



DECEMBER 2013

Dog Days Are Peak Tastes of Life's Connections

Pete Majoy



Russ Provost (L)
Tom Ryan and Atticus (R)

*Life is a song – sing it. Life is a game – play it.
Life is a challenge – meet it. Life is a dream –
realize it. Life is a sacrifice – offer it. Life is
love – enjoy it.*

Sai Baba

They both love animals. They both climb mountains. They both share a vision of our deep union with nature. They have both lived and worked in New England for most of their lives. When Russ Provost was very young and raised on a farm in Chester, NH, he spent many hours each day wandering the woods always accompanied by his pet dog, a Dalmatian named “Spotty.” Tom Ryan, author of *Following Atticus*, informs us in his wonderful book that his dog, “Atticus,” a Miniature Schnauzer, “led me home again, ...taught me about love, about kindness of my fellow man, about daring to dream...” It is no wonder then that Tom Ryan selected Russ Provost, a caregiver to twenty-five canines in his life, to be one of the twenty folk who would climb the South Moat at North Conway with him and Atticus, an up/down distance of 5.4 miles, this past October.

Russ had already read *Following Atticus*, as well as having garnered years of experience mountain climbing, including thirty-five of the forty-eight, 4,000-foot peaks in New Hampshire. Russ and 20,000 FaceBook followers of Tom and Atticus were drawn to the unfolding of Tom’s story and the onset of

cancer in Atticus. Because so many people sent warm and loving messages to Tom about his experience with Atticus, he decided to offer a special thank you to twenty of his followers; they would climb together with both him and Atticus. Men and women came from across many states, including Libby, the youngest of the climbers, the eleven-year-old daughter of a man named Michael. At sixty-six years, Russ stood out as the eldest in the group.

Each of the twenty selected by Tom paid their way. There was a broad range of climbing/hiking experience, from extensive to novice, who had just purchased their first ever pair of hiking shoes. The climb began as a piece of cake, but got much more difficult as they neared the peak. Everyone made it. The hike back down in the dark was somewhat difficult for many, yet there were no injuries and all enjoyed a deep sense of gratitude and success in sharing this memorable event. Eventually, the hike was really a long friendship trail, a sense of community with each other and plans to stay in contact. The group has already maintained this commitment and will be meeting with each other for hiking and climbing events at different locations across America.

Tom Ryan says this about his book, *Following Atticus*, “It’s about life, and growth, and redemption. It’s about getting lost and finding your way back home again. It’s about the journey inward, not the one to the top of the mountain. It’s about friendship and discovery. And above all, it’s about love.”

As with Tom and Atticus, Russ’s ambitions are already solidified within a time span ending in 2018. In 2014, he will be rafting the Colorado river with his wife, Vicki, and several friends. Between 2014-2018, he will climb the remaining thirteen of the 4,000-foot peaks in New Hampshire that he has not yet ascended. Between 2015-2018, he will bike in three, two-week, 1500-mile stages of the 4500 miles between Bellingham, Washington and Bar Harbor, Maine.

For sure, Russ Provost’s life has taken a parallel course. We who know him are deeply thankful to have discovered his presence along the pathway of our own individual yet fundamentally communal journey through life.

Quotable Quote

submitted by Terri O’Rorke

“If you want to assure your extinction, cease to evolve.”

— Jeff Bezos, CEO, Amazon.com

Notes from the Selectmen's Office

Happy Holidays! Hardly seems possible that another year has gone by. It has been a productive year for the Town and there are many changes and successes to celebrate. The Selectmen will prepare a round-up presentation for Town Meeting, when we can all admire the renovation of the Veterans Hall. The Holiday Fair was the first public event sponsored in the Hall and all agreed it was a beautiful venue for this annual gathering of local craftsmen and artists.

Bob Coy submitted his resignation as Emergency Management Director in November. The Selectmen accepted it with regret, thanking him for his dedication to the Town and for his years of volunteer service on the Planning Board and as the Emergency Management Director. The Selectmen appointed Fire Chief Ed Atkins as interim director until the position could be filled. The Selectmen decided to bifurcate the position to insure complete coverage for the town in this critical function. We appointed William Pearsal and John Janicki as Emergency Management Directors with Pearsal focusing on state issues and Janicki focusing on federal and Vermont Yankee related issues. Their job descriptions will be clarified following a meeting with state emergency management staff later this month.

The Town municipal buildings are now connected to FastRoads with high speed broadband service provided by WiValley. The Town is also a community partner supporting the provision of services by WiValley to our residents when and where possible. This partnership may reduce the cost of service.

The Selectmen adopted revised Welfare Guidelines for the Town. These are more in line with surrounding towns and will be implemented starting this month. The Guidelines will be posted on the Town website.

The Selectmen also want to thank the Fire Department for inviting us to participate in a traditional wet-down ritual welcoming the newly refurbished fire truck back to town! The Dingee Machine Company in Cornish, NH did an amazing job overhauling the truck, saving the Town hundreds of thousands of dollars on the cost of a new truck. Photos of the Selectmen and local kids having a blast with the hoses are on the website.

The Selectmen accepted with regret, Elaine Moriarty's resignation as Chairman and Member of the Beach Committee. The beach is a wonderful resource for the town and our resi-

dents. Elaine accepted the responsibility for keeping it clean with daily trash pick-up; for providing for the needs of beachgoers with picnic tables, porta-potty, and clean beach sand; for insuring that never-ending maintenance work was accomplished; for engaging children in appropriate beach "lessons"; and for careful budget planning on a shoe-string. The Selectmen appreciate her dedication and thank her on behalf of the Town for her excellent volunteer service.

During November, the Selectmen discussed 2014 budgets and future plans with each department, board, committee and commission. Our goal is to keep the cost of running town government and providing municipal services affordable for the taxpayer. However, as you see in your own budget, the cost of raw materials, goods and services has risen in the past several years. This increase in cost is reflected in the proposed budgets. Fuel, salt and sand, equipment, utilities, heating, exacerbate the cost to maintain our infrastructure, including buildings and roads – the major assets for any town. Richmond is one of the few surrounding towns our size to have a payroll of less than \$3,812 per week, which includes Social Security and Medicare. Richmond is staffed by dedicated employees who work part-time, without benefits. Only two towns of our size had no full-time employees in 2012, the rest have both full-time and part-time staff. Even the towns with full-time staff have part-time payrolls larger than ours.

Richmond does not have a wage and classification schedule for our employees and it is time to rectify this. If we want to keep our well-trained and qualified personnel, the Town needs to provide employees with a pathway to increased earnings and promotion, based on performance, in line with other NH towns of our size and situation. The Selectmen are investigating the best way to achieve this and will present a plan at public hearings preceding Town Meeting.

The new Town website launched on November 15. Please visit it at www.richmond.nh.gov and let us know how it meets your needs.

Have a wonderful holiday season and as always, you are invited to attend and observe Selectmen's meetings. But please make an appointment if you want to meet with us. We'd love to hear from you any time. You may now contact us through the new website.

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We invite you to become involved in your municipal government. After all, YOU are Richmond. If you are interested in serving on a board, committee or commission, or in volunteering, please call 239-4232 or email us through the website.

Town Clerk's Office

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Dec. 25, 2013 will be CLOSED for Christmas Day

Jan. 1, 2014 will be CLOSED for New Year's Day

What? The Town Election??

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

You may be thinking that you've put on a couple of pounds eating all that turkey and stuffing and the holiday season has just begun! That you really have to lose some weight come the first of the year. Or you may be feeling depressed, excited or simply appreciative, depending upon your temperament, because the truly wintry months are just beginning. In any case, Mud Season is surely a long way off. But Town Meeting is nearly here!

The following officers will be elected at the Town Election on March 11, 2014:

- One Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term
- One Library Trustee, 3-year term
- One Library Trustee, 2-year term
- One Library Trustee, 1-year term
- One Moderator, 2-year term
- Two Planning Board, 3-year term
- One Selectman, 3-year term
- One Supervisor of the Checklist, 6-year term
- One Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-year term

If you would like to run for any of the above, please come to the town clerk's office during the filing period which begins January 22, 2014 and ends January 31, 2014. The office will be open on Friday, January 31, 2014 from 3 – 5 p.m. for declarations for candidacy purposes only. You must be a Richmond resident and a registered voter in order to run for a town office.

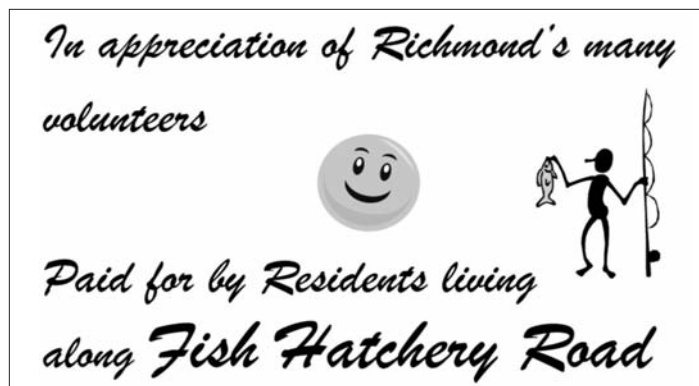
Please call 239-6202 or stop by the office with questions.

Richmond Library

Wendy O'Brien

Story times

Wednesdays with Wendy continues throughout the winter at 10:00 a.m. Come enjoy stories, a craft, and a small snack. Children of all ages are welcome!



Reading with Keeta and Kallie

We have scheduled a visit on Sat. Dec. 21st at 11:00 a.m. for a visit with Kate Simmington, Keeta and Kallie. Kallie and Keeta continue to offer their gentle listening ears for children just learning to read or who wish to be more confident in their reading. Thanks to Monadnock Therapy Pets, we are pleased to offer each child that reads, their very own stuffed animal dog. Come by for a story or just a pat-no reservations are needed.

NH Downloadable Books Consortium

Now that many parts of Richmond are closer to obtaining faster internet access, we wanted to remind you that we offer you best-selling and classic audiobooks and eBooks available 24/7 from <http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>. You can browse the collection, checkout or reserve items with your library card, and download titles to a PC, Mac, and many mobile devices including the Kindle, iPad, Nook, and smart phones. Titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period. There are no late fees! If you need assistance with any part of the process, please feel free to stop by the RPL. We are happy to help!

Bringing the Past into the Present

RPL Trustees and Wendy O'Brien

The Richmond Public Library has been busily cataloging materials and scanning photos using archival software that is used in museums and archives worldwide. In our pilot project, we chose to highlight the "Richmond Washout" collection, which dates to 1920.

We have created a keyword database, allowing researchers like you to come in to the Library and ask for information related to places and people in Richmond quickly and easily. Would you like to take a look at a first hand account of the huge thunderstorm that gouged a sixteen foot deep ravine in Old Homestead Highway? We have scanned into the database a letter from Mrs. Mary C. Brokenshire, naming people and places throughout the Town of Richmond. Rather than handling the fragile copy of the letter, you are welcome to view it on the screen and leave the original intact for future generations to see.

With the help of RPL volunteers and Wendy O'Brien, who holds a Master's Degree in History and Archival Science from UMASS Boston, we have made great strides in moving the Town Archives into the twenty-first century. You are invited to a software demonstration at the RPL on January 21, 2013 from 6 – 8 p.m. with a snow date of January 23. Feel free to schedule

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an appointment to view the database at other times by contacting the Library. Come celebrate the opening of a new era while treasuring our past!

The picture below shows the deepest part of the Richmond Washout. Do you see the initials written in the sand to the right of the two boys?



Richmond Archives Moved to Keene

Peter Mulhall, Richmond Public Library Trustee

We are all aware that the Town of Richmond is rich in history as we drive by historic buildings, homes and stone walls every day. But there is another dimension to our town's past captured by the historic materials such as deeds, warrants, town reports, and meeting records. These are the things which help establish authenticity for the building dates of our historic homes or help in researching our genealogy. These materials make up the bulk of the Richmond Town Archives.

In 1976, the Bicentennial Commission of the Town of Richmond established the Town Archives to preserve these historical materials. The Trustees of the Library were given the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Archives. It was decided to build an addition onto the Richmond Public Library and through volunteer labor, an addition using an old "beach house" was attached with a basement for the archives. Upstairs, this area currently holds the Library's nonfiction collection and patron computers. Over the years, Norma Thibodeau Chairman of the Bicentennial Commission and Town Archivist, and her assistants have continued to add to the town archives and collect a wide range of Richmond historical materials and artifacts, from the everyday things such as newslet-

ters, photos, paintings and family letters to Revolutionary War era artifacts like standard weights and measures. About ten years ago Ruth Flanders and others began cataloging and organizing these materials into physical collections.

The collections quickly outgrew the small space given to them, and no space was available for the work of Norma and researchers. As the building aged, problems in the basement began to be noticed. One winter the RPL roof leaked due to an ice dam, and flooded the basement. Rodent activity began to be a huge problem, and the entry way into the archives became hazardous. In March 2010, the Trustees put forward a \$50,000 request for an addition to the Library, to provide both meeting space upstairs and expand the archival area, which was not granted by the Town. Since that time, the Trustees and the Rich-



Basement Archive

mond Historical Society have been working to find a new, safe location for the Town's historical materials and artifacts. In March 2012, the Historical Society in a warrant article re-



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quested land for a new archives building, which was approved. No land has yet been designated.

It was obvious to everyone that securing a new permanent facility for the Archives and other Richmond historical materials was going to be a long term project. In the middle of 2012, the Library Trustees began looking for a temporary home for the town Archives. They found a solution in the state-of-the-art secure archival facility in Keene. The Keene facility has a carefully climate-controlled room with a gas fire suppression sys-



Moving the Archive

tem. The town approved a budget line for the transportation and storage costs for the move to Keene.

In the beginning of 2013, Library staff and Trustees prepared items for the move, and in August, two hundred and ten separate boxes of archival materials were shipped to Keene. Each box was carefully cleaned and the interiors inspected prior to shipment. Unfortunately, one leather bound account book had been destroyed for rodent nesting material. A newspaper dating from the 1870s was so brittle due to poor climate control, it crumbled to the touch.

With the cooperation and help of the Richmond Historical Society, we have identified all the remaining items in the basement as to which belong to the Town Archives and those which belong to the Historical Society. The Library Trustees have asked that materials belonging to the Historical Society be under Historical Society responsibility and care. We are in the



Keene Archive

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final process of closing down the basement area and sending all remaining archive materials to their temporary quarters in Keene.

RCUMC News

Pastor Arnie Johnson

October and November have seen the Church celebrating the seasons with the beautiful change of colors in Richmond's trees along our wonderful winding roads! We also celebrated World Communion Sunday along with other churches of other denominations around the world on October 6. Pastor Arnie traveled to Littleton on the 10th to participate in a celebration of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar's visit to the New Hampshire District. He is the Bishop of the New England United Methodist Conference. We also hosted Rev. Dr. David Abbott, NH District Superintendent, on October 13 as we reviewed and celebrated our accomplishments during 2013 and developed goals for the upcoming year. It was a great gathering and fellowship time!

There was a lot of effort put into the preparation of our Annual Holiday Fair which took place on November 9 at the Veteran's Hall. It was a great time to pick up gifts for Christmas and get a head-start on snacks and desserts for Thanksgiving. The food items looked wonderful! Many people bought nice items for their homes or for other special events.

We have noticed that our church-sponsored Food Pantry in the Town Hall is in need of some extra non-perishable foods, cereals, dried soups, canned goods, etc., so please be generous in your donations to this worthy cause. There is always more of a need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Food donations can be dropped off at the Town Hall during normal business hours or at the Church on Sunday mornings.

The Church is attempting to coordinate with Home Health Care for the possibility of Meals-on-Wheels delivery to Richmond for our elderly and shut-ins. Pray with us that this great home-delivery service can find its way to Richmond.

Please join us at our normal Sunday services at 9 a.m. in the Old Brick Church at 11 Fitzwilliam Rd., Richmond. Or, find your way to the 4-Corner Store at the junction of Routes 32 and 119 and travel about 100 yards east on 119. And, don't forget to worship with us on December 24 at 7 p.m. Our Christmas Eve service is well attended with families and friends who come to worship together to sing favorite Christmas hymns, listen to the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, and celebrate this blessed event. All are welcome! If you would like to participate

in the Christmas Eve service by singing, or reading scripture, please contact Pastor Arnie at 603-357-2409.

Editor's Comments

John Boccalini

Citizens turned out for Town Election on March 12 to elect the following Town Officials:

Carol Jameson and Sandra Gillis – Selectmen.

Norma Thibodeau and Deborah Duffy – Planning Board.

Terri O'Rourke – Trustee of the Trust Fund.

Bonnie McCarthy – Library Trustee.

L'Oreal Schmidt – Treasurer.

Bill Coll – Cemetery Trustee.

All the Proposed Zoning Amendments passed

The business meeting on March 16 produced an Operating Budget Appropriation for 2013 of \$737,680

Richmond honored Eleanor Fassett, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 11, 2013.

It was a year filled with major construction, reconstruction, renovation and refurbishment projects for town buildings, equipment, roads and communications.

The Town Hall's north wall was reconstructed, replacing rotten timbers, sheathing and siding. Structural work was done on the roof rafters and half of the building was reroofed. Better drainage was established on the North side of the building.

The cemetery shed behind Town Hall was repaired as well.

The Town Library was landscaped to help drainage around the building, parking and to beautify the area. A new flag pole and split rail fence was added. Plumbing, electrical were done and insulation was installed where needed. The furnace was replaced. The archives were organized, boxed and found a temporary home for storage in Keene.

An exterior renovation was made to the CD building. A new rubber roof was placed, some sheathing replaced and the structure re-sided and painted. The area around the building was landscaped to allow for better air flow around the building. Another entrance was placed. Internally a secure evidence room was erected and modifications made. The Police department moved into the building and the Emergency Management operation (CD) was transferred into the Fire department and a new door and partition was placed in the Fire Station.

The conference room for town committees, which was located in the CD building, was transferred to the Veterans' Hall.

Interior renovations were made in the Vets' Hall. The

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Wes Vaughan



The North Wall of the Town Hall



Cemetery Shed



Fay Martin Bridge

kitchen area was renovated to house a space for town committees to meet while maintaining the existing kitchen area. All of the walls, ceilings, doors, windows and moldings of the conference room, main meeting room, balcony and entranceways were sealed and painted. The large front closet was converted to house town committees' files and maps as well as voting apparatus. All of the floors in the building were sanded and received four coats of urethane. Window quilts curtains (Thank you Maureen Daugherty) now hang in the main hall windows to help the acoustical dynamics of the room.

There was a much needed full refurbishing of the Fire Department's Engine #2.



Engine #2

In April the Fay Martin Bridge project was completed, a new culvert was placed on Tully Brook Rd. The bridge the old bridge was removed and the landscaping completed.

Sprague Road received an upgrade.

Communications and connectivity: Almost every home in Richmond is now capable to get high speed internet from DSL and/or cable, WiValley cellular or satellite.

Added were high speed internet service (DSL) to residents of SE and SW Richmond through Fairpoint Communications and Fast Roads High speed (fiber optic) internet to all the Municipal buildings through WiValley.

AT&T completed their cell tower in SW Richmond.

Various organizations and committees were very active in offering many events to residents:

- Candidates Night
- Volunteers night
- Holiday Fair

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 Annual 3-Day for a Cure Yard Sale
 Roadside Cleanup
 Community Day Celebration
 Richmond's Family Farm Day
 Yard and Bake Sale
 Annual Richmond Garden Tour
 Beach Cleanup Day

The Connor Team takes Top Award! Press Release

The NH Team of AdviCoach, Ann Connor and Michelle Connor take home top awards again this year. The 14th Annual Conference of Franchise Source Brands International was just held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL where Ann and Michelle were awarded the AdviCoach Top Performers Award along with the T.E.A.M Award which honors the AdviCoach that consistently mentors and champions fellow coaches in the organization.

They have achieved this prestigious award by offering complimentary coaching to Cheshire County business owners and entrepreneurs at the Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Peterborough Chamber and Hannah Grimes Entre-

preneur Center to name just a few of the organizations where this team donates their time.

Ann Connor also received the Crystal Award for a second time from Women Empowered By Business (WEBB) for her contributions to women's organizations and women owned businesses through-out New England. This growing Connor Team has been an award winning business coaching team since they started their practice here in NH. in 2008.

Ann and Michelle appreciate all of the support and confidence of the entrepreneurs, business owners and organizations that have encouraged and supported the pair to achieve their dreams!

40 Years Ago Stones in the Woods

Pete Tandy

A road was here one time. Right and left the gray stone walls run straight and true to mark the nesting place of "yours" and "mine." The walls marked boundaries set by law, but law could not require the workmanship and pride of setting half-ton stones together plumb and true, with room for not a hand between. Any line of piled-up stones would do as well for some. Not them. This was a stern and lovely, unforgiving land and bred a race of stern and lovely, unforgiving men. They tamed the land – a little – and a little of its wildness entered them. But the world slipped out from under them and later sons did not return from taste of shorter day and lesser task.

And then the old folks died and none were there to notice when the shingle lifted in the storm and down below the trunneled, foot-square beams felt rain and wind and sifting snow until at last all that remained was stone. The trees let down their seeds and each spring's growth awaited steel that never came.

The walls are here, still straight and true and mindful of their trust, two hundred winters old; softened, some, and settled to the land, resigned to watch and wait. I walked upon the road (or where it once had been) following the old gray wall with now and then a reassuring touch of hand.

The cemetery gate was gone; hand-hammered hinge pins set in stone attesting that it once hung true (it likely was a work of art, spanning as it had the break in wall that fronts two roads, its face exposed to many level eyes). Here and there the roots of oak and pine have pushed up stone, and all around the graves the trees themselves stand thick and tall. The pines are green with life but this bright fall has lain a blanket of brave color on



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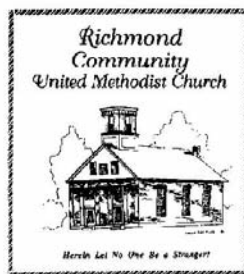
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Welcome to the Richmond Community Church



Pastor Arnold Johnson

Sunday Worship Services
 9:00 a.m.

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

Come and join our Family!

the ground to accentuate the dignity of stone. A marker here and there of marble, but most of early slate and some still older of the simple country stone; these last rough-hewn, the letters wrought with care by father or by son, too scarce of cash to hire it done. The chisel and the hammer often stopped, I know, for granite dust is hard to blow when dampened with those bitter drops, too strong to hold from this ...last touch... of love.

Friendship

Elaine Moriarty

We are all on a journey, from our first newborn cries until our last breath on earth.

During the course of our lifetime we meet many people, and since many factors enter into one's personalities, thus we are all different. Of the many acquaintances along the journey, only a select number become the sincere, true friends we all need to walk with us. There are lessons to be learned from those woven into the fabric of our lives.

Life has many ups and downs and the sincere, true friends are our rocks in difficult times and share the pleasures of the good times.

I'm very grateful for those who stand beside me. When you cherish your friends you'll share the goodness in every day.

Thank You

Tony Marques

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Richmond collected food this past Saturday (November 9) in Richmond and Swanzy. Attached is a "thank you" to Richmond that contributed non-perishable food items.



Thank you Swanzy and Richmond, NH! Cub Pack 297 and Troop 311 collected over 3,000 food items from our neighbors in the community, then sorted, boxed and delivered the two truckloads of food to Gert's Pantry in West Swanzy, which serves many local families in need! Thank you to our Scout families and to our communities!

'Til Next Year

Linda DuBois

Camp Takodah has seen its last program for the rest of the year. The maintenance department is hard at work getting camp

ready for the winter months. Camp can be a lonely place in the winter for the few people who live on site year round, but also is a beautiful place to enjoy the snow and all the fun that it brings with it and all the heartaches also of plowing and shoveling. May everyone have safe and Happy Holidays!!!!

Press Release

Roberta L. Royce

2013 Director's Award

At the Winchester Learning Centers Annual Meeting/Open House that was held on Oct. 20, 2013 the WLC Board of Directors awarded the 2013 Directors Award to Theodore Whippie. This award is given to someone who has shown development leadership in support of the mission of The Winchester Learning Center. Theodore has been on the WLC board for eight years. He has exhibited consistently his understanding and commitment to the Young Child. He has supported the WLC Board in word and deed, helping to move the organization toward the purchase, renovation and occupancy of a new building with expanded care. The Winchester Learning Center is a United Way Agency.

2013 Edith Atkins Award

At the Winchester Learning Centers Annual Meeting/Open House that was held on Oct. 20, 2013 the WLC Board of Directors awarded the 2013 Edith Atkins Award to The United Church of Winchester. This award is given for someone who perpetuates the spirit of Edith Atkins in caring for the Winchester area community. Just as Edith understood and advocated for the young child so has The United Church of Winchester. The United Church of Winchester has supported the WLC, from giving us a home and foundation to build a program, to seeing us into a new building offering expanded care to the community and surrounding towns. Many of the individual church members as well as the church as a whole have been actively involved in creating, growing and nurturing the WLC for the entire 12 years it has been in operation. The Winchester Learning Center is a Monadnock United Way Agency.

Founding Mother's Award

At the Winchester Learning Center's Annual Meeting/Open House that was held on Oct. 20, 2013, the WLC Board of Directors presented Cynthia Ryder with the Founding Mothers Award. Along with a group of passionate believers in the

Got Questions? Get Answers.

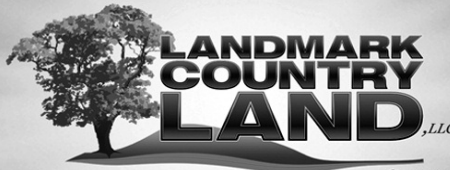
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importance of Early Childhood Education and their vision, the Learning Center was created. Cyndy was given this award not just because of her critical involvement with creating and building the WLC but her consistent support of the program. Cyndy is always looking for ways to move the program forward. Her diligence has helped to keep the WLC alive and thriving. The Winchester Learning Center is a Monadnock United Way Agency.

Why Do People Do Business With You?

Michelle Connor

People do business with you for one of two reasons:

Number 1: The benefits of your product/service. You want to focus on three words: more, better, and different.

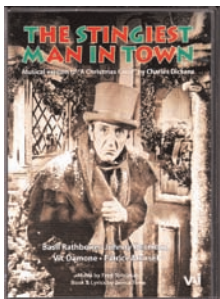
- How can you deliver more?
- How are you better?
- How are you different?

Look at these items as they relate to your business. Be looking for efficiency, options and cost advantages. Look at all the ways you're better and different; then deliver more than the other guy!

Know your strengths and weaknesses and how both affect what prospects search for. You need to understand their needs, have the product knowledge and then give them the reasons why you're the best solution.

Number 2: The relationship they have with you. The relationship with the owner or salesperson is the #1 reason customers give as to why they do business with one company versus another. When you have a strong relationship with someone, they do business with you because of YOU, not because of the differences between you and the competitor.

Building solid relationships isn't only a better way to sell than comparing your product to the competitions, it will also make business easier and more enjoyable.



Musical Scrooge

Frank Behrens

On the evening of December 23, 1956, the Alcoa Hour telecast a "musical play in three acts" titled "The Stingiest Man in Town." Basically, it was another retelling of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with song and dance and would not be worth the restoration on a VAI

DVD were it not for the remarkable cast.

From the world of opera there are Patrice Munsel (Scrooge's boyhood sweetheart) and Robert Weede (Marley's ghost). From Gilbert and Sullivan there is Martyn Green (Bob Cratchit). From the pop scene are Vic Damone (young Scrooge), Johnny Desmond (Fred), and The Four Lads (Narrator-Carolers and beggars).

But the Big Draw in this product is the Scrooge of Basil Rathbone. The old Sherlock Holmes is quite a trooper as he races through the dialogue and doesn't do too badly with some songs (which he gets through by speaking them in time to the music) and a few dance steps to show his reformation after the third spirit's visit. His Scrooge, however, will never drive from my memory the superb characterization of Alastair Sim in the 1951 British film version.

To be sure, the music of Fred Speilman and the lyrics of Janice Torre leave much to be desired. The former I must describe as "50s homogenous" and the lyrics as less than clever. After all, who wants complex melodies and Lorenz Hart lyrics on Christmas Eve? I must admit that one song does make an impact: "One Little Boy." As sung by the Spirit of Christmas-Present (Robert Wright) with reference to Tiny Tim (Dennis Kohler), it does conjure up the essence of the holiday, which had long before this show been turned into a frenzy of buying with only a nod toward what the holiday should be about.

The crowd scenes are cramped by the studio space, and the choreography by John Heawood is workmanlike, except for wonderful moments when the dances of Dickens' time are recreated.

The original color kinescope (a camera filming a television screen) of this show is lost; and the black and white copy offered here is a little marred by ghostly lines in the video. However (to me at least), this just adds to the magic of watching a relic from the past that is quite a reminder from the long lost days of what live television used to be.

Out and About

John Bocalini

Sun. Dec. 1, 3 p.m. Keene Pops Choir Angels Among Us. Colonial Theater. Keene \$12.

Sun. Dec. 1, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. West African Drumming Workshop with Sayon Camara of Guinea, Cornerstone Wellness Center, 305 Park Ave. Keene. \$ 50.

Mon. Dec 2 – 7 p.m. Homer's Odyssey, Fitzwilliam Town

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Fri. Dec 6, 9:30 p.m. Erin Harpe & the Delta Swingers. Harlows Pub, 3 School St., Peterborough. \$8.

Sat. Dec. 7, 2 p.m and 4 p.m. Two Shows. The Nutcracker. Colonial Theater. Keene \$12.

Sat. Dec 7, 9:30 p.m. Todd Biggins Band. Harlows Pub, 3 School St. Peterborough. \$8.

Sat. Dec. 7, 7:30 – 9 p.m. Animaterra Winter Concert. Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Washington St., Keene

Sun. Dec. 8, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Animaterra Winter Concert. Union Congregational Church, 33 Concord St, Peterborough.

Wed. Dec. 11, 7 p.m. Wacky Songs that Made Us Laugh, Fitzwilliam Town Library, 11 Templeton Tpk., Fitzwilliam

Thurs. Dec 12 7:30 p.m. Brian Regan Comedy. Colonial Theater. Keene \$42.50 – 56.50

Sat. Dec 14,, 1 p.m. Met live Falstaff. Colonial Theater. Keene \$22 – \$25

Sat. Dec. 14, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Jaffrey Holiday Fair. Holiday shopping made easy with an array of hand crafted items.

Sun. Dec. 22, 7 p.m. Open annual Messiah Sing. United Church of Christ in Keene 23 Central Square, Keene

Sunflowers Restaurant , 21B Main St. Jaffrey

Music Schedule

Music at brunch 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Dinner Sunday and Friday beginning at 6 p.m.

Sun Dec 1. Brunch – Ted Mann guitar
Dinner – Walden Whitham harp, guitar, flute, sax, vocals

Fri. Dec. 6, Dinner – Chaz Beaulieu on flute and Eric Blackmer on guitar

Sun. Dec. 8, Brunch – Bob Pettegrew on piano
Dinner – John Cucchi guitar and vocals

Fri. Dec. 13, Dinner – Mike Wakefield jazz

Sun. Dec. 15, Brunch – Bob Arpin on guitar
Dinner – Ted Mann on guitar

Fri. Dec. 20, Dinner – John Cucchi guitar and vocals

Sun. Dec. 22, Brunch – Michael Blake on guitar
Dinner – Marybeth Hallinan on keyboard and vocals, Chaz Beaulieu flute and drum

Fri. Dec. 27, Dinner – Michael Blake on guitar

Sun. Dec. 29, Brunch Walden Whitham on harp, guitar, flute, sax, vocals

Tues. Dec. 31, New Years Eve – Wendy Keith and Jim Gordon vocals and guitar

Wed. Jan. 1, New Years Day – Brunch Michael Blake on guitar

No cover charge. Tips appreciated. Reservations recommended!

Ongoing:

Mondays, 8 p.m. Contra Dancing, Nelson Town Hall, Variety of callers and musicians. Donation: \$3. Nelson

Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Celtic Music Night. Harlow's Pub, Peterborough

Wednesday, 9:30 – 11 p.m. Open Mic Night, Acoustic only please. Harlow's Pub, Peterborough

Thursday, 9 p.m. Bluegrass Jam, Harlow's Pub, P'borough.

First Friday/month 8.p.m. CJ the DJ Karaoke, Dragon Palace, 7 Marlboro Rd., Troy

Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty

I loved Lou Whittum's Volunteer Idea, let's all get behind it!

Jim Carnie – It was my fault! I misspelled my good friend Jim Carnie's name again – sorry Jim. I got two hits on this one! This is not an excuse, but a reason. I have known *Gene Carney* from fifth grade and all through our parallel careers at General Dynamics – Electric Boat (GD-EB); some sixty-five years. Therefore, Carney always looks correct to me.

America Reads Wins Volunteer NH's 2013 Spirit of New Hampshire Outstanding Program Champion Award

Under the very capable leadership (over fourteen years) of Suzette Bordon, America Reads received the above recognition. Congratulations Sue. Last Friday at Mt Caesar, I ran into an ex-teacher who volunteers with America Reads. She could hardly walk and her husband had to get her there, but she was still helping the kids. If you have an hour or two a week to help the kids with reading, give Sue a call at 357-6893.

Attending College at Monadnock Regional High School

Sixty-one students are taking college courses at the MRHS campus. Each course is \$150 with a scholarship of \$75 given by simply writing a letter – the district is paying the tab. I will follow up on this in a later issue.

Things and Thoughts...another couple of mea culpas

I most likely will not catch "sited" vs. "cited" (November Issue) – I never was a good speller. The other comment was on my admittedly heavy use of the double dash (--) between sim-

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ilar thoughts. I did not learn the double dash from Sister Scholastica; it came from a full professor from Connecticut College (I guess he felt an obligation to help the masses at the University of New Haven; I doubt he needed the money to teach night school). I sort of fell in love with the double dash.

Improved Writing with *The Little, Brown Handbook*

The above book is a great teacher of writing skills. I am going to put my copy next to the TV chair and start reading it again. You moms and dads might consider getting a copy for middle or high school scholars. I doubt that it matters which revision you get. I saw a copy for \$15.19 on eBay. When I was working, I used it all the time – however, *The Rooster* article deserves the same amount of effort on my part. For example, in my version, cite, site, and sight, are reviewed on page 394 – the trick is to know that you need to look it up.

Thanks for Reading my column. Although I took a couple of hits in the November issue for spelling and technique; I appreciate that you read **Things and Thoughts**. I hope you get some insight into the district activities and I hope to improve my writing skills.

If you have comments, or suggestions, call me at 239 4031, or email cmoriarty@ne.rr.com. Jim “Carney” Carnie at 239-4948 can also assist you with Monadnock Regional School District concerns.

Richmond’s Luminary

Pete Tandy

OK, let’s have a show of hands: Who has actually stopped and read Richmond’s only “Historic Marker?” Everyone in town must have passed it by dozens, if not hundreds, of times down there at the bottom of Stinson’s Hill on Route 32, just north of where Mill Road heads east. The sign commemorates the nearby birthplace of Richmond’s most famous son, the Reverend Hosea Ballou.

Just in case your haven’t read the sign, here’s what it says:

Hosea Ballou 1771 – 1852

Born in an almost uncleared wilderness in an area then known as Ballou’s Dell, 1.5 miles east of here, on Fish Hatchery Road, this farm boy, reared in the Baptist faith, became known as the father of Universalism. In the nineteenth century, as an author and preacher, he expounded religious liberalism from pulpits in Portsmouth, NH, Salem and Boston, MA.

Born on April 30, 1771, one of eleven children, Hosea’s life constitutes a powerful argument for the ascendancy of genetics over environment. By some quirk of inheritance he was empowered with a questing intelligence that overcame an almost total lack of early formal education and a childhood that, today, would be considered impoverished.

Hosea’s father, Maturin Ballou, was a farmer and part-time Baptist clergyman whose income was not up to providing even the rudiments of education to his brood. By one account Hosea had his first formal schooling at the age of nineteen. Donald W. Howe, in his book *Quabbin: The Lost Valley*, (The Quabbin Book House, Ware, Massachusetts, 1951) tells us that the only books in the Ballou household were the Bible, a small English dictionary, an old almanac, and a booklet which gave some pamphleteer’s ideas about the tale of the Tower of Babel.

Apparently Hosea was largely self-educated, spending but one year in school at the Chesterfield Academy. He joined the Baptist church, but was influenced by the revolutionary theology of Elder Caleb Rich and the Reverend Adams Streeter (see *History of the Town of Richmond ...* by William Bassett), both of whom were adherents of a beginning form of what came to be known as Universalism.

Universalism (from the concept of universal salvation), according to *The New Electronic Encyclopedia*, is “the theological doctrine that all souls will ultimately be saved and that there are no torments of hell.” Although some of the tenets of Universalism date from the third century, its emergence as an organized movement of religious liberalism had to wait for Richmond’s Hosea Ballou to come along.

Hosea’s first step upon what was to become a monumental journey had a small beginning in a place where his path and mine were to cross, albeit almost a century-and-a-half apart. In the early 1790s he came to the town of Dana in north central Massachusetts to teach school and to start preaching his newly-found religion.

In 1794, when Hosea was only twenty-three years old, he was asked to address the Universalist Convention in Oxford, MA. His eloquence and logic so impressed the Convention that its president raised him to the ministry on the spot.

In 1796, the young minister married Ruth Washburn, of Williamsburg, MA, and in 1797 was appointed as the first minister of the Dana Universalist Church, a post he held until 1804. During that time Hosea began a prodigious marathon of preaching and publishing, extending the influence of his thought

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throughout the nation. He founded and edited a Universalist magazine in Boston and wrote hundreds of hymns, some of which are still used in Universalist churches. According to Howe, "...there was apparently no end to his energy or zeal as he preached more than ten thousand sermons, wrote one hundred volumes, all to make clear his religious belief."

In 1817 Hosea was called to the pulpit of the Second Universalist Church of Boston, serving there for thirty-five years until his death in 1852, at the age of eighty-one. He was one of the most powerful progenitors of Universalism, his influence upon liberal theology continuing to this day. The Universalist Church of America merged with the Unitarians in 1961, to become the Unitarian Universalist Association. The association currently has about 175,000 members.

In 1923, the Dana Women's Club erected a memorial to Hosea in the form of a bronze tablet attached to a boulder that stood on the common at Dana Center. The tablet contains these words: "Near this spot Hosea Ballou taught school and preached the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, 1794 to 1802."

Perhaps you'll allow me a little personal reminiscence here. This past winter my Whipple Hill neighbor, Gus Merwin, and I hiked down into the Quabbin Reservoir, passing across the common at Dana Center, and down into my childhood haunts in North Dana. Of course everything is gone, all things have changed. All the houses, all the people, even all the graveyards spirited away and gone. Hosea's commemorative tablet still stands in the Quabbin Memorial Park, at the south end of the reservoir, along with the gravestones of the hundreds of re-interred bodies taken from the flooded cemeteries.

All the little towns within the Quabbin Valley have been obliterated but – alone of all the institutions that once flourished there – the First Universalist Parish of Dana lives on. I was baptized in that church in 1927, and now serve as the moderator for the parish. A bequest from two former parishioners, together with the proceeds of the sale of the church and the parsonage, are held in trust at the UUA headquarters in Boston. Interest from the fund pays for ecumenical vesper services throughout this region. The services, which are without charge to the host church, provide high quality musical programs without religious content.

Although I have never suffered from even the slightest belief in a supreme deity, nor belief in the reasonableness of any organized religion, nevertheless I am pleased to be part of the

continuity of the First Universalist Parish of Dana. It gives me the sense of touching, still, the lives of people I loved; those who have vanished along with their homes in the little towns of the Quabbin Valley, in that simpler time which now seems long ago and far away.

Middle and High School Honor Roll

Neil Moriarty

Beginning in this school year the district has changed its report card and therefore the honor roll policy. Only the middle and high school will be on the four-quarter regimen. The elementary schools will give three report cards per year. The Immaculate Heart of Mary school was not ready with their honor roll at press time. Middle and High School in last name order:

| Name | Grade | Honor |
|------------------|-------|-------------|
| John Barth | 12 | Honors |
| Anne Boscarino | 8 | Honors |
| Oliva Berman | 10 | Honors |
| Oliva Budzik | 7 | High Honors |
| Molly Hulett | 7 | High Honors |
| Cloe Busick | 11 | Honors |
| Madison Daniels | 10 | High Honors |
| Abigail Gill | 12 | Honors |
| Spencer Heise | 12 | Honors |
| Ethan Hughes | 9 | High Honors |
| Autumn Love | 7 | Honors |
| Jacob Mathewson | 7 | Honors |
| Madison Pearsall | 8 | Honors |
| Eliza Randall | 11 | Honors |
| Lydia Randall | 9 | Honors |
| Breanne Swanson | 8 | High Honors |
| Alica Thayer | 8 | High Honors |
| Ashlyn Tomer | 9 | Honors |



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Winter Winds

Winter winds pierce my limbs. They penetrate
uncovered flesh like hammered nails on cross-
grained wood. They cut away self-consciousness
and shred all thoughts mundane and frivolous.

They push me toward a line of trees
whose crusted bark is sole defense against
the tempests of intemperate weather
and claws of arctic winds.

No squirrels play today; no birds are heard.
An eagle flies far overhead – or are
those wings a turkey vulture's scapula?
My eyes too blurred to see or say for sure.

No sign of deer; no steaming scat to mark
their trail. And yet I know they're here; I saw
them yesterday – four cautious does –
edging their way through frozen snow –

retreating to a hidden hemlock grove.
Their diet now the bony twigs where birds
will perch and sing when bonny spring returns.
But now they rest and save their energy.

Winter winds pierce my limbs; my hands and feet
flinch from the bite of hammered nails on flesh.
I grieve for those who lack a short reprieve;
I quiver with each whip of winter's breath.

Francis Morrissey
5/27/2010

We Hunted Some Too

Dad Thomas

Somewhere Bill and I heard that you could catch big bullfrogs
with a small piece of white rag on a fishhook – that if you dan-
gled it in front of them they would dive at it. So we rigged up
our fish poles and went over to the golf course water-hole where
there were thousands of huge frogs to see if the idea worked
and to get some frog's legs to eat. The banks of the pond
dropped off quite steeply. We spotted a big frog, step carefully
to the edge and dangle the bait in front of his nose. The frog let

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a yelp out of him, made a big leap with his mouth open, grabbed
the piece of rag and got caught on the hook. The problem was
that all the frogs got hung up with the hook's barb and were
hard to get off. Next time I filed the barb off the hook, even at
the risk of losing a few, because a much bigger problem was
that we caught far too many in a very short time so that we had
some 50 big frogs in our gunny sack. Of course we had to take
them back to camp so that everyone could have frog's legs, ex-
cept now we had to kill them, cut off the legs and skin them.

We decided that the best way to do this was to kill them all
at once by clubbing them while still in the bag. Besides, this
would make it so we would not have to look them in the eye as
we killed them one by one. The problem with that was when
we hit the bag with the club, it tore the bag and did not kill all
of the frogs, resulting with a whole bunch of frogs leaping about
every which-way. This process was observed and commented
on by a number of kids of all ages who followed our activities
with a good deal of interest. Some of the less helpful advice
came from various characters who normally inhabited New
York City or other such uninformed places which breed side-
walk superintendents.

The frog's legs were delicious if you could forget all those
frogs getting out of the bag and leaping about.

We got back at the city people by leaving them out in the
woods at night, emitting strange calling sounds while holding
an open bag and a flashlight. They had of course heard of snipe
hunting and were not about to be taken in by that old gaff, and
we told them that we knew they were entirely too smart to fall
for that. But the animal we were going to show them how to

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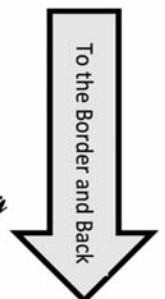


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catch was a “Neat,” a small harmless woodland creature with six legs from which Neat’s Foot Oil is taken to be used on shoes as a dressing. Being familiar with Neat’s Foot Oil they were convinced of the veracity of our enterprise. Besides, we told them they could find the “Neat” in the dictionary. They became quite enthusiastic and off we went to drive the little creatures into the bag which they held while we went home. If they had consulted the dictionary, they would have found that a “neat” is a bovine animal and they would not have been left holding the bag.

Holiday Fair

John Boccalini

The Vets’ Hall has been closed for approximately two months while the floors were redone and the entire interior repainted. The reopening of the Hall was marked by the 2013 Richmond Holiday Fair on Nov. 8. It is interesting to note that twenty years ago the Vets’ Hall had its interior repainted and the reopening was marked by the 1993 Dessert Theater on Nov. 5.



Holiday Fair in the newly painted Veterans Hall.

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Mon. 7:00 PM – ?

Selectmen's Assistant: Heidi Wood

Town Secretary: Beverly Hart

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Tues. 8 AM – 12 noon

Wed. 8 AM – 12 noon, 1:00 PM – 5 PM

Thurs. 8 AM – 12 noon

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Deputy Clerk: Pamela Goodell

Mon. 9 AM – 12 noon, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 AM – noon, 1 – 5 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 noon

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Denise Nolan

Mon. 7 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 2 PM – 4 PM

Planning Board: Rick Lewis, Chairperson

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1st and 3rd Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

Transfer Station & Recycling Facility:

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Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian

Tues. 4 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 noon

Thurs. 4 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

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Fire Warden: Ed Atkins, 239-6337

Selectmen – 239-4232

Town Clerk – 239-6202

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