



## Getting to Know Our Neighbors

### MARIE JUHLIN

According to statistics from the Corporation for National & Community Service, New Hampshire's volunteers have dedicated 38.9 million hours of service per year between 2005 and 2007. This translates to an estimated \$759 million annually, given that one hour of volunteering is equal to \$18.04 an hour according to the non-profit coalition Independent Sector. This article also states that New Hampshire's volunteer rate ranking is 18th within the 50 states and Washington, D.C.

In the two years we have lived here in Richmond, I'd be willing to bet that the volunteers here comprise at least half of the percentage attributed to New Hampshire. Well, okay, perhaps I exaggerate a bit; however, it is clear that the people in this tiny town love to help each other!

About this time of the year in 2007, cabin fever had set in and I was considering doing something crazy such as shoveling our entire yard in order to see the ground again to committing seppuku. (I was reading Shogun at the time.) My guardian angel must have realized that I needed help and a moment later, my telephone rang. My across-the-street neighbor, Evelyn Huston, must have heard the desperation in my voice and urged me to stop in Richmond Public Library with her to see the volunteer program in action. I learned that Elaine Moriarty implemented the program and it has since blossomed to eighteen volunteers. Thanks to Evelyn's help, I was also hooked on volunteering there.

Evelyn Huston is the most unpretentious person one could meet. When Richmond was left without a professional librarian several years ago, Evelyn volunteered to take over the position until it was finally filled many months later by our present librarian, the incomparable Wendy O'Brien. During her tenure at RPL, Evelyn changed the character of the library by catering to the needs of the patrons. She bought current best sellers, subscribed to magazines of common interest, and instituted a lending library of both classic and popular video tapes, DVDs, and books on tape. She was a creative thinker and saw the need for a computer to link RPL to the World Wide Web. She also started the paperback book swap section, which has become a popular feature given the cost of a paperback book these days. She continued the practice of



the previous librarian, a lady of discriminating literary taste, by procuring the best of children's literature for our community. Evelyn feels that her greatest accomplishments within the library were the rearrangement and drastic clean-up and decluttering of RPL to make it more inviting and accessible, and the introduction of current best sellers and more magazine titles while maintaining a high quality collection of classic fiction. Kudos to Wendy also, who began the very popular Young Adult section and the expansion and organization of parenting materials. "None of this was, or is, a single-handed effort by me or anyone else," says Evelyn. "Before the Board was lucky enough to find Wendy, I had the assistance from Katie Coll and Jessica Connell, and couldn't have accomplished much of ANYTHING without them!"

Last spring, Evelyn and Dennis Huston decided to downsize and leave Richmond for the big city of Keene. The big, beautiful house on Fish Hatchery went on the market. Next, Evelyn approached the Board of Trustees of RPL to propose having a tag sale that same summer and using the proceeds to donate to RPL. It turned out that the house was rented before the tag sale could take place and Evelyn and Dennis had to virtually empty the house in one weekend before the Kunzes moved in on Christmas Eve. With the help of volunteers Debbie Watson, the Connells and others, most of the furniture went to a consignment shop. The remaining furniture will be sold at our tag sale possibly in May (Volunteers and other tag sale items will be greatly appreciated!). Through the unselfish generosity of the Hustons, our library received quite a tidy sum of money. Evelyn is so pleased that the RPL trustees will invest it in order to buy new circulation furniture for the front of the library. The present furniture is much used and abused and not intended for library use. Efficiency suffers by impeding the flow of material in and out of the library.

Here is the *coup de resistance*: Evelyn is now a resident of

Keene but still manages to volunteer two days a week at RPL. She is the personification of loyalty and exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism.

Evelyn hopes that others will follow the example of the RPL founder, Edith Atkins. Perhaps you, too, would like to volunteer or memorialize someone by donating to the RPL. I hope at least some of us would think about following the example of this gracious lady, Evelyn Huston.

## Elections and Town Meeting ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

On the morning of March 10, 2009, the whir of a Skilsaw reverberated off the walls of the Veteran's Hall. The chairs, podium, stage and floors were covered in sawdust. Extension cords snaked across the floors in brightly colored coils. Two by fours were stacked near the door. The Vet's Hall was clearly a construction zone. As we election officials arrived, we wondered aloud how in the world the Vet's Hall would be ready to receive voters at 11:00 a.m.

And then, in a last whirl of activity, the three carpenters, who had reportedly worked until 2:30 that morning and then returned at 7:00 a.m. to work for another 3-4 hours, picked up tools, wound up the extension cords, and swept the worn, wooden floors. We opened the kitchen doors and looked out. The main hall had been whipped into shape - at least into good enough condition to allow voters to walk through it and to the kitchen, where the voting was held.

On that day, the Town of Richmond had a 30% turnout for the Town Election and a 29.4% turnout for the Monadnock District School Election. 252 ballots were cast for the Town Election. 247 ballots were cast for the School Election.

All town offices were uncontested. All candidates on the ballot won their positions as follows:

- Selectman, 3-yr. term: JC Boudreau, 181 votes
- Town Clerk, 3-yr. term: Annette Tokunaga, 242 votes
- Planning Board, 3-yr. term: Bob Coy, 168 votes
- Planning Board, 3-yr. term: Rick Lewis, 164 votes
- Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-yr. term: Debra Coll, 201 votes
- Cemetery Trustee, 3-yr. term: Beverly Hart, 214 votes
- Library Trustee, 3-yr. term: Marie Juhlin, 215 votes
- Library Trustee, 1-yr. term: Bonnie McCarthy, 214 votes

For the school ballot, following are the election results as cast by Richmond voters:

- Moderator: Bill Hutwelker, 148 votes
- Article One: Yes = 193, No = 48
- Article Two: Yes = 113, No = 128
- Article Three: Yes = 166, No = 77
- Article Four: Yes = 160, No = 82
- Article Five: Yes = 176, No = 62
- Article Six: Yes = 123, No = 113
- Article Seven: Yes = 122, No = 118
- Article Eight: Yes = 127, No = 111
- Article Nine: Yes = 183, No = 46
- Article Ten: Yes = 181, No = 53

The Town of Richmond held the Town Meeting on March 14, 2009. I walked into the Veteran's Hall a little after 8:00 that morning and found a beautiful staircase leading to the balcony, which was complete with guardrails and three rows of benches. Gone were almost all signs that carpenters had been madly working, probably round the clock or close to it, between Town Election and Town Meeting, to complete the balcony work. Absent was any sense of the frenetic pace. Instead, I was greeted by classical music and a hall completely set up with benches, chairs, microphones, podium and more.

The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2:00 p.m. All articles on the Warrant passed as written except the following:

Article 33: passed as amended "to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to add to ...the Public Safety Radio Communication Fund..."

Article 35: passed as amended "to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the...Highway Vehicle fund..."

Article 38: failed as amended "to raise and appropriate \$57,000 to purchase the Alan Harvey property..."

Article 42: a motion passed "To authorize the Selectmen and/or appropriate officials to apply for Federal Stimulus Funds for the purposes of the Town in such amount as they deem appropriate. And to accept and expend such funds if the application is approved."

I would like to share the sentiment expressed at the Town Meeting by various other town officials. The Town Election and Meeting would not have been possible without the concerted effort of many Town officials and volunteers. And, of course, with the participation of many registered Richmond voters, both events proved to be exciting and interesting.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many voters who elected me into the office of Richmond's Town Clerk. I am honored and humbled. I will carry forth with a sense of great responsibility and commitment, to uphold the laws and rules as prescribed to me and to serve you, the people of Richmond, to the best of my abilities.

## Richmond Public Library WENDY O'BRIEN

### Story Hours

On Saturday, April 4th at 10:30 a.m. we will be holding a story hour with Easter stories. There will be a fun surprise as well! Coffee and goodies will be available for parents, and a snack is provided for the children. On Monday, April 6th at 2:00 p.m., there will be a brief elementary school-aged story hour that is open to the public.

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We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to:  
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### Yard Sale Table Opportunity!

Mark your calendars! The library will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, May 23rd to raise funds for new circulation furniture. We are pleased to offer tables to the public at \$5 each. This is a great chance for you to hold a yard sale in a central town location. If you would like to reserve a table, please give us a call at 239-6164 or email us at richmondpubliclibrar@ne.rr.com. There are a limited number of tables available. In addition, we are seeking donated items to sell at the yard sale. Feel free to drop items off at the library during open hours or we will come to you to pick them up. Thank you for your support!

### New and Retiring Trustees

We are sad to say goodbye to our two retiring Trustees, Elaine Moriarty and Deb Watson. They have been invaluable to our library, from running bake sales to cleaning out the attic. From all of us here at the library, we would like to thank you for your service! We would also like to welcome our new Trustees, Marie Juhlin and Bonnie McCarthy. We are very excited to have two such enthusiastic supporters of the library on the Board.

## Vets Hall-Richmond N.H. Many Thanks to the Voter Prep Team PETER MAJOY

The November 2008 elections, the March 10, 2009 Ballot Vote, and the March 14, 2009 Town Meeting at Vets Hall in Richmond were events I was proud to be a part of. As Moderator Pro-Tem, I was a member of a larger team of town folk whose time and energy and shared interdependence made the last three voter events very successful and rewarding.

Bill Watt, our elected Town Moderator, is the first on my list of team members to thank. Bill's knowledge, experience, honesty, and sense of humor helped guide my involvement, especially as that role more overtly surfaced at the March 14, 2009 Town

Meeting. It was an honor to be introduced by Bill who has given so much to the Town of Richmond and to many others in Cheshire County.

Annette Tokunaga, our Town Clerk, gave so much of her organizational knowledge of election procedures, RSA requirements, and training of ballot counters that without her commitment to these essentials, our efforts would not have been as polished and as fundamentally flawless as it was. Her understanding of procedures and the necessity of remaining true to the job-at-hand motivated us to stay focused on fairness, respect, and efficiency. We are most grateful for Annette's role on the team.

Pam Goodell, former Town Clerk and now assistant to Annette, organized and officiated at the handing-on of the Richmond 250 Cane at our Town Meeting. We thank her for being the "Keeper of the Cane" and for the wonderful and respectful manner in which the ceremony of the passing on of the cane was handled. The applause that followed delivery of the cane to Brother Francis Maluf was testimony to Pam's role in maintaining the importance of this tradition.

Melissa Herman, Supervisor of the Checklist, provided the check-in and check-out folk with duplicate copies of the voter checklists, maintained very important files necessary in order that voter registration law and procedures were up-to-date, and put in extra time and effort regarding a number of voter checklist problems which were accurately solved, thus making our voting process smooth as silk.

The following checklist people and counters, without whom the voting process could not take place, are key to the overall success of what we have done and deserve our heartfelt thanks. They are: Maureen Blackledge, Eena Cantrell, Lloyd Condon, Alicia Drew, Dick Drew, Sandra Gillis, Boyd Goodell, Pam Goodell, David Graves, Judith Graves, Bev Hart, Rick Lewis, Theresa Majoy, Janice Maroni, Jack Marsden, Terri O'Rorke, Caroline Polk, Victoria Provost, Stillman Rogers, Jean Tandy, and Alison VanBrocklin.

Much credit is owed the Board of Selectmen: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, and Wes Vaughan. Their combined effort in setting up Vets Hall, making sure that printed material and announcements were taken care of, and overseeing the structural improvements to the balcony of Vets Hall that expanded its seating capacity are very much appreciated. A special recognition and thanks is extended to JC who put in a great deal of time and energy cleaning up after the balcony was finished and making sure the Vets Hall was back in shape for Saturday.

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The citizens of Richmond should also be proud of their basically respectful presence and attention at the Town Meeting, the first one we have held on a Saturday. Turnout was very good, and differences of opinion were handled in a calm, respectful manner during the five hour meeting. The process of Democracy was served well by all who attended.

Special thanks to Bob Van Brocklin for his availability to help in various areas of the process. In addition, we want to extend our gratefulness to Girl Scout Troop 10805 and Boy Scout Troop 311 who marched the flag down to the stage and led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance." These scouts also tromped through the snow to raise the flag on the flag pole outside Vets Hall. Finally, we very much appreciated the invocation delivered by Jack Sears, Assistant Pastor, Richmond Community United Methodist Church.

**A Gathering Place**  
**ELAINE MORIARTY**

From a former schoolhouse whose walls contained a gathering place to enrich the minds of the town's children, to the walls that now contain a library, a gathering place for all Richmond residents to stimulate their intellect, this building is an asset to the town.

A friendly, sunlit atmosphere prevails in this structure. To those unaware of its offerings, we have high-speed internet service (the encyclopedia of the present day), also, through our computers, we have available research databases from the state library (these include biographical, genealogy, archived periodicals and others). We have unlimited interlibrary loan service, and a wonderfully varied selection of books of our own, from best sellers to classics, from videos, DVDs and CDs; plus a paperback book exchange, and a large selection of magazines. We also have strong children's offerings, from story hours to one of the best summer reading programs in the area (we have more children enrolled than Swanzey, a town with a much larger population)

It is evident that Librarian Wendy O'Brien is doing an incredible job by the fact that circulation numbers continue to climb steadily each year. Wendy is also topnotch at writing and obtaining grants that enhance the children's summer reading programs.

There is a board of three trustees who oversee the running of the library. These are three unpaid residents who each serve a three year term or longer if they choose to seek re-election when their term is up.

In the spring of 2008 we recruited 18 patron volunteers. They signed up for different jobs and have done a fabulous job in assist-

ing in the many aspects of a well-functioning library. The volunteers are an invaluable asset to the library and their devotion to their hours spent there is commendable; from working the book and bake sales, to reshelving books, to covering new books, to setting up a monthly theme table display, to checking out books.

There are two volunteers who have provided much longer service: Evelyn Huston, who continues to come two mornings a week despite having moved to Keene (dedication impressive) and Susan Marsden, our theme table display person, who truly has innovative ideas and now has been joined in this endeavor by Marie Juhlin.

The most pressing needs at the present/near future are adding an all purpose room for meetings/functions and increased parking. Hopefully these goals will be attained on the five year plan.

If you are not currently a library patron we invite you to check out this gathering place. To those who do avail themselves of the aged, former schoolhouse/current library, you are appreciated for your role in contributing to making The Richmond Public Library one of the best small libraries in the area.

**IHM Honor Roll Students**  
**SISTER MARIA PHILOMENA, M.I.C.M.**

IHM report cards have eleven to fifteen subject grades per quarter (depending on the grade level), two of which are Effort and Conduct. Honor Roll means that the grades are all A's (two B's are allowed); Honorable Mention means all B's or better. The following Richmond students merited honors at Immaculate Heart of Mary School for the second quarter. In alphabetical order: Honor Roll: Gabriella Bosonetto, Cecilia Bryan, Michael Bryan, Tristan McCann, Monica Sullivan, and Peter Vasilak. Honorable Mention: Maria Bosonetto, Damian Bryan, Ambrose Darwin, Sean McCann, and Joseph Vasilak. Perfect Attendance: Gabriella Bosonetto, Maria Bosonetto, Stephen Bryan, Henry Sargent, Joseph Vasilak, and Peter Vasilak. Congratulations!

**Community Game Night**  
**ALISON VANBROCKLIN**

All are invited to the Old Brick Church for a Community Game Night on Friday, April 17, 2009. A potluck supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. - beverages will be provided. Fun to follow! BYOG - Bring your own games - or join in Wii games, or an assortment of board games and card games. Players of all ages are welcome! Call Alison at 239-4494 if you need more information.

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**Winter Clothing and Food Drive**  
**TINA THAYER**

The Emerson PTCO and Girl Scout Troop #805 would like to thank all who participated in the Winter Clothing and Food Drive we had during conferences. With your help we were able to support four organizations: The Traveling Nurses, The Helping Hand, The Richmond Town Hall Food Pantry, and Christian Life Fellowship. Thank you again for your support.

**Recreation**  
**TINA THAYER**

Hey kids, anyone want to go to Camp Takodah this summer? Here's all you have to do: Write an essay about why you want to go to Camp Takodah and get it to the Town Selectman's Office by Monday, May 18th. The selectmen will read the essays and decide who is the winner. You will be contacted by the selectman's office. That's it! Then you are off to an awesome camp program for two weeks! We are lucky because this is only open to Richmond residents! Here are the dates: Boy's Camp- June 21st-July 4th (these dates could change due to snow days and schools going further into June—if you win you will need to contact the camp) Girl's Camp- August 9th-22nd. Once you are notified that you win, please contact the camp. They have information that you will need prior to camp.

Camp Takodah has given me tentative dates for swimming lessons. At this point they have decided the program will run July 26th-August 14th. The days of week have not been decided yet. Once I know I will get the information out to you. Be sure to check the Rooster in upcoming months. Summer will be here before you know it!

The Recreation Committee will be teaming up again with the Library's Summer Reading Program. We can't wait to get started on the details. Right now we have a tentative date of Saturday,

June 27th. More information will be in the Rooster and posted throughout the town as the date gets closer. Please contact Wendy O'Brien at the library, 239-6164, or Tina Thayer, 239-8777, if you are interested in helping out. This is a fun time for all

**Giving Back to the Community**  
**PAM GOODELL**

The Richmond Community Methodist Church has recently been reflecting on the life of the church. Time and time again the Richmond community has contributed in various ways to the very life of the building itself when it was in need.

We feel that it is of utmost importance, especially in these hard times, to give our support back to the community in any way we can. We want to remind people that the church sponsors a food pantry which is free and open to everyone. It is located near the rear entrance of the Town Hall and the food is available whenever the building is open. It is a help yourself, no questions asked set up. Simply walk in and take whatever food you may need.

Without a doubt there are other needs that we are unaware of. Please tell us—What can we do for you? Is there some way we can help you? Outside the front door of the church, a prayer/request box has been installed. Feel free to submit your own request, the need of someone else, or the name of someone who needs our prayers. If more immediate attention is needed, feel free to contact Hugh at 239-4494 or Pam at 239-4790.

It is always important to enjoy some fun and relaxation, and this is especially true when times are hard. With this in mind, the Community Church will be hosting various activities for the whole community that are free of charge and open to all. Please see the article about our first planned activity, Family Game Night, elsewhere in this issue. We hope you will come to these activities to visit with neighbors, to meet new friends, to have some family time, and to laugh and have fun.

**New Hampshire Legislative News**  
**BARBARA HULL RICHARDSON**

**March 2009:** The Governor presented his budget for fiscal years ending June 30, 2010-2011. He assumes that, on average, existing state revenues will remain the same for these two years. He proposes a number of budget cuts including \$28 million from the Department of Health and Human Services personnel costs. To reduce judicial costs, his budget recommends closing eight district courts in Hillsborough, New London, Plaistow, Claremont, Milford, Hooksett, Keene and Colebrook. Liquor revenues would be increased by \$50 million in 2010-2011 by closing about 16 under-performing stores and replacing them with agency stores. The liquor commission will be allowed to sell additional products and will also have greater authority to set prices and discounts and to determine inventory. By the time you are reading this article there will have been a great deal of information in the media outlining other budget cuts proposed by Governor Lynch.

As I have often stated, it seems disingenuous to cut services badly needed by our residents in order to avoid having

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**6 About Town**

people pay their fair share toward the costs of government. It is also unfair to fund public education with higher and higher property taxes, which affect everyone, including those with limited income. As the fifth wealthiest state in the country we can well afford to care for our neediest citizens. A recent Keene Sentinel editorial pointed out the fact that state and local taxes on New Hampshire families earning a million dollars a year or more added up to 1.9 percent of those families' income. Families earning between \$34,000 and \$55,000 paid 5.4 percent. Families earning less than \$20,000 a year paid 8.1 percent. This does not strike me as being an appropriate allocation of costs of government.

There are still more than 350 bills to be acted on by the House of Representatives as this article is being written in mid-March. They will either be voted "inexpedient to legislate" which means they will not go to the Senate for that body's action, or they will be voted "ought to pass." In that case, those bills will go to the Senate where they will go through the same process the House went: assigned to a committee, which will hold a public hearing, then the full Senate will vote on the Committee's recommendation.

When both the House and Senate have passed a bill it goes to the Governor, who will sign it, veto it, or do nothing and let it become law after a certain period of time.

The Governor's budget proposes that he would eliminate or reduce fees payable by the State to towns and cities. He says these funds may be paid by the federal stimulus funds. However, this is questionable. The Cheshire County commissioners have signed a resolution that they have sent to Governor Lynch, stating that they oppose this budget proposal. My hope is that other county commissioners will do the same, and we can hope that the Governor will pay attention and reverse his decision. Any reduction in state aid to cities and towns will raise the property taxes even more. This is extremely unfair to New Hampshire residents.

Some of the bills that have drawn the biggest crowds to the public hearings in the House include two having to do with home schoolers; a "death with dignity" bill based on the Oregon law that allows physicians to prescribe drugs for individuals with terminal illness so they may take their own lives if they so choose. There are many safeguards built into this statute so that it is not an easy procedure to complete. A number of other bills have drawn so many people to the public hearings that they had to be moved to Representatives Hall in the State House to accommodate everyone.

Late in March there is a "crossover" day when all bills passed

by the Senate come to the House, and those passed by the House are sent to the Senate. Because the House has so many bills, three days in one week have been designated as legislative session days in an effort to have completed all necessary actions in time for the cross-over deadline. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

**Patriotic Paragraphs  
Third and Fourth Grade Students  
(IHM School)  
SISTER MARIA PHILOMENA, M.I.C.M.**

#1: I love America because it has the greatest stores and the best schools. I live in New Hampshire and it has the best sliding hills ever, not like Kansas where it has tons of tornadoes.

#2: I am glad to be an American because we are free. And it is a mighty, good, and caring nation. As a good nation, we help people who are in need. I like all the stores and neat places around us such as parks, skyscrapers, factories and etc. I love my country because of the nice smell of meadows and the hills flourishing in green. The nice blue sky and sun so bright and beautiful make me feel good. It is the best country in the world.

#3: I am proud to be an American because we have good schools and are able to get a great education. Our military has happy strong soldiers to fight for the rights of our freedom. We have good homes in our towns and cities. These are just a few of many reasons why I am proud to be an American.

#4: Today I'm going to write about my own country, America. I think it's nice to live here because it has a nice school and a very nice little town called Richmond, where I live. I love America although it isn't perfect. But I will always be happy to be an American.

**Quotable Quotes  
TERRI O'ROKE**

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead.

**Civics 101  
(or Let's Talk Local Government)  
DAVID BRYAN**

One of the most democratic forms of government within our Republic can be found in our Town of Richmond government.



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The people are the legislature when they vote on warrant articles, zoning ordinances, and the raising and appropriation of taxes. The implementation of their decisions is then left to their elected officials. The Selectmen exercise the legislative, judicial, and executive powers of government at town level when determining issues within their purview. The Planning Board also exercises these powers when it comes to land use; however, their quasi-judicial and executive powers must be exercised independently of their legislative process. This means that an applicant, say, for a Site Plan Review, can only be made to comply with regulations in place prior to the application.

If town officials in the performance of their delegated duties, granted them by the people, do not utilize (read, know, apply) the laws, amendments, or other ordinances in the decision-making process, then the people have the right of appeal. If, after the appeals have been made, no satisfaction is forthcoming, then the people have a right to appeal to the courts. I believe it is because the elected/appointed officials of the Town of Richmond did not follow our own Richmond Town Ordinances, state statutes, and federal laws that the Saint Benedict Center is appealing to the next judiciary level.

Just for general knowledge, when a person is elected to a town office, whether a paid position or a voluntary one (both are appreciated), that person takes an oath to uphold the USA and NH Constitutions, as well as the town ordinances. (See NH Constitution Part Two, Article 84 and RSA 42:1) "I, (name), do solemnly swear, that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire, and will support the constitution thereof. So help me God."

**Relay for Life  
CHRIS HOLMAN**

The Relay for Life is at MRHS, Friday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m. until noon on Saturday, June 6th. Laura Sweeney from Fitzwilliam is the chair for this year's event, and I shall be the DJ for both the Karaoke Kick-off as well as the actual event. It is the

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largest fundraiser for cancer research and support in our area, and we are looking for volunteers to join the planning committee, become corporate sponsors and team captains, and participate on teams. Other donations, such as prizes for our raffles or any work "in kind" is greatly appreciated.

Relay for Life is a community event in which teams of 10-15 people take turns walking around the MRHS track for 18 hours. There is a carnival like atmosphere, with music, games, and activities, which encourage people to camp out overnight.

One of the highlights of this event is the survivor lap during which we ask all cancer survivors to step forward and begin the event by walking the first lap around the track. Later that evening, around 9:00 p.m., all the stadium lights will go out and the track is lined with luminaries (bags with sand and candles inside), which are lit in memory of those who lost the battle and for those who have survived cancer.

Throughout the event there are games and entertainment to please everyone. Relay for Life allows us to educate your community about cancer and will be 24 hours you will never forget.

We encourage people to sign up early, which is easy to do online - just go to [www.relayforlife.org/keene](http://www.relayforlife.org/keene) and enter in your information, or pledge money to somebody already signed up. Our goal is to have 50 participating teams this year, so if you are interested, please call Chris Holman, Recruitment Chair at 603-852-9260 for more information, to make a donation on an individual or corporate level, or to sign up.

**Grateful SBC Parent  
CHRISTINE BRYAN**

After reading the first installment of Vicki Provost's "Does the End Justify the Means," printed in the March 2009 Rooster, I was ready to respond in defense of St. Benedict Center. However, if the issue is their treatment of children, and, since I wasn't in Still River either as a child or a parent, I would rather write about what I have experienced at SBC here in Richmond.

I have had children attend Immaculate Heart of Mary School at the monastery since we moved here in 1996. My four youngest are currently enrolled. I have that deep gratitude and satisfaction that parents experience when their children are nurtured and guided by the caring adults around them. My life as a parent is focused on providing my children with an environment where they are exposed to beauty and truth, surrounded by compassion, support, and challenge, and equipped to function and make a difference in our society as adults. The goals my husband and I share for our children come at a cost: paying for their private tuition has been a strain on our finances for sure, but we

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love the school and treasure its devoted staff. The recent science fair at IHM School is typical of the quality of instruction covering a broad spectrum of objectives. There is much more I could say about the school if I weren't resolved to keep this brief.

My six grown children have all had varying amounts of contact with St. Benedict Center and its school, and all but one have worked there for a time. None of them has authored books or Internet blogs exposing the "dark side" of life at the Center. One of my sons and his wife were recently in town for a family event. Given how quickly such visits usually go, it was still a priority for them to schedule time with Brother Francis. They were eager to update him on events in their lives and enable him to see their children.

As a mother, it is impossible for me not to be offended by the allegations in Ms. Provost's article. Apparently I am either (1) so clueless as a parent that I am unable to observe that they are seriously harmed by association with a group headed by "the hateful" Brother Francis, and because I am so ignorant I allow my children to work at local jobs or mingle with townspeople at the library or swimming lessons, unaware that they might leak the "dark secrets"; or (2) I am in favor of them being brainwashed and traumatized and, again, disregard all the signs that such children exhibit, while pretending to the public that we are an "all-American family."

### Community Spirit BY DEN'AL MCELHINEY

I want to thank Russell and Vicki Provost for hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Night on Saturday, January 24th at the Vet's Hall. The purpose of this gathering was to celebrate and honor the 60-plus volunteers who serve on our town's boards and committees. The event was a huge success, with a great turnout of volunteers and their families. Everyone shared a fantastic spread of potluck dishes and enjoyed music and karaoke. Most of us even took a few turns on the dance floor.

I was struck by the sense of community spirit shared by this diverse and dedicated group. Richmond is a better place because these people are committed to improving the town they live in and are willing to put forth the effort. We should remember that they work on behalf of ALL of us. These devoted individuals dedicate their time and energy to manage town affairs for little or no remuneration, and they deserve our respect and gratitude.

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### Response to Voting and Taxes ELEONORE VILLARRUBIA

At St. Benedict Center there are a number of residents, that being the very nature of a monastery: Sisters reside in a convent and Brothers in a priory, these simply being terms for houses where religious men and women who have taken certain vows to God live. They live in community for the purpose of fulfilling whatever mission it is that their religious order is all about, be it teaching, hospital work, missionary work or the other many and varied undertakings that these dedicated people do. This is not a complicated or arcane concept. It has been a part of the Catholic Church from the very early centuries of its existence, and anyone with a mind to understand this simple fact can accept it.

At the YMCA's Camp Takodah, there is a resident family, that of the year-round caretaker. Would Mr. Provost deny the vote to the members of this fine family who work year-round to maintain the grounds and buildings for the benefit of the hundreds of Cheshire County children who come to Richmond every summer?

Where does Mr. Provost get the notion that no vehicle tax is paid on the cars that the Center uses in its day-to-day operation? While it is really none of his business, a "simple check" with the Town Clerk's office will reveal that yearly taxes are paid on the vehicles that are owned by the Center. Is this a failure to check for facts or another purposeful lie?

Regarding the right of the religious Brothers and Sisters to vote on every issue: Unless and until the law is changed depriving such individuals of the right to vote, it is certainly not Mr. Provost's call, nor is it within the power of public opinion to do so. He may or may not know that when the Declaration of Independence was being composed, the phrase that was originally proposed was "life, liberty and property" as pursuant to the rights of the citizens of the new United States of America. That was later changed to the well-known "life, liberty, and the pursuit

of happiness" – a much more nebulous term, but one that did not exclude those who did not own property.

Recently, the Rooster has become a mouthpiece for the We Hate St. Benedict Center Gang. Anything goes, lies and half-truths (which are also lies), as long as it makes the Center look bad. Richmond is filled with people of good will, most of them not even Catholic, who do not understand this attitude and are sick of the whole thing. Richmond is also the home of many honest, hard-working folks who do attend Mass at the Center. We pay very big bucks in the form of property taxes for the privilege of living close to our religious center and are happy to do so. So, we do contribute mightily to this town. Is our money not worth as much as that of those who hate us? Honest disagreement is one thing. Lie after lie is quite another.

### Town Meeting 2009 MARIE KNOWLTON

(This is a non-official summary of the 2009 town meeting. A lot of very interesting questions were asked and the responses were just as informative. Nothing here is written as verbatim, it is simply a personal recap of the morning. I invite anyone to share their take of these tiny moments in history).

In 2008 the Town voted in favor of moving the business section of Town Meeting to Saturday morning rather than continue to meet on Tuesday evening. It was left up to the Selectmen to determine if, and how, the change could be made. Over the last few years the Board of Selectmen have worked diligently to create additional parking spaces around the Veterans Hall. This year they worked to increase seating capacity inside the hall. Up to the very last day crews were working to shore up and improve egress from both sides of the balcony.

The meeting began promptly at 9:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a brief invocation. Moderator Bill Watt explained that due to health issues he was turning the meeting over to Peter Majoy. Mr. Majoy assumed the Moderator role and reviewed the procedures he wished to follow during the meeting.

Articles 1 through 4 passed without comment. Article 5, to appropriate \$45,000 for legal expenses, created a lengthy discussion. Dan Connell made a motion to reduce the legal fees to \$40,000, which was the same as last year, both budgeted and expended. Selectman Boudreau stated that the board is expecting at least as much legal activity if not more in 2009. David Bryan asked if the insurance company pays legal fees. Selectman Boudreau said that the insurance company is not responsible for all the fees. Doug Bersaw asked why not? Selectman Boudreau

responded that the way the policy works is that not all items are covered. Eleanor Villarrubia questioned why there was no breakdown or details available for the legal lines. Selectman McElhiney said the numbers are very basic and that they do not have the specific breakdown. Bob Carbone stated that he had previously provided a breakdown to the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen McElhiney acknowledged that Bob Carbone had provided numbers but he could not verify if the numbers were correct or where they came from. Lew Whittum asked if the legal costs for the 12 Richmond volunteers from the Planning and Zoning boards were covered by the town insurance. The Selectmen responded that they were. Carol Angel said that she had the numbers that were provided by Bob Carbone to the Selectmen and she wanted to share them. She stated that \$26,000 of the legal fund was spent on the Rural Preservation Lawsuit and \$2,000 was spent on the SBC lawsuit. Russ Provost stated that even if the amount was dropped to zero the town would still have to cover the legal costs. Assistant to the Board of Selectmen Janel Swanson spoke and stated that the breakdown of legal fees provided by Bob Carbone were inaccurate. The question was called and through a voice vote the results could not be determined. The Moderator called for a hand count, which resulted in a vote of 53 in favor and 87 opposed to the reduction amendment. The original article to raise \$45,000 passed immediately after.

Article 6, to raise and appropriate \$10,125 for local and regional planning and zoning. Nicholas Bosonnetto asked if this is for Southwest Regional Planning. Janel Swanson said that yes, it is for dues, secretarial and other expenses. Carol Angel asked why the amount was twice as much. Maureen asked if the reason was due to the zoning officer, the answer was no. Nicholas Bosonnetto asked if the town was requesting help to put together a Hazardous Mitigation Plan and could some of the money be used for that purpose. Fire Chief Michael Pearsall said that they were involved with developing a plan through Homeland Security.

Article 7, to raise and appropriate \$46,500 for general government buildings. Stan Porgorzelski asked about groundskeeping, as not much was spent last year, and commended Geraldine Lutz for a job well done. Selectman Wes Vaughan stated that the position will be opened again this year.

Article 8, to raise and appropriate \$13,750 for cemeteries with \$1050 to come from the trust funds. Pam Bielunis asked where is the money being spent and can something be cut in this budget due to the economic conditions. Geraldine Lutz said that most of the funds are spent on

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labor and that the committee is in the process of extending the Earl Howard Cemetery. Pam asked how many lots are available and is it an adequate amount. Geraldine said there are 40 lots available and it is impossible to tell how many will be required as many families pre purchase lots. Rob Tarbox noted that he is a landscaper and cemetery work is labor intensive he believes the town is getting a good deal with this budget. The budget passed.

Article 9, no discussion. Article 10 to raise and appropriate \$79,325 for the Police Department. Police Chief Andrew Wood spoke on this article. He has been trying to fill vacant positions to provide the best service to the town. This past year several major crimes have taken place with materials stolen from the Fire Department and a shotgun stolen from a vehicle. He is interested in bringing up the salaries of his part time officers to be more competitive with area towns. Chief Wood is interested in weighing the idea of merging with area towns to provide better coverage. He is also interested in a grant through the

Economic Stimulus package that would provide additional help. Doug Bersaw asked why, if only \$62,000 was spent last year, why does the Police Department need \$17,000 more. Chief Wood said that he was lacking officers last year and is working to hire for the open positions. David Bryan commended Chief Wood for not coming forward with a request for full time department and then made a motion to amend the budget down to \$65,000. Barbara Radcliff Rogers asked Chief Wood to explain what the cut would do to his budget. Andy explained that he would work with the will of the town, but that less money would result in less service. Fred Goldberg said that at some point the town needs to show support for the Police Department.

Discussion occurred on the Economic Stimulus package. Chief Wood stated that there is a grant that is available which would allow the town to hire an additional officer full time for three years, the fourth year the position would be paid for by the town. Sandra Gillis thanked Chief Wood for always being there. Victoria Provost said she had been told that Andy always has his radio on and will respond whenever he is needed, even when he is off duty, he is willing to answer a call.

Jim Carnie said that the police department is important and asked if we could come to the middle and agree on an amount

between last year and this year. Jim proposed \$72,611. David Bryan agreed to amend his motion to the new amount. Alan Schmidt asked how would the cut affect the department. Chief Wood said that he is trying to bring his officers up to a competitive salary they are \$3.00 behind all other towns. Kathy Davis asked for additional information on the department lines. Civilian support is the secretary and a part time officer, equipment and repairs include an updated computer and other defense items. Chief Wood said that they are currently down to one vehicle due to his recent accident. A new vehicle is on order that will be paid for through insurance and capital reserve. The question was called and the reduction motion failed by a hand count of 79 to 72. The original motion passed in favor.

A motion was made and approved to restrict articles 1-10. This motion prohibits articles 1 through 10 from being discussed again. Articles 11 – 32 had little or no discussion. Articles 33-38 to add funds to the capital reserve resulted in reductions to the amount requested.

Article 33 funding of Public Safety Radio Communication was cut to \$2,500. Article 34 to fund Municipal Buildings was approved at the \$10,000 requested amount. Article 35 the

Highway Vehicle fund was cut to \$5,000. Article 38 to purchase property on Route 119 was denied.

Article 39 to add a Zoning Compliance Officer was brought before the town again after being defeated in previous years. Terri O'Rorke spoke on the article. She spoke of the need to protect the town resources of land, water, privacy and the environment. The officer would determine if zoning laws are being adhered to. The officer would be required to attend planning board meetings. She stated it would protect the town against lawsuits. Michael Pearsall asked how the position would protect against lawsuits. Terri stated the position would stop non compliance issues that could become lawsuits in the future. Mr. Villarubia said that last year this article was voted down because we have an agency in place to take care of these items. Victoria Provost said that the agency referred to was the Board of Selectmen who are already overtaxed in their duties and hardly have the time to review every building issue. Barbara Radcliff Rogers said that if the cost is offset by fees then there is no tax increase. Gerald Margand believes this is an invasion of privacy, he is worried about intrusion and serial killers. Billy Sullivan is concerned that he will not be

allowed to use his land the way he wants to use it. Barbara Radcliff Rogers noted that the position is not going to enforce rules that do not already exist. Eleanore Villarubia asked why \$2,500 was requested if the amount will be paid by fees. The \$2,500 is start up costs. Kim Mattson offered that the position will fuse the communication between Planning, Zoning and Board of Selectmen.

The question was moved; however a request to vote via Australian ballot was submitted by five voters. Voters were asked to go through the Supervisors, pick up a ballot and vote in writing. The motion passed in favor 75 -61 to hire a Zoning Compliance Officer.

A motion was made to restrict articles 34-39.

**Selectmen Meetings Minutes**

**Selectmen's Meeting 2 February 2009**

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Andy Wood, Chief of Police, came in to update the Selectmen on police issues and give a report on the recent damage to the Tahoe. Dick Drew was in for the Selectmen to sign the mylar map he presented regarding the boundary line adjustment with Richard Dickinson. A copy of the map was placed in the foyer of the Town Hall for public viewing. Marie Juhlin was in to meet with the Selectmen. She has been recommended by our librarian, Wendy O'Brien, to replace Deb Watson who resigned, as a Library Trustee. Marie was appointed and sworn in as Library Trustee until Town elections. Peter Majoy and Bill Watt came in to go over the upcoming election and Town of Richmond Town Meeting with the Selectmen. Annette, Town Clerk, came in to answer a few questions for the Selectmen regarding secret ballot procedure at Town Meeting. The Selectmen went into non-public session on a legal matter per RSA 91-A:3 II a. at 8:09. The Board exited non-public session at 8:20 p.m. Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk, came in to discuss the ballot. JC called Jack Beal, electrician, for the status of the Highway Garage. He has completed the wiring and recommends waiting to do the underground service until the ground thaws. JC made a motion not to recommend Article 48 regarding purchasing the Harvey residence. Wes seconded the motion. All were in favor. Sean made a motion to recommend Article 49 regarding the Zoning Compliance Officer position. Wes seconded the motion. JC has expressed that a Building Inspector position is more important at this time. Sean feels that a combination of the two would be ideal, but that this is a step in the right direction. The selectmen voted 2 to 1 to recommend. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

**Selectmen's Meeting 9 February 2009**

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Mike Pearsall came in to discuss the purchase of a used fire truck. Price was a factor. JC discussed with Mike the fact that we may need a lighter weight fire truck that would be able to go over some of the bridges in town that are rated 10 ton or less. Mike will return with a plan. Bob Coy, Dick Drew, Butch Morin and Mark Beauregard came in to discuss proposed Zoning Ordinances. Pam Goodell, Deputy Town Clerk, came in to discuss the 250 Cane issue for the upcoming Town Meeting presentation. Pam will present the cane. Bill Watt, Town Moderator, came in to discuss seating and voting procedure at the Town Meeting with the Selectmen. Jacob of Hutter Construction was in with his OCC for Building Permit 2008-030. He still needs an as-built driveway plan from the property subdividers before the Selectmen can sign off. Andy Wood, Police Chief, came in to discuss a potential vehicle purchase to replace the Tahoe that was totaled in an accident. The selectmen decided to accept Inventories on April 4th from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. JC moved to accept the list of 2008 Encumbrances submitted by Janel Swanson. Sean seconded. All were in favor. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

**Selectmen's Meeting 16 February 2009**

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Neel Patel, Southwest Region Planning Commission, and Dana Taylor, Road Agent, were in to go over State Aid Highway Block Grant with the Selectmen. Neel is verifying the total road mileage. Sean left early. He was not feeling well. Sharon Monahan was in to talk to the Selectmen about the old highway garage and wetlands delineation. JC has requested Sharon draft a letter to show whether it is okay to pull the shed down without a permit. Sharon will send the letter explaining her findings. Peter Majoy and William Watt came in to discuss preparations for the upcoming Town Meeting on Saturday the 14th of March 2009. Peter Majoy asked to go into nonpublic session to discuss a legal matter. Wes made a motion to go into nonpublic session at 8:05 p.m. per RSA 91-A 3 II (e). JC seconded. All were in favor. The Board exited nonpublic session at 8:12 p.m. JC made a motion that the minutes to the nonpublic session be sealed. Wes seconded. All were in favor. Mrs. Julie McCann was in to discuss her Vet's Hall rental request. Mike Pearsall came in to discuss lighter weight fire trucks. JC says we need to plan for how to legally and safely protect structures on both sides of the smaller bridges in Town. Signed three Intents to Cut, Maps 408-006, 408-096 through 100 and 408-015, 409-103 and 409-105. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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**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.

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Deputy: Pamela Goodell  
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■ Wed. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m.  
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