



Fifteen Things I Learned As A Selectman Sean McElhiney

1. One percent of the people make 90 percent of the noise. 2. Everyone who comes to town hall has an agenda, especially those who claim they don't have an agenda. 3. The legislative body – the electorate – is run by non-elected extremist minorities. 4. No amount of pleading will significantly increase attendance at town meeting by the non-elected, non-extremist majority, but sometimes a small increase in attendance at town meeting can make a significant difference in voting results. 5. A governing body of three is not an effective decision-making machine, but I imagine a governing body of five would be worse (And a king would have too much power.) 6. A \$1500 annual stipend for a selectman is inadequate. The pay should be commensurate with actual hours worked, or there should be no pay at all. (That said, I will personally miss that \$100 check every month.) 7. A vague request for public information is a waste of taxpayers' money. 8. New Hampshire's municipal welfare laws are remarkably liquid and humane, and open to intelligent interpretation. 9. When confronted, some seemingly intelligent people often do and say extremely stupid things, while some seemingly unintelligent people can be succinct and brilliant. Impassioned confrontation brings out remarkable things, in myself and others. 10. The good-old-boy network exists and is, at its best, a bad thing. Even when all the parts are functioning properly, the assumed entitlements afford too much power and protection to privileged individuals. It is difficult to reward competence in an atmosphere that fosters the familiar for familiarity's sake. 11. Sometimes the best way to make your point is to just keep making your point. Persistence pays off. Sadly, this works even when you're pushing something akin to the truth but not quite the truth. 12. Local government is not a game, but those who can separate themselves from the human condition and disregard the needs of others enough to treat their dealings with government as a game, inevitably "win." Let's call this the Hatch rule (after Richard Hatch, the first season winner of TV's Survivor.) The Hatch rule is a huge part of the reason I will never get involved in local government again. 13. It is important for a public official to not take criticism and disagreement personally. 14. Government exists because society does not police itself well: Local government polices society in the trenches. 15. "That government is best which governs least," is a flawed, hackneyed quotation. I would re-phrase it like this: "That society is best which requires the least government." Government is necessary. Less government for less government's sake is a bad thing; less government as the result of a cooperative society is a great thing. An elusive, but worthy goal.

We are all basically asking for the same thing: for other people to understand that the world functions the way we understand it to func-

tion, according to the things we have learned, as dictated by the experiences we have had, the lessons we have been taught by the teachers we have embraced, and the facts that we have identified as facts. Why is that so hard? For every truth there is an equal and opposite truth. That's why. We're all right. We're all wrong. I have in front of me a frame from a Bloom County comic strip. It's a postcard depicting Opus (the penguin) standing on a slight hill in a green meadow. He's looking down at a patch of flowers with a blissful look on his face. Next to him there is a sign that says "No laying amongst the periwinkle – This means you!" In the thought balloon, Opus thinks "They don't mean me!" You are Opus; they do mean you – I am Opus; they do mean me. Thanks for having me. I am done. Please vote on March 9.

Town Meeting Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

This year, both sessions of the town meeting will be held on March 9, 2010, at the Veteran's Hall. The first session, or town election, will be from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. There will be two ballots this year. One will contain the town officers that the voters will be choosing and two questions that, by law, are required to be on the ballot. A second ballot will contain the amendments/deletions/additions to the zoning ordinances. This means that you, the voter, will receive THREE ballots – one school ballot and two town ballots. Sample ballots are available at the Town Hall.

The second session, or business meeting (erroneously referred to as the town meeting), is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. During the second session, all registered voters attending this meeting will have the opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on the town budget and other business on the warrant. As per RSA 654:7-a, you may register to vote on March 9th during the polling hours of 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. No voter registration will be available during the second session/business meeting.

For those who will not be able to come to the polls between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on March 9th, absentee ballots are available to those qualified to receive them. The conditions under which a voter qualifies for an absentee ballot are as follows:

Will be absent from the town where the voter is registered to vote; cannot appear in public due to religious reasons; is unable to come to the polls due to a physical disability; or is unable to come to the polls during polling hours because the voter is at work or is in transit to or from work. All requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and request forms are available at the Town Clerk's office. The voter may either mail or personally deliver the completed absentee ballot to the town clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be hand-delivered ONLY BY THE VOTER no later than March 8th. If absentee ballots are mailed, they must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 9th. As always, please call 239-6202 if you have any questions.

Remember These Important Dates:

DES Aquifer Presentation changed to March 3, 7:00 p.m. Vets Hall
Come to Candidate's Night, March 4, 6:00 p.m. Vets Hall!

Town Clerk's Office Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

- March 8th OPEN from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. to accept absentee ballots
- March 9th CLOSED for town meeting
- 1st session/election at the Vet's Hall from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
- 2nd session/business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.
- March 12th OPEN 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. to accept applications for recounts for town election ONLY.
- March 3 Aquifer Presentation, Vet's Hall 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Night Marie Knowlton

The Board of Selectman have announced that Candidate Night will be held on Thursday night March 4, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please come and bring questions for the candidates in attendance. A pot luck snack table will be available so please bring some goodies to share. The candidates are as follows: Cemetery Trustee: Marcia Lee; Library Trustee: Bonnie McCarthy; Moderator: Douglas Bersaw and Peter Majoy; Planning Board: Norma Thibodeau, Nicolas Bosonetto, Peter Majoy; Selectmen: Lori Scanlan, Sandra F. Gillis, Brad Grinstead; Treasurer: Heather Remick; Supervisor of the Checklist: Joseph Tonweber, Christine Bryan; Trustee of Trust Funds: Geraldine Lutz.

Dear Rooster Readers Marie Knowlton

I am writing to inform you that the Richmond Rooster Advertising Manager has resigned. This is a serious problem for the Rooster. The last time I lost this position was the time that the Rooster was going to fold, August 2006. In the 20 year life of the Rooster I have tapped everyone I know to help with the Rooster in one way or another. The life of the Rooster depends on this position. It is how I pay for printing and postage. Do you know anyone willing to step forward? It could be one person or a group of people who can find advertisers. This is a stretch and also a last resort effort to keep the Rooster running.

Learning another language Marie Juhlin

Have you ever thought about learning another language? A beginner's program on the culture of France and basic conversation will be offered at The Richmond Public Library beginning on Monday, March

15, 2010. Because of the nature of the course and also because of the space constraints at the library, there will be a limit of 12 people. The program is slated to begin at 6:30 p.m. and end between 7:30-7:45 and will meet for eight consecutive Mondays, depending on the interest of the group. There will be no charge for the program. Participants will be required to buy a book (to be used in the program). A small donation to The Richmond Public Library would also be appreciated. Richmond resident Marie Juhlin will be offering the program. If you are interested, please call the Juhlin home at 239-5016. Leave a message please, in the event that we cannot take the call.

Meadowood County Area Fire Department Melanie Ellis

The Meadowood County Area Fire Department is having a Pasta Supper on Saturday March 6, 2010 from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Meadowood Assembly in Fitzwilliam, NH. The tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 12.

The year has already started off with a bang. As of the writing of this article, MCAFD has responded to 19 calls in the area. From house fires, to motor vehicle crashes and a couple of calls for the dive team. We would like to thank all those who donated to our annual fund drive. Your contribution was greatly appreciated.

In January, we held the election of fire officers. Robert S. Crowell was appointed our chief for the 11th year. Winston Wright and Bruce B. Crowell were appointed Assistant Chiefs. Congrats to all the officers.

Response to a letter on Story Hour Tracey Tryba, RPL Board of Trustees

First, thank you for the constructive criticism; it is always wonderful to hear feedback from the community we serve. All of our story hours are open to all children in Richmond. In addition to the Monday story hour, we also offered two other story hours in February. One of them was on a Thursday evening from 6:30-7:30pm, which only one local child attended. The other one is our regular Saturday story hour at 11:00 a.m., which, unfortunately, no children have been attending recently. Wendy is more than willing to create story times for local daycares, schools and/or home schooled children, including a traveling story time where she is willing to go to them! Please call Wendy directly at the library if you would like to schedule a story hour.

Anyone who has helpful advice, suggestions, concerns or compliments should feel free to get in touch with the librarian or the Library Board of Trustees directly, as this is the quickest and most effective way for us to address concerns. Thank you!

~ ~ ~ WANTED TO BUY ~ ~ ~

We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to:

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Richmond Public Library Activities Wendy O'Brien

Story Hours There will be a brief story hour for younger elementary school-aged children at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1st. All are welcome. Children can also attend additional story times. On Tuesday, March 2nd from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. there will be a "Pajama" story time with Wendy—come dressed ready for bed! Please also come on Saturday, March 13th at 11:00 a.m. for a fun story time and craft with Gwyn. Snacks will be available!

"March Madness" The RPL will be holding a "March Madness" reception on Thursday, March 25th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Drop by and grab a goodie and see all that the library has to offer you. From wireless high speed internet to magazines such as Oprah and This Old House, we have been working hard to make the library a place for all of our residents to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you!

Books for Sale The RPL now has a cart full of books for sale—hardcovers are \$1.00 each, paperbacks and audio-visual materials are \$0.50 each, and children's books are just \$0.25 each. We are seeking gently used donations for both the cart and for our regular book sale. Feel free to drop them by the library, or we can come to you! Unfortunately, due to space constraints, we can no longer accept encyclopedias or Reader's Digest condensed books.

Large Print Books Are you or someone you know unable to read regular type books? The RPL has now started a small collection of large print titles. In addition, many of the popular bestsellers are available through interlibrary loan in the large print format.

Mark Your Calendars Russ Provost

Richmond Roadside Cleanup, Saturday, May 1. Full details in next month's Rooster.

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A Positive Approach Brad Grinstead

My name is Brad Grinstead and I am running for a seat on the Richmond Board of Selectmen. With a clear understanding of the impact this particular position has on each and every one of us, I desire to fill that seat to assure all citizens of Richmond that the impact made will be a positive one.

My hunger for challenges and education began years ago, many miles away. I graduated from Georgia Southern University in 2002 with a Bachelor's of Science in biology. At that point, I was not quite satisfied with the idea of being finished with school so I decided to continue on and earn a Master's degree in Biology with an emphasis in parasitology from the same university. It was then that I had to consider stopping so that I could shift my focus on finding a place my family could call home.

It was in 2004 that my family moved to Richmond with the intention of raising my children in a community where support is always close at hand and a friend is nearly a stone's throw away. So far my experience has been everything that I dreamed of.

Since 2004, I have been an active member of the community. I have served on the Voluntary Energy Committee, which is dedicated to educating the public in energy conservation and good recycling habits. I have also worked for the Richmond Road Agent in an effort to build up and maintain our town's roadways. During my time on the road crew, I was made aware of the needs and desires of the local townspeople in terms of road and bridge quality and speedy repair. I have recently been nominated to serve on the Safety Committee. The purpose of this group is to create a safe and healthy workplace for full and part time employees. Part of which includes writing and implementing a current written safety program and forming a joint loss management committee.

If given a chance to serve you as member of the Board of Selectmen, I would pledge to take a non-biased positive approach

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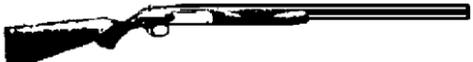
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in dealing with the situations that I may be confronted with. I am committed to take the classes and seminars offered to selectmen who would like to better serve their towns. It has always been my belief that an educated decision generally leads to a positive outcome. My willingness to learn and serve and my proven commitment to Richmond make me the positive choice for this position.

**Dear Richmond Neighbors,
Sandra Gillis**

Last month I let you know I had decided to run for Selectman. This month I ask for your vote. During February, I met with many Richmond residents and learned first hand the problems you face and the issues you feel can be better addressed by the Selectmen. I learned that many of you have given up trying to make your voice heard, that you may feel you can't have an impact on how things are in Richmond. I'd like to change that.

My experience includes being an executive director supervising a staff of sixteen, communicating with a national network of local chapters, regional directors and board members, and overseeing a budget larger than Richmond's. I have worked successfully with volunteers for more than 20 years in national, state and local membership organizations. I am committed to excellent customer service, open and honest communication, and listening to the people I work for. If elected, you can expect experience, honesty and integrity.

I want to work with you and for you to revitalize Richmond, preserve and protect our natural resources, keep Richmond the rural town we all love. I will communicate directly and openly with you and listen to your ideas and opinions. I am fiscally conservative and believe our taxes should produce an effective and efficient government, schools that demonstrate high performance standards and a town that serves its peo-

ple. I ask for your vote on March 9, 2010. If you need a ride to the polls, have questions/comments, please contact me at 239-6492 or sfg941@gmail.com. Thank you.

**Vote to Move Richmond Forward
Nicolas Bosonetto**

My name is Nicolas Bosonetto and I'm running for the Planning Board. My qualifications include seven years of experience working as a professional Planner. During this time I developed many plans and acquired the funding to implement them, I helped review subdivisions and site plans, and also learned a lot about zoning laws and case law (court cases). My favorite part of planning was helping communities come together to reach a common vision and then helping them achieve their goals by acquiring the funding to make their plans a reality.

While working for the Regional Planning Commission in Keene (SWRPC), I helped develop many plans for the 36 towns in Southwest NH. These plans included the Regional Transportation Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plans, Coordinated Transit Plans, and even Keene's Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The Coordinated Plan was particularly rewarding as we brought together non-profit groups that provide transportation in our region. We realized that if their efforts and resources were coordinated, the elderly and needy populations could be better served. Another rewarding experience was helping local towns receive \$100,000 grants to build sidewalks so kids could walk to school.

I'm running for office because I want to move Richmond forward. For several years now, our town has been dragged down by the politics of division. Several town officers have been using the power of government to carry out their personal prejudices against Catholics in town. These people refused to be honest about their prejudices and did not recuse themselves when necessary. They ignored advice from the town's lawyer, and proceeded to issue decisions which took away the rights of Richmond residents. The Superior Court has found the Town of Richmond Planning Board and ZBA guilty of violating the Constitution and Federal anti-discrimination laws. Several other cases are still pending. Due to their actions, Richmond has spent \$44,000 last year in legal fees (\$123,879 over the last three years). Imagine what this money would

have accomplished for our town, or perhaps it could have stayed in your pocket – instead of going into the lawyer's pocket. Now these people want more power and are running for Selectmen, Planning Board, and Moderator!

If elected, I promise to be an advocate for any property owner that stands before the Planning Board. I believe that everyone has property rights, and if you can meet the zoning requirements, you should be free to enjoy your property. I also look forward to implementing the transportation, recreational and economic development portions of the Master Plan. Finally, I believe that this town belongs to all its residents. The "character" of this town is a reflection of everyone who lives here, not a predefined filter by which you can exclude people. If you really want to move Richmond forward, please vote for the candidates who are best qualified and not for those who have used their positions to violate your neighbors' Constitutional rights.

**Dear Rooster,
Sheila Blair and and Jonathan Bloom**

We have lived in Richmond for nearly 23 years and have happily raised our two children (and our many dogs) here. Over the years we have met many wonderful townspeople, some of whom we agree with and some of whom we don't. We have always felt that whatever their views, our neighbors have consistently had the best interests of Richmond foremost in their minds.

We were therefore very disturbed by the mailing to town residents from Mr. Bosonetto, which we received today (February 22). It claimed to be full of facts about how our Selectmen and other town volunteers have misspent our money on lawsuits, but the document was both factually wrong and misleading. A group of concerned Richmond residents met with the Selectmen this evening to question Mr. Bosonetto's statements and were told that many were inaccurate. Furthermore, the website on his flyer suggests a non-for-profit town affiliation, whereas the REAL website of the Town of Richmond is www.richmond.nh.gov.

We are disgusted by this kind of biased misinformation pretending to be fact, and we urge our fellow residents of Richmond to treat Mr. Bosonetto's fantasies as such and file them immediately where they belong: in the circular file.

**Dear Rooster,
Bob Weekes**

I, and many others, attended and participated in a meeting between our Selectboard and concerned Richmond residents regarding the statements of supposed "fact" put forth in the mailing sent to us by Mr. Bosonetto (received 2/22/10). The selectmen confirmed our suspicions that much of what Mr. Bosonetto would have us believe is, indeed, incorrect. Why Mr. Bosonetto chose to state as facts what I can only assume

were his personal feelings is something all of us have to weigh since he is not only a candidate for public office but is asking for the public's trust that he will discharge the duties of that office fairly and without bias. I think Mr. Bosonetto, by the malicious misstatements he made in his letter, has shown us what we can expect should he be elected.

**Candidate Supervisor of the Check List
Joseph Tonweber**

As a Supervisor of the Checklist I will administer the duties of the office in accordance with applicable state laws. I am available to provide the time required to administer this position, as I am retired. My wife, Pat, and I moved to Richmond from the Rochester, NY area in 1998. My education includes a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 1964 and a MS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 1966. My military service included two years of active duty, in the army from 1967 to 1969, along with a reserve career that lasted 'til 1990 when I retired as a colonel. I have been a professional engineer since 1974. The first part of my work career consisted of 30 years at the Eastman Kodak engineering division at Kodak Park in Rochester NY. After moving to New Hampshire, I worked for the City of Keene in the engineering division for four years and then as the Water/Sewer Superintendent for seven years, retiring in 2009. I have worked extensively with computers and am detail oriented.

**Christine Bryan for Checklist
Christine Bryan**

Richmond's three Supervisors of the Checklist provide valuable service to the town — and ours have done a very good job. Accurate and organized voter registration is essential to the functioning of our democracy. It was suggested to me that I might consider serving in this capacity and, since my term on the park committee is over, I have decided to run for the position.

I have cultivated a variety of skills during many years of volunteering for various non-profit groups. My first public effort in Richmond was writing a series of interviews of townspeople that may be remembered by Rooster readers. More recently, I have been helping out at our library and volunteering at the Keene office of Home Healthcare, Hospice, and Community Services.

I believe I am qualified to serve as a supervisor and would enjoy doing so. Please consider voting for me, Chris Bryan, for Supervisor of the Checklist.

**May I Have Your Vote?
Douglas Bersaw**

From 2006 to 2008 I was the Moderator for the Town of Richmond. I lost the election for a second term in March of 2008

by 15 votes. The count was 192-207. I know it was exactly correct since, as Moderator, I was responsible for the proper count of the votes. Last summer my opponent, Mr. Watt, resigned for personal reasons. I was appointed to fill out the rest of his term by the Board of Supervisors of the Checklist. That is their duty under state law. I am pleased that they did so, and now I am again running for the office for another two year term. If I still have the confidence of those 192 voters and can count on 20 or 30 more additional votes I will be very thankful to be returned to office. Please come out on March 9th and vote for me, Douglas Bersaw, for Moderator. Thank you very much.

**Thank you Ms. O'Brien
Sister Mary Joseph, M.I.C.M**

I would like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Wendy O'Brien. For the past several years, my first and second graders have been allowed to come visit the library monthly to pick out books and hear a story. Mrs. O'Brien has been generous in scheduling this to accommodate our needs. I am very sorry for any reproach that she has had to suffer on account of her kindness to the children.

**Consider No for Full Time Police
and SB2
Neil Moriarty**

When you go to the polls on March 9, remember to strongly consider a NO vote on a fulltime police officer; and changing our government to Official Ballot (SB2) concept. The latter eliminates the town meeting voting process.

The fulltime police officer creates a funding process where we pay more for benefits – the benefits will continue to increase over the years but your protection will not. We will obligate ourselves to more training, more vacations (from none now), etc. and a force that will be primarily a daytime position. We have a fine force now, why change it?

SB2 is not for Richmond. With only 40 Richmond voters attending the school district vote on 02/06/10 (which is SB2), few from Richmond understand what they are getting in to. Only two of your elected officials have worked under SB2, Jim Carnie and myself. Under SB2 you could have very few warrant articles – certainly not the 54 we have for 2010. A full time police force could be buried in the operating budget – how many of you know how to at least try to stop it from coming true under SB2? As was the case in the school district Article (see school district Article Nine), your petition warrant could be made meaningless because it was hijacked by a small minority before you got the community to vote on your idea. Richmond Town meeting is well attended and more should try to make it. We all don't agree on everything that is passed

there but we get to vote on it at a very detailed level. That won't be true under SB2. SB2 plays right into the hands of the factionalism in this town – we certainly don't need to encourage that!

When Richmond obtains a population of about 3000, we can consider educating ourselves on the merits of SB2 and a fulltime police officer.

**Town Meeting Date
Russ Provost**

In 2008 I submitted a warrant article to be voted on at Town Meeting. This article was about changing the Town Meeting to Saturday morning from the traditional Tuesday night. This article overwhelmingly passed. In 2009 Richmond had its Town Meeting on Saturday. Why did I do this? I did it for the convenience of the voters. For the convenience of the voters who work and have to get up early in the morning to go to work the next day; for the convenience of the voters who have to get their baby sitter home at a reasonable hour; for the convenience of the voters who have a hard time driving late at night; for the convenience of the those voters who have to begin counting ballots after the Town Meeting adjourns. Most of the people I talked to liked this change.

I did not do this just because many of the towns in the area have done this. I did not do this for the convenience of the Selectmen. However, obviously our Selectmen don't care about you. The BOS voted 2-1, J.C.Boudreau and Wes Vaughn for and Sean McElhiney against, to move the Town Meeting back to Tuesday. Legally they could do this. So, yes, this year, we will all be forced to stay up late or leave early at this year's Town Meeting. I am working on a new warrant article to change the Town Meeting date that won't allow the BOS to ignore the wishes of the voters. I hope you will vote for this article.

**NH Legislative News
Barbara Hull Richardson**

Doris "Granny D" Haddock, who walked across the country at age 90 to support public funding of elections, celebrated her 100th birthday in the Governor's Council Chambers in the State House on January 28th. She is a New Hampshire treasure and is still traveling nationally to speak about her efforts.

Currently there is a Granny D Citizen-Funded Election Task Force meeting regularly to come up with information about publicly funding some of New Hampshire's elections. Arizona, Maine, Connecticut and some sections of other states now have publicly funded elections and these have proven effective for candidates and for citizens of their states.

The NH House of Representatives repealed the prohibition on Sunday business activities. In fact, the so called "blue law" prohibiting Sunday sales has not been enforced for many years. Passage of this law makes it legal and local control is now able to prevail.

Another interesting bill, HB 1435, relative to practitioner-patient relationship in the dispensing of prescriptions, was passed. This bill would help cut down on internet drug shopping for prescription drugs that are subject to abuse but are not considered controlled substances. An on-line evaluation of a self-reported medical condition is not a valid basis for prescribing. This bill adds the phrase "Submission of an electronic or on-line medical history form that fails to establish a valid practitioner-patient relationship," which will give the board of pharmacy the authority to charge the pharmacist or pharmacy with fraud.

House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 22, urging Congress to oppose any legislation supporting amnesty or granting lawful status to any person who has entered the United States illegally, was amended, asking Congress to develop a comprehensive immigration reform program to provide a path toward legal permanent residence status to those who qualify without punishing law-abiding permanent residents.

Things have been very busy in Concord and there will be more to report in next month's legislative news. As always, I welcome your suggestions and comments.

**Response To Christine Bryan
Sean McElhiney**

As much as I would like to ignore Christine Bryan's letter in the February Rooster – to toss it aside like so much drivel – I can't with good conscience do that.

I will avoid arguing with Mrs. Bryan over her opinion of the judicial interpretations of the law that were the subject of three summary judgements in the matter between the Town of Richmond and Saint Benedict Center (SBC). I do this out of respect for the process and the limits of space in this paper. I will note only that Mrs. Bryan's disingenuous language is unflattering. That the terms "Recourse to the courts..." "...protect fundamental rights..." and "...a perfectly clear violation..." cushion an underlying tone that is smug is not lost on me, nor I would imagine on anyone who is familiar with the legal matters that are the subject of the second paragraph of her letter.

The real reason I am writing today is to respond to Mrs. Bryan's third numbered point in that paragraph, a point that is not a matter of law, but a question of opinion: "Strong evidence suggests that some of the town officials may have been acting out of bias against Saint Benedict Center." This sentence is more an indication of Mrs. Bryan's personal bias than it is a statement of anything factual: as a humble victory proclamation, it is, at best, insulting; at worst, it is a name shy of libelous.

Here's the point: There is not one single instance of bias overriding an individual board member's understanding of the law and their pledged responsibility to uphold that law in the Town of Richmond's dealings with the SBC. Not one.

Having an opinion is human; acting with bias is wrong, particularly when acting in a governmental – in some cases "quasi-judicial" – capacity. I am an opinionated human. Christine Bryan is an opinionated human. You, my patient reader, are an opinionated human: You are likely either cheering me on right now, or seething. (Those whose opinions dismiss all things political and difficult to express stopped reading a while ago).

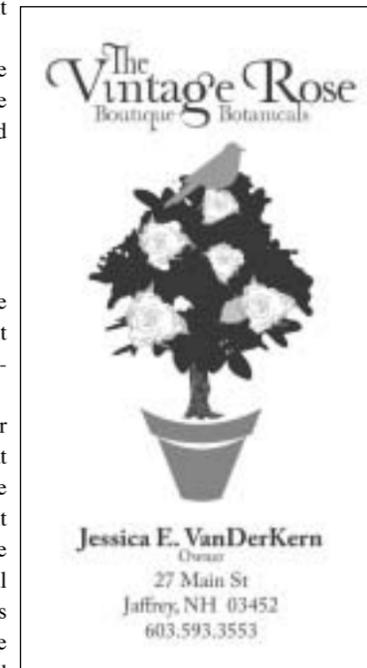
Each and every person who has had to make decisions surrounding the SBC's planned expansion has done so to the best of their abilities, with the best interests of the town in mind, as they did their individual,

imperfect best to interpret Richmond's zoning ordinances. This must be understood. Any accusations to the contrary are, in and of themselves, biased. I understand the argument – if I were planning a Richmond branch of Planned Parenthood and the board I stood before was comprised of SBC members I would be inclined to see any rejection not as a careful, reasonable reading of the appropriate ordinances but a show of bias – but the argument is wrong. Not one Richmond board member has acted out of bias. Have we canonized our public servants? No. We have gone out of our way to publicly recognize that they have done their level best to do their jobs. We have celebrated them in order to encourage them to come back and serve again, despite angry, vitriolic accusations of "acting out of bias."

Before I was a selectman, I argued, in writing, against the SBC expansion. Much of what I wrote came in direct debate with Doug Bersaw and Steve Boscarino, two men who have also served the town of Richmond, honestly, thoughtfully, and to the best of their abilities, and with whom I have had cooperative dealings during my three years serving the

town. I've since read portions of what I wrote in 2006 held up as examples of bias. "Selectman McElhiney wrote," I've read. Damning, isn't it? A selectman said this! That I expressed these opinions before I was a selectman doesn't seem to matter. That I wrote often in response to a moderator and a tax collector who were sharing their contrary opinions doesn't seem to matter much, either. That I had the gall to have and express opinions, this is their point. That my opinions run counter to theirs is their proof that I acted with bias.

Remarkably, in my three years in office I never found myself in a position where I had to seriously consider whether or not to



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recuse myself from a decision regarding the SBC. It would have been an interesting position to be in. But my point here is not to defend myself. I merely hold myself up as an example of how wrong it is to accuse someone of acting with bias merely because they have an opinion.

In closing, I will hammer on this point one final time: Continuing to spew baseless accusations of "acting out of bias" against public servants merely because their considered opinion differs from your own is divisive and hurtful. And frankly, it's getting old.

Dividing Walls John Boccalini

After reading an article in the Richmond Rooster Feb. 2010 issue by Christine Bryan, I found that I was becoming debilitated trying to understand what she really was trying to accomplish with this article. I thought long and hard about the things she said and the words she used: canonization, First Amendment, facts, masterful planning, crucifixion, rigid control, honor, law, judgement, evidence, bias, etc. Then I began to think about God, man, sin, contrition and atonement.

So here's my take on it all: in the beginning, there was a building permit for a garage (not for human habitation). This was followed by a building permit for a large house and promises of "conformance with the letter and the spirit of Richmond zoning and subdivision regulations" and "in accordance with town rules and currently acceptable residential land development." During an inspection a fire marshal noticed that "the buildings that are being constructed are beyond the scope of the building permits." The garage appeared to be constructed for human habitation and the large house of two stories appeared to be constructed for purposes other than a house and that there were height problems of the building under local ordinances. Was this a sin, one of omission or one of commission? Whatever, it was the seed and the foundation of the building of the St. Benedict Center Inc., and it seems that the confusion with permits, regulations and agreements continued. To this day there has been no remorse, no act of contrition or atonement for any of it.

When I think back at all that's happened over the years, there is not much I agree with in Chris's article. I believe that it was all the confusion, misdirected filings and diversions on the part of and between the Blessed Sacrament community and the SBC that led to the current lawsuit with the town. Current diversions of First Amendment rights and bias against the SBC are just those, diversions. In the end, The courts will make the final decisions but God will make the final judgement.

There are a couple of facts on which we do agree. Much of the controversy in town does revolve around the SBC proposed building. The other is "instead of masterfully planning a community with more divid-

ing walls and rigid control, we can cultivate a fresh outlook" but perhaps we differ on which community we are talking about.

The Richmond Master Plan was created many years ago as a guide in planning a vision of the town's future. The 2010 revision was revised from past plans and the input of more than 75 townspeople. More than one hundred recommendations were made and unanimously accepted. Input came from the most diversified group of townspeople outside of town meeting. Christine, you were also part of the process. I believe, as do an extremely large majority of those involved with the revision, that neither polarization, dividing walls nor rigid controls were any of the concepts or nuances of the revision, nor did any person reflect that during the process of its review.

Quotable Quote Terri O'Rorke

"People who believe absurdities will eventually commit atrocities." Voltaire 1694-1778 (Francois Marie Arouet)

Where Are We Now John Boccalini

Are you aware that Richmond's insurance company, the Local Government Center, controls the financial settlement made between the Town and the Saint Benedict Center (SBC), Inc? Any settlement between the Town and the SBC Inc. that accepts the Judge's decision that the Town of Richmond and it's individual board members committed religious discrimination will be placing an onus on our town that will haunt us forever. As seen in the Richmond Rooster, Keene Sentinel, Monadnock Shopper News and other publications, it has led to conjectures of bias on the part our town officials who were following the town's ordinances.

SBC Inc.'s quest to build a school will increase its presence in a residential district, have an environmental impact on the surrounding area as well as increase traffic risk on a small road and must be addressed. The RLUIPA case brought by the SBC Inc. has created a "smokescreen" to obscure what this case should be about - Land Use. It has always been

about land use: most other corporations, businesses or individuals could not have skirted our zoning ordinances as did SBC Inc. on Fay Martin Road. If this decision stands, the town's boards will become more paralyzed in their rulings. Furthermore, citizens will be fearful to volunteer their services and democracy will fail.

The Judge's decision sets a legal precedent that allows what's happening on Fay Martin Road to happen on any road, in any town in NH. Now is the time to speak out. Let our selectmen know that they should not let the town settle this suit if it brands Richmond and its Board members as discriminatory. This would weaken any further court decisions on this or future matters. Contact Richmond Selectman! Call them! Write them! Show up at the Town Hall on Monday nights! Tell them that "This court case matters." They must stand up in a court of law and protect the future of your community. Now is not the time for apathy! The Intervenor will continue their commitment to represent the facts of this case to the court. We are committed to protecting Richmond's ordinances, land, environment and the safety of the roads for all residents. John Boccalini, Kathy Goodnow, Llyod Goodnow, David Graves, Judith Graves, Alexander Hoar, Kandace Mattson, Terri O'Rorke, Caroline Polk, Latham Polk, Pamela Rooney, Jean Tandy and Kathleen Whitham.

Definitely Definitions Terri O'Rorke

In the February Rooster there was a letter that used the words "virtual canonization." Always curious, I looked them up in the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language. The definition follows:

Virtual: Existing or resulting in essence or effect though not in actual fact, form or name; existing in the mind, especially as a product of the imagination.

Canonize: ized, izing, izes, ization; to declare (a deceased person) to be a saint and entitled to be fully honored as such; to include in the biblical canon; to include in a literary canon; to approve as being within canon law; to treat as sacred; glorify.

I don't know of anyone who has "canonized" any of our public figures (town officials). Perhaps it was just a product of the writer's imagination. On the other hand, our volunteers for DEMOCRACY should be glorified...they are SACRED to our chosen way of life.

About Blaise Pascal Lisa Vasilak

February's Rooster carried a quote from Blaise Pascal, the great French mathematician, inventor, philosopher and author of the powerful defense of Catholic Christianity, the Pensées, his most famous work. Pascal was truly a Renaissance man, having developed a fundamental principle of statics mechanics known as Pascal's Law, as well as an early

model of the a mechanical calculator called the pascaline. The computer language Pascal was named in his honor, since the pascaline is considered a forerunner of the computer.

Here are some other interesting quotes of his, all from the Pensées except the last which is from Provincial Letters:

"For a religion to be true it must have knowledge of our nature. It must know its greatness and its meaning, and the cause of both. What religion but Christianity knows that?" "God is proved not only by the zeal of those who seek Him, but by the blindness of those who do not." "There are only two classes of men who can be called rational - those who serve God with all their hearts because they know Him, and those who seek Him wholeheartedly because they know Him not." "It is of course an evil to be full of faults, but it is an even greater evil to be full of them and unwilling to recognize them, since that is to add the further fault of self-delusion." "There are only two sorts of men: the one the just, who believe themselves sinners; the other sinners, who believe themselves just." "A slanderer cannot succeed unless he has a reputation for hating slander." "Begin by pitying unbelievers, miserable enough through their very condition."

"Ruddigore" Ohio Light Opera Frank Behrens

When Cole Porter's "Out of This World" premiered in 1950, the critics could not help (I assume) crying down its value because it did not compare with his 1948 "Kiss Me Kate." So when Gilbert and Sullivan's "Ruddigore, or The Witch's Curse" opened in 1887, boos were heard for the first time in their career, mostly because it could top "The Mikado" of 1885. Not fair, but that's what audiences are like. So several revisions were made, mostly cuts, for the rest of the run. And the title was changed orthographically but not phonetically to "Ruddigore." The subtitle was nearly changed to "Not so Good as The Mikado," but that silly idea was dropped.

When revived in 1920, even more cuts began to be made, the most important of which were the Act I love duet "The battle's roar is over," an Act II patter song for Robin Oakapple, and a very snappy Act II finale sequence that led into the usual reprise of an earlier number. Even the Overture, which contained the excised material, had to be revised—and not for the better. The three D'Oyly Carte Company recordings keep most of the cuts. None of them have the snappy finale or the patter song, while the 1931 electric recording omits the duet, which is included on the 1924 acoustic and the 1962 stereo versions.

The monophonic LP of 1952 has even further cuts. Including the 1962 stereo version with Glyndebourne singers and the very complete 1987 recording with the New Sadler's Wells forces,

there are scarcely two recordings that are consistent in what is included. However, what they all lack is the dialogue. And now the Ohio Light Opera company's production is out in a 2-CD set on the Albany label, and any Ruddigore-lover's fondest wish has come true. Not only are the musical cuts restored but the complete dialogue is included. Although it lacks the period charm of the older 78 rpm recordings, the cast sounds just right for this spoof on the Victorian gothic melodrama of pure village maidens (who know how to follow the money), simple village lads (with horrible secrets), wicked baronets (who crave to be virtuous), simple seamen (who are motivated purely by self-interest), faithful family retainers (who become as wicked as their masters), village mad women (who are almost cured in the second act), and haunted castles (with picture galleries that come alive at "the night's high noon"). [The parentheses are Gilbert's topsy-turvy twists on the clichés.] And one must mention a female population entirely devoted to being bridesmaids during a depression in the marriage market.

The tunes are as delightful as any found in the other G&S works, while the dialogue spoofs the genre simply by sounding exactly like it with slight exaggerations. And, of course, the Act II patter song is the patter song to end all patter songs. Some say that the ghost music is almost too good for a spoof; but Sullivan is more of a major composer than some admit and must be given some leeway to "show his stuff." (The next work, "The Yeoman of the Guard," gives him an entire work to show his serious side.)

My only slight complaint (too strong a word for this excellent OLO production) is that the pacing of the dialogue could be a little snappier. As with all of their past G&S recordings, they speak it very slowly lest a single bit of humor escape the audience. That said, I can find little fault with any aspect of this recording. I do wish, however, they used the original, not the revised, Overture. The cast includes Ted Christopher (Robin), Cecily Ellis (Rose), Frederick Reeder (Despard), Anthony Buck (Dick), Dennis Jesse (Roderic), Jessie Wright Martin (Hannah), and Sahara Glasener-Boles (Margaret). Unlike the male vocalists in the New Sadler's Wells recording, those here have the deep voices needed for their characters, especially the bottomless basso of Cory Clines (Adam).

While conductor Michael Borowitz' tempos are now and then a little slow, he obviously loves the score and even gives an encore of the last stanza of the patter trio. The running time is a very enjoyable 130 minutes and the complete text is provided in the program notes.

**Fitzwilliam Historical Society
Terri Sillanpaa**

Beginning March 2nd the Amos J. Blake House Museum will be open on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. instead of Thursdays.

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We offer this time to the public for the purpose of research and short tours. No appointment is necessary. We are happy to see that groups are using the museum facilities for meetings and other get-togethers. We welcome your interest in using this lovely building for your meetings, craft group activities and other small events. We will soon be planning our summer guide program. Free and complete training is offered for those with an interest in local history and the museum in particular. Free tours are offered during summer Saturday afternoons. It is also not too early to think about joining in on our summer fund raising activities. You do not have to be a Fitzwilliam resident to offer your services. Please send us an e-mail if you are interested in participating in any of our volunteer activities. Watch for our upcoming "Beginner's Tole Painting Workshop" some time in mid April. This course will teach the new painter some basic strokes and allow you to complete a small project. Also in the near future will be field trips during April and May. We are planning special visits to other museums by special arrangement. Please contact us about any of our events or volunteer activities. 603-585-7742; www.fitzhistoricalsociety.org.



**As Time Moves On
Kim Mattson and Jean Tandy**

Richmond's Master Plan

Jan 19, 2010: The finished result of weeks of intense intellectual labor was brought forward to Richmond's Planning Board when the Master Plan Committee (composed of neighbors), presented a copy of the revised MP for a vote. The Planning Board's vote was unanimous to accept The Revised Master Plan as Richmond's official vision and guide for future development and/or inevitable change in our town. With exceptional leadership from Peter Majoy, intense, committed attendance and contributions from townspeople, a vision and plan were shaped to help guide our community through potential environmental and social changes, into a future that cannot be known. Ever aware that technology is a constant thing of change, the hope for constancy, is to keep our environment clean and safe, and to maintain and protect the rural character of our quiet wooded town. We thank Peter Majoy for his inspiring spirited leadership, as we thank many, many dedicated neighbors for constant contributions of time and ideas. We are grateful for fine work by Andreas de Danaan of deDanaanDesigns.com for layout/ graphic design for the project, and finally for Sandra Gillis' offer to assist Richmond in designing GPS maps for the town's use.

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**Cheshire County Superior Court
Kim Mattson**

Saint Benedict Center vs. Town of Richmond, ET.AL.

Oct 23, 2009: Judge Mangones, the Presiding Justice, ruled on various motions for summary judgement. Nov 30, 2009: Motions before the court to reconsider and clarify.

First: Congratulations to the Richmond Twelve. Judge Mangones ruled on both dates that the individual members of our land use boards are entitled to absolute quasi-judicial immunity for actions taken in the course of their official duties. There remains a possibility that SBC, Inc. could seek the court's permission to file an interlocutory appeal which has time restraints. Or, they could file an appeal with the New Hampshire Supreme Court by Oct of 2011, or at the end of the lawsuit.

Second: Judge Mangones changed his decision and clarified his ruling for the Interveners citing that indeed the Board of Selectmen, not the Richmond Planning Board, released the condition for providing alternative road access for the SBC, Inc. traffic. The Board of Selectmen who signed the release, released a portion of SBC, Inc. property, from the condition of approval, to build the access road, one of the first conditions set in 1989.

Third: Judge Mangones ruled against us (Richmond) citing RLUIPA in reference to time frames. SBC, Inc. showed that they could not satisfy the Planning Board's conditions for building within the required time-frame. The language in the Planning Board's Notice of Decision "indicated" that if even one condition could not be satisfied, site plan approval would be denied. This, under RLUIPA, is included within the type of activities that constitutes religious practice.

Fourth: The Court again cited RLUIPA and determined that the criteria for granting a special exception constituted an unconstitutional prior restraint because they were not precise and objective. "An ordinance that gives public officials the power to decide whether to permit expressive activity must contain precise and objective criteria on which they must make their decisions." Here, the Planning Board can consider whether a use, including a religious use, is appropriate when deciding whether to grant a special exception. This is not a precise or objective standard. These are facts from the Court to date, but information on the Court case is in constant motion. We report only the facts as they present themselves.

Richmond Zoning Ordinances Followed by the Richmond Twelve, 501.3 Youth Camps, Education and Cultural Facilities, by special exception of the Board of Adjustment subject to the conditions in Article 10.

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401.6 Manufacturing, Commercial use and House of Worship, may be permitted, by Special Exceptions. Both subject to conditions of section 1001 of this Ordinance. In both 501.3 and 401.6 of Richmond's Zoning Ordinances, Article 10 and section 1001 address the Board of Adjustment.

A note about rumors: they may be with us, in the form of empty suggestions, childish "finger pointing," (to place blame) and/or verbal "labeling" to diminish a neighbor's character. We can do better than that as a Community.

**Ewe Mountain View
Sandee Auvil**

Ewe Mountain View is located at 580 Whipple Hill Road. We are three miles up on the left, last house in NH before entering Warwick, Ma. Two seasons of the year we can see Mount Monadnock. At the farm we have sheep, angora bunnies, chickens and a house cat named Phoebe who thinks she is one of the flock. We have been in this location for seven years. We built and moved up the street from where we used to live for 13 years. I have been a member of Hannah Grimes in Keene since they opened over twelve years ago and sell my products at their storefront. We have angora bunnies for sale, who have wonderful dispositions and are litter box trained, believe it or not rabbits make great pets,

but they do chew on electric wires, not so good. We also sell their angora wool which is warmer than sheep wool! Which blends lovely with sheep wool. We have white, black, agouti, chocolate, and grey rabbits for sale.

The angora wool is for sale by the ounce. I spin the wool into yarn and knit or crochet various items with the yarn. We have eggs for sale and still have chickens laying in this cold cold winter. We have about 20 laying hens and they take turns laying eggs even though there are at least eight laying boxes, they have their preference for a specific box, so we can hear them squawking if they do not get to their box in time. I don't know chicken talk, but I bet they do not like it one bit that another chicken beat them to their box.

We have sheep for sale and a few sheep will be lambing soon. A sheep gestation is five months, even though they may be pregnant, we can not tell until about one month before delivery. The shearer came today and we have lots of fleeces for sale, by the ounce or by the pound. Please email, call or stop by. We will be glad to show you our farm. We are selling eggs for \$2.50 per dozen. We have kitty felt balls for sale \$2.50, and other hand made items for sale made from sheep and angora wool.

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■ 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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