



## Getting to know our Neighbors

Marie Juhlin

### David and Christine Bryan

After our move here, I began to volunteer at the library on a weekly basis. For such a small town, we have a large percentage of residents who are patrons of the library. I've met and am still meeting some of the nicest people in Richmond! My only regret is that I cannot remember each and every person's name.

There was one woman in particular that summer who intrigued me as soon as she walked in the library. She was taller than most of our female patrons, and walked with perfect posture and the grace of a model. She carried herself with a sense of self-assuredness that, I thought, was quite startling for someone who seemed so young. With a smile that lit up the room, she began a conversation with another patron, obviously a friend. I couldn't help but continue to watch her. She smiled effortlessly and there was a musical cadence to her speech. I realized how rude I must have looked to anyone else so I got back to my tasks at hand. Later, I was absorbed in reading the jackets of books that I was supposed to be covering. A friendly voice said, "Hello, I'm Christine Bryan. We haven't met. What's your name?" From that day on, we have shared ideas about education, gardening, and our families.

Born in rural Oregon, Chris was raised just over the Oregon border in California. This area was a drained lake basin opened up by the federal government to veterans for farming and supporting their families. Chris comes from a large family and is used to living on dirt roads, as many of us do here in Richmond, and in virtually the same climate. Ironically, Christine was familiar with this area while still living in California. Her family regularly received a pamphlet written by Barbara Radcliff Rogers, a native of New Hampshire, who shared her research and experiences on travelling, gardening, hobbies, crafts, etc. Another link to this part of the country was an ancestor who lived in Jaffrey, who volunteered to serve in our budding nation's war against the British. As time passed, other ancestors ventured westward and she is proud of the several who opened the first general store in Oregon.

Just as her ancestors moved across the country, Christine

and her husband, David, also crossed the country, but eastward. They lived in several small towns in the West before their final destination: Richmond. As David explains, he and Christine have a love of community spirit and the feeling of family that a small town generally provides. The Bryans have ten (yes, that IS ten) children and spent many happy years sharing their love of fiddling, song, and contra dancing. They are all intelligent, loyal, and dedicated to both family and community. They all share a thirst for knowledge as well as just enjoying a good story. The whole family was (and those who are Richmond residents are still) active within the community, participating in craft fairs, concerts, theater groups, and chorale groups. Christine has sung with the Keene Chorale and has served on several committees here in Richmond, including the Recreation Committee. She is particularly grateful for the work of the volunteers who helped put up the children's playground equipment and for those who supported local youth baseball. Of Christine

and David's children, four are still home, although the oldest at home, Michael, will begin at Thomas More College in Merrimack this year. Two of their daughters are sisters at St. Benedict Center, and another son is in Alaska. At the time of this writing, they have eight grandchildren, with nine, ten, and eleven, on the way. In January, the entire family all came together for a wedding. It was one of the happiest moments in Christine's life.

David Bryan was born and raised in suburban San Diego. When I asked him how a "city boy" met the "country girl" of his dreams, he chuckles as he tells me this story. While in college, it happened that one of Christine's brothers was his roommate. David was invited to his roommate's family homestead over the course of a school holiday. The family was warm and welcoming and David says that Christine's mother was a fabulous cook. After meeting and being charmed by Christine, he said to himself: "Wow! If this girl can cook as well as her mother, she's the one for me!" David himself is a kind and very charming man and this story book courtship ended in marriage at the end of that school year!

It was difficult to get David to talk about himself. He confesses, as many of us have, that our college majors do not fit our lifestyles as we journey through life. David started working with Vinnie Koenig, who recognized his talents and became



David's mentor in building and construction. David loves to build things, usually for others. He built a "Better Homes & Gardens" version of a tree house for his children but it turned out to be a bit too high and scary for the smaller ones. David jokes that he should have made contingency plans for an elevator. He has also been a sponsor for the Richmond Rooster. If you need fine cabinetry or general carpentry work, you can be sure that your project will exceed your expectations if you leave it to David!

Somehow our conversation always came back to his family. He encouraged the children to play baseball and this year they have children in Cal Ripken Youth Baseball. His greatest enjoyment was packing the family into the "old wagon" and heading off to one of the many festivals they attended. Along the way, Christine would start a song and everyone would join in. Also at many of these festivals, the family would perform. Each child plays a string instrument and the whole family loves to sing and dance. In fact, the Bryans' oldest four daughters taught the smaller ones how to play the fiddle.

I met David at the last "Meet the Candidates" night at Veterans' Hall. The night was one of those New Hampshire twenty degree nights with a wind chill of -140. I spotted Christine bundled up and shivering in a chair to. I sat down next to her and we chatted a bit. Then I heard a masculine voice say, "Here's your tea, hon." That tall sweetheart of a man returned to their car on this miserable night to retrieve Christine's mug of hot tea. She thanked him and they smiled at each other as, I imagined, the first time David met Christine.

Please look through the Richmond Rooster for David's ad. Although most of his work is in Swanzey and Keene, he loves to work locally. After reading about the Bryan family unit, you guessed that, didn't you?!

**Thank You**  
**Annette Tokunaga**

I pulled the curtain across the glass window, blocking my view of the Town Hall lobby. Pam flipped the sign on the door, the chain jingling against the wood. Then she closed and locked the door. We paused and looked at each other. "Well, that wasn't bad at all," I said. "I was expecting a lot of angry people."

We had just completed our first three days of work after the appearance of the May 2009 issue of *The Richmond Rooster*. In it was published my article with the benign and unassuming title of "Vehicle Registrations." Benign or not, I felt like I was dropping

a bomb. I'd been waiting in trepidation. I'd been imagining what was to come. An uproar. A rebellion. Registrations flying. Tempers flaring. Feet stomping. Voices raging. Instead, as Pam said, "People have actually been pretty good about it." The storm never came.

And so, at this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have registered vehicles since early May. Almost everyone has been understanding and pleasant. And, for those people who might have expressed impatience or frustration, I believe that, in most if not all instances, we together were able to arrive at a place of commonality and respect.

I am forever thankful to those of you who walk through my office door. Everyday I strive to remember that it could be me standing on the other side of the counter. You are my constant reminder to be knowledgeable at what I do, all the more to serve you well, and to be professional, friendly and gracious, for this is what I would wish for myself.

And for those of you who might not know what I'm talking about, who might have overlooked The Richmond Rooster article, I will summarize that cumbersome article in one sentence. You must be the OWNER of the vehicle in order to complete any vehicle registration or application for title. For more details or answers to questions, please call the town clerk's office at 239-6202.

**Richmond Public Library**  
**Wendy O'Brien**

On Sat., August 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the Veterans' Hall, we are pleased to invite a performer to wrap up our summer reading program. Rick Goldin will be performing "I Like to Read," a fun filled presentation featuring original and familiar songs (with guitar accompaniment), puppets, movement activities, child-participation, and lots of silliness and fun for the whole family. A sundae bar will wrap up this fun event. Reading certificates and gift certificates to Toadstool Bookshop will be presented to those children completing the program. For more information please call us at 239-6164, or email at richmondpubliclibrar@ne.rr.com.

**Results of Yard Sale**

We are so pleased to announce that we raised almost \$500 from our yard sale on Memorial Day. The funds from this sale will be used to purchase a new circulation desk for the Library. Heartfelt thanks go to Evelyn Huston who donated most of the yard sale materials. In addition, we would like to thank our volunteers for their assistance before, during, and after the sale: Sandee Auvil, Jill Bosonetto, Steve and Marie Juhlin, the Connell family, Anthony Marinello, Bonnie McCarthy, Elaine Moriarty, Carol

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Oxx, Janel Swanson, and Steve Wyatt. Thanks also go to all of you who donated materials! It is truly appreciated.

**Library Garden**

We are so pleased that Elaine Moriarty has adopted the garden and planter in front of the Library. She takes beautiful care of the plants, and has even brought in some her own! Thank you Elaine!

**Computer Assistance**

The Library currently has one computer available for patron use with high speed internet access. Patrons and guests are allowed to use it for a half-hour at a time, and then for longer if no one is waiting. Feel free to phone ahead (239-6164) to reserve a time slot. We have had many people coming in needing assistance with job searches in this tight economy. Neil Moriarty has kindly agreed to assist those needing help with the computer, including navigating the web, setting up an email account, and word processing assistance. Thanks go to Neil for offering this service! We do ask that you call the Library to book an appointment.

**Upcoming Book Sale**

It's once again time for our annual Book Sale and Silent Auction on Richmond Day, Sunday, September 6th. Stop by and see our great selection of used books, as well as our outstanding prizes for the Silent Auction. All proceeds from the Book Sale and the Silent Auction will be used for children's books and programming. Have books to donate? We are currently seeking books for the sale. Feel free to drop them off when the Library is open, or we can come to you! Just give us a call at 239-6164.



Blueberry Jammers

**Free Family Movie**  
**Pam Goodell**

Come one! Come all! There will be a free family movie on Friday, July 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Brick Church in Richmond. Everyone is welcome. The more the merrier, as the saying goes. Showing on large screen will be *Bolt*, a fine Disney film for family viewing. It is rated PG for mild action and peril and is a lot of fun to watch. It stars the voices of John Travolta and Miley Cyrus. There is no charge for the movie, and a beverage will also be provided at no cost. There will be bottomless popcorn for sale for 50 cents. See you there!

**The Jammers Wow Vermont**  
**By John McCann**

Richmond's Blueberry Jammers are moving up in the world!

In an attempt to branch out, meet more people, and see new faces, the Blueberry Jammers accepted an invitation to compete during the Young Tradition Weekend at the Showcase on May 16 in Burlington, VT. The Young Tradition Showcase consisted of young singers, dancers, and musicians (the Jammers include all three), all carrying on various musical folk traditions from around the world. Out of thirty-two competitors, our local Blueberry Jammers tied for seventh place in the audience-judged contest.

What made the audience

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love the Jammers? Come and see their amazing performance yourself at their very own seventh annual Richmond Blueberry Fiddle Festival 2009, Cheshire Fairgrounds, Swanzey, August 7 & 8. Visit [www.blueberryfiddlefestival.com](http://www.blueberryfiddlefestival.com) or call 239-6495 for more information. For links to pictures and videos of the Young Tradition performance, visit [www.ihm.catholicism.org](http://www.ihm.catholicism.org).

### What's In a Word (Revisited)

**Bob Weekes**

As promised, following are the answers to last month's anagrams:

- Lang Road
- Town Forest
- Veteran's Hall
- Four Corners
- Soapstone Quarry
- Richmond Boulder
- Homestead Highway
- Pond Woods Road
- Sprague Mills
- Amidon Park
- Morgan Reserve
- Benson Cemetery
- Shir-Roy Camping Area
- Richmond Rooster
- Gaskill's Haven

"WHAT A NASTY SET," you say? Hopefully not, as that is merely a bonus for veteran Rooster puzzlers who recognize it as, "WASN'T THAT EASY!"

### Grampo's Historiette Research Group

**Theresa Sillanpaa**

An assembly of historians has formed a research group focusing on local history. Tied to Troy and neighboring communities, these individuals are exploring the creation of settlements, Native Americans in this region, early land records, roads, and much more. This research journey will follow the path of the settlers who formed this early frontier all the way to the Connecticut River. We will discover more about their personal lives, their laws, culture, and perhaps their hopes and dreams, as may have been recorded in early records and documents.

Efforts will focus mainly on Troy but will also integrate those towns that originally held that land within their borders; parts of

Fitzwilliam, Swanzey, Marlborough and Richmond.

This group will meet the last Thursday of each month. On July 30th at 7:00 p.m. we will meet at the Gay Kimball Library in Troy. The Fitzwilliam Historical Society has offered its use of the Amos J. Blake House Museum in Fitzwilliam for the August 27th meeting at 7:00 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend any of these meetings.

### Yard and Bake Sale

**Pam Goodell**

Don't forget the annual yard and bake sale being held at the Richmond Old Brick Church on September 5th. Sales start at 8 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m. Come early to get the best food and best bargains.

If you have any items you'd like to donate, you may call Alison at 239-4494 to make arrangements.

### Super Summer Salad Supper and Service Auction

**Pam Goodell**

Eat, bid and be merry! We hope you have saved July 11th to attend the 16th annual Super Summer Salad Supper and Service Auction. It will be held at the Richmond Veterans Hall at 150 Old Homestead Highway. The meal is always delicious, and the auction is always a crowd pleaser. John Pappas, from Knotty Pine Antiques, has volunteered to be the auctioneer. Food is homemade. The meal is served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and the auction starts at 6:00 p.m.. The meal consists of a variety of summer salads, rolls, and brownies a la mode for dessert. Prices are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Auction items have been obtained from numerous local businesses as well as from among the talents and services of local people.

Who will be the top bidder this year for the homemade candy turtles? You won't want to miss Carolyn's coconut cream pies either, or a bid on a bit of history for a set of note cards showing old Richmond buildings. Who wouldn't want to be the high bidder on three hours of housework? There are also items of Americana from Richmond's own Pickering Farms, as well as a sweatshirt from the Richmond 4 Corner Store. Try your luck bidding on a full bed size truck cap.

If you have any items you'd like to donate, call Pat & Joe at 239-4563, or Gail at 239-8006. Proceeds benefit the Richmond Old Brick Church.

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### Congratulations Sister Maria Philomena

Michael Bryan, the seventh child of Mr. and Mrs. David Bryan, graduated with high honors from IHM School on June 7, 2009. He has attended IHM since first grade and plans to continue his education this fall at Thomas More College of Liberal Arts (Merrimack, NH). Good luck, Michael!

### School News

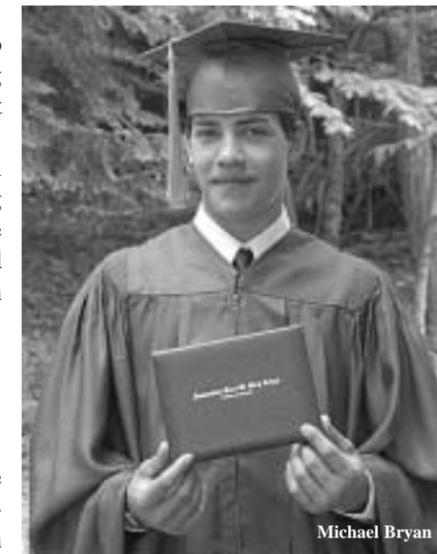
#### Sister Maria Philomena

Superior Spellers Congratulations to Cecilia and Damian Bryan for winning the 2008-2009 Spelling Bees at Immaculate Heart of Mary School! Cecilia, in her first year of high school (grade 9), won her first Bee (defeating her fellow high school students), while Damian (grade 7) successfully defended his title for the third consecutive year in the lower school.

### Choices

**Monica Sullivan**

The nervous hairstylist pulled the comb gently through my hair, apologizing profusely whenever she imagined an expression of pain on my face. I reassured her the first couple of times, but after that had to leave her to her apologies. I had a decision to make. I was sick of hair; I had simply had enough of it. Something was going to change, and it was going to change drastically.



Michael Bryan

The combing sensation stopped, and I glanced up. The stylist stood next to me, shifting from foot to foot and chewing on her lip.

"So, um, you know, would you like me to, umm or...?" she dropped the comb and scrambled after it. "Sorry, I just - sorry."

This was going to be tedious.

"So...did you, I mean, do you want to tell me what to do? I mean, what haircut I'm giving you - I mean..." she lapsed into silence, and I closed my eyes again.

Shave me bald," I said without expression.

"Oh! My - I can't, I'm...oh dear."

I stifled a laugh. "Don't worry. I'm just joking. However, I'm not sure what cut I want. I was hoping you could give me some advice."

"Oh dear."

"Well, it's not a big deal really. I just want something shockingly different. Anything."

The stylist looked ready to cry. What was I supposed to do? I certainly didn't know what I wanted. "Maybe we could look at some pictures," I suggested.

She sniffled a bit and nodded. As she dug around for a magazine, I winced. Two melancholics would never be able to decide on a hairstyle.

"Look, here's one," she said hopefully, pointing to the cover of a magazine.

I wrinkled my nose. I was pretty clueless, but I knew that was a crummy style. "No, not that one."

"Oh! Of course not, how silly of me." Tears began to fill her eyes again. Opening the magazine, she indicated another picture.

"I'm not sure," I said hesitantly. "Do you think it would work on me?"

She stared at me with a terrified expression. This wasn't working. I sighed and took the magazine, then opened it at random. "That one," I announced.

The hairdresser swallowed. "Well...I guess it would be rather hard to mess up on. But...are you certain?"

I looked down at the page and was nearly blinded by a glaring pink and green mohawk. With another sigh, I shut the magazine. "Just a trim, please."

### IHM's Summer Raffle Is Underway!

**Sister Maria Philomena**

You could win \$600 worth of heating oil for next winter or take a scenic plane ride, viewing the dazzling fall colors from above or enjoy an evening of pizza and bowling with the family! Tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5, fifteen for \$10. Speak to any IHM family or call 239-6495. Tickets will also be available at the Blueberry Fiddle Festival, August 7 & 8. Drawing on August 8. Need not be present to win.

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**Looking Backward**  
**Bob Weekes**

For whatever reason, I decided to peruse an oft-ignored bookshelf on a recent rainy day and found a small handful of Richmond Town Reports that I must have picked up in my travels to antique shops many years ago. The oldest was from 1895. I've excerpted some of its contents that offer color to life in our town 114 years ago.

Annual Reports of the Town Officers of Richmond, NH - March 1, 1895 - This report catalogued all of the books in the Town Library that year! Although the library was small (does anyone know where it was located then?) and would not be housed in its present building (the former Schoolhouse #6) for another 67 years, residents had over 200 volumes to choose from, including classics such as The Pathfinder, The Last of the Mohicans, David Copperfield, Black Beauty, The Jungle Book and Uncle Tom's Cabin; not to mention William Bassett's History of Richmond, which had been published just one year earlier. And adults and children did use the library! There were

976 loans of these books during the prior year.

The "April Invoice" of the town gives more color. No population count is shown, apparently not a vital statistic. But listed first on the inventory were: "126 polls." Remember the "Poll Tax?" Polls were men 21 years and over who were entitled to vote (women did not get the right to vote until 1920). Also inventoried were "171 horses, 10 oxen, 204 cows, 47 neat stock (I'm not clear about the differentiation between cows and neat stock. "Neat stock" was a New England term applied to dairy cattle; cows were also used at that time as drafting animals), 150 sheep and 3 hogs." This invoice tells us two very significant things about early Richmond life: farming was more prevalent than it is today...and Richmond felt it was historically more significant to record its quota of adult men and farm animals (a most curious pairing), ignoring less important assets such as women and children. Thankfully times have changed.

Listed "Incidental expenses" in the annual report ranged from the sublime ("care of the watering trough - \$15.00") to the ridiculous ("cost of liquor raid" - \$7.34"). [Note to Andy: it's not necessary to drop in on our backyard barbecues unless you simply want a burger.]

Then there was the report of the School Board, part of which is excerpted here: "Three of our teachers were graduates of normal schools. With what experience we have had with teachers who have had normal school training, we think it pays to employ

such. It looks reasonable that a teacher, however well educated herself in the branches to be taught, who has had special training in the best methods of imparting that knowledge she has acquired, will be more capable of instructing pupils, than one who has had no such training."

Clearly, Richmond was still struggling toward the forefront of educational thought. But more on this in a future issue.

**Wings Of Richmond**  
**Elaine Moriarty**

Twenty-five years ago we began a journey of owning a home in Richmond. The yard contained the absolute minimum in landscaping, but to our delight, we found we were co-residents with the Eastern Bluebird and barn swallows, along with the more common birds. We came to enjoy the beauty and antics of these avian creatures. Neil built some bluebird houses and they produced families twice a year, for several years. Then one August their second family of five babies died in the nest, and to our sorrow, that was the last time bluebirds nested in our yard.

After several years the barn swallows, which used to follow the lawn tractor (to dine on what it stirred up) also disappeared. At that time we noticed feral cats taking up residence in our barn and perhaps the birds viewed them as enemies.

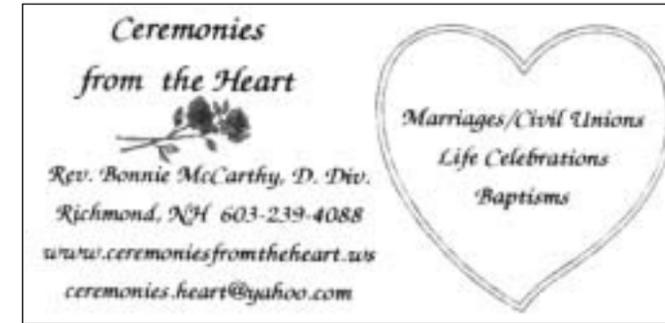
Our other feathered friends were purple finches that would nest in our hanging planters, inevitably killing the flora, and goldfinches that seemed to love the sparse garden by the kitchen door, but then abandoned it, for reasons unknown to us.

Our former neighbor Betty Felegara had a great love of nature. She fed numerous breeds of birds at her feeders from rose-breasted grosbeaks to turkeys. We were fortunate to receive a gift from her when she moved to Keene—her nature identifying books, which have been invaluable to us.

Over the years we have established bird-friendly landscaping and a water garden, which has led to a variety of different flying creatures. So now we enjoy pileated and downy woodpeckers, chickadee, Carolina wrens, cardinals and best of all hummingbirds, along with the annoying, screeching bullies, the blue jay.

The smallest bird brings the biggest delight. The hummers will buzz you, are extremely territorial (even with their own), will perch on your clothesline for long periods and if in the spring you do not get their feeders out as they return, they will fly circles where the feeders normally hang.

This has been a small part of life in rural New Hampshire, and we hope someday again to catch a glimpse of our first avian friends.



**Archeophone Releases**  
**Vintage Musical Treasures**  
**Frank Behrens**

As a student of the American popular song, I find my greatest treasures on CDs from Archeophone Records. The specialty of the engineers at Archeophone is to transfer to CDs the best possible reproductions of vintage recordings, which fall under several categories.

There are those that feature a particular singer or musician or ensemble, a particular musical genre, or a particular year. That latter category is my favorite, because it contains the best combination of all the offerings. Called "The Phonographic Yearbook," this series presents representative recordings for a particular year, offering samples not only of what was being sung back then but of the artists who sang them and styles in which they were sung. This is truly time-traveling through the past.

A two-volume set called "The 1890s" holds 60 recordings made during that decade, many of which are surprisingly clear, some of which do indeed sound their age. However, the CDs I have in mind are from the early 20th century and have titles consisting the year and the name of one song included on the disc. To date, the years are 1907, 1908, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1916, 1920, 1921, and 1922.

Among the soloists heard on these discs are Bert Williams, Billy Murray, May Irwin, Ada Jones, Al Jolson, Nora Bayes, Henry Burr, and even Enrico Caruso.

Add to all this their thick booklet, crammed with information about the year, the artists and the individual songs, that is worth the price of the CD alone, and it is hard to deny that these albums are quite a buy.

Now I can happily report that "1906: When Things Was Lookin' Bright" has been added to the Yearbook series. The year of the great San Francisco earthquake is represented by 27 selections. Among the more familiar are "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" and "Waltz Me Around Again, Willie." "It's a Grand Old

Rag," sung by Billy Murray, is one of the surviving recordings that uses the original word that so offended audiences when George M. Cohan sang it on the stage. Another very interesting song is "How'd You Like to Spoon With Me," possibly Jerome Kern's first big hit and a pretty sexy number back then.

Among the unfamiliar are "The Leader of the German Band" (which might remind one of the Teutonic audition song in "The Producers"), "Everybody Works But Father," "Just a Little Rocking Chair and You," and "The Linger Longer Girl." They knew how to title them back then!

Of less diverse but of no smaller interest is "Elsie Janis: Sweetheart of the A.E.F." Born in 1889 as Elsie Bierbower, she changed her name to Janis when she took to the vaudeville stage; and, when the First World War began, she specialized in imitating other singers' renditions of patriotic songs. Feeling that was not enough, she went to the front lines in France (as so many female singers were to do in the next war) to entertain the troops, then called the American Expeditionary Force, thereby earning the nickname mentioned in the CD title.

The disc holds 24 samples of her repertory, some of which are shared by Basil Hallam, an English actor who sings here in a comic voice. What I find most fascinating about this program is that all but three of the selections are utterly new to me. The ones I recognize are "Smiles," "The Darktown Strutters' Ball" and (believe it or not) "Ballin' the Jack"! Janis is never less than perky, a sort of Doris Day with volume, sometimes using an Irish accent, sometimes other voices, as the lyrics demand or suggest. This CD is a delight from start to finish.

As always, the booklets for these two Archeophone discs are up to the high standards set by the others and will provide a valuable resource guide to teachers wise enough to use the CDs in history classes.

Note: Archeophone warns that racial expressions that are not acceptable today were in use back then; but they feel that keeping them in is far preferable to censoring them out.

**Hot Lazy Days Of Summer**  
**Judith M. Graves**

When this reaches your mailbox it will be the first part of July. With June 20th the first official day of summer we are now into the lovely summer weather in New England. With summer, my mind goes to watermelon, fresh fruits, floating on the lake, purple kayak on Sandy Pond, red/white/blue, sleeveless tops, iced tea, cool air, rain on the roof, lightning bugs, and garden flowers.

Each one above has thought-provoking memories for each one of us. July is time to be outside for whatever

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recreation you prefer. My family enjoys many cookouts and gatherings. There are fairs to go to, and drives in the '55 Chevy, along with ice cream and double dating. No matter what your age everyone is a kid in the summer. Fun things like picnics and reading a book under a shade tree, gathering vegetables from the garden and picking handfuls of herbs to put in a pitcher on the kitchen counter to clip and add all day long to our meals.

The gardens are at peak in July. After the many past weeks of pampering the gardens, weeding, tenderly talking to, and clipping off the dead heads, we finally have a few weeks to just sit back and enjoy. There are many bouquets for friends, and hostesses, for the house in every room, and still the outside glows from all the color.

This year I rediscovered geraniums. My son Craig never liked the smell of this flower and after his death I found that I never could plant that flower. This year with some of the most gorgeous colors, the geraniums ended up in our planters, window boxes, and even in a pot on the porch. They last so long and push up more buds to keep the glow going all summer long. Fall comes and they come inside to continue the cottage feel for the winter in pots, or if just let take out the stock and tie upside down to dry all winter. When spring comes they are ready to be repotted and grow again for you. If you have a particular pretty shade, take cuttings. Just break off a piece of the stem and dip it into a root tone, and plant in soil. It will reward you with many plants that you can share, add to your planters, or plant a hedge along the garden. This year I found a pink one that made me think of the cotton candy you get at a fair. It was such a gorgeous color that I know many slips will be taken from this to live again.

The butterflies, humming bees, humming birds and bumble bees are so active this year, and are on all the plants. I found they especially enjoyed the chive blossoms in the garden. I enjoy drying the chive blossoms just as they begin to open at the top of the bloom for winter bouquets. By following the stem down and breaking off a long stem, gather a bunch together, hang upside down, and they will open up on their own. Allow to dry and add to a vase for a winter bouquet. Nice to take three or five stems and tie a tiny ribbon around them as a topper for a gift, or on a cake. These are also pretty little bouquets to hang on your holi-

day tree or lay among branches with the pretty mauve color. Chive flowers are also edible, so toss some blossoms on a salad or top some cottage cheese. The leaves chopped fine add to any dish you would like onion in. This mild onion-flavored herb is a delight in any kitchen. Try adding to a potato salad, omelet, tuna sandwich for example.

Besides the multiple bouquets and scrumptious dishes you can find just outside your door, think of the gifts you have from your garden as well. You will be constantly reminded of all the treasures just waiting outside in the gardens. Our vegetable garden will overflow with great organic foods, berries to be picked, herbs to clip, and all this is in the summer season. Each season holds the promise of good things. We need to find joy in the little things. Joy is contagious so spread it around.

If I have given you even one idea of how to enjoy your summer it has been my pleasure. Next month we will be thinking of the harvest and gathering of all the great gifts we have been given in our gardens.



### New Hampshire Legislative News

**Barbara Richardson, State Representative**

New Hampshire's next two-year budget is in the process of being completed. The deadline for completion is June 18th, and the House and Senate will vote on it on June 24th. New revenue sources must be identified and put into place for about \$150 million. The Senate has recommended a gambling bill and the House proposes to enact a new capital gains tax.

Governor Lynch wants to include expanding a tax on property sales to include refinancing mortgages and closing a loophole affecting limited liability companies which would subject them to the state's 5 percent tax on dividends. Other revenue measures would include increasing the tax on renting hotel rooms and restaurant meals from 8 percent to 9 percent.

Passing an expanded gambling bill does not appear to have much of a chance. Two gambling bills were killed in the House in March. The Senate passed it mainly just to get the budget into negotiations with the House.

Many cuts have already been made to the budget including laying off 200 state workers, unfunding 400 state positions and continuing a hiring freeze for two years. The Laconia State

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Prison will be closed and the Department of Corrections costs are reduced below the 2009 level. Five courts will be closed as well as the Tobey School. Half a dozen other health and human service's programs have been eliminated.

This is all being done despite the increasing numbers of families applying for food stamps and welfare assistance as unemployment rolls are growing. The Unemployment Trust Fund is being depleted as the current recession continues. Before 2009 the highest annual payout was in 2008 when \$118 million in benefits were paid from the Fund. This Fund is expected to become insolvent during the first quarter in 2010. When there is no more money in the Fund the state must borrow money from the Federal Government to keep paying benefits. If the state fails to address the insolvency of the Fund, the Federal Government will increase the Federal Unemployment Tax paid by New Hampshire employers to repay the debt. The borrowed amounts are subject to interest payments that must come from a new source of revenue as State Unemployment Taxes cannot be used to pay the interest.

Employers pay a taxable wage base which is the maximum amount of wages paid to an employee in a calendar year that are subject to unemployment insurance tax. Since 1994, the taxable wage base in New Hampshire has remained at \$8,000. Increasing the base to \$10,000 in January 2010, to \$12,000 in January 2011 and to \$14,000 in January 2012 will bring the base to a level that supports the average annual wage earned in the state.

As is apparent, we are in a very difficult economic situation. By the time you are reading this, final decisions are expected to have been made. I appreciate your comments and suggestions.

### Quotable Quotes

**Terri O'Rorke**

Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive.

*Sir Walter Scott*



This article is the first in a series of articles designed to acquaint Richmond residents with the purpose and ongoing activities of the Rural Preservation Committee (or RPC). We, your neighbors, care deeply about the quality of life we enjoy here in Richmond. We'd like you to know us...and the work we do...better.

### Who is the RPC?

**Jean Tandy**

The Rural Preservation Committee is a group of your neighbors with deep interest in and fascination and concern with the moving parts of New Hampshire small town government. Our members are connected to Richmond through land and law and are deeply devoted to both. Several of us have served in past years on Richmond town boards or town newsletters.

Others serve currently as town volunteers. We understand the burdens of personal time and energy required by acting board members and other volunteers. In accepting service positions these volunteers publicly give oath to be impartial in making common decisions, to work for the common good of all citizens of the community. We support their commitments.

How did we get started? RPC members, through our collective experiences, recognize the reality of a dangerously changing world and the potential effects these changes can have on Town government. We realize that the burdens of governing, accepted so generously by Town board members, can be overwhelming. We felt the time had arrived to be responsible in supportive ways for our small town's future: for our group, as well as other unofficial volunteer citizens, to find the courage to share the burdens of Town government. More than two-hundred years ago, earlier generations asserted their hopes and ideas to shape Richmond's future. They succeeded...Richmond is still here. We can do the same for this generation. We accept the work will be hard. Now it's up to us, along with caring neighbors, to get involved, in the name of the Town.

The RPC Mission statement: In order that current and future generations may enjoy Richmond's natural beauty and rich, rural character, The Rural Preservation Committee uses positive, proactive means to educate and organize cit-

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izens, institute environmentally-friendly zoning ordinances, and strengthen local governance through support and accountability.

John Bocalini, Kim Mattson, Kath Goodnow, Lloyd Goodnow, Jean Tandy, Judith Graves, David Graves, Alex Hoar, Nancy Lescynski, Hank Lescynski, Caroline Polk, Terri O'Rorke. *Rural Preservation Committee*

**Meadowood**

**Melanie Ellis**

June 6th, Meadowood held their second Annual Golf Tournament. It was a great success and we have already booked June 5, 2010 for the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Thank you to all who made the day fun and a success.

August 15th is our Annual Auction. It's a fun day where bargains can be found. Viewing of the items starts at 9 a.m. and the auction starts at 10 a.m. Please no early birds. If you have a new or in good condition item that you would like to donate to the Meadowood auction, you can drop it off at the fire station on Upper Troy Rd in Fitzwilliam on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. -12 p.m., or see a Meadowood firefighter.

Have a safe and healthy summer from all of us at the Meadowood County Area Fire Department.

**Signs of Hypocrisy**

**Nicolás Bosonetto**

Since last fall our town has been littered by yard signs expressing people's support for the Richmond 12, opposition to theocracy, and other varied slogans. Personally, I think these signs are no more sophisticated than bumper stickers and make Richmond look tacky. Apparently, my opinion that these signs are a blemish to the rural character of our town is supported by the zoning ordinances. Section 314 of the Zoning Ordinances clearly limits signs in town to the following functions:

Directional signs, including those for roads, residences, and businesses;

'For Sale' signs relating to property or goods for sale;

Signs advertising a business or home occupation;

Campaign signs during elections - to be removed no later than two weeks after voting day.

The "Richmond 12" and other such signs do not fall into any of the above categories, and have been in flagrant violation of the



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ordinance since last year. So who is responsible for all of the signs, and are they ignorant of our ordinances or are they just willfully violating them?

Some signs are on the property of Planning Board members. Others are on property of those who argued and voted for the creation of the Zoning Enforcement officer at town meeting.

My argument is not against the subject of the signs nor with the owners of these signs, it is with the hypocrisy of those who are completely ignorant of zoning ordinances, yet loudly advertise their conviction that the "Richmond 12" didn't break any laws related to the planning process. If they can't even understand a simple sign ordinance, what chance is there that they understand the complex requirements for off-site exactions? It is also pure hypocrisy for those who think they are not subject to the Town's ordinances to clamor for the hiring of a compliance officer. If you want the town's ordinances enforced, start with your own yard. The ultimate hypocrisy is for planning board members to willfully violate the zoning ordinances in order to display their personal convictions. It is this attitude that got them in legal hot water in the first place.

The laws of this Town must apply to all people equally or to none at all. We cannot be allowed to have preferential treatment based upon which side of the town divide you're on. Personally, I could care less what sign someone puts out on their lawn, but then again I didn't vote for a Zoning Enforcement Officer.

**Selectmen Meeting Minutes**

**Selectmen Meeting 4 May 2009**

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan

Read mail and signed checks. Mark Beauregard came in to discuss Health Officer and Planning Board matters. Mark asked the Selectmen for an email address for the Health Officer. Gene Wojciechowski was in to inquire about the status of the abatements which are still being reviewed. He also wanted more information about how the tax rate is set. The Board reviewed the Abatement Applications and Janel will be forwarding them to the assessors. Steve Boscarino, tax collector, came in to discuss tax deeding.

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Signed a Supplemental Intent to Cut for map 412 lot 001. JC walked map 201 lot 005 to determine a place for driveway access and contacted the State Department of Transportation who will come out and review the location. Dana Taylor, Road Agent, emailed the selectmen and reported that Tully Brook Road, Fay Martin Road, Morgan Road and Greenwoods Road have been graded. The selectmen are visiting these roads to view the grading. The Town has also received a grant of \$10,800 from FEMA for highway cleanup due to the ice storm of 2008. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**Selectmen Meeting 11 May 2009**

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan

Read mail and signed checks. Steve Boscarino, Tax Collector, and Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk, came in to discuss records retention with the Selectmen. RSA 33-A:3-a applies. We have tentatively scheduled the first meeting for the retention committee for Monday, June 8th at 7 p.m., pending contact with the Town Treasurer. David Beers was in to see the Selectmen about his two occupancy permits. JC will do a site inspection tomorrow on permits 2008-019 and 2008-021. Boyd Goodell came in to discuss the grounds-keeping position with the selectmen. Lloyd Condon was in to speak with the selectmen about the accessible entrance to the library. The Board asked Lloyd to provide the estimate in writing and then they will meet with the Library Trustees to discuss it. The Board wishes to thank Russ Provost, Chip Adams and all of the residents who participated in the Town clean up last Saturday. Sean made a motion to implement the following resolution: RESOLVED; That the Board of Selectmen hereby adopt the provisions of RSA 35:105 provid-

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ing for indemnification by the Town of all Town officials from financial loss and expense including reasonable attorney fees arising out of any claim, demand, suit or judgment by reason of negligence or other act resulting in injury to a person or damage to property if the indemnified town official at the time of such injury or damage to property was acting within the scope of his employment or office. JC feels it is important to support the members of the various boards of the town. Wes agreed wholeheartedly. Sean and Wes voted in favor of the motion and JC abstained. Motion passed.

The State of NH Department of Transportation sent the Board their estimate for replacing the Fay Martin Road Bridge. The estimate was \$450,000. The earliest State Aid Bridge funds would be available is July 2015. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**Selectmen Meeting 18 May 2009**

Attending: JC Boudreau and Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Nicolas Bosonetto came in to submit a building permit application to the Selectmen for map 412 lot 001. The Board needs to research a non-conforming use. Andy Wood, Police Chief, was in to review information for the new police vehicle with the selectmen. The selectmen approved the purchase of a new Ford Expedition, which is instead of the Chevrolet Tahoe which had been approved earlier, but is no longer available.

JC made a motion to close the Town Hall for Memorial Day on

May 25th and Labor Day on September 7th. Wes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor, motion passed. Bonnie McCarthy, Library Trustee, came in with a proposal to fix the library door at the ramp entrance. David Beers was in to discuss his

occupancy permits. The selectmen signed an Occupancy Permit for #2008-019. Building permit #2008-021 was also discussed and is pending a measurement of the front setback.

Allen Jarvis came in to discuss assessment of sheds. His shed is under a 10 x 10 and is not listed as a separate structure on his tax card. Due to a recent request, the Board has decided to review our credit policies. The Board read all the Camp Takodah campership essays that were received and chose one boy and one girl as recipients. The Selectmen would like to thank all those who submitted essays. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

**Fire Warden:** Ed Atkins  
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■ Selectmen —239-4232  
■ Town Clerk —239-6202  
■ Tax Collector —239-6106

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■ Design/Production: Paul Clipper  
■ Proofreaders: Doug & Kathleen Bersaw, Jean Tandy, Bob Weekes  
■ Advertising Managers: Vicki Provost  
■ Treasurer: Janel Swanson  
■ Distribution: Melissa Herman; Denise Crowl  
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**Deadline is the 15th of each month.**

The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions

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