

Getting To Know Our Neighbors MARIE JUHLIN

Brenda McDonald

Two years ago, when my husband and I were looking in this area to purchase a home, our realtor told us to meet him in the center of Richmond. Coming from northwestern Connecticut, where the centers of towns are rather large, I was puzzled as to where we would be able to find him. To my chagrin, he chuckled and said that he would meet us at the crossroads of Route 119 and Route 32.

The next day, my husband and I jumped in the car and made the drive, arriving at the above intersection a bit early. We were absolutely positive that the realtor had given us the wrong intersection. "Steve," I said, "he said he would meet us in the CENTER OF TOWN. This isn't the center!" Steve agreed with me and we drove on." Marie, I'm turning around," said my husband. "That sign we just passed says that this is the way to Fitzwilliam. We must have missed a turn." After going around in circles for 15 minutes or so, I walked into the 4 Corners Store and asked where the center of Richmond is. Those in attendance in the store said—almost in unison—"You're here!" Crimson-faced, I walked out of the store to find my husband and our realtor chatting.

Since then, I've learned to love "our center" and the store. This IS the center of the town and on any given day, you will not just be able to buy groceries or a delicious lunch but you will be able to get directions to Winchendon, find a good carpenter, post an ad to find your lost lab, rent a video, gas up the car, catch up on the latest goings-on, and get a cup of the best coffee around.

And who handles all this confusion, quietly and efficiently? She is the self-effacing, attractive lady with a shy smile, Brenda McDonald. Brenda was born in Keene and confesses to being an Army brat. Like most children of military personnel, she didn't appreciate the moving around until she was a lot older. A Coast Guard seaman swept her off her feet and they married. They rented in Boston, his port of duty, but Brenda knew in her heart that she always wanted to raise her family in New Hampshire. Consequently, they rented a house in Fitzwilliam for a while and her husband, Brian, drove to Boston every day for several years.

The year 1998 is one imprinted on Brenda's memory. Brian, who finished his tour of duty in the Coast Guard, decided to study to become a police officer. His career move was cut short when he found that he had cancer. Fortunately, with the love and prayers of his family and the excellent care he was given, he is a cancer survivor.

After her husband's illness, Brenda was looking for still another challenge. Her mother suggested buying 4 Corners Store, with

Brenda taking over all the day-to-day operations. It has been an obvious success, which Brenda attributes to her help, her teenagers and the diminutive Gerry Brewer. Brenda, by the way, has five children, including several foster children. She is a staunch supporter of foster care and backs up her words with action. She beams with pride when she speaks especially of one foster daughter she has had since she was an infant and who will graduate from high school this year.

I asked Brenda if she could recall the strangest event she's ever witnessed in her store. Without even pausing, she giggled as she said, "There was a gentleman who came in and started to take off all his clothes! My jaw dropped but I finally composed myself as he reached for his boxers, and I yelled 'Hey, stop! What are you doing?' He replied, 'Well, your sign on the door says "No shirt or shoes, no service." Doesn't say anything about pants.'"

Needless to say, Brenda is thinking about changing that sign on the front door of the 4 Corners Store!



The Richmond Rooster --May 2009--Volume 19 Numbe

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The Richmond

Cleanup Richmond Day RUSS PROVOST

Now that the snow has gone those nasty beer and soda cans and bottles, coffee cups and trash are blooming all over town. Let's get out and clean up our town. Saturday, May 9, will be roadside trash pickup day here in Richmond. Special red heavy duty trash bags will be available at the Pavillion behind the Police/Fire Station from 5-6 p. m. on Friday, May 8 and from 7-9 a. m. on Saturday. May 9. Clean your road. Clean your neighbor's road. Just leave the bags beside the road. Chip Adams of C&L Disposal will pick up the bags beginning at 5 p. m. on Saturday, May 9th. Please no household rubbish. For more information contact Russ Provost at 239-7058.

Town Clerk's Office ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

Dates to Remember

May 25, 2009 CLOSED for Memorial Day May 28, 2009 Deadline for late dog licenses

Vehicle Registrations ANNETTE TOKUNAGA, TOWN CLERK

I recently received information from the State of NH, Department of Safety, regarding vehicle registrations. Following are the guidelines as outlined to me. When doing any vehicle registration transaction, the OWNER OR PERSON CONTROL-LING THE VEHICLE must bring to the town clerk's office the necessary documents. When renewing (already registered in NH, same vehicle, same owner), the owner/person controlling the vehi-NOT ALLOWED. The owner is one of the following:

date: the person(s) named as owners(s) on the NH title or on the NH title application; the person(s) named as buyer(s) on the back of the title or for vehicles with model years 15 years or older from current date: the person(s) named on the bill of sale as the buyer/purchaser or for vehicles registered in NH with no change in ownership, the person(s) named on the registration. The person controlling the vehicle is one of the following: The primary driver for a corporate-owned vehicle. In this case, the driver must present to the town clerk written verification that this person is the primary driver on corporate stationery; the lessee of a leased vehi-

cle. In this case, the lessee will appear on the registration; the surviving spouse.

If someone other than the owner or person controlling the vehicle brings to the town clerk's office the current, expiring registration for a renewal, we will be able to do the renewal. But we will not be able to give the renewed registration to the same person. We have been directed by The State of NH to mail the renewed registration to the owner listed on the registration.

I am aware that some of you may find that these guidelines impose an inconvenience on you. For instance, our children, to whom we might have provided cars, are away at college with those very cars, with the registrations in the glove compartments of those cars. Or a family member may be driving the vehicle more often than that vehicle is parked in the driveway. And, of course, the registration must, by law, remain in the vehicle while it is being driven.

Thus, I want to let you know of another way to register your vehicle. This will apply only for renewals, when you've previously registered your vehicle in Richmond and when there will be no change of information on the registration. You may register by mail by doing the following: you, as the owner or person controlling the vehicle, call the town clerk's office (239-6202); you tell us the plate number of the vehicle that you wish to register; we, in turn, tell you what the town and state fees are: you mail a copy of your registration, two checks for the fees due and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the town clerk's office; your registration will be processed and mailed back to you the day we receive the necessary paperwork and payments.

You may also allow someone else to register your vehicle for you. This is accomplished by giving that other person "power of attorney" (POA). The letter that authorizes someone to register your vehicle must be notarized and brought in by that person, along with the necessary paperwork (i.e. your current, expiring cle must bring the current, expiring registration. COPIES ARE registration). That person will walk out of the town clerk's office with your renewed registration. In addition, renewals may be done For vehicles with model years less than 15 years from current early. For example, if your registration expires at the end of April, you may register in February, March or April.

> Registering vehicles has the potential to be anything but a simple matter. For that reason, your questions are always welcome. If you would like to call before coming to the office, I will do my best to inform you of what you need to bring in order to make your visit a brief and pleasant one.

> Again, I understand that these State guidelines may create a hardship for some of you. I know that the alternatives that I've offered aren't complete solutions to the restrictions imposed by these guidelines. But my intention is not to make your lives more





We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to: Vintage Clothing + Blue Decorated Stoneware + Musical Instruments + Cameras Pottery + Frames + Tools + Toys + Vintage Photographs and any old Telephones, Radios or Electric Fans CALL DANNY WAHL at 603-239-7200

difficult. It is anything but that. My hope is that you will rest assured that you are being treated equally and fairly in your dealings in this office; that I will apply these standards to everyone, without exception. I will always try to help any and all of you to the best of my abilities while adhering to the laws and rules to which I am bound.

Important Mercury Disposal **RUSS PROVOST**

As of January 1, 2008, the disposal of mercury-containing products at landfills, transfer stations and incinerators is prohibited. This means these items may not be disposed of as a solid waste with the "normal" garbage. This ban covers products including: thermometers, fluorescent lamps and compact fluorescent bulbs, thermostats, mercury button cells, batteries, switches and relays. Homeowners and businesses alike are subject to this ban. Legal disposal options include: collection and recycling at municipal facilities, household hazardous waste collections events for Richmond residents. The spring household hazardous waste collection days at the Keene Recycling Center are May 9, May 13, May 16, June 3, June 10 and June 20. For more information on Keene Recyling call 352-5739.

Property Tax Relief ANNETTE TOKUNAGA

If you are single and earn \$20,000 or less, or are married and earn \$40,000 or less, you may qualify for tax relief from the state. Forms are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the state website at www. revenue. nh. gov. The forms must be completed and filed by June 30, 2009. Call the clerk's office at 239-6202 for more information or for help filling out the forms.





2010 Census **BEV HART**

Beginning April 20th through July 6th field personnel will be address canvassing in town. Phase 1 will start the middle of April. They will have handheld computers and will compare what they find with what is already loaded into the computer from previous year's canvassing.

Richmond Public Library WENDY O'BRIEN

Story Hours

On Monday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m., there will be a brief elementary school-aged story hour which is open to the public.

This month the Toddler/Preschool Story Hour will be a real treat, as the children will be able to pick their favorite books from an award winning selection for all of us to read together! Come join us on Saturday, May 9, at 10:30 a.m. for stories, a snack, and a simple craft.

Yard Sale Table Opportunity

The library will be holding a yard sale on Saturday, May 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot, to raise funds for new circulation furniture. We still have a few tables left to the public at \$5 each. This is a great chance for you to hold a yard sale in a central town location. If you would like to reserve

a table, please give us a call at 239-6164 or email us at richmondpubliclibrar@ne.rr.com.

In addition, we are seeking donated items to sell at the yard sale. Please drop items off at the Library during open hours or we will come pick up. Thank you for your support!

Summer Reading Program—Save the Dates!

Summer reading program sign-ups for "Summertime... and the Reading is Easy," program will begin on Saturday, June 13, at the library. Here's a chance to have your kids celebrate the joys of summer! Our official kick-off in conjunction with the Richmond Recreation Committee will be on Saturday, June 27. Throughout the reading program there will be different summertime crafts in the library as well as a weekly prize. Be sure to attend our wrap-up party on Saturday, August 15, at 2:00 p. m. at the Veterans' Hall with guest Rick Goldin, who will host a family concert of music and puppetry (subject to receiving a state grant). So. . . gather your sunscreen, sunglasses, and swim suits and head over to the RPL!

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Brother Francis Receives Bicentennial Cane ELEONORE VILLARRUBIA

Chay. At our recent town meeting on March 10, 2009, Brother Francis Maluf received the Richmond cane as the oldest person living in town at this time. Brother was born Fahkri Maluf in the town of Mashrah, Lebanon, not far from Beirut, the capital of that tiny country, in July of 1913, making him 95 at this time. He took the religious name Francis after St. Francis Xavier, one of the early Spanish Jesuits, who brought Christianity to India, Japan and other parts of Asia.

As a child, the future Brother Francis was educated at the school his father ran in their small town. His academic career includes a Bachelor's degree in mathematics (1934)

Richmond from the American University of Beirut where he taught physics from 1934 to 1939. In 1939, he came to the United States to attend the University of Michigan where he earned both a Master's degree and a Ph. D. in philosophy. World War II pre-

vented him from returning to Lebanon. As a consequence, Brother pursued postgraduate studies at both Harvard and St. Bonaventure University.

Brother taught philosophy, theology, Brother Francis Maluf, Richmond's mathematics and physics at Holy Cross oldest resident. and Boston Colleges in Massachusetts.

He is a convert to Catholicism and was baptized in this country in 1940 when he was 27 years old. His association with St. Benedict Center began in 1949 in Boston. Since that time, Brother Francis has taught many courses in philosophy and theology. He had a radio program in Boston until just a few years ago. He has a number of books to his credit and is a poet. Brother speaks his native Arabic as well as English and French and can read a number of other languages, including Latin and Greek. Richmond can be proud of its oldest living resident, a brilliant and gentle soul who never tires of learning and teaching.

Rooster Chat Group MARIE KNOWLTON

It was in 2004, when Tom Tague served as Editor-in-Chief, that the Rooster Chat Group was created. Every month since that



time there has been an invitation on the back page of the Rooster to join the chat group at http://groups. yahoo. com/group/therichmondrooster. The Chat Group only has a few members and NO activity. This month a new resident of Richmond has asked to become a member of the chat group to learn what topics the town is discussing and what issues the town has that they should be aware of. I would like to try to get this group off the ground once again. Members are allowed to post questions, and thoughts or simply exchange information. The site is restricted and anonymous postings are not allowed. If you are interested in joining the chat and discussing topics, send a request to the address listed. Subscribe: therichmondrooster-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Post Message: therichmondrooster@yahoogroups.com.

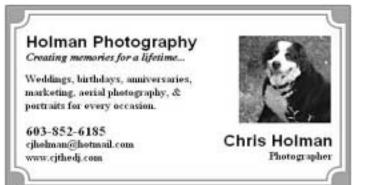
Legislative News May 2009 BARBARA HULL RICHARDSON

The New Hampshire House of Representatives finally passed a two-year state budget that now goes to the Senate. This budget is very lean and does not adequately fund many of our state's needs. However, it is an improvement over the Governor's budget and includes several tax increases which were necessary because so many state revenues have decreased drastically. Some of the services and programs the Governor had eliminated were restored by the House budget: returning rooms and meals tax money to cities and towns; restoring the catastrophic illness program: adding money to reduce the wait list for disabled citizens; adding money for senior volunteers, foster grandparents, senior companions, AIDS services, the

Comprehensive Cancer Plan and alcohol prevention and treatment. The two major new taxes are on our wealthiest residents: the estate tax and the capital gains tax. An 8 percent tax on estates larger than 2 million dollars (or 4 million dollars for a couple if they have done estate planning) will affect only the wealthiest New Hampshire estates - barely 100 people per year. This estate tax will not affect 99 percent of the estates in our state. Every amount will be paid by individuals with at least 2 million dollars in assets or couples with 4 million dollars. Surviving spouses are protected because an estate transferred to a spouse is tax-free. The tax rate is less than two percent for a couple with a 5 million dollar estate. It follows the current federal estate tax rules which include important exceptions that protect family farms and small businesses. The tax encourages giving to charities because all charitable gifts are tax deductible.

The second important tax provision in the budget is an expan-





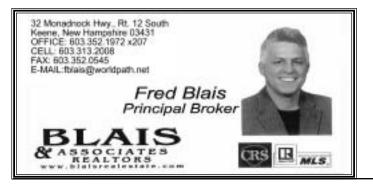
sion to our current Interest and Dividends tax. Currently we have a 5 percent state tax on most forms of unearned income, including interest, dividends, and taxable annuities. This tax is extended to include the largest source of unearned income: capital gains. These are the profits on the sale of assets like stocks, businesses, and real estate. One result of this tax will increase the exemption for interest and dividends, reducing the tax on the fixed-income poor who depend on CDs and savings accounts. Currently \$2400 per person are exempt from tax, but under the new provisions \$5000 per person (or \$10,000 for a couple) are exempt from tax.

Capital gains on the sale of a primary residence are protected and only amounts above \$250,000 for an individual or \$500,000 for a couple are taxed. Middle class tax payers have a federal income tax rate of 25 percent. Wealthy persons with long term capital gains of any size – even millions of dollars – pay a tax rate of 15 percent. It does not seem fair that people should pay higher taxes on income earned from working than they do on unearned income. The two year budget passed by the House makes our tax system fairer for the great majority of working class and middle class people in our state.

Of course this House-passed budget goes to the Senate where more changes will no doubt be made, and then differences between the two budgets will be ironed out in a committee of conference between members of the House and Senate. The two year budget will not become finalized until the end of June. As always I appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Songs in the French-Canadian Mode Delight FRANK BEHRENS

VACHON I am very fond of French-Canadian music and I have the greatest trouble in finding any of it on CDs. However, one delightful way of filling that gap is to hear the recordings of





Josee Vachon. Describing herself as a "chanteuse franco-americaine [of] French-Canadian Rhythm & Songs," Josee has created 11 CDs with titles like "Inspiration," "Reve de Noel," "Devotion," and "La voix d'une mere."

I reviewed some of them several years ago, and recently reacquainted myself with Josee's pleasant and varied delivery through her newest album "25 Ans," her second collection that illustrates the range of the songs in which she specializes. Some are traditional French-Canadian, some are in that style, some are by Josee herself. They are all very enjoyable indeed. I can only advise that one go to her website at www. joseevachon. com for further information.

BARON The 1960s saw many similar shows appearing on the television screen, such as "The Avengers," "The Saint," and other more or less imaginative miniseries, some of which went on for years. Among them is a long-forgotten effort titled "The Baron." All of its 30 episodes are now available in a boxed set of eight Koch Lorber DVDs. And a good deal of fun it is! Starring Steve Forrest, a handsome lead with very limited acting abilities, it follows the adventures of a very wealthy antiques dealer nicknamed The Baron (Forrest), whose cases are nearly all concerned with antiques genuine, antiques forged, antiques missing, and antiques stolen. Other than this, the stories are very hard to distinguish from those in the "Saint" series. One difference, however, is a more realistic approach to killing people. Blood is seen only once, briefly, in "The Avengers," but is quite in evidence here when realism demands it.

For some arcane reason, the producers of the DVDs have put the episodes all out of order, except for the first one. I had to print out the correct sequence from the Internet Media Database, which also supplied the cast listings. I always enjoy spotting actors familiar from "The Avengers" and "The Prisoner," such as Sue Lloyd, Colin Gordon, Peter Bowles, and Peter Wyngarde, most of whom can act circles around the central character. Some of the 50-minute episodes have audio commentary tracks, some have audio introductory tracks. Watching one episode before bedtime is recommended.

Why Would I Want to Grow This? JUDITH M. GRAVES

The history of herbs is a long and fascinating one. Once you start growing herbs you will want to learn more and more. Learn all you can, enjoy the journey. When folks hear you have an herb garden, you will find many will want to share what has overgrown in theirs. Soon you too will be able to share yours. My challenge for you is to grow some

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of the ones I listed below, and incorporate them into your lives. These herbs are easy to work with, easy to grow, and add flavor and health benefits to all your foods. When you grow herbs in your garden and watch them thrive, something relaxing and uplifting happens. Herbs actually thrive on neglect, most like sunlight and well drained soil. Growing herbs can give you confidence to continue working with these marvelous plants and hopefully to find many ways to add them to your life.

With spring finally here we need to finalize our orders for plants and herbs we want to get at the nursery. It is about time now to plant and to really think about what we want to grow. We are all thinking of growing things that will help our grocery bills be lower, help our tables offer tasty dishes, receive health benefits, and have the joy of growing them.

Why would you want to grow BASIL? Basil grows 2-3 feet tall, it is a tender annual, loves full sun, and is a member of the mint family. A must-have plant, if you clip off the center it will bush out and not go to seed. Basil makes a wonderful herb to go with any tomato dish. Basil you can wash, place in a plastic bag and put into the freezer. Break off to add to your spaghetti sauce as needed. Add at the last minute to long cooking dishes. Pungent spicy flavor.

Why would you want to grow DILL? Dill grows 3-5 feet and is best grown as an annual, may re-seed from the previous year, likes full sun. Add leaves to salads, eggs, fish, makes a terrific dip, dried and crushed leaves are used. Seed heads can be cut when seeds start to turn brown. Place the seed heads in a paper bag, punch a few holes near the top, and hang upside down to complete drying. Shake bag and seeds will fall out of the pods. Store in cool dry place and use for pickles or Scandinavian dishes. Chew on dill seeds to aid digestion. Dill attracts insects that prey on aphids. Plant near cabbage, cucumbers, and lettuce for a natural insect repellent. Dill means to 'lull.'

Why would you want to grow PARSLEY? Curly Parsley grows about one foot tall and one foot wide. Best grown as an annual, can come up a second year but quickly goes woody. Grow in full to partial shade. All parsley varieties are high in Vitamins C, A, calcium and iron. Parsley sweetens breath. Used as a garnish to your dishes, be sure to eat it for its benefits. Flavor is peppery with a quiet tang. Italian Parsley has flatter leaves, use in recipes such as soups, stews, pasta dishes, sauces or in tuna salad. Add just before serving. Great salad addition as well. Curly Parsley has a peppery flavor and if you chew on a bit, it will freshen your breath as well as add vitamins A and C. Italian



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Parsley stays fresh longer by placing stems in cold water. To freeze, chop fine and place in ice cube trays or in freezer bags.

Why would you want to grow ROSEMARY? Rosemary grows one to four feet tall and is an annual in cold zones. Enjoys lots of sun, hates wet or dry feet. A bit of a finicky gal, but worth the pampering. Tasty with chicken, seafood, vegetables, soups, bread, and sauces. A strong herb, so use sparingly. A cup of rosemary tea helps you sleep; brew one tsp. dried rosemary or three tsp. fresh flowers and leaves per cup of boiling water. Resembles a pine needle. To harvest, allow sprigs to air dry and remove leaves from stems. The sturdy stem can be used as a skewer for kabobs. Toss onto embers of your fire to release fragrance that is so pleasing. Steep rosemary and use as a disinfectant for washing counters and bathroom fixtures. Rosemary aids eyesight, memory, and keeps hair and complexion healthy. Rosemary means memory!

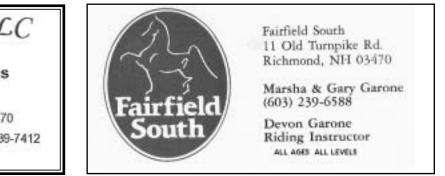
I will add more on herbs you may want to grow. Gather your thoughts and take lots of notes and be armed and ready when May is here!

Eat Your (Fresh, Organic) Veggies! ELEANORE VILLARUBIA

This year will be the third season for one of our local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms – Picadilly Farm in Winchester, our neighboring town. Bruce and Jenny Wooster, their faithful farm crew and their lovely little daughter Beckley are hard at work preparing the fields, planting seeds in the greenhouses and getting the machinery in good working order for the 2009 planting season.

The first two years saw the growth of shareholders to 140. Bruce and Jenny are shooting for 190 shareholders this season, with an eventual total of 300. So there are plenty of shares available for purchase for the upcoming season.

How does CSA work? The idea is that shareholders "take a chance" on the success of the farm crops with a deposit of cash in the winter. This allows the farmer to purchase his seeds, equip-



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ment and make needed repairs, plus hire help, without going into debt. Shares are available on a sliding scale, within certain parameters of course, according to what the shareholder can afford. (Honor system—how generous can you get?)

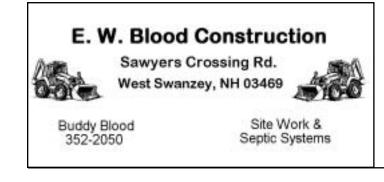
The variety and quality of the produce is amazing. My husband and I have eaten vegetables we never experienced in the South (celeriac, chard, parsnips, kale). The tomatoes come in a dizzying array of sizes, shapes, and even colors! Ditto the lettuces. Everything is displayed beautifully on pickup days and hours, plastic bags provided. There are pick-your-own gardens (bring a short kid to help so you don't have to lean over), seconds bins where you can usually take as much as you can use at no cost, and (my favorite) the sunflower garden where the flowers are as tall as I am (snip all you want, scissors provided). Bruce and Jenny occasionally host pot luck lunches and suppers, weeding parties, and music evenings.

It's fun to participate in a working organic farm, and to get to know the farmers and the other shareholders. The Woosters are very conscious of their responsibility to the community that supports them. They show this by providing healthy and beautiful produce, because they know that satisfied shareholders will return and spread the good word, which is what I am doing now. Mmm, can't wait to bite into that sweet juicy watermelon! Picadilly Farm, 264 S. Parrish Rd., Winchester, NH. Call 239-8718 or visit www. picadillyfarm.com.

Kristofferson: Man of Peace PETE MAJOY

Sunday, February 22, 2009, brought fresh snow and a helping of ice. Theresa and I had tickets to Kris Kristofferson's show at the Colonial that evening. Checking conditions outside, watching and listening to weather updates, and analyzing the boundary line between "the roads will be too dangerous" and "the roads will be manageable," the decision to go manifested itself at 5:00 p. m. as the last light of evening ebbed beyond the western horizon.

We left early enough to drive carefully and still be on time.



We made it. The show began about 10-15 minutes late, probably to accommodate the understandable fact that a number of folk would be struggling to make it, and maybe because, as we found out when he walked on stage, Kris Kristofferson had a cold. Almost a full house of determined fans, including Kristofferson, became a community of smiles, "Oh yeah, Kris," some tears, and great appreciation for the chance to hear a voice whose gravel quality we all loved because the words that voice shared went straight to the heart of the matter. The 73 year old Kristofferson knows.

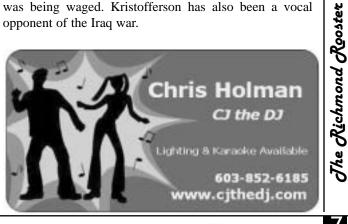
An occasional cough, a periodic handkerchief across his nose, that nasal sound in his voice, smiles, jokes, harmonica filling in the airwaves between song verses, and guitar strings chirping from start to finish, Kristofferson was brilliant, both reflecting sudden moments of blinding truth and triggering an equally deep meeting with one's own heart. His lyrics evoked recognition not as something external but as an immediate revelation of one's own deepest contact with a universal sharing of awareness. He was singing from within each of us.

Reflecting on war, his words were earnestly delivered, and beneath the surface one understood the absolute sorrow crying out of the human wreck of violence that is "Burning up the atmosphere and cutting down the trees/The billion dollar bombing of a nation on its knees/Anyone not marching to their tune they call it treason/Everyone says God is on his side." He went on to demythologize the notion of a god blessing such a catastrophe as he sang "Broken dreamers, broken rules/Broken-hearted people just like me and you/We are children of the stars/Don't blame God, I swear he's crying too."

Raised as an "army brat," Kristofferson, a Rhodes scholar, highly successful athlete with a Masters in English literature, joined the army rising to the rank of captain. He became a helicopter pilot, completed ranger school and was stationed in West Germany as part of the 8th Infantry Division. His tour of duty ended in 1965 when he resigned his army commission and moved to Nashville.

Woven into his successful songwriting/singing and acting career is Kristofferson's anti-war activism. He is a mem-

ber of Veterans for Peace and accompanied peace activist S. Brian Wilson to Nicaragua several times in the '80s. It must be noted that Wilson, a Vietnam veteran and part of a non-violent veterans peace group, lost both legs attempting to block a train filled with weapons headed for the Contras in Nicaragua where a lawless war against innocent people trying to fashion for themselves a democracy was being waged. Kristofferson has also been a vocal opponent of the Iraq war.



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As his concert continued, there was never a lull for me and, as I looked around, there seemed to me no pause in the captivating effect he had on everyone else. His connection with the audience was simple, direct, laced with humor, and song after song, his lyrics struck a chord in us all.

As Theresa and I left the Colonial Theater, walked to our car, drove out of Keene and on down Route 12 heading toward Richmond, the roads were less of a challenge than several hours earlier. Route 119 slowly but surely touched Morgan Road, and as we pulled into our parking space in front of our home, Kristofferson's words simplified the journey we all are on: "Tell the truth. Sing with passion. Work with laughter. Love with heart. 'Cause that's all that matters in the end."

Out of Their Pockets and Into The Asparagus Bed or My Bad Experience With Humans ANIKA MARION (CECILIA R. M. BRYAN)

"Oh no, not the pocket again!" But my cries fell on deaf ears and I slipped into the black abyss full of bread crumbs, rusty nails, and loose change. (My wish was to remain in the sunlight and yet an insubordinate creature threw me into darkness. The idea!) Suddenly the fat, probing fingers of the tramp snatched me up, and again brought me into the glaring sunlight. Then, the sweaty fingers dropped me and I felt the cool air rush past, panic consuming me at the thought that death was inevitable. I was clutched by a strong hand before I could hit the ground. As I was placed gently (finally someone knew how to treat nobility) into a pocket full of nothing but one hole the size of a baby bean, I heard the gruff voice of the tramp say, "Good luck, Jack, and thanks for the cow." (Oh no! my mother had warned us about people named Jack! She said in each generation at least one of us had horrible dealings with people named Jack. Mother wouldn't tell us what they were." Too gruesome for little ears, Vivian," I would hear whenever we would ask to be told what it was.) So that was to be my farewell to those monstrous, fat, sweaty fingers and that husky voice.

In spite of my fear--a sensation I had never felt before--about the mysterious person named Jack, the movement caused by his walking lulled me to sleep. I was aroused by a loud, angry voice. As I tried to shake off my drowsiness, I heard, "Jack, you lazy lout, you're just like your worthless father! You'll eat me out of house and home. You took our wonderful cow, White Nose, and exchanged her for an old, dried-up bean. There's only enough



food in the house for one of us, and because of this you will do without. Now get yourself up the stairs to your room.'

As this woman delivered her speech, and a series of smacks to Jack's face, I felt my anger rising. How dare she talk that way about the noblest bean of the pod(s) of my mother! Then, suddenly. I was flying through the air.

My flight stopped as abruptly as it had begun when I hit the rich, pungent manure of a vegetable garden. When I had sufficiently recovered my breath from my precipitant journey, I discovered I was in the asparagus bed. I remembered my mother explaining to me, not three weeks ago, that asparagi were of a lower order, and a noble bean shouldn't associate with them, and now I found myself in their midst! I was appalled that Jack's mother dared throw me among the lowest ranking beggars of the vegetable kingdom.

"Hist...," I heard whispered nearby, "it would be best, since some of us were trying to sleep, if you would try to make yourself comfortable as soon as possible, and try to go back to sleep."

"But—" "Hush, Sophie!" My struggle against being called by a girl's name was brief, my mind dimmed and, unable to fight, I was plunged into a raging torrent of troubling dreams.

Enough is Enough **BOB WEEKES**

By now residents know that the St. Benedict Center is seeking not \$4.3 million but \$7.2 million in punitive damages in its lawsuit against the Town of Richmond and the "Richmond 12." I would like to respond to this latest absurdity and to two letters from SBC members that appeared in last month's Rooster.

The first was from David Bryan and was titled, "Civics 101 or Let's Talk Local Government." Mr. Bryan: thanks much for the civics lesson. We think we've grasped its complexities, including SBC's right to sue the town if it feels it must. However, if you expect us to accept SBC's suing 12 of our citizens who have volunteered their time and efforts to serve in public office, citizens who we believe have discharged their official responsibilities with fairness, honor and integrity, you're quite mistaken.

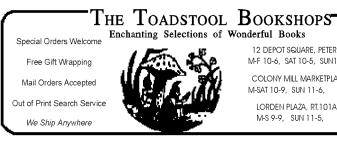
The second letter was from Eleanor Villarubia and was titled, "Response to Voting and Taxes." Mrs. Villarubia: In your letter you attempt to brand those who may disagree with SBC practices and actions as "The Hate St. Benedict Center Gang." This is a rather transparent attempt to divert attention from what really is happening in our town. And that is a growing groundswell of sentiment from a formerly silent majority of our residents who are finally saying to the SBC, "Enough is enough!"



The people who disapprove of SBC's actions against the "Richmond 12"-people you meet on our streets, in Town Meeting and on the pages of the Richmond Rooster—are hardly a "hate" group. They are, in my opinion, people who formerly had remained silent hoping the divisiveness gripping our town would simply go away. They are, in my opinion, people who have now realized that we are facing a steamroller, a very well organized and funded minority of our population that is attempting to use litigation to squash anyone who disagrees with SBC's wishes, one by one or twelve by twelve. If you read the lead article in last December's Rooster you saw that the letter supporting the "Richmond 12" was signed by more than 140 residents! After it was published, many more residents came forward saying they wished they had had a chance to add their names to that list. Surely you don't think these people are members of a "We Hate St. Benedict Center Gang." Rather, they are your neighbors, a whole lot of your neighbors, who want the SBC to drop its lawsuit against the "Richmond 12." They are people who increasingly are willing to stand up and say, "Enough is enough."

Richmond is a town of diverse viewpoints about many subjects, including politics, religion, and which teams deserved to

play in the Super Bowl a few months back, to name just a few. But most of us have a few things in common: first, we respect each other's differences; second, we don't depose and sue each other: third, we don't tell others how to



run their lives and we hope they won't tell us how to run ours; and fourth, we believe all of us have to play by the same town rules because we all were the ones who voted those rules into existence in the first place.

So if you are surprised by community opposition to the \$4.3 million, now \$7.2 million, SBC lawsuit against the Town and the "Richmond 12," don't blame it on a "hate" group. Instead, ask the SBC to look in the mirror to see why that opposition exists.

I also believe that many Richmond Rooster readers do not want to spend their time engaging in an endless debate on this subject in the Rooster. Spring is here and I'd much prefer to be working alongside my beautiful wife getting our gardens ready. But I'll stand shoulder to shoulder with the majority of our residents who are supporting the Town, the "Richmond 12" and all of our town's volunteers. If we must face a steamroller, by God



we'll meet it head on, not lying down

Enough is enough! Drop your lawsuit against the "Richmond 12."

Lies and Half Truths JOHN BOCCALINI

In April's Rooster, Mrs. Villarubia talks about the "lies and half-truths (which are also lies)" being used to make the Center look bad. Yet it appears that she was a participant in a discussion which led to an attempt by Carol Angel to provide information (supplied by Bob Carbone) at Town Meeting that was an inaccurate breakdown of the details of the Town's legal fees as well as the participants in the lawsuit against the town. Carol Angel claimed that the figures supplied to the selectmen by Bob Carbone were probably quite accurate. They were as follows: \$26,620.66 or 66% of the legal budget was spent on the Rural Preservation Committee (RPC) lawsuit while only \$2,000 or 0.5% was spent on the St. Benedicts Center (SBC) lawsuit. First, the RPC is not a participant in the lawsuit. However, some of the abutters as well as other town people are. Secondly, the actual

12 DEPOT SQUARE, PETERBOROUGH, NH M-F 10-6, SAT 10-5, SUN10-4, 924-3543 COLONY MILL MARKETPLACE, KEENE, NH M-SAT 10-9, SUN 11-6, 352-8815 LORDEN PLAZA, RT.101A, MILFORD, NH M-S 9-9, SUN 11-5, 673-1738

breakdown of the Town's legal budget clearly states that \$28,620.22 was spent on the SBC's multiple lawsuits and the Boccalini/Whitham/etal lawsuit (a court merged case of all the parties involved.) The breakdown of the figures pro-

- May

vided by Bob Carbone and Carol Angel that were represented as fact were fictitious and were used at Town Meeting on a warrant issue that was to be voted on by the governing body. If the combined case of the two SBC law suits and the Boccalini/et al was divided equally between the parties involved, the final percentages of the \$40,168,15 budget would more accurately read: SBC - \$16,466.81 or 41% and the RPC 0%. It is also important to note that the lawsuit filed Boccalini-Whitham etal asks for no monetary damages, while that of the SBC is asking 0 for a multimillion-dollar settlement. 200

The Rural Preservation Committee is a group of individuals who are interested in educating and organizing citizens, instituting environmentally friendly zoning ordinances and strengthening local governance through support and accountability. Because many of the current lawsuits



10 Letters

involve land-use and zoning issues, many of the citizens participating in the lawsuit are also members of the RPC.

I hope this clears up the misrepresentations that were proposed in such an important forum as town meeting. Not to belabor the significance of lies and half lies, but if people were honest in applications to planning boards and selectmen in the first place, they might not have to deal with the "webs they weave."

True Legal Costs for Two Suits WILL VILLARRUBIA

At the March Town Meeting, the matter of the costs of legal fees came up for discussion. Some town taxpayers questioned the lack of details as was provided by other items. Some of them had figures from a document provided by one taxpayer some time before the meeting and called them out for all to hear. One of the assistants in the Selectmen Office stated that these figures are inaccurate.

My wife and I went to the Selectmen's office and asked for a copy for the official town cost totals for each legal suit

as of March 16, 2009. The next day, thanks to Bev Hart's help, we obtained an official copy bearing the stamp of the Selectman Office and initialed by two of the Selectmen.

Of the grand total of legal costs to the Town of Richmond for 2008, being \$40,168.15, the breakdown of the two most controversial cases were : SBC/Boccalini/W (The Rural Preservation Committee, against the Town) is \$28,620.06, whereas the SBC/PB and the SBC/ZBA-PB (The suits of SBC against the Town) is only \$2156.48. Other legal costs add up to the total amount quoted above.

The figures provided by the one taxpayer at the Town Meeting were validated by the official ones obtained by us.

To The Editors ANTHONY CAMUSO

First, let me say that we are not Catholics. We have never attended St. Benedict's services, neither have we ever had any of our children enrolled in their school. Our knowledge of the folks associated with St. Benedict's Center comes from interaction with them at stores and events such as the Blueberry Festival.

As I was reading the March, 2009 edition of the Rooster, I couldn't remember the last time I read so much vitriolic, anti-religious bigotry in one place. I could almost feel the rabid spittle spraying out of the pages at me. The authors of these bilious tirades should probably seek counseling. They seem to be tor-



mented souls seeking scapegoats for their haplessness.

We have found the nuns and priests of SBC to be friendly, outgoing, fun-loving, merry, talented, and concerned for the physical and spiritual well-being of others. Concerning the treatment they have received from the town, I wonder if religious institutions established by the Fundamental Baptists, Mennonites, Jews, Moslems and other distinctive religious groups would have been met with the same bigotry. As I reflect upon this, the answer is probably, sadly, "Yes."

Motives and Considerations PETER HUGHES

Let me begin by stating that I am neither a member of the St Benedict's Center (SBC) nor am I a member of the Richmond 12 support group. No one has asked me to join either group. I moved my family to Richmond three years ago upon retiring from the Air Force, unaware of any controversy. Since then I have enjoyed reading many Rooster articles, especially those on the town's history. I have monitored the debate on the expansion of the SBC and have read many articles on both sides of this issue. I have remained silent in this debate. Recent Rooster articles, distributed material, encounters, and overheard comments compel me to break that silence and share my perspective. I could write much about my observations and impressions, but will limit comments to the Rooster articles in the interest of brevity.

I thought the issue of the SBC expansion was on practical concerns such as logistics, safety, and engineering. Why then has there been a relentless barrage of condemnation for the beliefs of these people? One does not have to agree with the beliefs of the SBC, but why go on about it month after month, year after year?

I have learned that the Keene Sentinel placed restrictions on their web forum when the tone of the discussion on the expansion debate became heated and personal. They did so in order to maintain a level of decorum (Reference page D-2, April 22, 2007). Two years later, the Richmond Rooster is still serving as a mechanism for the same type of back and forth bickering. This serves no purpose other than to create animosity and strife for the entire town. It is one thing to challenge the position of a resident, but it should be done with respect and the appropriate level of privacy.

Reading the Rooster has become an unpleasant activity. Some Richmond residents may have ceased reading it altogether for this very reason. Is this the desired effect of those who continue to write such articles? As a veteran I know how important it is to protect the rights of free speech for everyone so I am in no way attempting to silence anyone. Continue saying and writing what you like, but please first consider the adverse effects that this may

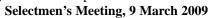


be having on all Richmond residents. We should all (notice I wrote the word all) at least question our own motives before taking any action.

Selectmen Meeting Minutes Selectmen's Meeting, 2 March 2009

Attending: Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. JC will not be in tonight. Read mail and signed checks. The selectmen accepted the printed 2008 Annual Reports of Richmond and made it available to the public. Steve Boscarino (Tax Collector) was in to go over a tax issue with the selectmen, regarding a town deeded property. He also gave the selectmen a copy of the "Current

Owner Balance Report Summary." for their review. Annette (Town Clerk) came in to go over election issues with the Selectmen and pending state legislation regarding automobile registration at dealerships. Andy Wood (Police Chief) came in to discuss details on the new police vehicle. He also discussed a budget issue regarding paying officers for town detail work. The selectmen signed Pistol/Revolver License R338489. There being no other business, we adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Bill Hillock was in to discuss plowing. He was advised by the Selectmen to take care of the Veteran's Hall parking lot for Town voting tomorrow and Saturday's Town Meeting. Peter Majoy was in to discuss voting and seating for the upcoming town meeting. Jon Tattersall came in to discuss trash that had been dumped on Fish Hatchery Road in the brook. The incident was reported to and investigated by the



police. The Town will pay for the trash removal. Police have been asked to pursue reimbursement from the perpetrator. Boyd Goodell was in to express an interest in the grounds-keeping position for the Town. He also discussed road conditions on Lang Road. Chip Adams came in to ask about removing the old highway shed. JC made a motion to give the ok to Chip Adams to remove the old highway shed and replace the disturbed area with suitable gravel fill. Wes seconded the motion. JC stated that the Town has received a letter from Sharon Monahan, Soils Scientist, dated February 16, 2009, with recommendations (on file in the Selectmen's office) that Chip will be following. All were in favor. The Board signed a building permit for map 408 lot 051 for

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balconv stairs at the Veteran's Hall. Gravson Smith was in to discuss the stair project at the Veteran's Hall. The selectmen adjourned to the Veteran's Hall at 9:00 p.m. to set up for voting until approximately 10:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting, 16 March 2009

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Wes Vaughan, Selectman, swore Annette Tokunaga in as the Town Clerk for a three year term. Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk, swore in JC Boudreau as Selectman for another three year term. Mark Beauregard, Health Officer, came in to see the selectmen on a previous health issue regarding Map 405 Lot 098. Mike Pearsall came in to check for

insurance information on the purchase of the new vehicle. Terri O'Rorke and Kim Mattson were in to discuss the Zoning Compliance Position. Kim discussed area road conditions and a road sign for Taylor Hill. Bev was asked to email Dana, Road Agent, to provide a list of missing road signs to the Selectmen. Eleana Liimatainen came in regarding map 408 lot 068 which was deeded to the Town for back taxes. Lloyd Condon was in to know if the Selectmen had looked into any Economic Stimulus funds for the new Town building. We looked into the Stimulus money for building and at the time we did not meet the requirements. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting, 23 March 2009

Attending: JC Boudreau, Sean McElhiney, Wes Vaughan. Read mail and signed checks. Steve Boscarino came in to talk to the Selectmen regarding map/lot 408-068. Dana Taylor, Road Agent, was in at the request of the Selectmen. The Selectmen requested that Dana provide

them with a list of missing street signs so they can be purchased. They discussed road grading; Dana and JC will work on specifications for the job. Andy Wood, Police Chief, came in to dis-

cuss a grant program for full time police officer and other police issues. Andy was asked for a status update on the missing road signs that had been stolen last year. Mark Beauregard, Health Officer, was in regarding the manure issue, 405-098. Mark will monitor the situation. Mark received a building permit for a barn on map 405 lot 061, received permit #2009-003. Eleanor Liimatainen came in to follow up on tax deeded property map 408 lot 068. Mrs. Allison Watt was in to ask question about her property valu-ation. Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk, came in to ask about various officers. Douglas Bersaw was in for a building permit for map 412 lot 046 for an in-law apartment. The Board voted to keep all duties the same for 2009. JC is Chairman. Sean is Welfare Administrator and Solid Waste Management Representative. Wes is Planning Board Ex Officio. Signed pistol permits #R 338490, R 338491 and R 338492. The Board wrote a letter to the Road Agent requesting the removal of a collection of vehicles and assorted materials at the Highway Garage by April 1. There being no other business to come before the Board, we adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

16 COMMUNITY INFORMATION

	Town Business Hours
•	Board of Selectmen: J.C. Boudreau,
60	Sean McElhiney, Wesley Vaughn
20	■ Mon. 7:00 —7:30 p.m. Town Departments
7	■ Mon. 7:30 —? p.m. Public Concerns
ζą	Town Secretary: Beverly Hart
0	■ Mon. 6 p.m. —9 p.m.
1	■ Wed. 8 a.m. — 12 noon, 1:00 p.m 5p.m.
tet	■ Fri. 8 a.m. —12 noon, 1:00 p.m.— 4p.m.
160	Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga
ð	Deputy: Pamela Goodell
0	■ Mon. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m., 6 —8 p.m.
pu	■ Wed. 9 a.m. —Noon, 1 —4 p.m.
201	■ Tues. & Thurs. 9 a.m. —Noon
The Richmond Rooster - May 2009	Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino
کي	■ Mon. 7 p.m. —8 p.m.
0	■ Wed. 2 p.m. —4 p.m.
he	Planning Board: Richard Drew, Chairperson
5	 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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Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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