarding and interesting a time as I have enjoyed. Thank you, everyone, for making both of our towns so special.

Barbara Hull Richardson
 State Representative
 Cheshire County/District 5
 (Fitzwilliam and Richmond)

Editor's Note

John Boccacini

The Rooster is expanding its website to include items that cannot fit into the printed version of the newsletter. These pictures or items will be referenced in the paper issue if they are placed on the web site.

This month we are posting the most recent court filings and court order in the ongoing lawsuit between the Saint Benedict Center Inc., Town of Richmond, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and John Boccacini et al. (Intervenors). The information is presented without comment. We are also including some photos that we could not fit into our last issue for: "For the Birds" and "Richmond Gets May Day Makeover."

EMT Course

Terri O'Rorke

There will be an EMT-Basic (Emergency Medical Training) Course given here in Richmond starting in September. It will be held two nights a week, Mondays and Thursdays, starting September 13 at 6:00pm. The course will be held at the Richmond fire station. Please give some serious thought to learning how to help yourself and your town and to learning how to



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protect your family and your friends. You will come away with such skills as CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation), the Heimlich maneuver, stabilizing and transporting an accident victim to an awaiting ambulance or just simply listening to and allaying the fears of those in need.

Please give Terri O'Rorke 239-4595 or Buzz Shaw 239-4238 a call to have any questions answered or to say, "Sign me up!"

When You Are Not The Owner

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

When might a notarized power of attorney (POA) come in handy? This document enables you to, among other things, title and/or register a vehicle when you are not one of the owners.

RSA 261:148 Permit Required states, "No vehicle...shall be registered...until the owner...presents to the town...clerk..."

- I. A certificate of title...
- II(a). A bill of sale...
- IV. A certificate of registration to the same owner for a current or previous registration period."

But there may be times when it is inconvenient or even impossible for the owner to come to the town clerk's office - for instance, this person may be sick or out of town on business during the week. Regardless of the reason, the owner can appoint someone else to title and/or register his/her vehicle(s). This appointment is accomplished with a notarized power of attorney.

The owner completes a POA, specifying the vehicle(s) that the owner wishes to be titled and/or registered and the person that the owner is appointing to act on his/her behalf. Then, in the presence of a notary public, the owner signs this document. Usually, a banking institution will have a notary public available for its customers. Pam and I can also notarize the POA.

You, the appointed person, then bring the notarized POA

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and the applicable paperwork (such as the original registration for a renewal or the title or title application for a newly purchased vehicle) to the town clerk's office. Because you have the notarized POA in your hand, you, a non-owner of the vehicle, will be able to walk away with a new registration and/or license plates.

Power of Attorney forms are available in my office. Or you can go to the Dept. of Safety website at www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv and click on Documents and Forms, scroll down to Title and click on Power of Attorney.

As always, if you have any questions, please call 239-6202. We are here to help you.

Master Plan 2010 Implementation Committee Update

Peter Majoy

In "Section XV: Implementation of the newly revised Town of Richmond Master Plan 2010," the section goal reads: "Following in the spirit and intention of RSA 674:2, III (m), the town will move to implement all the recommendations in this 2010 Master Plan."

The Planning Board voted that an Implementation Committee be formed to begin this process. My hope is to have an Implementation Committee of 11 including myself. We are up to six members and would like to draw five more to the group. Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in Vets Hall.

To prepare for our first meeting, each committee member will review the 100 Master Plan recommendations and prioritize them

time wise: what needs immediate attention and so on down the line. This will be the focus of our first get together and the results will be reported to the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen.

If you are interested in joining the committee and preparing for our first meeting, please contact me at 239-6058 or pwmjoy@earthlink.net. I'll get a copy of the 100 Recommendations to you if you need me to. You can also go on line and download them from the Town of Richmond web site at www.richmond.nh.gov/. Click on Planning and Zoning. Under Publications, click on Master Plan. An index of the Master Plan Sections will appear to the left. Click on Summary of 100 Recommendations. Additionally, you can view and/or purchase a copy of the Master Plan at the Town Clerk's office.

Benefit Yard Sale!

Betsy Pearsall

When: July 10 & 11, 2010, 8:00 a.m.-- 3:00 p.m. both days!

Where: 79 Winchester Road, Richmond, NH

Why: All proceeds to benefit the 2010 "Susan G. Komen 3Day for a Cure" Breast Cancer Walk.

For the past four years, I have walked in the "Susan G. Komen 3Day for a Cure" Breast Cancer walks in Seattle, Boston, Washington, DC and Dallas. This November I will be walking in San Diego. On July 17 & 18, I will be holding what has become an annual event for me, my Fundraising Yard Sale. This is the only organized community event that I use for my fundraising.

I would greatly appreciate your support. Please stop by to say hello and browse through the yard sale! Come early for a cup of coffee and a doughnut! All monies raised through this effort will go directly toward my minimum fundraising goal of \$2300. This is the amount I must raise in order to participate in the walk. I am gratefully accepting any and all donations of saleable goods that you would care to donate to this effort. Please contact me at 239-7478 to make arrangements for delivery or pick up of items.

I look forward to seeing you all there! If you would like more information about my walks or the sale, please feel free to contact me at 239-7478 or parallax@ne.rr.com, or if you would care to donate directly to my efforts, please go to my website at www.the3day.org/goto/betsynh.

Richmond Historical Society News

Sandy Holbrook

Help Wanted - Flag Custodian

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serve in the Town of Richmond as the overseer of the Vets Memorial Flag. Duties include raising and lowering the flag per state and/or national mandates. Guidelines on flag etiquette are available through the RHS. Interested candidates should contact Lynn Adams at 239-6486.

Seeking Donations - Quaker Cemetery Stone Restoration Project

Someone has stepped forward to offer assistance in repairing the headstone of Ann S. Harkness located in the Old Quaker Cemetery. As there are several other stones in the Quaker Cemetery that need to be repaired, restored, straightened up and/or secured, the RHS recommends making this one big project. We can tap into the Quaker Cemetery Trust fund: however, the estimated expense to do the work is more than we feel should be expended at this time. Therefore, we are asking everyone in Richmond to help us out. All donations will be graciously accepted. If you are willing to help, please send your donation to: RHS - Quaker Cemetery Restoration Project, c/o Sandy Holbrook - Treasurer, 237 Athol Road, Richmond, NH 03470.

Our next meeting is August 19 at the Civil Defense Building at 6:00 p.m. Please join us.

Richmond Graduates Classes of 2010

John Boccalini

Congratulations to recent graduates from Richmond.

Keene State College: Erin F. Nearing, John Paul Carbone, Matthew Roger Bause, Danielle Therese Allen, and Gabriel F. LaPlume.

Monadnock High School: Seth William Dupont, Ryan Hart (Certificate of Attendance - Part-time Homeschool), Nicholas L. Keane, Breanna E. Marston, Raymond Michael Miller, Ashley A. Nash, Brianne Lynn O'Brien, William O'Brien, Sofia Recarte-Rezola (Certificate of Attendance - Foreign Exchange Student), Mathew E. Royce, Catherine Seltzer, Brian Vaughan, Robert B. Wharton.

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Immaculate Heart of Mary School: John McCann
Hopefully I haven't missed any graduating seniors, If I have let me know at 239-6696.

Great Summer Music Festivals

Susan A. Doyle

WUMB Music Festival at UMass Boston - June 6th - <http://www.bostonfolkfestival.org/>

11th Annual Roots on The River Festival, Bellows Falls & Rockingham, VT - June 10th-13th - www.rootsontheriver.com

The Greater New Bedford Summerfest, Ma - July 3 & 4
www.newbedfordsummerfest.com/

Green River Festival, Greenfield, Ma - July 17 & 18 (sold out last year)

www.greenriverfestival.com/about.html

Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, Oak Hill, NY - July 15 - 18 (Camping for the weekend. Volunteers needed)

www.greyfoxbluegrass.com/ws/pages/home.php

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Hillsdale, NY - July 23 - 25 (Camping for the weekend. Volunteers needed)

www.falconridgefolk.com/

Rhythm & Roots Festival, RI - Labor Day Weekend (Camping for the weekend. Volunteers needed)

www.rhythmandroots.com/general/home.php

Deb's House Concerts September 26th - Gordon Bok (On sale now.)

Peterborough Folk Music Society - 2010-2011 Series
Oct. 23rd - Chris Smither

Nov. 13th - Gandalf Murphy & The Slambovian Circus of Dreams

Jan. 14, 2011 - Co-bill with Susan Werner & Vance Gilbert
Feb. 19, 2011 - Lori McKenna

Tickets will go on sale in late August. Check our web site often for more concert bookings.
www.pfmsconcerts.org 603/827-2905.

Richmond Public Library

Wendy O'Brien

Summer Reading Program

Ahoy readers! The RPL has launched its summer reading program, "Make a Splash-READ!" If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time! Drop by and pick out a water animal to place on the library's bulletin board, as well as pick up your summer reading packet. If you or your child are new to the library, you can also receive a library card.

Each time you return to the RPL during the program be

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sure to let a staff member know the number of minutes your child has read during the week. Once again, this year we will be awarding summer reading T-shirts to the children who read for the most time in each age group. Throughout the reading program there will be a different summertime crafts in the library as well as a weekly prize.

Finally, Sat., August 7th at 1:00 p.m. at the Pavilion, we will have a sundae bar with lots of yummy toppings. There will also be games and a wading pool for the little ones. Reading certificates and gift certificates to Toadstool Bookshop will be presented to those children completing the program.

Thank You!

A big thank you goes to the IHM families who sponsored Children's Day on May 8th. It was a cold rainy day, but many families came out to have fun and raise money for the RPL. Thank you!

Upcoming Book Sale

It's once again time for our annual Book Sale and Silent Auction on Richmond Day, Sunday, September 5th.

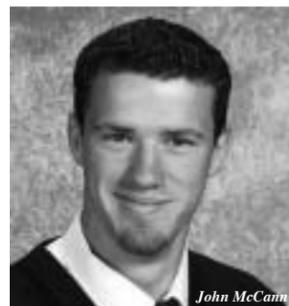
Stop by and see our great selection of used books, as well as our outstanding prizes for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Book Sale and the Silent Auction will be used for children's books and programming. Have books to donate? We are currently seeking books for the sale. Feel free to drop them off when the library is open, or we can come to you! Just give us a call at 239-6164.

**Congratulations in Order
Sister Maria Philomena, M.I.C.M.**

Congratulations to the IHM (Immaculate Heart of Mary School) Class of 2010!

Salutatorian: John McCann (Richmond)

Valedictorian: Rose Doucette (Winchester)



John McCann

**Spelling Bee Results
Sister Maria Philomena**

Congratulations to the winners of the Annual IHM Spelling Bee (which was held on June 2)!

High School - First Place: Rose Doucette (Winchester - 12th grade)

High School - Second Place: Cecilia Bryan (Richmond - 10th grade)

Elementary School - First Place: Damian Bryan (Richmond - 8th grade)



Rose Doucette

Elementary School - Second Place: Lucia Bosonetto (Richmond - 5th grade)

**Cow Plop Tickets
Kim Mattson**

The Rural Preservation Committee will be holding its annual "Cow Plop" contest this year during the Richmond Fire Dept. BBQ on Sunday, August 29th. Please, note this will take place the weekend before Labor Day. If you would like to secure your chance to win \$1000, please call Kim 239-6606 or Terri 239-4595 cost is \$5.00/ ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. This is always a wonderful day with awesome food and a day of spending time with family, friends and neighbors.

**From the School District
Jim Carnie and Neil Moriarty**

SAU Withdrawal Process The Monadnock committee met several times, while the Hinsdale SAU Withdrawal Committee has scheduled a public hearing on May 12, 2010.

SAU Voting. Monadnock used the power of the weighted vote to elect Dick Thackston of MRSD/Troy as SAU Chair and our own Jim Carnie as Vice-chair.

What is the Weighted Vote (simple answer)? The weighted vote is calculated by the number of students from each town; the more students the more weight of the vote. The total town weight is divided by the number of board/budget committee members from the town. Within MRSD, literally every vote taken is done with the weighted vote (both school board and the budget committee). Within the SAU weighted vote is calculated the same way; however, an individual district must request the use of weighted vote - and the requesting district must vote among themselves to use the weighted vote. Within SAU 38, MRSD has far and away the largest voting block; although each individual can vote any way they choose.

Major Computer Failure A two week long computer recovery is in progress at Monadnock - as a server failed during a software update. Why we didn't have backups remains an unanswered mystery. Everything from senior projects, to our new reading improvement software, was halted. We are spending \$7,500 to recover lost e-mail history. The usual finger pointing and excuses flow through the air - ranging from old hardware to forgotten parts ordering. The fact is it was run-

ning fine before the update and the fix went on our existing hardware. I hope the school board takes further action on this failure.

As always if you have comments, suggestions, or concerns, give Jim (239 4948), or Neil (239 4031) a call.

**The RPC Forum
Agricultural Commission
Kim Mattson and Jean Tandy**

The Rural Preservation Committee and Richmond Conservation Commission have teamed together to create the Agricultural Commission.

Tuesday June 4, several members of the Rural Preservation Committee met with the Richmond Conservation Commission to discuss jointly working on establishing an Agricultural Commission. This is a part of our Master Plan implementation on page 7 Sections III: Land Use Recommendations.

What is an Agricultural Commission? The purpose of an agricultural commission is to protect agricultural lands, preserve rural character, provide a voice for farmers, and encourage agriculture-based businesses.

Agricultural commissions are a new idea for NH municipalities seeking to balance growth and quality of life issues, and preserve local character. Agricultural Commissions are options for communities that value their local farms and rural character, keeping land in open space and healthy, locally produced foods.

Richmond's future Agricultural Commission would have no regulatory or enforcement authority. Similar to the Conservation Commission, it would be an advisory board only; aiding and guiding Richmond's Boards, serving as a liaison between residents and helping to make sure the concerns and interests of farmers are better understood. Some of its tasks would include:

1. Advising and working with other boards and commissions on issues facing farming in the town.
2. Conducting inventories of agricultural resources
3. Conducting inventories of historic farms and farm buildings.
4. Educating the public on matters relating to farming and agriculture.
5. Serving as a local voice advocating for farmers, farm businesses and farm interests.
6. Providing visibility for farming
7. Giving farmers a place to go to for help



Stonewall Farm. For those few of you who don't already know, Stonewall Farm is a non-profit educational farm located in Keene. Founded in 1994, Stonewall Farm's mission is to connect people to the land and to the role of local agriculture in their lives. Stonewall Farm serves over 20,000 people throughout the year through the diverse operations of a working, organic dairy farm and its strong educational programs.

Tracey began the program by discussing the merits of organic gardening,

where neither pesticides nor non-organic, petrochemical based fertilizer is used. Then we got down to the nitty gritty...literally. Tracey mixed a large batch of potting soil using five parts organic compost from Stonewall Farm, two parts vermiculite, and two parts peat moss. For a small materials fee of \$5, we then dug into the mixture and began to pot the many plants she provided in the various size containers she provided. We took home what we potted to grow in the containers, all of which were carefully chosen to be the appropriate size for each plant to mature successfully.

What an abundant variety of plants we had to choose from! If memory serves me correctly, the following fledgling plants were available: basil, rosemary, parsley, lettuce and swiss chard. Cilantro seeds and dill seeds were there

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to be planted for those of us who wanted to try out our green thumbs by starting from scratch. This class in sustainable gardening was such a huge success that Tracey offered to do a class on preserving, or "putting by," food. This class will take place in the late summer or early fall of this year. Watch the Rooster, and stop by the RPL often to keep abreast of all the fun and educational offerings.

See additional pictures on our website at www.therichmondrooster.org/

35th Fitzwilliam Historical Society Antiques Show & Sale

Lisa Rogers

On Saturday, July 17, 2010 the Fitzwilliam Historical Society will hold its Annual Antiques Show on the historic Fitzwilliam Town Common. This wonderful event features antiques dealers from many states. The dealers have built up a strong following in this area and look forward to being here again this year. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., rain or shine. Refreshments will be available. A special exhibit, Dolls and Miniatures, will be presented in the Amos J. Blake House Museum. The museum is located on Rt. 119, just west of Rt. 12. Free guided tours of the museum will be offered by trained docents. All proceeds benefit the Fitzwilliam Historical Society. For information, 603-585-7742.

Barbara Hull Richardson Honored Reprint Child and Family Services of NH Newsletter

Child and Family Services of New Hampshire presents Rep. Barbara Hull Richardson of Richmond, NH, with the Voice for Children Award, an honor bestowed yearly to a New Hampshire citizen who has shown an outstanding commitment to and made a tremendous difference in the lives of children and families.

After a lengthy and notable career in social work, many years of which were spent with what is now the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families, Richardson joined the NH Legislature as a House Representative in 1993. Throughout the course of her legislative experience, she has represented the towns of Fitzwilliam and Richmond as well as Chesterfield, Hinsdale and Winchester.

Through her work with the Children and Family Law Committee, Richardson has endeavored to improve economic and social conditions for New Hampshire children and their families.

"Barbara brought the same dedication, compassion and com-



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mitment she had as a DCYF worker, to the legislative process," says Marilyn Mahoney, chair of Child and Family Services' NH Children's Lobby. "No matter how hot the controversy, she was always a calming, reasonable voice, asking always, 'how does this affect children?' She may have been quiet, but she was persistent."

Richardson has worked on some of the most contentious child-related issues, including juvenile delinquency, divorce, custody and child support and use of restraints in juvenile facilities.

"She has never shied away from a fight," continues Mahoney, "has always given everyone a fair chance to be heard, and, always fought for the needs of children and families."

In addition to her lifetime of work as a child welfare professional and elected representative, Richardson has been very active in her community as a volunteer. Most recently, she became a certified GAL/CASA, (Court Appointed Special Advocate). She has also served for many years as a Hospice volunteer in Cheshire County. A founding member and long-term board member of the Cheshire Housing Trust, Richardson has been actively engaged on the board of the Meeting School in Rindge since 1980. As well, she has worked as an advisor to Casey Family Services since 1988, has been a member of the Lutheran Family Services Community Council and has served on the board of Keene Day Care Center.

The Voice for Children award was presented to Richardson on Thursday, May 20 at the Upham-Walker House in Concord, at a retirement party given her by the NH Democratic Committee to honor her 18 years of service in the House of Representatives.

Meadowood County Area Fire Dept Melanie Ellis

The 3rd Annual MCAFD Golf Tournament was held on June 5th at Bretwood Golf Course in Keene. It was a great success and we would like to thank all those that participated, sponsored a hole or donated an item for prizes. We look forward to seeing everyone next year. The 4th annual MCAFD Golf Tournament



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has been scheduled for June 4, 2011.

Meadowood's Annual Auction will be held on August 21st at the Meadowood Assembly Hall. The Auction will begin at 10am and there will be a preview of the items up for auction starting at 9am. If you have an item that is new or in new like condition and you would like to donate it to the Auction, we would greatly appreciate it. The item can be dropped off at the Meadowood Fire Station on Upper Troy Rd in Fitzwilliam on Sundays between 9:00 a.m. and noon or call Chief Robert S. Crowell at 603-352-3853 or Assistant Chief Winston Wright at 603-585-6808.

The Meadowood County Area Fire Department is a self-supported, non-profit fire department. We raise our funds by having fundraisers such as the golf tournament and the auction. Also we receive donations and contributions from the public. Meadowood would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

4th Annual Brown Baggin' at the Pavilion Kim Mattson

Saturday Aug. 14 marks the 4th annual "Brown Baggin' at the Pavilion," held behind the Richmond Fire Department at the Pavilion. Each year we have larger attendance than in previous years. Come and have your brown bag lunch while visiting with neighbors, listening to music and taking a chance on a raffle. Our plans are to have a small craft sale. If you would like to join us with your craft give us a call. Cost for a space is \$10. We are working hard to offer Pam's famous chicken, which was a hit last year. There is no cost for parking, or to join us for the day. Cost for the "Brown Baggin'" luncheon/dinner is \$10 or \$15 for Pam's chicken. We'll keep you updated in the August issue of The Richmond Rooster. For information call Kim 239-6606, Terri 239-4595 or Jean 239-6024.

Fitzwilliam Historical Society "Dolls, Dollhouses & Miniatures" Terri Sillanpaa

Come and experience the wonders of childhood with a special, two month long exhibit at the Amos J. Blake House Museum. Your visit is requested from the seasonal opening on Saturday, May 29th through the last Saturday in July. Hidden lollipops can be chosen by visiting children. This uniquely beautiful former home of the Blake family will display original items,



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mostly from private collections, on both floors. There will be dollhouses from the 1920s as well as handmade accessories for the houses, Harry Potter dolls, Brue and Matroyshka dolls, one of a kind artist dolls, dolls from the Robert Tonner collection, Native American style "Winnie" dolls, baby dolls, fairy houses plus dolls from the museum collection. This delightful collection will not disappoint. Tours of the museum are always free. We are open from 1-4 on Saturdays or you are welcome to make special arrangements for a private tour by contacting us: 603-585-7742, fitzhs@peoplepc.com. Our website is at: www.fitzhistoricalsociety.org.

Quotable Quote Terri O'Rorke

"Just 'cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town."
George Carlin May 12, 1937 - June 22, 2008

Roundabout Richmond Ed Atkins

A look at interesting things in and around Richmond....

First, let me say that I am not an expert on anything. I am merely trying to show and describe some of the things you may not notice in town as you speed up Route 32 to work, or Route 119 to the market. I am not a history

major, an animal expert or a botanist, so I apologize in advance for any incorrect info I may give. Observations and speculations are what I offer.

5/29/10

Memorial Day weekend was a beauty. Temps in the seventies, light breeze, and blue skies, perfect conditions for a walk. Over the years I have been visiting a place that has been referred to as "the rookery." This is a swampy area in the Town Forest that is home to many nesting Great Blue Herons. These are stork-like birds you often see around ponds and brooks that hold perfectly still, awaiting unsuspecting fish to swim within striking distance.

I parked my jeep on the side of the Town Forest road and started walking in towards the rookery on a small path. This is a flat, easy walk in. Approaching the swamp, birds sang loudly, frogs did their thing, and ducks could be heard splashing and quacking. The ducks were the first to notice me and flew off, obviously displeased with my presence. In time they will return, either forgetting I'm there or realizing



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I'm not much of a threat to them. The first thing you notice when you see this swamp is the large number of dead trees. But look closer. High up in some of the trees are collections of sticks, arranged precariously in the crotches of some, on one or two branches of others. Look even closer, you may see something yellow, a beak of a heron. Now, depending on when you visit, it may be an adult or a youngster that you see. I've been to the rookery, over the years, pretty much during the whole month of May, and have seen the adults nesting on eggs. I have also seen the babies eagerly awaiting the return of parents with food. So I can pretty much say with confidence, that the middle of April to the end of May is a busy time for a Blue Heron family.

From my observations, I can tell you that Blue Heron babies are not the prettiest looking birds you'll ever see. Some may argue that they're downright ugly. I will say that they're usually hungry, and aren't afraid to tell everyone about it! These things make a sound that rivals their appearance, a squawking clucking sound. Their good looks and song aside, they appear to be smart, in that they all cry out when an adult comes into view overhead trying to convince them that they are indeed their offspring and should land and feed them. The adults are not fooled by this and land right where they should. It seems that both parents are the breadwinners in the rookery, with one parent staying with the chicks while the other flies off to fish.

I haven't been able to tell if the herons use the same nest every year or not. I can say that there are empty nests this year that were full last year. This year there are five occupied nests versus six last year, and six the year before. I don't recall the numbers before that however, to determine if the nesting rate is staying the same or is on the decline. The fact that there are nine nests with only five having families in them concerns me a little. On the positive side, in those five nests, there are nine new Blue Herons peeking over the side as compared to eight last year! One nest had three babies in it! Space was at a premium in that home when both parents were there!

In all, this day, I spent about two hours at the rookery, including the walk in and back out. I will tell you to not hurry, take your time and just look and listen. There's so much to see and hear if you just slow down and take it all in. Other observances include: a beaver, geese, those ducks I scared away earlier, frogs, newts, a hawk, catbirds, chickadees, turkey vultures, countless butterflies and dragonflies, and of course black flies and mosquitoes. There are signs of things that were there the night before, deer tracks and scat, raccoon tracks in the mud, coyote scat, and even owl droppings with small bones (mice?) in it. These are just a portion

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of the things I saw on that one day in May. There are many I saw and can't remember and many I can't identify at this time. Not bad for a swamp that appeared to just have dead trees in it.

If you visit this place, remember the bug spray, bring binoculars if you have them, it'll be easier to see the herons, and be patient, there's so much to see if you slow down. And please, please tread lightly, all the things you see and some you don't will appreciate it. Leave only footprints and take only pictures!

Until next time, I'll see you 'Roundabout Richmond.
Questions or comments, please call 239-6337.

Butterflies Add Beauty Judith M. Graves

Here in Richmond we are so blessed with a glorious countryside in which to enjoy so many things that God has created for our enjoyment. Butterflies, like birds and other small animals, are drawn to areas that provide water, food, and shelter. I have many container planters around my home for easy caring, and find that the butterflies come very close to me as I work among the flowers. They are so easy to study at a close range or use your binoculars if they are at a distance. Beauty and grace; they will flit among your garden with these helpful tips.

Create your own butterfly backyard sanctuary:

- Locate in a sunny area. Butterflies like direct sunlight and heat.
- Provide shelter by planting along a fence, hedge or building if wind is a problem.
- Avoid using chemical pesticides.
- Provide a warm resting spot by placing a board or a few flat stones around the garden.
- Fill a shallow saucer with water and sink it into the soil.
- Provide food plants for the caterpillar. Include milkweed, thistle, clover, goldenrod, and other natives in a spot where their invasive habits will not be a problem. Other menu favorites are carrots, dill, parsley, and nasturtium. Choices for the annual border include marigolds, red salvia, zinnias, cosmos, and impatiens.

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· Perennial favorites include purple coneflower, salvias, butterfly weed, Mexican sunflower, yarrow, and butterfly bush.

Enjoy butterflies in your gardens? Now is the time to plan to make your garden irresistible to butterflies. A sunny location with bright flowers of purple, yellow, orange and red especially those with clusters of short, tubular blossoms provide a tailor-made attraction.

Plan for continuous bloom through the growing season and you will be rewarded with butterflies from early spring till late fall. One word of caution, however: don't use pesticides in or near your butterfly garden. Most traditional pesticides are toxic to butterflies.

From a butterfly's perspective, all nectar bearing plants were not created equal. Most appear to be the butterflies equivalent of a fast, salty snack or a light sandwich lunch. Flowers like sedum and salvia are a few of the many annuals and perennials that you can add. Queen Anne's lace will provide food for the caterpillars.

A bit of research for finding appropriate plants and a bit of work to prepare the bed will reward you with a colorful display of these helpful insects.

Now sit back and watch as God shows off His creation and you get to smile!

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Definitely Definitions Terri O'Rorke

Here's a word I ran across just recently that attempted to describe a songbook titled "Glory and Praise." I'd never heard the word before and was unpleasantly surprised and disappointed by the meaning.

- EXECRABLE (adjective)
1. deserving of execration; hateful
 2. extremely inferior; very bad
- American Heritage Dictionary
of the English Language 4th edition

Winchester Learning Center Goal Reached Kim Mattson

The Rural Preservation Committee would like to thank all of our Richmond neighbors who donated to help us reach our goal

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to support the Winchester Learning Center. This year as in 2008 at the Town Meeting an article to donate \$1000 was voted down. As in 2008, one of our neighbors donated \$500 to be matched and given to the Winchester Learning Center. RPC would like to thank all of our neighbors who donated to continue to support a learning center that aids in the early education of children in both Richmond, Winchester and surrounding towns.

Vehicle Fluids Continued Joe Boulay

The importance of exchanging your vehicle's fluids.

Hydraulic Clutch Fluid

Most vehicles today that have a manual transmission have the clutch operated with a hydraulic type system. What this means is instead of a cable connecting your clutch pedal to the clutch arm on your transmission it is controlled hydraulically via a clutch master cylinder, then through metal line to a slave cylinder at the transmission. Changing this fluid is easy and will greatly decrease the chance for costly clutch master or slave cylinder failure.

Power Steering Fluid

Here is another neglected fluid in today's vehicles. Power steering fluid is another hydraulic fluid that is important to change. Changing this fluid will extend the life of your power steering pump and the seals in your power steering rack. When power steering fluid darkens it is actually caused from the deterioration of the various seals in the system. That is why it is important to change this fluid before it changes color. Power steering fluid is just that. Some vehicles use automatic transmission fluid, some use standard power steering fluid. Some European and Asian vehicles use a specialty fluid and it is important that the facility you choose use the correct fluid for your power steering system. Otherwise you could end up with a leaking system due to using the incorrect fluid.

Automatic Transmission Fluid

It is very important that your automatic transmission fluids level and condition is checked at every oil change. The key for having your transmission last for the life of your car is to have the old fluid exchanged for new. If you only have your transmissions fluid drained and refilled you are not replacing all the fluid, because much of the old fluid is still in the torque converter. Automatic transmissions that have

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replaceable filters should be replaced when you have a fluid exchange performed on your vehicle. Also, If your transmission has bands that are adjustable they should be adjusted upon fluid exchange as well.

For a vehicle that is exposed to severe conditions such as heavy towing, or if you have a truck you plow snow with you may want to exchange your fluid annually.

Transfer Case Fluid

The transfer case is used in most 4wd vehicles, it does just that it transfers power to the front wheels when you activate your 4wd. This fluid gets worn out with time and usage, and should be changed when your transmissions fluid is exchanged. In most cases this fluid is just drained and refilled with minimal labor involved.

Front and Rear Differential Fluids

Vehicles with front and rear differentials, mostly 4wd trucks have gear oils that need to be replaced. This also is usually a drain and refill process that involves minimal labor. You can reference your owners manual to try and determine when your differential fluids need to be replaced, however inspecting the fluid is the best way to see if it is time to replace the fluid. If you tow a trailer or camper or transport heavy loads you will definitely want to replace this fluid sooner than later! If the rear differential fluid gets too dirty it can actually harden the axle seals and cause them to leak and ruin your brake shoes, and can be very costly down the road. So a simple drain and refill can not only extend the life of your carrier, pinion and axle bearings, but it could quite possibly save you from an unexpected brake job in the future.

Anti-Freeze/Engine Coolant

Your vehicles engines longevity relies on how effectively you coolant can remove heat from your engine. Also it is formulated to protect and lubricate internal components of your engines cooling system such as your water pump. We also rely on this fluid to keep our cooling system from freezing solid in the winter and severely damaging our engines. As this fluid gets older the various compounds or silicates do not stay in suspension as they were designed to do and settle to the bottom of your engines cooling system. Obviously the fluid should be changed before it gets to this point, and you should be having it checked at every oil change. Usually a 50/50 mix will bring your antifreeze protection to -40 f and that is where you want it to be. It is important to understand that if antifreeze is overprotected lets say to -60f the antifreeze can work against you and actually gel up and not flow as it should, too weak and your engine can freeze in the winter months.

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Two British Series Provide Unusual Scenarios

Frank Behrens

DOC MARTIN 4 One of my most favorite series ever, “Doc Martin” tells the story of Dr. Martin Ellingham (Martin Clunes), a top London surgeon who suddenly faints at the sight of blood and must become a GP in the small Cornish town of Portwenn. There he meets, among so many others, the pretty school teacher Louisa (Caroline Catz). She tries very hard to cope with what turns out to be Martin’s form of Asperger Syndrome, a disorder that makes it impossible for him to show his true feelings or to deal other than utterly truthfully with others.

Series 3 ended with Louisa getting pregnant and leaving Portwenn. Series 4, now out in a boxed set of 2 Acorn Media DVDs, begins with her return. A new character, a former flame of Martin’s and now a gynecologist named Edith Montgomery (Lia Williams), also shows up, determined to lure Martin back to London by first ridding him of his fear of blood.

In fact, this 4th series is much more serious than the others; and it is Clune’s perfect characterization that provides most of the humor. Even his long-suffering receptionist and general factotum Pauline (Katherine Parkinson) is less funny and more human as she dreads more and more losing her position and her boss.

As in “The Prisoner,” when a series is based on a person’s trying to get out of a place, it is a given that everything will happen to prevent the escape. So in the very last episode, as Doc Martin is actually in his car and driving out of Portwenn for the last time, we expect and get a plot twist that stops him. Forever? For just that time? That is what cliffhangers are for, and I can’t wait to see Series 5 to find out what happens next!

LIFE ON MARS Having already reviewed the Acorn Media DVD releases of the British series 1 and 2 of “Life on Mars,” I wish only to report that the Complete Collection has been released in a boxed set of 8 DVDs. Here, all 16 episodes are included plus several bonus features.

For those who forgot or never knew, the plot revolves around a police detective named Sam Tyler (John Simm), who is struck by a car during an investigation and wakes up in the Manchester of 1973. There he is shocked to see the sloppy and sometimes

illegal methods of police work back then and gains a bad reputation for trying to bring a 2005 sensibility to those basically primitive fellow policemen.

It is intelligent, a bit far-fetched, but always entertaining and thought-provoking—the last two aspects being the essence of any good show.

The Role of the Governing Body

Terri O’Rorke

How does the Board of Selectmen function?

1. The Board acts collectively;

Authority rests with the board acting as a whole. The same is true in council towns. All actions taken by the selectmen or council must be voted on by a majority of the board at a public meeting that complies with the Right to Know Law, RSA 91-A, or the actions may later be invalidated by a court.

2. One Selectman has no authority;

It is all too common for one selectman to think his or her individual action is final so long as a second selectman later agrees, either in a private conversation, by telephone or e-mail to ratify the action. At other times, selectmen think that any action is valid if at least two of three selectmen (or three of five selectmen) have put their signatures on a piece of paper, even if the signatures are collected over a period of several days. These practices violate the right of any remaining selectman (or selectmen) to participate in decisions, as well as the public’s right under RSA 91-A to observe the decision being made at a public meeting. If a single selectman acts alone, or if some or all of the board violate the requirements of the Right to Know Law, the actions taken are subject to court scrutiny and may subject either the local official or the town or both to a range of remedies under that law.

Exerpted from “Knowing the Territory” 2009 edition.

Selectmen Minutes

Date: April 5, 2010

Attending: JC Boudreau, Wes Vaughan, Read mail and signed checks.

Andy Wood, Chief of Police, came in on request of the Selectmen regarding a State bid for a repeater station.

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Selectmen voted to accept the bid of \$19,829.84 from TriState Telecom.

Motion was made by JC that effective April 1, 2010 , building permit fees for a house, barn or garage will be 25 cents per square foot. Minimum building permit fee is \$50 for smaller construction. Wes seconds it. Discussion: At the town meeting it was discussed that permit fees needed to be raised to cover the expense of the new zoning compliance officer.

Motion carries

JC makes a motion that OTHER on the fee schedule for building permits will be at a cost of 25 cents per square foot plus town inspection and/or engineer fees. Wes seconds it.

Motion carries.

An exemption card was received for lot #405-052.

Vanessa Pickard came in with her Occupancy Permit for Map/Lot 414-015, which the Selectmen signed off on with conditional approval pending the fire department inspection.

Chip Adams came in and presented an invoice for the excavator work that was done at the Vets Hall to restore the light connection from the Memorial Park to the Vets Hall.

Lloyd Condon will be looking at the Town Hall roof for leakage.

Selectboard did an overview of the 2010 budget and the reductions that were made at the town meeting for different departments. The police department and the town executive office and the highway department will operate on last year’s (2009) budget amount. PB/ZBA will operate with a \$10,125.00 budget.

The board reviews items requested regarding a legal matter.

There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Date: 12 April 2010

Attending: JC Boudreau, Wes Vaughan, Sandra Gillis Read mail and signed checks.

Steve Boscarino, Tax Collector, came in to discuss the summaries and actions for the month with the Selectmen and presented to the Selectmen a complete breakdown of these issues.

Daniel Mann came in to discuss a logging business

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Sandra Gillis, Wesley Vaughn
- Mon. 7:00 —7:30 p.m. Town Departments
 - Mon. 7:30 —? p.m. Public Concerns

- Town Secretary:** Beverly Hart
- Mon. 6 p.m. —9 p.m.
 - Wed. 8 a.m. — 12 noon, 1:00 p.m.- 5p.m.
 - Fri. 8 a.m. —12 noon, 1:00 p.m.— 4p.m.

- Town Clerk:** Annette Tokunaga
Deputy: Pamela Goodell
- Mon. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m., 6 —8 p.m.
 - Wed. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m.
 - Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. —Noon

- Tax Collector:** Steve Boscarino
- Mon. 7 p.m. —8 p.m.
 - Wed. 2 p.m. —4 p.m.

- Planning Board:** Richard Drew, Chairperson
- Meetings held at Civil Defense Building
1st & 3rd Tues of the Month —7:30 p.m.

- Transfer Station & Recycling Facility**
- Tues. 8 a.m. —4 p.m.
 - Thurs. 8 a.m. —7 p.m.
 - Sat. 8 a.m. —5 p.m.

- Town Library:** Wendy O'Brien, Librarian
- Tues. 4:30 p.m. —8 p.m.
 - Wed. 9:00 a.m. —12 p.m.
 - Thurs. 4:30 —7 p.m.
 - Sat. 10 a.m. —2 p.m.

- Fire Warden:** Ed Atkins
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 - Town Clerk —239-6202
 - Tax Collector —239-6106

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- Design/Production: Paul Clipper
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- Treasurer: Janel Swanson
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- Stories printed are presented as fiction and are not intended to be considered as being historically accurate as to their content. Public notices, committee reports, articles, press releases, and letters to the editor are usually printed as received.

Deadline is the 10th of each month.

The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions.

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