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THEFT AT THE FIRE STATION

Sean Brewer, Deputy Fire Chief

Imagine that you call 911 in need of emergency help and the fire department or rescue squad shows up at your house, and then tells you that help will be delayed because they have to send someone back to the fire station to get equipment. Now it's not because we forgot to bring the truck with us, it's because when we got to the scene and opened the back of the truck to grab our medical bags, **they were gone!**

After we finished the call and returned to the station, the real disbelief set in. Sometime between 12 noon on Sunday March 16, and 12 midnight Monday March 17 the firehouse became a crime scene. We are not positive how the thief or thieves got into the building or exactly what they were looking for, but we know what was taken.. They took our trauma bag, oxygen therapy bag and our drug bag (no narcotics) out of our rescue truck. They also took 2 spare oxygen cylinders, a portable radio and charger, 4 brand new Scott Air-Packs, and 4 spare bottles for those brand new air packs. Those air packs are 4 of the 12 that we just purchased with money we received from a federal grant. The total take is somewhere between \$25,000.00 and \$30,000.00

I can't tell you how shocked, disappointed, and just plain angry I am, as is the rest of the department. Not only as a member of the fire department, but as a resident of the Town of Richmond. To those people who don't believe that "this kind of crime doesn't happen in Richmond", this is your proof to the contrary. NH State Police Troop C are handling the investigation so if anyone has any information please contact them

Town Elections and Meeting Results

Pam Goodell, Town Clerk

March 11th was a long, interesting and historic day in Richmond . Town and school elections started at 11:00 AM . There are conflicting RSA's (State Laws) in regards to whether town officials or school officials are in charge of the school elections and warrant article ballot voting. Ever since the Monadnock District voted to vote on it's school warrant articles by written ballot (SB2), towns in the Monadnock School District have conducted the school voting in a variety of ways. This year, one week before the elections, we finally got a determination in writing from the Attorney General's Office as to how they thought the voting should be conducted. They said town officials rather than deputy school officials should be in charge of the school voting.

We were also told, more importantly, that the law states that school ballots must be counted before Town Meeting begins and

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be counted in each respective town in the school district. The town warrant stating the starting time of the town business meeting had already been posted when this determination came down. Therefore nothing could be done about changing the starting time.

Fortunately, the school district had an extra Accu-Vote counting machine which they allowed Richmond to use for the counting of the school ballots. At the close of the polls all the regular school votes had already been counted. In fact, ballots were counted by the machine as voters inserted them into the ballot box. The only votes election officials had to count were the write-ins. I was very impressed with how easy the machine was to use.

Counting the town ballots, however, was not as easy since we had to count them by hand. It was 3:30 AM before all tallies were completed. The business meeting ended around 12:30, and counting started following that. Perhaps the town will be fortunate enough to be able to purchase an Accu-Vote machine sometime in the future. Also things should be easier next year when the business meeting is on a separate day from the election.

There are now 804 people on the Richmond checklist. Fifty two percent of those registered voted on the town ballot (418).

Congratulations to all those who were elected. We appreciate your willingness to serve the town. Thanks to all the election officials who helped to make the day go as smoothly as possible. Elections couldn't be run without the help of many.

**Dogs, Dogs, Dogs
Don't forget that all dog licenses
expire at the end of April. Rabies
shots must be current.**

**About the Counting Machine
Annette Tokunaga, Deputy Town Clerk**

As I write this article, the town election and meeting were held two days ago. I found myself missing it all, the suspense and excitement, as I lay in bed at home with a fever. I also abandoned Pamela Goodell, Richmond's hard-working Town Clerk, on the longest workday of the year.

The Vet's Hall now stands quiet and empty. The sunlight filters through the windows, illuminating dust motes suspended in the silence. The plaster walls hold memories of the sights and sounds of that long and busy day. And on that day, the Town of Richmond used the Accu-Vote counting machine for the first time to count the school ballots.

On March 6, 2008, I called the Secretary of State's office in Concord, NH, concerned about the accuracy of

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Wes Vaughan

these machines. I was told that in the recent recount of the Presidential Primary election, it was found that in two wards, one in Nashua and one in Manchester, there were errors in the hand counts of write-ins, something that the counting machines are not equipped to handle. One of these wards had a significant number of miscounts. Specifically, these errors involved write-ins for Vice President. For example, if "John McCain" was written in for Vice President, some counters added it to the votes for John McCain for President. I was also told that in the towns using the Accu-Vote machines where there was a discrepancy of one, two or three votes, these involved instances where the oval next to the voter's choice on the ballot was not properly filled in.

In summary, it was human error that contributed to the miscounts of the 2008 NH Presidential Primary election. Regarding the towns with total miscounts of one to three votes, as with any election where a candidate or article loses by a handful of votes, it might be prudent to request a recount. This would apply whether humans or machines count the ballots.

Although I was not present on March 11th, I believe that, in this year's case, the tallying of school ballots by the counting machine expedited the process. If these same ballots, which had 14 articles, had been hand-counted, who knows when the town meeting would have begun?

If anyone had any doubts about the Accu-Vote counting machine used on March 11, 2008, I hope that you have been assured. Your town officials, having considered the multitude of factors involved in conducting a town election (concurrent with the school election) and town meeting, made a decision that not only helped that momentous day run more smoothly but also provided everyone with timely, accurate results.

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Thank You for Your Support

Neil Moriarty

I would like to thank the voters of Richmond in supporting me for another term on the Monadnock Budget Committee. Additionally, thank you and the rest of the district for not doing away with the Monadnock Budget Committee.

The town meeting took a long time, and I know the Cemetery committee was very upset with me for making the motion to cut their budget. As the votes went on during the evening and night of March 11, 2008, I am sorry I did that. Not because it was the wrong thing to do, we can certainly live with fewer plots for a year. However, there were other items in the warrant that should have also been cut and they were not. Let's just say that people said they were going to do things at the town meeting that were not done.

I am still bewildered by people continually voting to put money away for a town building that we know nothing about. We get a couple points of interest on the money for a year. While we get a couple of dollars interest for a rainy day that we may, or may not ever vote for, many voters pay the minimum on credit card debt at 18% a year, simply amazing! Thanks again.

School Representation

Neil Moriarty

Thanks to the voters of Richmond, Neil and Jim will be your representatives for another three years. Thank you.

Our 11th graders failed miserably on the New England Assessment tests. Ranging from a 46% passing in reading, to a low of 10% passing in writing. Even allowing some leeway for the first time testing using this venue, you can't escape the truth.

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Key Monadnock District Votes:

1. Article One was defeated - that limits the operation budget increase to \$179,000.

2. Article Two was defeated, That limits the Monadnock portion of the budget increase to \$55,000.

3. Contracts: The support staff contract passed overwhelmingly. The teacher's contract failed. The teachers have asked for a recount. Additionally, a sickout was held by about 35 teachers at MRHS from Wednesday to Friday of the week of March 15, 2008 (last day to send info to the Rooster).

4. The building maintenance articles both passed with overwhelming support. 5.68% of the voters want the budget committee to continue. 6.87% of the voters do not want the sixth graders moved to the middle/high school. This was just as strong a position as it was doing the "Building for the Future" committee in 2000/2001. The parents just don't want the sixth graders mixed with the high school and the extra travel is not warranted.

It appears we need new leadership at Monadnock. EDUCATION: We need an education committee to focus on the problems in education. We need an education committee to take over the NEASC accreditation issue. The voters have passed every request for facilities funding NEASC is not a building issue.

If you have a chance, please go to the school board minutes for March 4th. Ms. Pamela Gray Bennett, the director of NEASC, was kind enough to come and speak (at the high school) about our probation position. She gave a very enlightened and positive presentation. If you call Neil (239 4031) or Jim (239 4948) and give your email address, we have an extract copy of her part of the minutes.

TEACHERS CONTRACT We need a new negotiating committee to look at the contract issues.

Firehouse News

Deputy Chief Sean Brewer

The Richmond Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad have run on 24 calls for emergency services so far this year. The crazy weather and operator error this winter have led to a lot of motor vehicle accidents. We have also been called to other towns to assist at fires or cover their fire station while

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they are out at fires. We even had our own house fire on Whipple Hill.

The fire dept. would like to thank Richmond resident Terry Haskins and his crew down at Innovative Machine in Winchester for welding up the trailer hitch that we have on our squad truck. Now we will be able to tow our OHRV and trailer to brush fires or off-road rescues with that truck.

I know that it is hard to imagine with all of the snow that we have, and seem to keep getting, but we are getting close to another brush fire season. Remember that if there is not any snow on the ground where you are planning to burn your brush pile(s), you must obtain a burn permit from your Fire Warden or one of his deputies, and then you must follow all of the rules and regulations pertaining to that permit.

We have received our new S.C.B.A.s (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) that we purchased with the federal grant our fire dept. was awarded at the end of 2007. We bought 12 new complete Scott Air Pack set-ups, and the company that we bought them from, threw in 12 spare bottles to go with those packs. As soon as all of our interior firefighters are trained on these new packs, we will put them into service.

Daylight savings time has begun. Did you remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors?

Meadowood News

Melanie Ellis

On March 16th, 24 firefighters from Meadowood, Troy, Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Rindge, New Ipswich, Nashua, Alton, Weare and Raymond completed a 32 hour Introduction to Technical Rescue Systems. This class has

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taught them how to safely move heavy objects to gain access to trapped victims, low angle rescue, rope work, repelling, air monitoring and the Incident Command System.

On June 5th, Meadowood Fire Department and Dive Team will be holding the 1st Annual Golf Tournament which will begin at 12pm at the Brentwood Golf Course in

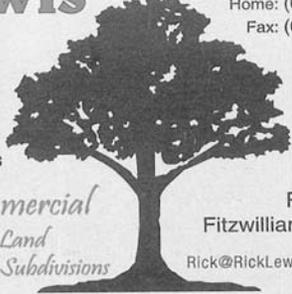
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Keene, NH. If you are interested in sponsoring a hole; it's \$125 and your name or the name of your business will be prominently placed at one of the tees for all the golfers to see. If you are interested in putting a team together, we welcome full teams of four, singles, pairs or triples. The cost is \$100 per person. All golfers will receive a bagged lunch and then after the tournament there will be an awards banquet. For more details, or to get a form, you can contact Chief Robert Crowell at 603-352-3853, Lt. Dean Ferranti at 603-876-4845, Capt. Andy Fisher at 603-357-1031.

Richmond Public Library

Wendy O'Brien

Story Hours

This month Gwyn will present a toddler/preschool Story Hour on "Construction" on Saturday, April 12th at 10:30 a.m. Come and enjoy stories, poems, a snack, and a simple craft. Wendy will be leading a story hour for elementary school children on Saturday, April 19th at 10:30 a.m. featuring funny books, poems and crafts about aliens. We look forward to seeing you!

Love Your Library

There will be a Patron Volunteer Workshop Signup on Saturday, April 5th. Please join Elaine Moriarty and Wendy anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for light refreshments and to find out how you can assist us. Even one hour per year is not too minimal! We need help with our bake sale, book sale, and general library tasks.

Change in Trustees

We are pleased to welcome Tracey Tryba as the Library's new Treasurer, while we say a sad goodbye to Barbara Woodward, who has retired after five years of service. Barbara has worked tirelessly for the library, with work ranging from producing budgets and annual report, to entering books into the state database. We will miss you! Tracey has an excellent background in finance, and we look forward to her assistance.

We hope to see you soon! Our current hours are Tuesday, 4:30-8:00p.m., Wednesday. 9:00am-12:00 p.m., Thursday, 4:30-7:00pm and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 pm

Meet Evelyn Huston

Elaine Moriarty

Dianne Jacobsen's move to Kentucky in May of 2004 left the Richmond library without its devoted, long time librarian. In stepped a most dedicated volunteer Evelyn Huston. She had been a frequent patron of the Richmond Public Library; Evelyn had previously worked at a reference desk for a few years helping her husband through graduate school and wasn't looking for a job, but thought "why not?" Evelyn then offered to step up and take the reins while the board of trustees conducted a successful search for a librarian.

Before long she was completely caught up in running the library. Her organizational skills led to the beginning of many changes to take place at the library.

Evelyn enjoys all the routine details of a smooth running library, from covering books to arranging shelves. She has spent numerous volunteer hours and is invaluable to us.

What Evelyn loves best is the opportunity to help readers select something to read: "Probably my recommendations often miss the mark, but I get real pleasure from the hits." She tries to keep up with current book reviews, and makes suggestions to Wendy about particular books, periodicals or movies that might appeal to our patrons. Evelyn "loves managing the spectacular expansion of audio-visual offerings, mostly as a result of thoughtful donations."

Evelyn feels "the library is one of the very special assets of Richmond." "Once the best-kept secret, it's become an active center of community life."

Wendy and the board of trustees treasure all our volunteers and will continue to highlight them each month.

Legislative News April 2008

Barbara Hull Richardson

For many years New Hampshire was (and still is) the only state in the nation without public kindergarten for every child. Currently there are eleven of our school districts without kindergarten. These districts had been given until this September to offer programs, but now the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Costing an Adequate Education has recommended giving these districts another year to comply. The problem now is to determine how much the state will pay to implement this requirement. It is estimated that it will cost \$20 million for portable classrooms, furniture, fixtures and new classroom construction.

Governor Lynch has ordered cutbacks of \$50 million in state expenses, and there may be additional requests for cuts to reduce the deficit.

The Pew Center on the States recently published an analysis of all 50 states in Governing Magazine. New Hampshire received the only D+, the lowest rating. The report notes that our Granite State government drags its feet on problem solving, puts off maintenance and runs on

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short, two-year terms that means all elected officials are continually running for re-election. The 5 member elected Executive Council, which must approve any and all state expenditures above \$5000, must also concur with the Governor's appointments. Hundreds of items must be reviewed every few weeks, including some out-of-state travel. Antiquated technology producing hard-to-use data is common.

Decisions about how to comply with court rulings ordering more equitable school funding have dragged on for almost a decade.

The state's 10 year transportation plan will actually take 35 years to complete. Underfunding and lack of clear priorities for buildings, bridges and roads leaves our state with serious deferred maintenance problems.

The Pew Center study says that New Hampshire's fiscally conservative state culture creates frugal but fit government - no taxes, no frills, no problem. Actually the study reports that while we provide fewer services than other states, the notion that our finances reflect old-fashioned New England Puritanism is not accurate. Limited cost and performance information and complicated business processes create an institutional inertia that wastes much of our state's limited resources.

These study results are difficult to absorb. However, it is important for all of us to take them seriously and do what we can to improve the situation.

The House of Representatives is working hard to complete work on all the bills before it, prior to "crossover" day late in March. This is when all bills that have been passed in the House go to the Senate, and those passed by the Senate come to the House.

As always, I welcome your suggestions and comments. My telephone number is 239-8346.

RUMC News

Nancy Collins

Dear Friends,

We would like to share with you the exciting news. At our Community Church, we are seeing a new vitality and life growing through the dedication of our faithful congregation and the gifted services of our pastor, Rev. Nancy Collins. We invite those of

you who haven't been attending in a while, to join us soon for worship at 8:45 AM, to see for yourself all the good things that are happening in our family of God in Richmond. We are enjoying lively worship services, wonderful fellowship, excellent preaching with a caring pastor, and creative opportunities to serve God and others.

We are uniquely blessed with a loving community of Christians at our church that truly support each other in hard times, and laugh together in good times. Amazingly, we have been able to fix our historic slate roof. Our children have successfully raised \$5,000 for the purchase of an "ARK" for Heifer International, with \$300 for the local Community Kitchen. Heifer International is a program where animals are purchased and given to help those in need become self-sufficient, by raising animals to provide milk, eggs and offspring to feed their families, and help others deal with hunger and support for their families.

We have many opportunities available for people to participate at our church. The choir is singing every other week, with choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings. If you or anyone else would like to join our choir or do a solo, please see Lois Ray or call her at 585-6691. We are also hoping to develop a Chimes Choir for our young people. We have been blessed with the talents of some gifted soloists and we are grateful for the joy shared and support given in times of prayer and praise. We have a beautiful set of Bells and would like to get an Adult Bell Choir started again. If you would be interested or know someone who would like to lead it please call the office at 352-6005. There is a Sunday School for children during worship following a "Children's Time" in the service. A nursery is available if needed with appropriate supervision.

New windows of opportunity are opening for us ALL at the Community Church in Richmond, as we live out our Christian presence. While churches everywhere are going through hard times and struggles, we know that God is blessing us in Richmond. God will continue to

bless us Hope to see you and your loved ones in church soon! The Richmond Community UMC Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

The Incredible Story of Lillie Langtry *Frank Behrens*

"Masterpiece Theatre" was originally designed to show dramatized versions of great classics or of historical periods from England 's past. "The First Churchills" led the way and many a great adaptation of a novel or a biography has followed. (Alas, a lot of junk was soon considered "masterpieces" and the glory of the series faded.) Among the best of them was the 13-part miniseries titled "Lillie," and it is now available in a boxed set of Acorn Media DVDs. Grab it!

Part of the plot of the 1940 film "The Westerner" is concerned with Judge Roy Bean's infatuation with an English actress named Lillie Langtry. That character shows up in "Lillie" just once but memorably, but the scene does raise the question of how just another pretty face could so become the rage of England and America without its owner having any other particular talents (they say her acting was amateurish at best)-except an iron will to get what she wants and a high degree of intelligence.

As played by Francesca Annis, whose own good looks make the story believable, Lillie suffers an early disillusionment when she marries Mr. Langtry (brilliantly played by Anton Rodgers) because he is a "gentleman" (that is, an utterly useless person) with a yacht. Then she quickly realizes he has far less fortune than she thought and even less understanding of how a wife should be treated. (After their wedding night, he spends the rest of the day in town). In the years that follow, although she becomes the mistress of the Prince of Wales (Denis Lill) and of several other men, Langtry doggedly refuses a divorce-and his end is possibly just what he deserves or rather a bit more than he deserves. The very fact that I wonder about this, shows how deeply I felt for these characters as I again watched this 672-minute miniseries, which was first shown on American public television in 1979.

Actually, my fondest memories of "Lillie" are of the unforgettable Oscar Wilde of Peter Egan. Having seen

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Robert Morley, Peter Finch and others play the role, I have to call Egan's Wilde the very best. If one views only those scenes in which he appears, the price of the set would still be worth it.

The cast list on the Internet Movie Database runs for seven pages, and I refer my readers to that website. I ran off a copy and kept it near my chair to identify familiar faces along the way, one of which was that of Jennie Linden who portrays Lillie's closest friend, Patsy Cornwallis-West.

I will be replaying this one over the years to come. Ten stars out of ten.

Branch River Theatre
Sherman Morrison

Branch River Theatre is pleased to announce the cast of the very funny comedy "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue and directed by Nancy Preus. "Froggy" LeSeuer, a British demolition expert will be portrayed by NH Theatre Award winner for Best Actor, Peter Eisenstadter. And playing "Froggy's" pathologically shy friend named Charlie is BRT first-timer Brooks Campbell. Also joining the cast is another BRT newcomer, Susan Massey, in the role of Betty Meeks owner of the hunting lodge where the story takes place. And, again, another newcomer to the BRT stage is Kimberly Miller, a NH Theatre Award finalist for Best Supporting Actress, as Catherine Simms and playing her not so bright brother Ellard will be Chris McCartie. Rounding out the cast is John Mangiapane as Owen Musser and Jonathan Flower as Catherine's fiancée, the Rev. David Marshall Lee.

The show will be directed by first-time BRT director Nancy Preus, who is no stranger to theater with over 30 years of acting and directing experience in Community Theatre.

The show, rated PG-13, is scheduled for Apr. 11, 12, 18 & 19, 2008 at the Community House of Marlborough, Main St. Marlborough, NH. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., curtain at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 General Admission and \$7 for Seniors/Students. To reserve tickets call 603-283-7538 or email tickets@branchrivertheatre.com.

Congratulations to BRT Board Member, playwright

and director G. Sherman H. Morrison for being one of the final three nominated for Best Original Play at the NH Theatre Awards for "CUFFED." And, congratulations to BRT Board Member Carrie Kidd for being named a finalist for Best Actress in a Community Theatre production at the NH Theatre Awards for her performance as Martha Brewster in Actors' Circle Theatre production of "Arsenic and Old Lace."

The awards were held on Feb. 2, 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. Visit the NHTA website at <http://www.nhtheatre.com/> to see who won and learn more about this organization celebrating NH theater.

To The Richmond Rooster:
Senior Citizens By Elaine Moriarty

So now we can add senior citizens who are not wealthy to the list of undesirables in the Town of Richmond; aka, the Town turning into Elitist Residents Only Wanted.

As we've been informed in the March issue of The Rooster, those senior citizens are supposed to suck it up "as they are nearsighted in their economic struggle".

In addition to Medicare we personally pay out of our pockets \$6,000 per year in medical insurances alone, and another \$1,200 co-pay for medications. We continually try to balance a fixed income and stay above board.

Do we keep our homes in 60 degree range in the winter, drop our health insurance coverage, stop our medications, buy less groceries, stay home due to rising gas prices, give up our homes and etc, you tell me.

When we moved here in 1984 our real estate taxes were \$1,200 now they are approaching \$4,000 and rising. Our automobiles are 1996 and 2000 years cars and we are most grateful each time they pass inspection.

My impression left by the statements of another resident is that some senior citizens are worthless with little to contribute to society, so who cares if they can live in peace and happiness they are going to die soon anyway.

If you have a different opinion from a certain

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group of residents you are not respected. This is the United States of America and I have the freedom to think as I please. We do not have to embrace another's opinion but we should respect that they are entitled to that right.

Living Democracy By Betty Grondin-Jose

I appreciate the loyalty of the multiple signatories "in defense of our friend", Christine Bryan. It is true that Christine has many admirable qualities, and I have been one of the many people who do not attend religious services at Saint Benedict Center (SBC), that have found Christine to be a lovely friend. The issue at hand however, is not on this personal level, but on the level of our public square discourse. The Chronicle program we both appeared on was created in order to address a very serious public square issue. In our precious democracy, it is the responsibility of each of us to enlighten our selves to truths that impact our collective or community, both locally and globally.

The issues surrounding the community of the SBC, cut to the core of what makes a democracy work well---tolerance. Since we are busy trying to teach others around the globe the benefits of this democracy, (however sincere that may or may not be) I believe it is even more crucial than ever to practice this at home. Although there are many beautiful and kind individuals who make up the SBC collective, there have been some rather ugly characteristics of this group that have come to the surface, and have negatively impacted our greater community. The subject most disturbing, which Chronicle attempted to engage in discussion, is the practice of Holocaust denial and the resulting propagation of distorted historical facts. To some, this may not seem important to daily life, given the difficulties we face individually, but this I believe history has proven wrong.

On the Chronicle program, Christine Bryan claimed to have never heard anti-Semitic rhetoric of any kind. This is the reason for my reaction in writing, and my continued expression of caution to my neighbors. With the investigations of the Boston Globe, Keene Sentinel, Keene Equinox and SBC Watch, we now know the extent of anti-Semitic rhetoric originating from Fay Martin Road, and have little choice but to believe that we are the neighbors of a nationally recognized hate group, as the Southern Poverty Law Center has asserted for the second year in a row. Yes Christine Bryan, and many others, have raised beautiful children and extended many kindnesses to others, but is this other part of the SBC collective to go unnoticed and be judged as acceptable? Like the struggles of the civil rights movements, including African Americans,

women, children, and homosexuals, there is an imperative for the greater community to stand with justice and provide a voice in this democracy. It is not acceptable to preach hate and incite violence of thought or deed, towards another because of one's religion, ethnicity, chosen belief, or position of power. It is destructive to a community to assert notions of right and wrong based on these invasions of our collective civil rights.

It has been with great heartache that the story of the SBC has emerged, continuing to shock with the extent of arrogant words and deeds that emerge. Brother Andre's claim of not being a historian, as a dodge to the question of Holocaust denial and his relationship with the preaching of the famed Father Feeney, is especially stark in the wake of his many writings and pontifications. One individual claiming to be a SBC attendee says in the Keene Equinox, "regarding the Holocaust denial, I do not deny the issue, only the MINORITY of SBC attendants do (that I know of)." With all do respect to this brave soul, if a primary talking head of the community is author of these outrageous sentiments, how can that be considered a minority. Brenna Leveille attended the Immaculate Heart of Mary School from grade 4-8, and now attends Keene



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- Printing

State College. In the Equinox she says, "specifically I was told the Holocaust didn't happen, that the pictures were fabricated." And if you still need more to paint a picture for yourself, here are some words from Brother Andre recently, after a visit to a college campus somewhere in our greater community.

"I had occasion recently to be on a college campus. Approaching my appointed destination, I was greeted by a crowd of demonstrators, who happened to be protesting against the event I was attending. The demonstrators were leftists advancing a rainbow agenda of hyper-political correctness on a campus where various organizations and gay pride groups abound, and one feminist women's group recently advertised classes on Finding the Goddess Within. As I walked through the crowd, I noticed that the most aggressive protesters were the women. They were the ones actively accosting people, not the men. Of all the males present, only one looked at all masculine. The rest

appeared biologically, chemically, mentally, and emotionally ambiguous: alternatively skinny and rotund androgens with nihilistic, non-committal looks on their faces, afraid to make eye contact and some sporting esoteric, Technicolor hairstyles." Brother Andre Marie (www.catholicism.org/ad-rem-no-64.html)

He may not be a historian, but Brother Andre seems to revel in the role of dime store psychologist, while holding more disdain for his fellow citizens than love. These are not the characteristics of a quality leader, and I would venture to believe are not the makings of a loving Christian community. Like we all know, every story has two sides. I urge you caution when it comes to decisions regarding the future of our community, taking the story of benign innocence at the SBC as possibly not the complete story.

Definitely Definitions

submitted by Terri O'Rorke

On Tuesday, March 11, town election day, there was a white van outside of the Veteran's Hall with a large poster referencing a local group called the Rural Preservation Committee. There was a list of names referred to as "intervenor". For those who are unsure of what an "intervenor" is, the American Heritage Dictionary offers the following: Intervene intr. v. -vened, vening, -venes 1. To come, appear or lie between two things: You can't see the lake from there because of the house intervenes. 2. To come to occur between two periods or points of time: A year intervened between the two dynasties. 3. To occur as an extraneous or unplanned circumstance: He would have his degree by now if his laziness hadn't intervened. 4a. To involve oneself in a situation so as to alter or hinder an action or development: "Every gardener faces choices about how and how much to intervene in nature's processes" (Dora Galitzki). To interfere, usually through force or threat of force, in the affairs of another nation. 5. Law To enter into a suit as a third party for one's own interests.

This Month's RSA

submitted by Terri O'Rorke

TITLE V TAXATION CHAPTER 72 PERSONS AND PROPERTY LIABLE TO TAXATION Property Taxes Section 72:23-c 72:23-c Annual List.

I. Every religious, educational and charitable organization, Grange, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the American National Red Cross and any other national veterans association shall annually, on or before April 15, file a list of all real estate and personal property owned by them on which exemption from taxation is claimed, upon a form prescribed and provided by the board of tax and land appeals, with the selectmen or assessors of the place where such real estate and personal property are taxable. If any such organization or corporation shall willfully neg-

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lect or refuse to file such list upon request therefore, the selectmen may deny the exemption. If any organization, otherwise qualified to receive an exemption, shall satisfy the selectmen or assessors that they were prevented by accident, mistake or misfortune from filing an application on or before April 15, the officials may receive the application at a later date and grant an exemption thereunder for that year; but no such application shall be received or exemption granted after the local tax rate has been approved for that year.

II. City assessors, boards of selectmen, and other officials having power to act under the provisions of this

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chapter to grant or deny tax exemptions to religious, educational, and charitable organizations shall have the authority to request such materials concerning the organization seeking exemption including its organizational documents, nature of membership, functions, property and the nature of that property, and such other information as shall be reasonably required to make determinations of exemption of property under this chapter. Such information shall be provided within 30 days of a written request. Failure to provide information requested under this section shall result in a denial of exemption unless it is found that such requests were unreasonable.

Source. 1957, 202:4. 1961, 233:2. 1973, 544:8. 1983, 8:2. 1988, 1:3. 1991, 306:4. 1994, 378:2, eff. April 1, 1994

Theocracy Revisited

Christine Bryan

Although not renowned for brevity or clarity (!), I am compelled to make another effort to correct a current misinterpretation of the word theocracy.

While not accepted by some to be the Word of God, nevertheless, the Bible serves as an accurate historical record of ancient peoples whose governing was directly managed by God, through a divinely-selected leader, e.g., Moses. This was a theocracy, or more commonly, the Theocracy. Eventually, the Israelites, or Jewish people, as they came to be called, established a monarchy so they could be more like the neighboring countries. However, due to the action of the prophets and their anointing of the kings, for many years

Jewish government continued to be regarded as a theocracy,

although that had definitely ended by the time of Jesus Christ. In the following two thousand years of Catholic history, there has been a wide variety of government types, but never one that sought or took the form of a theocracy.

Statements made by St. Benedict Center don't point to a presumption that God would choose one of their members to be His spokesman in a theocracy. Rather, they express the wishful thought that the government of this country would be one actively strengthening society through union with God's laws. Even the ancient pagan philosophers understood the effects of private behavior on society. They developed a code of ethics based on the natural law. There are specific modern models, great Catholic statesmen from the last two centuries who headed representative governments in countries such as Austria, Ecuador, and Ireland. Those aware of the floun-

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dering of today's society and seeking inspiration might benefit from a study of the progressive writings and work of such worthy men as Engelbert Dollfuss (murdered by the Nazis), Gabriel Garcia Moreno, and Eamon de Valera. Modern historians and film-makers tend to ignore the

wealth of documentation regarding the success of Catholic governments, but such information may be obtained from the website of St. Benedict Center, www.catholicism.org, via posted articles as well as through the purchase of books and recorded talks. It

would be a delight for me to further pursue this subject, privately or publicly, if anyone so wishes

Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention

John Everest

Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention is offering Volunteer Crisis Intervention Training in April

Volunteer applications are being accepted for Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention's bi-annual volunteer training for crisis line and office advocate volunteers. Crisis line volunteers are a critically important component of services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and stalking. Requirements include completion of a 40-hour training, and a commitment to volunteer for three shifts a month and attend 2 hour trainings quarterly.

MCVP offers free and confidential programs and services for victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking for residents and business employees in the 44 towns of the Monadnock Region. Staff and trained crisis intervention volunteers provide crisis intervention, safety planning, court and medical advocacy, support, and information and referrals to victims, their families and friends. Supported by MCVP staff, MCVP's Crisis Intervention Workers answer telephone calls from their home or other locations (through an answering service) weekdays after 4 pm and on weekends.

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Those interested in applying for this extremely important and rewarding volunteer position should contact Shanna at MCVP at 603-352-3782. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be able to occasionally attend evening trainings. Training schedule will be: Thurs. 4/3 6:00-8:00pm

Sat. 4/5 9:00-5:00pm, Sun. 4/6 9:00-5:00pm, Fri. 4/11 5:00-9:00pm, Sun 4/13 9:00-5:00pm, Fri. 4/18 5:00-8:00pm, Sat. 4/19 9:00-5:00pm, Sun. 4/20 9:00-5:00pm. For information about MCVP, please call 603-352-3782, toll free at 1-888-511-MVCP (6287), visit www.mcvp-prevention.org, or visit our office at 12 Court Street, the basement of the Superior Court House in Keene, NH. MCVP is a Monadnock United Way agency and one of 14 agencies that comprise New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

ROOSTER NEWS

Marie Knowlton

The most amazing piece of the Richmond Rooster since June of 1990s has been its quality of survival. Eighteen years have passed since the first issue came off the press. The years have quickly flown by and each month brings a new venture, a new headline and new articles written by residents who care.

This month I would like to announce a few changes in staffing. Bonnie Becklo who had been the force behind the production has recently moved out of town. Bonnie tried to keep things going while living over an hour away but time and deadlines got in the way. She has agreed to train and consult in the editorial and production area for which I am thankful. As a matter of interest I am trying to learn this production job and have found it challenging and difficult.

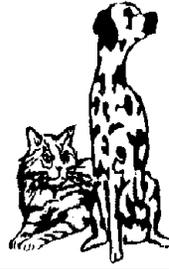
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I am thankful for the expertise of Doug Bersaw who has also given up hours and hours to keep the Rooster looking professional.

Our Treasurer Deb Coll resigned in November 2007 and has recently been replaced by Janel Swanson. Deb was a tremendous help in keeping our financial situation above water, making sure that our checkbook was balanced and our bills were paid. I thank her for that.

A few years ago, the Rooster suffered from its very first financial crisis. In August of 2006 it was announced that the Rooster would discontinue due to lack of funds and lack of an advertising representative. Loyal readers stepped in and did a tremendous amount of fund raising but it was Janel Swanson who stepped in and saved us by taking the role of Advertising Manager. Anyone who knows Janel knows that she has more than enough to do in her life. She works at the Town Hall and has 3 young children who are involved in everything available. When the Treasurer position opened Janel was all set to take it over, on top of the advertising work. Thankfully that did not happen.

Last month two additional volunteers offered to help with the Rooster and are willing to take over the advertising work from Janel. Vicki Provost and Theresa Majoy have agreed to work together as our new advertising staff. With two people working on advertising the level of commitment is cut in half and hopefully our ads will double.

On behalf of The Richmond Rooster I would like to welcome both Vicki Provost and Theresa Majoy to the staff and thank Bonnie Becklo and Deb Coll for all their many helpful years.

CONGRATULATIONS 2008 ELECTED OFFICERS

SELECTMAN - WES VAUGHN

SCHOOL BOARD - JAMES CARNIE

BUDGET COMMITTEE - NEIL MORIARTY-

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUND-LYNN ADAMS-

PLANNING BOARD-RICHARD DREW, MARCUS

BEAUREGARD

MODERATOR BILL WATT-

SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST-BEVERLY HART-

CEMETERY TRUSTEE-GERALDINE LUTZ-

LIBRARY TRUSTEE-TRACY TRYBA,-

The Richmond Rooster - April 2008-

Town Business Hours**Board of Selectmen:** J.C. Boudreau,
Sean McElhiney, 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: Pam Goodell

Deputy: Annette Tokunaga

- 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.
- Thurs. 4 p.m. —6 p.m.

Planning Board: Robert Coy, 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**EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE ■ 9-1-1**

- Selectmen —239-4232
- Town Clerk —239-6202
- Tax Collector —239-6106

Visit us on-line: <http://richmondnh.us.gov>**Richmond Rooster Staff**

- Publisher: Marie Knowlton
- Editor:
- Design/Production: Doug Bersaw
- Proofreaders: Doug & Kathleen Bersaw, Jean Tandy & Terri O'Rorke
- Advertising Manager: Janel Swanson
- Treasurer: Janel Swanson
- Distribution: Melissa Herman; Denise Crowl
- Regular contributors: Frank Behrens, Sean Brewer, Terri O'Rorke, Marie Knowlton, Wendy O'Brien, and Kim Mattson

Advertising Rates

- Contact: Janel Swanson
- Business cards (up to 3.5" x2") \$12/month or \$132/year, 1/4 page: \$30/month — \$330/year Larger ads available,

Subscription Rates

- Yearly: \$15 —Town Residents: FREE
- 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 15th of each month. The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions **E-mail your articles or coments to therichmondrooster@yahoo.com**

Our thanks to the 4 Corners Store for their ongoing support

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