



**To the Richmond Rooster:**

As many of your readers will know, the Saint Benedict Center is suing not only the town of Richmond, NH but also twelve members of the Select Board, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals over the Center’s application to build a 10,000-square foot “school” and “community center” off a class 5 road in our rural town. The Center’s suit claims that the individuals showed religious discrimination in putting conditions on its expansion plans. Whatever the merits of the suit may be, it is undeniable that these twelve individuals have selflessly volunteered hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of their own time to ensure that the town’s growth is in the best interests of all its residents.

As Richmond residents and supporters, we are deeply concerned that such a lawsuit is intended to discourage the kind of volunteerism on which small towns such as ours depend. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the work of the “Richmond Twelve” and to thank them for their selfless service to our town. They are Peter Majoy, Ludger “Butch” Morin, Robert Coy, Norma Thibodeau, Marcus Beauregard, J.C. Boudreau, Alan Schmidt, Theresa Morin, Lloyd Condon, Sandy Perry, Charles Schroeder, and Jack Marsden.

Sincerely,

*Jonathan Bloom  
Sheila Blair  
Pamela Goodell  
Bob Weekes  
Jan Weekes  
Jill Rodd  
Fred Goldberg  
Roberta Jaffe  
Barbara Woodward  
Norm Woodward  
Arlene Brewer  
Sean Brewer  
Sue Flagler  
Rick Flagler  
Caroline Polk  
Latham Polk  
Maria Barlow  
Roy Barlow  
Kimberly E. Mason  
George Skip Mason  
Paul Clipper  
Jo Ann Owens  
James Butterfield  
Kate Butterfield  
Lynn Adams  
Alison Van Brocklin  
Hugh Van Brocklin*

*Marsha Garone  
Gary Garone  
Janel Swanson  
Nancy Lescynski  
Theresa Majoy  
Kim Mattson  
Lloyd Goodnow  
Kathy Goodnow  
Jean Tandy  
Maureen Blackledge  
Danny Wahl  
Michael Bailey  
Kevin Duffy  
Bruce Crowell  
Shawn Crowell  
Jen Goodnow  
Rosti Eismont  
Jeni Eismont  
Burt Hollenbeck  
Beth Hollenbeck  
Marie P. Juhlin  
Barbara Hastings  
Randy Hastings  
Steven M. Clark  
Bertha Nelson  
Joe Tonweber  
Tracey Tryba*

*Donna Brewer  
Susan Lescynski  
Gail Cushing  
Devon Garone  
Debra Coll  
Beth Audette  
Terri O’Rorke  
Hugh O’Rorke  
Hank Lescynski  
Stillman Rogers  
Barbara Radcliffe Rogers  
David Weisel  
Aine A. E. Whittum  
Claire Borowski  
Herbert Shaw  
Edward Atkins  
Jon Pratt  
Jim Mountford  
Heather Mountford  
Jen Thompson  
Tracy Thompson  
Wayne Imon  
Stephen Juhlin  
Anne Harper  
Marcia Clark  
John Herron  
Linda S. Herron*

*Debra Vaughn  
Joanne Wildemuth  
Beverly Hart  
Pam Bielunis  
Bonnie McCarthy  
Susan Taylor  
Marie Knowlton  
William Coll  
Sandy Holbrook  
Nicasio Bartos  
Joseph Paul  
Sally Paul  
Eleanor Mattson  
Paul Teitelman  
Ann Curry  
Jean Blake  
Donald A Mueller  
Al Bielunis  
Andreas Schueller  
Pete Wilson  
Jeff Reese  
Nanci Spath  
Andrew Spath  
Bettie Thomas  
David Graves  
Jane Rice  
Jerry St. Pierre*

(Signatures continued from page one)

Danielle Love	Lewis Whittum	Den'Al McElhiney	Samantha Weaver
David Olney	John Boccalini	Michael Hoefer	Krystal Hale
Victoria Provost	Chris Spath	James McWhirk	David Spath
Irene Marshall	Kathleen Whitham	Kathryn McWhirk	Judith Graves
Naomi S. Bergin	Ryan Spath	Mary Brooks	Frank Rice
Lillian Smith Novak	Lea Pelletier	Milton A Doubleday III	Melinda Boulay
Jessika Fisher	David Kruse	Kathy Livingston	Emily Allen
Brian Keith Burns	Joe Boulay	Paul Knowlton	
Carol Peacock	Cathryn St. Pierre	Kathleen Delaney	
Carl Becklo	Richard P. Drew	Janet Boccalini	

Community Church Outreach  
JAN RAY-THOMPSON

Many families and households are struggling to make ends meet in these days of challenging economic times. REJOICE, for God has inspired the people of the Richmond Community United Methodist Church to donate 10 percent of the weekly offerings to the Richmond Food Pantry. Faith has taught us that the more one gives of him or herself, the more that comes back to enrich the giver's life. We believe it is important to cultivate a relationship with God and with our neighbors, and this is one way we can try to help, despite struggling to making ends meet within the church. As we move into the holiday season, please remember that our doors are always open to you, and all are welcome to worship with us.

Richmond Volunteers Rock  
RUSS PROVOST

The Town of Richmond's volunteers are critical to the operation of our town government. They give up valuable time that could be devoted to their families, their homes, their hobbies, and to other organizations. They make significant contributions to Richmond town

life. Although Richmond volunteers do not serve for money, personal gain, or gifts, they should be honored and shown appreciation for the service they give our town.

On Saturday, January 24, 2009 from 6-9 p.m. at the Vets Hall, we will celebrate the more than 60 people who serve our town as volunteers. There will be food, drinks (byob), music provided by a DJ (and special guests), a '50s theme, and an opportunity to share your feelings about the work they do.

Price: volunteers and children under 10 come free. Suggested donation for all others is \$10. There will be no expense to the town. For more information please call Russ Provost at 239-7058.

Richmond Public Library  
WENDY O'BRIEN

Preschool Story Hour

On Saturday, December 13, at 10:30 a.m. Gwyn will lead a preschool story hour focusing on "Holidays." Come for a hour of enjoyable stories, a snack, and a craft.

Bake Sale and Gingerbread House Raffle

Our bake sale and gingerbread house raffle was a huge success, raising over \$370 to support the purchase

of books and materials for our children's room. Thanks go out to the members of the Bake Sale Committee who put such an effort into baking, setting up, taking down, and maintaining the table throughout the day. Special thanks also go to Elaine Moriarty for coordinating the sale, as well as Deb Watson who provided a gingerbread house for our raffle. The BIGGEST thank you goes out to all of you who baked for the sale—we had an overwhelming response. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Volunteer Appreciation Tea

There will be a volunteer appreciation tea hosted by our Board Secretary Elaine Moriarty on Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m. This is a chance to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for all of the hard work that they do. Please feel free to stop by!

It's Not Too Early To  
Start Thinking About...  
ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

The filing period for offices that will be on the March 10, 2009 Town of Richmond ballot begins January 21, 2009 and ends January 30, 2009. The Town Clerk's office will be open on January 30th from 3:00 to 5:00 for those wishing to file for candidacy. The following offices will be on the March ballot:

- One for Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term
- One for Library Trustee, 3-year term
- Two for Planning Board, 3-year term each
- One for Selectmen, 3-year term
- One for Town Clerk, 3-year term
- One for Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-year term

You must be a resident of Richmond and a registered voter to qualify for candidacy of any of these offices. If you would like to run for any of the above offices, please be sure to come to the Town Clerk's office during the filing period.



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Election Results  
ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

Following are the results from the November 4, 2008 General Election as tallied from the Richmond ballots.

President/Vice President:

- 371 Obama/Biden
- 263 McCain/Palin
- 3 Nader/Gonzalez
- 2 Phillies/Bennett
- 11 Barr/Root

Governor:

- 395 John Lynch
- 214 Joseph D. Kenney
- 35 Susan M. Newell

U.S. Senator:

- 333 Jeanne Shaheen
- 299 John E. Sununu
- 30 "Ken" Blevens

Representative in Congress:

- 345 Paul W. Hodes
- 280 Jennifer Horn
- 24 Chester L. LaPointe II

Executive Councilor:

- 317 Debora B. Pignatelli
- 270 Stephen B. Stepanek

State Senator:

- 337 Molly Kelly
- 296 Thomas R. Eaton

State Representative:

- 394 Barbara Hull Richardson

Treasurer:

- 271 Stuart E. West
- 233 Fred S. Parker
- 81 Patricia E. Putnam

Sheriff:

- 572 Richard A. Foote

County Attorney:

- 582 Peter W. Heed

Register of Deeds:

- 581 Evelyn S. Hubal

Register of Probate:

- 311 Anna Z. Tilton
- 284 Susan J. Castor

November 4th was a busy day at the polls. Richmond had 693 ballots cast – an 81.6% voter

~ ~ ~WANTED TO BUY~ ~ ~

We are currently looking to purchase the following items:

- Vintage Clothing ✦ Blue Decorated Stoneware ✦ Musical Instruments ✦ Cameras  
✦ Pottery ✦ Frames ✦ Tools ✦ Toys ✦ Vintage Photographs  
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turnout. Forty-five people were registered that day as new voters. Although we did not get the usual end-of-day crowd of voters, we did have an early morning rush, with no one waiting longer than 15 minutes. Otherwise, the flow of people coming to the Veteran's Hall was steady throughout the day.

With the help of many people, activity at the polls ran, on the whole, smoothly. This was a combined effort on the part of your elected and appointed election officials as well as members of the Police Department and numerous volunteers. Many worked late into the night and all contributed in the spirit of generosity and community.

To those who voted and to those who worked at the polls – thank you for making November 4th a memorable day!

And for those people who might have experienced a less-than-perfect Election Day, please feel free to contact me. I always welcome your feedback as I strive to be a better Town Clerk to all of Richmond's residents.

### **Tax Office Hours** **STEVE BOSCARINO**

The Town of Richmond Tax Collector's Office will be changing Thursday's hours of operations of 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. These hours will correspond more closely to that of the Town Clerk's Wednesday afternoon hours. This change will facilitate town business for residents who wish to visit both offices in one trip. The new hours will take effect on Wednesday, January 7th, 2009. Notices will go out with the tax bills and postings will be made at the Vet's Hall, Town Hall, and at the Richmond Four Corners store. Monday's hours 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. remain unchanged.

### **Share Your Thoughts** **MARIE KNOWLTON, PUBLISHER**

Election results of November 4, 2008 changed the future of our country with a record turnout of voters. Please share your thoughts and insights on this historic event with Rooster readers. A special section of the January issue will be set aside for this important topic. Become part of the archives and share your views.

### **Town Clerk's Office** **Holiday Closing Dates** **ANNETTE TOKUNAGA**

December 24, 2008 closed at noon  
December 25, 2008 closed all day  
December 31, 2008 closed at noon  
January 1, 2009 closed all day

### **Appreciation** **CAROL OXX**

I would like to express my appreciation to Geraldine Lutz, Chairman of the Richmond Cemetery Trustees, and Lloyd Goodnow for their charity and dedication in making the green burial cemetery in Richmond a reality. It is, I believe, the first public cemetery of its kind in the northeast and reflects a vision and respect of our environment and heritage for which Richmond can be most proud.

### **Meadowood** **MELANIE ELLIS**

It has been a very eventful year at the Meadowood County Area Fire Department. We had many projects to complete throughout the year and continue to find many more to do. We would like to thank all those who had a hand in helping with finishing the projects. Your

time and energy did not go unappreciated. There will continue to be classes running through the end of the year at the Meadowood Training Center. The members of the Meadowood County Area Fire Department wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

### **Commissioner's Notebook** **STILLMAN ROGERS,** **RICHMOND COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIST. 3**

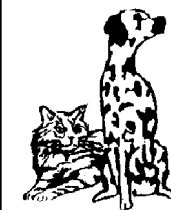
This will be what I hope will be the first of a series of articles for the people of Richmond about county government in Cheshire County, what it does and how its business is being carried out. When I ran for office two years ago, I discovered that people do not have much knowledge about the operations of this quiet level of government and they would like to know more.

One of the most important responsibilities of county government is the operation of a jail. It is a place where pre-trial people accused of crime and people convicted of misdemeanors (crimes with incarceration of less than one year) are housed. I deal with the jail first because a recent political ad in the Sentinel totally miss-stated the facts.

When I took office in January 2007 an immense problem faced the county. In the mid-1970s a jail had been built for 25 or so inmates and within five years it was overcrowded. After years of wrangling, an addition was added in the '80s, bringing the capacity to 47 inmates. Within a few years additional space was needed because the facility, built for 47, was now housing over 100 on a regular basis and its wiring, control systems, disability capacities and fire systems were poor or non-existent.

In the mid 1990s the county began planning for new facilities. Proposals for a facility were made in the late '90s and early 2000s that would have cost 10

### **Park Place Veterinary Hospital**



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to 18 million dollars. Uncompromising bickering over where the jail should go – to keep it in Westmoreland or to move it to Keene—delayed building until the cost had risen to 37 million dollars. I had no preference on location but insisted that the project be done without further delay to prevent further cost inflation.

In the spring of 2007 the county delegation voted on a bipartisan basis to build the new facility on Route 101 in Keene. The project is now well underway. A substantial cost savings was made when the Commissioners elected to use pre-cast cells. They are now in place.

The new jail is fully on time and will open in early 2010. Instead of having to rebuild a jail every 10-15 years, this time the jail was designed big enough to meet projected needs for 40-50 years. It is also big enough that available space will allow us to house temporary prisoners from elsewhere, thereby offsetting the expected operational cost increases. This income could be as high as a million dollars per year.

When heating oil costs rose to \$4.79 a gallon in the spring, the Commissioners re-examined the heating and cooling capacity of the new building. It called for oil fired burners. We examined the new county nursing home in Merrimac County, which uses a geo-thermal system. Those systems use a liquid to extract heat from the earth in winter and to draw cooling in the summer. After investigation of options and costs we voted to change the system and the new jail will be heated and cooled

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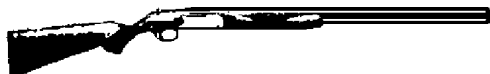
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## Community Events

with a geo-thermal system. The cost of heating and cooling will be less than half of what oil would have been. The decision is a winner for all. We help the environment and we save the taxpayer millions of dollars over the next 20 years.

Other decisions taken by the Commissioners to make changes in the laundry system and replace dryers will cut the fuel oil usage at the county's nursing home, Maplewood, in half, saving taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars this coming year and more every year thereafter.

### From the Archives

**NORMA THIBODEAU**

As the year 2008 draws to a close, we are all grateful for the many donations of funds, historical documents and photographs that have been given to the archives. A big thank you to all who have contributed to conserve and preserve Richmond's history.

The valuable experience of creating the Richmond Archives' first documentary using computer programming took place this year—oh so much to learn. The first presentation of this effort was on August 23 as part of Summerfest—free to the public—and enjoyed by a wonderful, sizable group. The second presentation was on Fireman's Barbecue Day. Marred by a power failure, and the burn-out of two computer speakers, the program limped along to its conclusion. Some visitors left before the set-up of a generator was accomplished. In the future, the program will be repeated. Fortunately the new all-purpose projector purchased with donated funds was not damaged.

The presentation, "And They Wrote It Down," would not have been possible without the help of so many people who so generously gave their time and voices to the program. Thank you all very much. Your participation was very heart-warming and appreciated.

As archives work continues, plans for future programs are being made. The investment of our community in Richmond in the Richmond Archives is not

only important for all of its residents, but goes way beyond to those who have deep roots in the wonderful heritage in our community.

The Richmond Archives will be closed until March 15, 2009. The Historical Society of Cheshire County, 246 Main Street, in Keene, is available on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9–4, Wednesday 9–9, and Saturday 9–Noon, with volunteers who can help you. (603)352-1895. Thank you all and please remember history is being made everyday. We are all part of it.

### May the Road Rise Up to Meet You

**PETER MAJOY**

Several weeks ago, Theresa and I attended a concert at the Colonial Theater given by Roger McGuinn and Tom Rush. It had been almost 40 years ago, in the late '60s, that I sat in the Fillmore East in Greenwich Village enjoying McGuinn's group, The Byrds. My heart and soul reveled in his sound and songs even more this many decades later.

Yet, I could never have predicted that a song of his built around an old Irish blessing would bring tears to my eyes and simultaneously cause me to scan my inner landscape for those folk both passed on and still present to whom I, as if an echo chamber, sang this same tune out of the love and gratitude that I held for them.

The Irish Blessing around which McGuinn and his wife built the song is this: "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

There is an utter gentleness that emanates from these words, a caring quality of appreciation that defies time and space. Since we moved to Richmond in the fall of 1985, we have met and come to know a host of people whose time and space have come and gone as well as most of them whose blood still flows warmly through their veins and outwards in their words and deeds, which continue to grace our lives here beyond comparison.

Morgan Road neighbors have always been wonderfully present to the four kids we adopted out of foster care, sharing their comings and goings with love and concern. The four are no longer with us, having chosen to move on along the bumpy path on their own as best they can with periodic mantras of neediness, and they have taken with them heartfelt memories of their time here. New neighbors have proven to be equally alive with good hearts, cute and gregarious children, with always a chord of the Irish Blessing filling my soul with their presence.

As Theresa and I became more active

in town, we came to know so many folk who give of their precious time to keep the town in gear, by serving in voluntary capacity on various boards as well as emergency rescue and fire fighter protection, by serving on minimally remunerated decision making, clerical, and road upkeep positions, by cop-on-the-beat policing of our small, beautiful, rural village, and by helping publish a monthly newspaper. To all these compadres, know that the Irish Blessing continues to be our wish for you.

Peace, Shalom, Slap Five, and "Until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand."

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## To the Rooster: DAN CONNELL

The predominant issue regarding the St. Benedict Center lawsuit is whether individuals in government positions in the town of Richmond acted in a prejudicial manner against the SBC's use of their private property to build a church and school. That is, were their (SBC's) civil and/or religious rights violated by biased or unfair decisions of Richmond government officials and did other citizens of Richmond conspire with them to do so? I picked up a copy of the court case from the Cheshire Superior Court—available to the public—and let me tell you, it's an interesting read. From page 3 - 4: "...it is undisputed that certain officials have blogged their opposition to SBC's religious beliefs, emailed their opposition to SBC's religious teachings...have donated money to the Intervenor to support their mission, 'After all, they were driven out of Boston and Still River, why not Richmond!'" I'd like to know which Town official said this; they should be removed from office immediately, never again to hold public office.

A short time ago, the Sentinel did an article on the controversy. They quoted someone from Richmond as saying, "They're weird (SBC), the women wear dresses and the men wear suits and ties!" I'd like to know if this person was a member of the town government. Picture it—a couple want to put an addition on their house and they must appear with the plans before town government boards: "Okay, honey, we're going up to Town Hall now, put on your bikini and I'll wear my toga..." Honestly, would you want officials like this determining what you may or may not do with your private property?!

Let the lawsuit go forward. I want to see what the evidence is and I'd like to hear what a judge and jury have to say about all of this!

## Build Your Own Holiday Boxwood Tree

JESSICA VANDERKERN

Join Jessica, owner of The Vintage Rose Florist & Boutique, on December 10th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and learn how to create your own holiday boxwood tree. All decorations will be provided, but feel free to bring your own special decorations too! This tree makes the perfect centerpiece for your home or a wonderful gift this holiday season. The class will take place in the Sunflowers Café, and warm non-alcoholic beverages and treats will be provided. This is the perfect way to start your holiday festivities. Bring your friends, family, or colleagues to this special event. The cost is \$35, and includes all craft materials plus treats from the Café. RSVP your spot today by calling 603-585-7111.

## Golden Rule Days are Relived with the Little Rascals

FRANK BEHRENS

**Little Rascals** Shortly after recovering from reviewing a set of Three Stooges shorts, I found myself faced with "The Little Rascals: The Complete Collection." This boxed set of eight DVDs on the Genius Entertainment label includes the 80 "Little Rascals" shorts made from 1929 to 1938—and what a world it conjures up!

As is pointed out in a bonus feature on the last disc, here was a world in which black and white children lived in harmony. Of course, the blacks are stereotyped, but the whites fare little better in what is after all farce, just a notch up from the mindless antics of the Stooges. Other bonuses are "The Story of Hal Roach and Our Gang," and "Catching Up with the Rascals" and two silent shorts.

Welcome to the Richmond Community Church

Richmond Community United Methodist Church

PASTOR SHINHYUNG AHN

Sunday Worship Services  
8:45 am

We are a celebrational and compassionate people.  
We champion the simple worth of all people.

Come and join our Family!

A helpful booklet provides all the tracking details, photographs, and even a list of the horrible endings of the lives of 11 of the original cast. So for lovers of Alfalfa, Chubby, Buckwheat, Darla, Brisbane, Mickey, Stymie, Scotty, Wheezer, and even Pete the Pup, this is a trip down memory lane for the older and an introduction to a chunk of social history for all viewers.

The films are remastered, restored and uncut. They are also organized in the order of their original theatrical releases. And bless you, Miss Crabtree, wherever you are!

**Edwardians** In 1972, British viewers were treated to an eight-part miniseries titled "The Edwardians." Each 75-minute episode was a look into the public but mostly private lives of personalities that defined the age. Happily, BBC Video has restored them in a boxed set of four DVDs—and how entertaining they are.

Probably the most famous of them all is Arthur Conan Doyle (Nigel Davenport), while the least well known is the conman and politician Horatio Bottomley (Timothy West), who set the pattern for the crooked CEOs of today. The others, famed and obscure, are David Lloyd George (Anthony Hopkins), the children's writer E. Nesbit (Judy Parfitt), one of King Edward VII's more notable mistresses Daisy Greville (Virginia McKenna), Robert Baden-Powell (Ron Moody) who founded the Boy Scouts, and the

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team of Charles Rolls and Frederick Royce (Michael Jayston, Robert Powell) who developed, well, that should be obvious!

The last one is really about several persons prominent on the British Music Hall stage who dared to fight the theater owners over the right to unionize. Chief among them was singer Marie Lloyd (Georgia Brown); but Gilbert and Sullivan addicts will be delighted to see ex-D'Oyly Carte comic lead Peter Pratt as a song-and-dance favorite who led the cause of the maltreated stage artists.

The emphasis is always on the human aspects of the notables, mostly their failings, and one easily realizes that their types have always been with us. That is what makes any age so interesting.

Note: Only the first episode (Rolls and Royce) and the last (Lloyd George) is in color. I believe there was a strike when the middle six were telecast; and consequently, although they were shot in color, they have survived only in black and white. Also, the English subtitles are most helpful, because the older prints have slightly fuzzy sound at times.

## Definitely Definitions

TERRI O'RORKE

**CUNNING:** adj. 1. Marked by or given to artful subtlety and deceptiveness. 2. Executed with or exhibiting ingenuity. 3. Delicately pleasing;

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pretty or cute: a cunning pet.

CUNNING: n. 1. Skill in deception; guile. 2. Skill or adeptness in execution or performance; dexterity.

Taken from The American Heritage Dictionary of The English Language, 4th Edition.

## Amendments To The Constitution Of The United States Of America Amendment I TERRI O'RORKE

The last two issues of the Richmond Rooster has seen two articles (Random Acts Of Kindness by Elaine Moriarty, Oct. '08, and A Shared Concern Or a Tale Of Two Signs by Victoria Provost, Nov. '08) referring to freedom of speech, or maybe the supposed lack of. So I decided to research our First Amendment right. Here it is....

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Sounds like both ladies had a point.

## Protect Richmond's Drinking Water KIM MATTSON RURAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The purpose of this article is to ask for your cooperation in ensuring safe drinking water for Richmond's future. As we are aware, Richmond is lucky to have below its surface a stratified drift aquifer. The Richmond Planning Board is in the process of producing a tax map overlay so that we can all be aware of where the aquifer is located and which

of our neighbors own property on this most valuable water resource. The Richmond Planning Board put in place the Aquifer Sub-Committee to create a basic Aquifer Protection District known as Article 7. To date, one public hearing has been held and a second will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008 at the Veterans Hall.

Your drinking water comes from groundwater. Groundwater is the water that flows through the spaces between soil particles and through fractures in rock. Groundwater comes from rain and snowmelt percolating through the ground. While some pollutants

### Do

Use non-toxic alternatives to household chemicals such as cleaners, oil-based paints, insecticides. Take leftover household chemicals to your town's household hazardous waste collection day. Follow package directions on pesticides, fertilizers, and other household chemicals.

Check your underground fuel storage tank (USTs) frequently for leaks. Have an UST removed if it is more than 20 years old: replace it with above ground storage.

Take care of your septic system:

- Inspect the septic tank every year.
- Have the tank pumped out every three years or when the combined thickness of sludge and scum equals 1/3 or more of the tank depth.
- Avoid damage to your leach field and distribution lines by keeping vehicles, livestock, and other heavy objects off the leach field.

Fill abandoned wells with cement from bottom to top.

### Don't

Buy more hazardous chemicals than you need.

Dispose of hazardous chemicals by pouring them down the drain on onto the ground.

Over-use household chemicals. More is not better

Have your tank removed by a contractor who is familiar with new State guidelines for UST removal.

Overload your septic system with solids by using a garbage grinder (unless the system was specifically designed for a grinder).

Use septic system cleaners or additives containing acids or chemical solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE).

Use abandoned wells for waste disposal.

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(such as bacteria, viruses and phosphorus) can be reduced by passing through soil under certain conditions, groundwater can be easily contaminated.

If we're all careful and follow a few basic common sense rules for the entire town, substances that could pollute our drinking water will never find their way to our wells.

We can not drink polluted water. Who would pour gasoline, motor oil, paint, garden chemicals or household chemicals into their drinking water? But, the equivalent is done by pouring any of these products down a toilet, sink drain, or onto the ground. Please take the time to look over the instructions opposite. We need your help to protect our valuable source of drinking water!

### Household Hazardous/Toxic substances

- Automotive fluids
- Auto batteries
- Used motor oil
- Paint
- Paint thinner
- Other solvents
- Pesticides
- Cleaning products

**Voluntary Energy Committee Fast Fact Energy Saving Tip for December 2008—Washing Machine Use:** Wash only full loads and use only cold rinse.

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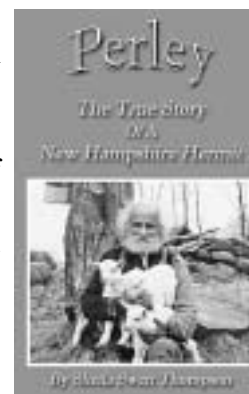
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## Perley, The True Story of a New Hampshire Hermit BOB WEEKES

In 1888, the year of the Great Blizzard, Perley Edwin Swett was born on a backwoods farm deep in the hills of Stoddard, New Hampshire. Destined to become one of the Monadnock Region's most colorful, controversial and tragic characters, he was the subject of many tales and rumors, having achieved local as well as national notoriety as the "Hermit of Taylor Pond."

Today, 35 years after his death, Perley's story has been given new life. His granddaughter, Sheila Swett Thompson of West Swanzey, has written *Perley, The True Story of a New Hampshire Hermit*.



In it she follows his story from cradle to grave. Although he lived in what we might call "simpler times," Perley hardly led a simple life. His rigid adherence to puritanical values and insulation from a world that was rapidly changing at the start of the 20th century led him to fight losing battles with many demons, both real and imagined. The result was estrangement from family and, ultimately, society itself. Living alone with his goats and seemingly impoverished, he had in the meantime amassed a small fortune in land through sharp trading and Yankee thrift.

Perley is this year's "must read" and a perfect Christmas gift for those interested in Monadnock Region history. Published by the Historical Society of Cheshire County and edited by HSCC Trustee and Richmond resident Bob Weekes, this 305 page book is loaded with pictures and may be purchased at the Society's museum store on Main Street in Keene for the prepublication price of \$11 prior to December 6th, or \$14 thereafter.

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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.  
■ Thurs. 4 p.m. —6 p.m.  
**Planning Board:** Robert Coy, Chairperson  
■ Meetings held at Civil Defense Building  
1st & 3rd Tues of the Month —7:30 p.m.  
**Transfer Station & Recycling Facility**  
■ Tues. 8 a.m. —4 p.m.  
■ Thurs. 8 a.m. —7 p.m.  
■ Sat. 8 a.m. —5 p.m.  
**Town Library:** Wendy O'Brien, Librarian  
■ Tues. 4:30 p.m. —8 p.m.  
■ Wed. 9:00 a.m. —12 p.m.  
■ Thurs. 4:30 —7 p.m.  
■ Sat. 10 a.m. —2 p.m.  
**Fire Warden:** Ed Atkins  
**EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE ■ 9-1-1**  
■ Selectmen —239-4232  
■ Town Clerk —239-6202  
■ Tax Collector —239-6106

Visit town on-line: <http://richmond.nh.us.gov>

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■ Yearly: \$15 —Town Residents: FREE  
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Deadline is the 15th of each month.

The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions

E-mail [therichmondrooster@yahoo.com](mailto:therichmondrooster@yahoo.com)

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