



## Welcome New Reporter

**MARIE KNOWLTON**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome and introduce our new Richmond Rooster feature writer, Marie Juhlin. You may recognize her name from the February 2009 Rooster where she wrote an endearing story titled, "A Great Place to Live and Volunteer." Having lived in town for only two years, Marie quickly became involved in the Richmond Library and has now agreed to become part of the Richmond Rooster staff. As many of us know, Richmond's greatest asset is its volunteers and Marie stepped right up to join in.

Marie and her husband Steve, both teachers, came to us from Torrington, Connecticut, where they raised their three children. Marie taught foreign language in grades seven through twelve and also taught English as a second language to adults. The Juhlins found Richmond through the process of elimination, eliminating every home they looked at in VT and NH until finding the perfect home on Fish Hatchery Road! I am looking forward to more stories by Marie Juhlin and again welcome her to our team of extraordinary volunteers.

## Let's Meet Our Neighbors

**MARIE JUHLIN**

It had to be kismet for Colleen and Steve Kunze. Both grew up in small towns in Minnesota. Both come from very large families. Both are rabid Minnesota Twins fans, as well as Minnesota Viking fans. They both attended the same college, and later worked at the same company in Wisconsin. They are intensely ardent fans of all things Celtic, especially music and art. Is it any wonder that, after a friend introduced each to the other, they fell in love and married?

As with most parents, we watch our lives meld from the pre-children era to the life-with-children era. It is no different for the Kunzes. Before the arrival of their son, Connor, Colleen was in project management. She loved her job and was lucky enough to travel extensively. As for Steve, he took on more and more responsibility with each promotion. Their professional lives were hectic but they made time for each other while enjoying camping out and biking. In Wisconsin, they both joined the MMUSA, the acronym for what sounds like great fun, The Milwaukee Midwest Unconventional Sports Association. They met and have kept up with great friends, with whom they won tournaments in kickball (yes, remember that old chestnut from grammar school?) and miniature golfing.

Steve's job took them to Seattle, which Colleen describes as a beautifully green city but one that can bring you down with almost incessant cloudy, foggy, and misty weather. However, the birth of Connor brought the sunshine back into their lives. When Steve's company offered him a move to New Hampshire, both Colleen and Steve jumped at the chance. "New England reminds us of home," says Colleen. "We both missed the changing of the seasons, so we are very happy to be here." Obviously, growing up in Minnesota, the weather here is not a big change for them. They've already strapped on their snowshoes, bundled two year old Connor in sled, and have been exploring trails behind their Fish Hatchery Road home.

While their pre-children lives may have been a whirlwind of work and play, both Colleen and Steve are having so much fun watching Connor grow, their lives now revolve around this bright and chatty little blond fellow. Steve is pleased that his job as Manufacturing Manager at Janos is but a short drive away. Colleen is grateful and very happy to be home with Connor. She is also pleased that she does not have to spend \$4.00 for a cup of coffee, as she did at the many "baristas" in Seattle!

Steve and Colleen are looking forward to meeting their neighbors; in fact, Colleen would very much like to meet other stay-at-home-moms for play days and a little adult conversation!

Welcome to Richmond, Steve and Colleen. We hope you will enjoy our community as much as we do.



## Town Clerk's Office Dates to Remember ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

March 10, 2009  
CLOSED for Town Election  
Voting will be conducted at the Vet's Hall from 11:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m.  
March 14, 2009  
Town Meeting at the Vet's Hall starting at 9:00 a.m.

## 2009 School District Warrant JIM CARNIE

There are approximately 10 Articles up for your consideration this year, and I will attempt to give you my opinion on them, as they directly affect both you and the town of Richmond.

Article One is the Budget—This year the operating budget is less than the default budget, and has already been cut by the Finance Committee and the School Board (twice). They are both about the same cost to the District's taxpayers. Please vote your own conscience.

Article Two is the SAU Budget. The regular budget here includes raises for SAU employees that contained within a pool of money (about \$40,000), that is hidden in the line item inappropriately titled Central Accounts.

I would urge you to vote NO on this item, thereby in effect voting for the Default Budget.

Articles Three & Four are general maintenance articles and are somewhat NEASC related. I feel they are generally needed, and are a substantial improvement in the direction taken by the Facilities Committee (of the School Board), to balance the NEEDS of the District with the Taxpayers ability to pay.

Article Five is required generally for the appropriate wording.

I believe that Article Six and Seven are two of the more important articles on the Warrant this year. Not because of the immediate cost, but because of their long term ramifications as to the makeup and operation of the Monadnock Regional School District as a whole. I personally oppose both—and

urge you to vote against both Articles.

Article Six, as initiated by Eric Stanley of Swanzey, was well intentioned, but it does NOT directly resolve the real issue at hand, and consequently will not return any excess monies to the proper place—i.e. the taxpayer and/or the towns. For the past several years the School District has had a surplus toward the end of each year (even within a Default Budget). In several cases it has been quite large, but rather than return that money to the taxpayers in the various cities and towns throughout the District, the Administration has proposed numerous "TRANSFERS", and spent the money as they saw fit on various projects throughout the District. I personally find this practice inappropriate, and strongly believe that the money should be returned to the TAXPAYER. The School Board feels they are more knowledgeable than you are on how to spend YOUR money. If you agree with me, please vote NO on article SIX.

Article Seven was, first of all, an attempt to comply with the State Statutes, which require the School Board to have an uneven/odd number of members. We previously had 15 members, but with Surry withdrawing we currently have 14 (which is not in compliance). The question becomes, do we want 15,13,11, 9, etc., members, and what will be the representation for each town. The current makeup is Swanzey 6, Troy 2, Fitzwilliam 2, and Gilsum, Sullivan, Richmond, and Roxbury each having one representative. The situation is further complicated, because each representatives vote is "weighted," based upon each town's population in relationship to the population of the whole District. The crux of the problem is—what should Swanzey's representation be? They currently have six members, and Article Seven (as changed at the Deliberative Session), will give them seven. This was the original proposal brought before the School Board, and I recommended it be changed to five, which the school board voted in favor of (strictly along town lines). At the deliberative session, several disgruntled Swanzey people put it back to a fifteen member board with Swanzey having seven. This is nothing but a power grab!

There are several good reasons to oppose the current proposal. First: both the School Board and the Budget committee are too large and unwieldy already. Second: In the past five or six years Swanzey's membership has had a tremendous turnover ratio, and new members are constantly unfa-

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miliar with both operations and procedures. (In comparison, Richmond has had only two members in the last—almost thirty years, and both have finished their elected terms). Third: With the addition of each vote being weighted, Swanzey will not lose one bit of power. For the first (approximately) twenty-seven years of the District we operated quite well with Swanzey having had only TWO representatives, (as per the original compact). Fourth: If by Swanzey's reasoning, population was the sole determining factor, then Richmond should have four times the number of representatives as Roxbury, since our population is more than four times as large as theirs. Fifth and finally: If the Richmond representative (or any other single representative town) does not show up at a board meeting, Richmond loses its ENTIRE representation. If one of the Swanzey representatives does not show up at a Board meeting, they still only lose one fifth (or one seventh) of their representation. They don't need seven members!

## Town Meeting & Election ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

The Town Election will be held on March 10, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Veteran's Hall (unless the Selectmen decide otherwise). At the Election, also known as the First Session, the voting of officers and any changes or additions to the zoning amendments will be conducted by paper ballot.

Unlike previous years, the Town Meeting will be held on the Saturday following the election, on March 14, 2009, commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Veteran's Hall. At the Town

Meeting, also known as the Second Session, all registered voters attending this meeting will have the opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on the Town budget.

For those who will not be able to come to the polls on March 10th, absentee ballots will be 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. Please call 239-6202 if you have any questions regarding obtaining an absentee ballot.

## Monadnock Regional High School BRIAN PICKERING, PRINCIPAL

I would first like to congratulate Hinsdale and other area schools in the Monadnock Region on their success with the NECAP test!

On the first day of school we held a rally in the gymnasium and announced a new beginning for MRHS. We shared with our staff and students a slogan, MRHS on the Rise, because the MRHS staff believed in themselves; they believed in each other; and most importantly, they believed in the students. As Principal, I shared the importance of being proud of where our students go to school. We told them, when someone asks you where you attend school, look into the person's eyes and proudly respond, "I go to Monadnock!"

On that first day of school, we told students that this new attitude was going to be either a reality or a dream. And for many people outside of these walls, it would only ever be a dream.

On that first day of school, the auditorium was under renovation. The gym was not complete. Our teaching staff had no contract. And our NECAP scores in




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## Richmond Town Elections

**Vote: March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 11-7:00 PM**  
**Richmond Veterans Hall**

Selectmen- **JC Boudreau**  
 Planning Board- **Robert Coy** and **Rick Lewis**  
 Cemetery Trustee- **Bev Hart**  
 Library Trustee- **Bonnie McCarthy** and **Marie Juhlin**  
 Town Clerk- **Annette Tokunaga**  
 Trustee of Trust Funds- **Deb Coll**

**YOUR VOTE COUNTS**  
**50% PLUS 1 EQUALS A MAJORITY**

**Town Meeting**  
**Saturday March, 14, 2009 9:00 AM**  
**Richmond Veterans Hall**  
**Make your voice count.**  
**50% + 1 = MAJORITY**

**ZONING COMPLIANCE OFFICER ARTICLE**  
**VOTE YES**

Need a ride to the polls on the 10<sup>th</sup> call 239-4595

**Kim Mattson, Jean Tandy, Judy Graves, David Graves, Terri O'Rorke**

Reading, Writing and Math were among the lowest in the region.

This fall, with Monadnock on the Rise firmly in our hearts and minds, our teachers prepared students for the NECAP tests and came up with a plan for success. We knew that last year we finished substantially below the state average, and ranked last out of six local schools. But despite that, our staff knew better. We knew Monadnock students could do better.

The results of the test are now out. Recently, our local paper printed some results that did not give a clear picture of the success of our High School. In fact, not only was it not clear, it did not present the facts of Monadnock High School's remarkable turnaround. There are many numbers to analyze, but ultimately let me just share this: if you combine the three exams,

Reading, Writing and Math, and compare the mean score with the State; our students are ahead. A year ago we were not even close. Although we were not first in our region, our scores surpassed many, clearly indicating that the student learning taking place in this building is as good as anywhere with a goal of continued forward movement.

We applaud our teachers who prepared our students and continue to work to find methods of getting better. We thank members of our support staff, who work behind the scenes towards the same vision of success. And finally, we congratulate our junior class, for meeting the challenge and proving we can succeed academically. This test is not the only example of our student body moving us closer to our vision. All of our students have responded remarkably well to the many changes, and when our teachers continue to raise the bar, Monadnock students are rising to the challenge.

We understand that a six month period with improved facilities, a teacher's contract, and raised test scores does not complete our dream, but they are clear examples of proving we are no longer living a pipe dream. Our students have made MRHS on the Rise a reality!

## Planning Board Forced to Abort 2009 Ballot Over a Technicality.

**KIM MATTSON**

The Richmond Planning Board held many Public hearings regarding Richmond's Aquifer Ordinance, the creation of an Aquifer District, Middle Town District, Livestock Ordinance, Home Occupation definition and a clarification on our existing driveway ordinance. Countless volunteer hours were spent researching, creating, editing and producing a final ballot edition for ALL of Richmond's residents to cast their vote. None of the new ordinances restricted any one from using their property. The ordinances were edited to just basic good management practices that could be used within our entire town. The Aquifer and the Livestock Ordinances were created to help everyone coexist and to preserve our most precious natural resource, water.

One Richmond resident and his attorney attended the final public

hearings, collected all information offered, took notes and taped each meeting. They found a technicality in the board's public announcements. RSA 675:7 requires that across the bottom of the announcements a line should direct interested parties to a location where the documents can be read. This resident and his lawyer deemed all of the public meetings were invalid, according to RSA 675:7. They shared this information with our Town Attorney after the deadlines had passed and it was too late for the Planning Board to correct the technicality. Therefore...the ballot will not be given to the residents of Richmond to vote on. Rather, one resident decided for all of us that we didn't need to know these issues or vote on these issues. Why not let the entire town decide the outcome of the ordinances?

Is it fair that our volunteers are again being slapped? This time over a technicality? I have been attending Planning Board meetings for about three years and our board always welcomes comment from the public. Yes, RSA 675:7 exists and this man has the right to correct

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the omission, but why would he not have shared his knowledge with the board for the good of the WHOLE town? Did he handicap our volunteer boards and create a situation where no one will want to donate time? Or, have we reached a level where we need to start to pay town counsel to attend all of our Planning and Zoning Board meetings to insure that every last detail is accurate? Legal oversight is expensive, but it may be our only recourse to safeguard our volunteers, who are Richmond's system of governance.

### Fairness for all = Zoning Compliance Officer TERRI O'RORKE

Several years ago, concerted efforts were made to bring an "as needed" position into town, known as the Zoning Compliance Officer. Research was done with surrounding towns as to how the position was handled, what was being charged for the building permit fees and a job description. All of our town boards select, planning and zoning were also contacted on many occasions for their guidance and input in order to fine-tune a new "Building Permit Application Packet." And guide they did. The result was to create a position to ensure that our zoning ordinances are adhered to.

Also what was discovered was that the building permit fees, whether it was for a new home, shed or an addition, was incredibly archaic. In other words, these fees need to enter the 21st century. For example, a shed or a deck has a flat fee, as does a demolition. However, a new residence, addition or commercial would require a permit fee by the square foot rather than a flat fee.

Which brings us to the job summary. The Zoning Compliance Officer shall verify that all zoning ordinances are followed by building permit applicants. He will verify measurements and all the information submitted on the plot plans of the applicant's building permit before the permit is presented to the Selectmen and also before signing an occupancy permit. This is a part-time position filled by vote of the Selectmen and requiring an estimated 12 hours per month, with scheduling to be agreed upon and with site vis-

its to be scheduled (not on demand). The Officer is also expected to attend two Planning Board meetings per month. As stated in Warrant Article #49, this position is on an "as needed" basis, paid for by permit fees and initially funded for the first year ONLY by the town. This year's proposed budget is \$56,000 less than last year. Surely we can find an appropriation of \$2,500, which will be offset by fair increased permit fees, to bring a greatly needed position to our town and hopefully put an end to potential future litigation.

### Richmond Public Library WENDY O'BRIEN


**Story Hours** On Monday, March 2nd at 2:00 p.m., there will be a brief elementary school-aged story hour which is open to the public.

On Saturday, March 14th at 10:30 a.m., there will be a preschool story hour focusing on Baby Animals. If you have baby animals at home, bring along a picture of them to share and use in a craft project. We will also have pictures available. Coffee and goodies will be available for parents, and a snack is provided for the children. Come by and celebrate the beginning of spring!

**Interlibrary Loan** We are a small library, but we have access to items through the nationwide interlibrary loan network. We usually are able to obtain the item you are looking for from another library in the state within a week. If the item is not available through the state, we then widen the search to include public and academic libraries in the New England area, and then nationwide. In addition to books, we are able to borrow movies and audio books. In a time when family budgets are shrinking, it is good to know that your local library can help ease the burden.

### Emerson School JANEL SWANSON

Emerson School has announced that Tristian Lea has been named to the High Honor Roll for the second Quarter. Congratulations, Tristian.



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### Does the End Justify the Means? (Part 1)

VICKI PROVOST

"I find the children to be clean, well-mannered, well nourished and happy but completely brain-washed and thoroughly educated in those things in which Father Feeney desires to have them know....."

"I find that Mrs. Connor (Loretta Connell Colopy/aka Sr. Mary Agnes) the respondent here, is a charming, intelligent...lady...but she, too, has been brain-washed and puts her vow of allegiance to Father Feeney prior to her marriage vows and to her duty to her children and her husband..."

"I find that...the children have no family life. They have no parental care and love. They are not in the custody of the mother but actually in the custody of Mrs. Clarke (Catherine Goddard Clarke/Sr. Catherine) and Father Feeney, from whom they receive no parental care and love and that the life of the children at the Center is so un-American that the welfare of the children requires that the father have custody and that he is living apart for just cause from his wife. Her refusal to accede to her husband's wishes that the family establish a home and live normal lives I find to be desertion of the husband and her family..."

(From the 1979 book "Walled In - The True Story of a Cult" by Robert Connor (whose real name is Robert Colopy)

These are the findings of the Probate Judge in Worcester, MA, in 1965 in a custody battle between Robert Colopy (formerly Br. Mark) and Loretta Connell Colopy (Sr. Mary Agnes). The case involved the custody of their five boys, all of whom lived at St Benedict Center in Still River, Massachusetts, its members known as the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I had been reading a book by Gary Potter entitled "After the Boston Heresy Case" when I stumbled upon a reference Mr. Potter made about "Walled In." It is a heart-wrenching memoir written by a then 27 year-old man whose "parents, under the influence of religious enthusiasm, left the world, left (him) and (his) four brothers, and finally left each other. The religious order into which (he) was born was an outgrowth of the St. Benedict Center of Cambridge and then Still River, Massachusetts..."

Why is this important? It is important because during those years, SBC Richmond residents were part of the Center in Still River, a time when children were subjected to "daylong silences, imposed fasts, and...brutal punishments."

These punishments are further corroborated by former SBC members Bill and Jean Smith, in their written account entitled "Life at Saint Benedict Center for Those Who Need to Know." The authors of both accounts talk about the "B.P." or "Big Punisher," a black rubber hose used in flogging the children, especially those who wet their beds.

All 39 of the children who lived at the Center had been removed from the traditional home at the age of three to live at the Center in dormitories. The parents of these children then took a vow of celibacy. (By 1979, only six of the 39 remained).

According to an article in the Boston Herald 6/24/86, "A protracted fight for leadership of a religious group founded by the late Rev. Leonard J. Feeney...was decided yesterday by the state Supreme Judicial Court."

The court without dissent upheld a 1983 Worcester Superior Court ruling in favor of 34-year-old Brother Thomas...over Brother Francis, 72, or Fakhri Maluf, an early follower of Father Feeney. At stake was stewardship of the group's corporation, Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of St. Benedict Center Inc., and its real estate holdings of a few acres and a half-dozen buildings in Harvard.

Br. Francis' only comment regarding the decision by the Court was, "All I can say is the crusade is going to go on as strong as ever."

The following year, land was purchased on Fay Martin Road. Saint Benedict Center was incorporated shortly after, under the leadership of Br. Francis/Fakhri Maluf.

Twenty-two years later, he and his wife remain at SBC. Their children do not. Br. Francis will become

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the new keeper of the Richmond, NH Cane, bestowed upon the oldest resident in Richmond. Personally, I find this hard to digest. He was fired from Boston College for his allegiance to Feeney, and lived at the SBC in Still River while the atrocities occurred. And in the end, he will be receiving the cane from the very town his organization is suing for \$4.3 million dollars. Think about it....

### Knit-a-thon

CHRISTINE BRYAN

A new yarn shop in Brattleboro, Knit or Dye, is sponsoring a knit-a-thon on March 8. Each knitter is required to bring cash donations, which will go to the Community Kitchen. It has been a cold winter with more meals given out than usual. The kitchen gets regular contributions of food, but could really use monetary assistance right now. The knitters will be making hats and baby blanket squares from gorgeous yarns donated by regional companies. The completed woolies will be given to those in need who live in the area. Please call Chris Bryan, 239-6932, to make a donation or to get more information about joining our knitters.

### Licensing Your Dog

ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

Dog tags are for sale at the Town Clerk's office. If you licensed your dog in 2008, that tag expires on April 30, 2009. You may license your dog anytime prior to the expiration date. Remember to have your dog's rabies vaccination current. If you had your dog vaccinated recently, please bring with you the rabies certificate.

For those who have recently added a puppy to your family, you will need to license it when it is four months old and after it has received its rabies vaccination. Please bring the rabies certificate when you come to license your puppy.

If you have recently acquired an adult dog, you have 15 days in which to license it. Again, please bring the rabies certificate.

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### New Hampshire Legislative News

February 2009

BARBARA HULL RICHARDSON,  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 2009: This year's legislative session began on January 7th - the first Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January. The inauguration of Governor John Lynch took place the following day. In his inaugural address the Governor warned that the state must make deep cuts in many areas in order to achieve a balanced budget. Revenues are much lower than anticipated and he again stated his pledge to avoid any sales or income tax.

During these difficult economic times more people will need help with basic services such as food and shelter. As the fifth or sixth wealthiest state in the country, one would expect everyone to pay their fair share of the state's expenses. An income tax dedicated to education costs would help to reduce property taxes, which are increasing at a rapid rate. Most of the property taxes go toward education funding. There is a myth that an income tax would only be "on top of the property tax. However, if the income tax were only used for education, property taxes would be decreased. And with exemptions for an income tax for each member of a household, perhaps \$10,000 for

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**Chris Holman**  
Photographer

each adult and \$3,000 for each child, many families would pay very little as an income tax. A family of four-two parents and two children-with an income of \$50,000, would pay an income tax on \$24,000. If the income tax were 3 percent, they would pay \$720. Households with income above \$100,000 represent about 12 percent of New Hampshire families. They have about half of all the income in the state but they pay less than one third of the property tax.

If a low-rate income tax were substituted for the statewide property tax, the remaining 88 percent of households whose earnings are less than \$100,000 would, as a whole, enjoy a tax cut.

More than 10 percent of any income tax would be paid by out-of-state commuters who work in New Hampshire but currently pay an income to their home state.

Anyone using the long form for paying federal taxes could deduct the amount of the state tax from their federal taxes.

I have received a number of calls from people who are very concerned about their ever increasing property taxes. I encourage everyone to write to the Governor urging him to forego that infamous "pledge" to veto any broad based tax.

There are about 800 House bills and over 100 Senate bills to be heard and considered during this legislative session. A few deal with instituting an income tax dedicated to education funding. There needs to be a grass roots effort to persuade lawmakers to have everyone pay their fair share-based on ability to pay.

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On February 12th, the New Hampshire House of Representatives and State Senate met to celebrate the Bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. We were privileged to hear Lincoln (personified by Stephen Wood) deliver the Gettysburg Address and his second inaugural address.

Abraham Lincoln visited New Hampshire from February 29 to March 5, 1860. Many believe he came to this state to visit his son, who was a student at Phillips Exeter Academy. But he also gave speeches in Concord, Manchester, Dover and Exeter that brought him high praise from newspapers and from those attending his talks.

At the May 1860 national Republican convention in Chicago, Lincoln won the nomination on the third ballot with significant support from New Hampshire delegates.

There will be various bicentennial events and activities throughout the state during the next year.

### Firehouse News

SEAN BREWER

To date, the Richmond Volunteer Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad have run on 13 calls for emergency services.

This month I'd like to talk about carbon monoxide and carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas, which is the product of incomplete combustion. Sources of CO include furnaces, wood stoves, generators, portable heaters and vehicle exhaust. Make sure that all of your CO producing appliances are well maintained and used in well ventilated areas. DO NOT use portable generators inside the home or in closed garages or sheds. Place your generator outside and a minimum of 10 feet away from the house, then run extension cords inside if needed.

It's very important that every household has a working carbon monoxide detector. If it is battery operated, make sure you change the batteries every six months just like your smoke detectors.

When you breathe the carbon monoxide into your lungs it is then spread through your blood stream where it crowds out the oxygen. This then deprives your brain and other tissues of the oxygen they need to survive. Symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness,

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sweating, nausea, vomiting and cherry-red skin. If you feel any of these symptoms coming on out of the blue, try opening some doors and/or windows to let the fresh air in. If that doesn't seem to help call 911 and get outside. Pets are also affected by CO so make sure you get them out too.

The Fire Dept. has a carbon monoxide detector that we will bring to your residence and measure the level of CO in your house. We can even narrow down the source(s) that the CO may be coming from.

If your CO detector starts alarming, call 911 and let them know what is happening and if you or anyone in your house is feeling ill. Even if your home is monitored by an alarm company (i.e. ADT) you should still call 911 yourself.

## Voting and Taxes

RUSS PROVOST

There are three particular properties in the town of Richmond that are tax exempt. Yet according to the most recent voter check list, there are a number of individuals who reside in these tax exempt properties. These individuals are not just first and second order "brothers" and "sisters," but some are lay people with families. In addition, in a review of the voter checklist you can see there are single family homes with multiple families/individuals all residing there together.

Most of these individuals who are of voting age have registered to vote. Yes, that is their Constitutional Right as a citizen of the U.S. No argument there. But most of these individuals do not own property and do not own vehicles. Therefore, these individuals pay absolutely no tax whatsoever to the town of Richmond. They do not pay property tax and they do not pay vehicle tax. They contribute nothing monetarily toward the Richmond town budget.

The point I am trying to make here is simple. I realize these voters have every right to vote and believe they should vote for whomever they believe is the best candidate in town, state and national elections. But what just does not settle well with me is that these very individuals who reside in tax exempt properties or who live in single family homes

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with other individuals and other families, who own no vehicles, and no property are voting at town meeting on the way they want taxpayers tax dollars to be spent. They contribute nothing yet get a say in how your tax dollars and my tax dollars are spent. Somehow that just doesn't seem fair.

If they can freely vote on how they feel OUR money should be spent, why are these people so upset as to sue the town, as well as 12 individual volunteer board members, who accepted their plan but with conditions they had to meet? Does it seem like they can tell us how to spend our money but they don't want to spend their money to meet the requirements of the town zoning laws, nor be in keeping with the town's Master Plan? Just doesn't make sense to me.

## Warm Up to All-Star Romance on DVDs

FRANK BEHRENS

Not to be confused with the boxed set titled "Warner Bros. Romance Classics Collection," the set titled "All-Star Romances" is also available in a box or as separate DVDs. The five films in the All-Star set range from the excellent to the pretty awful, and here are some brief comments on each.

The best is certainly "Far From the Madding Crowd" (1967, 171 min.). As ever in a Thomas Hardy tale, the characters never seem to make the right choices; and when they do, Nature, Fate or the Author turns the tables on them. Julie Christie, Terence Stamp, Peter Finch, and Alan Bates are all quite good in creating believable characters, the English scenery is fabulous, and the score draws upon

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English folksongs in a most delightful way. Grab this one! "Cannery Row" (1982, 120 min.) is poorly directed but a great mix of some serious moments with an almost Dogpatch-like comedy from an able cast of character actors. Nick Nolte and Debra Winger play the love-hate relationship quite well.

A real soaper, "Waterloo Bridge" (1940, 109 min.) is a somewhat dated tale of a wartime love, loss, degradation, and the kitchen sink. Robert Taylor is noble, Vivian Leigh pitiable—and how can any film with C. Aubrey Smith be bad? A real collector's item and fun to watch, or weep over, depending on point of view.

"The Yellow Rolls-Royce" (1964, 122 min.) boasts a cast that includes Rex Harrison, Jeanne Moreau, George C. Scott, Shirley MacLaine, Ingrid Bergman, Omar Sharif, and Alain Delon. The idea of basing three stories around a yellow Rolls-Royce never really works.

In the Harrison-Moreau sequence, the plot is stale and none of the characters are at all sympathetic. In the Scott-MacLaine sequence, the plot is also stale, but Scott manages to give a novel twist to the tough gangster character. The Bergman-Sharif tale concerns the German invasion of Hungary, and gives Bergman a chance to develop from a selfish rich woman into a freedom fighter of sorts without straining credibility too far.

The worst of the lot—of just about any lot—is the musical version of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" (1969, 154 min.). With a script that confuses the lovable Mr. Chips of the James Hilton novel with the hateful Crocker-Harris of Terence Rattigan's "The Browning Version," a string of the most forgettable songs ever, a male lead who cannot sing at all, and characterizations bordering on the cartoonish, there

is little to recommend it except as an example of how not to turn a novel or film of a novel into a musical.

All of the films but "Waterloo Bridge" are in widescreen format, and all have subtitles.

## Definitely Definitions

TERRI O'RORKE

TREASON: n.

1. violation of allegiance toward one's country or sovereign, especially the betrayal of one's country by waging war against it or by consciously and purposely acting to aid its enemies.

2. a betrayal of trust or confidence.

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

## Meadowood

MELANIE ELLIS

2009 started off with a bang for the Meadowood County Area Fire Department. As of the writing of this article we have currently responded to 20 emergency calls. We would like to thank everyone who has donated to our annual Fund Drive. With your support we can continue to serve the community and your local fire departments. On March 5th, the Firefighter Level 2 class will be doing their final testing. There are 13 firefighters in the class from Troy, Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Meadowood, Swanzey, Spofford, Alstead and North Walpole. On the 10th of March, the Firefighter Level 1 class will begin the second half of their training and will be doing their final testing on May 7th. On Monday nights through May, there is an EMT-Intermediate class being held at the Assembly Hall as well. The Meadowood Training Center is open all year to any department, business or group that wishes to use our facilities. If you have any questions you can contact Chief Crowell at 603-352-3853 or you can stop by the Meadowood County Area Fire Department on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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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:** Robert Coy, Chairperson

- Meetings held at Civil Defense Building  
1st & 3rd Tues of the Month —7:30 p.m.

**Transfer Station 8s 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.
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- Sat. 10 a.m. —2 p.m.

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- Town Clerk —239-6202
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**Deadline is the 15th of each month.**

The Richmond Rooster welcomes comments and article contributions

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