



## **ZBA Chair Demands Firing of ZCO**

**Fran Heap**

The Selectmen's meeting of November 14th was presided over by Selectmen Doug Bersaw and Andy Wallace while Selectman Bill Daniels was in hospital. Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA") Chairperson Tom Tague teamed up with Vice Chairperson Antoinette Cincotta to debate long-term Zoning Compliance Officer ("ZCO") Dick Drew. In what had been hoped would be a resolution to disputes arising from two variances requested for property located at 18 Winchester Road, the appointment requested by Drew was ended by Wallace when it became apparent that both sides were hopelessly deadlocked. In a parting shot, an irate Tague pointed his finger at Drew and demanded the ZCO be fired by the Selectmen.

### October 19, 2023 ZBA Meeting

According to draft verbatim meeting minutes of the October 19, 2023 ZBA meeting\*, the applicant, Timothy Newcombe, asked to install a septic system within 50 feet of a public-right-of-way and within the 75 foot wetland setback, because on site was an "existing dwelling unit with few options to locate a new septic system." During the course of the public hearing for the two variances, the applicant was asked by Tague if Drew "received compensation for" his meeting with the applicant to discuss moving the new leach fields "further out and away from the poorly drained soils"; the applicant replied "no." When asked by Tague if variances would have been required whether the septic system had been installed at its original location or not, the applicant answered "the plan does not meet the town ordinances in either position."

Cincotta directed the applicant to Article 10, Section 1003 of the Zoning Ordinance, "Non-Conforming Uses." Her sister, Lisa Traeger, speaking as a member of the public, questioned why the new septic system was not left in its original footprint so it could be grandfathered in under Section 1003. Tague then suggested to the applicant that Drew "seemed like he leveraged you to move the system out of being grandfathered in and creating the need to request two variances."

Jeff Taylor of the Conservation Commission expressed concern that the Conservation Commission had not been allowed to do its normal site review so that the wetland could be protected from "construction debris, siltation, erosion." Both he and Marcus Beauregard of the ZBA supported Drew's recommendations for the wetlands. In a letter to the ZBA, Richmond Health Officer Carolann Rocheleau stated she had "no objections to the variance plans as presented."

Both variances were approved without conditions. After the public hearing and near the end of the meeting, however, the conversation took a more personal turn with Tague asserting that Drew had given "instructions to the applicant that cost him \$2500.00 or more to draft new plans when he didn't need to" and that the "applicant tonight could take legal action against the town for that money because he was not given the right information from the Zoning Enforcement Officer." Tague wanted ZBA to make recommendations to the Selectmen of "things that we may feel are not being handled right as being observed by our Board." Tague recounted a prior incident about his driveway drainage with Drew, who "took action where he was wrong." Tague was dissatisfied with a perceived failure by Drew to enforce code for a logging bridge "two houses down from" where Drew lives. Beauregard suggested Tague meet privately with Drew to discuss these concerns one-on-one. However, Tague continued to rail against Drew, who "claims he has authority when he doesn't." Tague speculated the applicant could charge \$8000.00 for aggravation and everything else" and "sue the town for \$20,000.00." He said that "Dick may have strong armed this guy to do what he thought was right rather than what the law allows" and referred to Drew as "a loose cannon." Tague planned to send a letter to the Selectmen; none of the other ZBA members would sign the letter.

November 14, 2023 Appointment with the Selectmen  
Tague asked the appointment requested by Drew be taken into “non-public session”. Drew stated the criteria for a non-public session had not been met, so Tague agreed the meeting would remain open to the public. Despite frequent interruptions by Cincotta that Drew repeat himself and that he “would get the town sued”, he was able to explain that:

- a. In August, he was required as ZCO to do a site visit after a building permit application had been filed for the septic system, which is a structure. He discovered an ongoing and unpermitted excavation for a foundation drain into the wetlands, which had not been delineated correctly on the septic design plans;
- b. He contacted the contractor, Steve Pro. The failed septic system was so old no plans were on file at DES and the new septic would be located within 75 feet of wetlands, so a new design would be needed. Installation of the new septic system would violate the Zoning Ordinance’s 50’ setback from the road and the 75’ setback from the wetlands. Pro agreed two variances to the Ordinance were needed; the septic system design plan would be updated to correct the wetland delineation.

Cincotta and Tague claimed that the property owner, Newcombe, had met with Drew, who emphatically denied ever meeting Newcombe. They disputed the determination the septic system had failed and insisted the applicant could have “replaced an existing system” due to non-conforming use. They correctly pointed out the Zoning Ordinance only calls for the Conservation Commission to be involved for special exceptions, not for variances. Tague also said the ZBA members with construction experience believed a reputable contractor would follow procedures to protect the wetlands. Per Tague, Taylor of the Conservation Commission told the ZBA the only benefit of Drew’s recommendations would be during the construction phase, not later. Cincotta read the construction notes and found that the State’s permit obligated the contractor to use sedimentation and erosion control measures. Drew took out photos he had snapped of the site and proved no silt

fences, hay bales, or wattles had been utilized by Pro during the septic system installation. Drew expressed his view that not having the control measures conditioned on variances is a mistake and is not the normal practice of the town. Tague claimed the Conservation Commission’s justification was “weak.” Cincotta asserted that ZBA’s “only obligation is to follow the Ordinance.” Drew noted the Ordinance provides for the ZBA to hire outside experts if the ZBA chooses not to use the Conservation Commission.

Bersaw had contacted the town’s land use attorney, who would not advise on a septic system, but who gave his legal opinion that the ZCO has authority only to issue citations, with the ZBA having the final say on variances. It was not clear at the Selectmen’s meeting who the attorney was or what specific questions had been asked of him.

The conversation turned to the October 19th ZBA draft meeting minutes. Drew, who was not present at that meeting, asked Tague to explain why he thought the applicant had paid him when, as ZCO, he works for the town; it would be a conflict of interest. Tague stated he plans to continue to verify that Drew has not been paid by the applicant.

Cincotta and Tague claimed that Drew’s revisions had caused the applicant a three month delay. Drew discussed the timeline and showed the delays were not due to the town’s process. In fact, the application had reached him with an expired NH State permit.

As to the logging bridge on Tully Brook Road, Drew explained he does not have a lot of enforcement authority because New Hampshire is very liberal with logging operations. He detailed what the town had been able to do about the bridge to Tague.

Drew asked Tague to explain his comments about Drew visiting Tague’s property. Regarding the culvert, Drew said he had visited as a neighbor, not as ZCO, and was concerned about road flooding. Tague claimed Drew had bullied him over the culvert and had trespassed on his property; he “sees a pattern of misconduct.” Wallace intervened, remarking that the ZCO reports to the Selectmen, and ZBA should come to the Selectmen with their concerns.

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Drew questioned Cincotta and Tague about their land use education. Cincotta replied, "I don't have to answer that." Tague remarked that Cincotta is a lawyer, and he has a Ph.D. Drew expressed his belief that land use commission members should take classes. He pointed out education is in the budget. \$2,400 is in the budget; only \$200 has been spent in four years. Cincotta responded that "was none of his business." Drew replied the budget was "public information." Tague did not think that Drew had the "right to question" their lack of land use education, grew louder, and, as mentioned previously, demanded Drew's firing. Before departing, Drew told the Selectmen he felt budgeted monies for land use education should go to new members of the Planning Board and ZBA.

#### November 14, 2023 after the Appointment

After concluding other Select Board business, Bersaw and Wallace entered into a brief discussion of Drew/Tague/Cincotta appointment. Bersaw told Wallace all had agreed the wetlands would not be adversely impacted. He has never known Cincotta to be wrong. Wallace understood that the ZBA decision rules, but felt there was something personal going on.

Bersaw opened the meeting for public comment and asked Fran Heap (*yes, that's me, the author of this article*) if she had an opinion. She questioned if Bersaw meant her as a "former inland wetlands commissioner" and went on to assert that Cincotta and Tague had misconstrued the word "use" in the Non-Conforming Use section of the Zoning Ordinance: "use" refers to the use of the property (commercial, residential, etc.), not the installation of a septic system. She noted Cincotta's words "you can't have a house without septic" were correct, but had nothing to do with non-conforming use. She stated the reason the ZBA had to grant the wetland variance was because a septic system is a normal appurtenance to a house. Heap pointed out that Drew had used the word, "appurtenance", but had not been understood by Tague and Cincotta. She said the purpose of involving the Conservation Commission was because the granting of this type of variance would damage the wetlands, a violation of the Zoning

Ordinance. Therefore, the Conservation Commission's recommendations, like requiring use of silt fence and hay bales, would normally be added as conditions to the variance to mitigate damage to those wetlands. Wallace commented he had not understood before why the Conservation Commission had been brought in.

\*Online source for draft ZBA minutes: [http://www.richmond.nh.gov/vertical/sites/%7BA403C866-D7A3-4A6F-8C05-C74435D0CF15%7D/uploads/ZBA\\_Minutes\\_10.19.23.pdf](http://www.richmond.nh.gov/vertical/sites/%7BA403C866-D7A3-4A6F-8C05-C74435D0CF15%7D/uploads/ZBA_Minutes_10.19.23.pdf)



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
David M. Scanlan

*Editor's Note: We thank Pam Bielunis for passing this on. Check out the role of Richmond in history!*

November 15, 2023

Rarely is a press announcement conducted in the Hall of Flags here in the New Hampshire State House. This space is sacred, and it is a memorial to those New Hampshire soldiers who have fought for freedom and democracy. Behind me, and around the hall, are the bullet-riddled, shrapnel-torn, and blood-stained flags carried into the major battles and skirmishes of the Civil War. The New Hampshire soldiers associated with these flags fought against the worst form of oppression and they fought to preserve the union of individual states. One hundred and twenty-five of these soldiers were African American. The remaining flags and memorial rolls in the hall reflect subsequent wars to protect freedom, democracy, the individual right to vote and run for elective office. This display is a daily reminder and a testament to the character, courage, and sacrifice of New Hampshire citizens, and it is fitting just a few days after Veterans' Day that these remarks be delivered here.

New Hampshire has held the First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary Election for over 100 years. In fact, just last Monday, I attended the funeral of Sybil



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Dupuis, who was the great-granddaughter of Stephen Bullock, a life-long farmer and the Democratic state representative from Richmond, NH, who authored New Hampshire's presidential primary law 110 years ago.

New Hampshire became the lead off primary in 1920 by default, and it has been first ever since. Nearly 50 years ago, former democratic state senator Jim Splaine helped protect that tradition by sponsoring the state law requiring the New Hampshire Presidential Primary be held at least 7 days before any similar event. We did not take the first-in-the-nation status from anyone, and we will vigorously defend it.

Our first-in-the-nation status is now being challenged by the Democratic National Committee due to alleged concerns over lack of racial diversity. Their pundits have claimed New Hampshire is too white, and by extension, too privileged. A couple of months ago, I heard a former chair of the DNC on a talk show ask the voters of New Hampshire if they know what it is like to live on a dirt road. The answer, of course, is yes, we do. I would add that you cannot truly appreciate a dirt road until you have experienced one during a New Hampshire mud season. Using racial diversity as a cudgel in an attempt to rearrange the presidential nominating calendar is an ugly precedent. At what point does a state become too old or too wealthy, or too educated or too religious to hold an early primary? The truth is, there is no individual state that truly reflects the make-up of America, and no state is more "American" than any other state.

With that said, diversity is not the real issue at play in this debate. At stake is who gets to determine the nominee of the party. The elites on a national

party committee by controlling the nominating calendar or the voters. New Hampshire believes the voters of each state should decide who they prefer as the nominee to be president, not power brokers in Washington DC. That is why Representative Stephen Bullock wrote New Hampshire's Presidential Primary law in the first place. In New Hampshire, candidates of different ethnic backgrounds, genders, religions, and financial means have done well here, sometimes to the dismay of the national political parties.

When the colonists fought and won their independence from Great Britain, New Hampshire crafted a state constitution that predates our federal constitution. At the time, there was a general mistrust of government and a strong sense that the citizens should govern themselves. Our state forefathers created a document that spread the power of government as broadly across the citizen population as possible. That is reflected in the 400-member House of Representatives that we have today, each of which receives a salary of \$100 per year, and a five-member executive council that acts as a check on the governor. All local election officials who run the polling places on election day are elected by their neighbors. New Hampshire government is designed from the bottom up, not the top down, and our political culture and traditions reflect that.

New Hampshire is the antithesis of a national primary, or a regional primary, or a large state primary where only the wealthy, well known, or politically anointed candidates can compete. A small state geographically, with a population of 1.4 million citizens, New Hampshire is the one place where ANY qualified



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# From a friend on Athol Road

United States citizen can run for president and have a shot. If you had the childhood dream of growing up to be president of the United States, you can try to make that a reality in New Hampshire. That fact, after all, is the purest form of the American Dream. Ballot access is extremely easy by filling out a one-page declaration of candidacy form and payment of a \$1,000 filing fee. If a candidate cannot afford the fee, 100 nomination signatures can be collected from around the state instead. It is far easier for most candidates to run for president in the New Hampshire Primary than it is for them to run in their home state. This state has a receptive and engaged electorate, a trait that has developed and matured over the last 100 years.

For a lesser-known candidate, being able to run in a lead-off primary is critical to their potential success. For the most part, they are serious candidates who believe they have something to offer the country, and New Hampshire voters will give them a shot.

To bring my remarks full circle, New Hampshire still represents the values and principles of the soldiers who carried these flags, and the government and political climate we have created here reflects the reason for their sacrifice and courage.

Twenty-one democrats and twenty-four republicans have filed to run in the 2024 New Hampshire Presidential Primary.

The date of the New Hampshire First-in-the-Nation Presidential Primary will be January 23, 2024. That date complies with our state statute requiring our presidential primary to be held at least 7 days before any similar event and preserves the position of the traditional Iowa Caucus.

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Terri O'Rorke

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2 C. dried candied fruit



### Directions

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Written and Submitted by Sr. Mary Joseph

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	8		6					
	4				3		9	
3				2		6		
8		7		6		5		3
		4		7				8
	3		5				8	
					7		6	
2	7	8		9				4

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#### Returned Checks

As stated previously, we are seeing a number of returned checks. PLEASE be sure you input the correct routing number for the bank, as well as your checking account number. DO NOT use a debit or credit card number even if it is linked to a checking account; these will be returned, as they are not considered checks by the bank. If we do receive a returned check, there will be a service fee of \$40 added to your amount. We must have either a bank check or cash. If you do not comply, the DMV will suspend your registration:

#### RSA 6:11-a

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*the department or institution may charge a fee of \$25 or 5 percent of the face amount of the check, whichever is the greater, plus all protest and bank fees, in addition to the amount of the initial payment to the person presenting the payment to the department or institution to cover the costs of collection.*

#### Google and Why You Shouldn't

I hear regularly that people have "googled" for Town Hall hours and tell me that our website is wrong. If you google, you might get a link that is not current. You must check to see that what you are seeking is up-to-date, an important fact that most people do not look for, assuming that Google is right. If you go to the town website - [www.richmond.nh.gov](http://www.richmond.nh.gov) - you will find all sorts of information which is generally recent. You can access the town calendar, renew registration for your vehicles or dogs, and all sorts of other important data. So, please, don't google, but go right to the source and you'll find the proper info you seek.

#### Glasses for Loan

In order to help those who may need assistance in the way of reading glasses, we have made available three pairs of cheaters (inexpensive reading glasses) to use when conducting business in Town Hall. However, two pair have walked away, probably on the heads of those who borrowed them. If those who took a pair would kindly return them, we would greatly appreciate it.



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### **SOC Meeting Notice**

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10 AM at the Veterans' Hall. We can accept new voters and change of name and/or address of registered voters. October 6, 2023 was the last date to change party before the 2024 Presidential Primary.

New voters: please bring proper documentation for proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile in Richmond NH (e.g., passport, driver's license, birth certificate, utility bill, bank statement, registration). A photo ID is required for any other changes. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Bielunis at (603) 239-6498 (landline).

### **A Special Thanks to the MRHS Interact Students**

**Pam Bielunis**

A few weeks ago, I received a call from a couple in town. They would be receiving four tons of pellets and needed help moving them onto their porch, into their garage, and into their house. I decided to call MRHS and ask if there were any students/clubs who might do community service. I spoke with the Guidance Department who sent out an email to the clubs, teams, groups at the High School. The next day, I got a positive response from the MRHS Interact Advisor. Today (November 10th), a group of Interact students and their advisors showed up at Joanne and Jerry Cote's house and completed the task in less than an hour! (*That was 200 forty-pound bags of pellets*). A truly amazing group of young people helping a couple in need. A special thank you to all the students who helped and eased the minds of this couple.



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### **Library News Wendy O'Brien**

#### Library Calendar for December

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

Saturdays, 10 AM – noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle

Dec. 1st - Dec. 6th: Holiday Handcrafts Raffle

Wednesday, Dec. 6th, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces

Tuesday, Dec. 12th, 6 PM: Book Club, *Wishin' and Hopin'*, Wally Lamb

Sunday, Dec. 31st, 11:30 AM: Ring in the New Year Party

#### Richmond Reminisces

On Wednesday, December 6th, at 11 AM, come and visit during our new monthly program, "Richmond Reminisces." In November, we enjoyed talking about Henry Ballou, Arthur Stinson, the Four Corners Store, the North Richmond Schoolhouse, and much more! These memories will be recorded for future generations to enjoy.



#### Holiday Handcrafts Raffle

We are pleased to announce that the fourth annual RPL Holiday Craft Raffle continues until December 6th. Many local craftspeople and artisans have generously contributed their beautiful creations. Be sure to drop by the Library to find a special, unique, and locally created gift and support your Library at the same time! Ring in the New Year Party

Join us on New Year's Eve starting at 11:30 AM for a fun-filled family party. We will have games, snacks, and will be counting down the minutes until noon, when we will take turns ringing the Library's school bell to usher in 2024!

#### New Titles

*Dirty Thirty*, Janet Evanovich

*The Spy Coast*, Tess Gerritsen

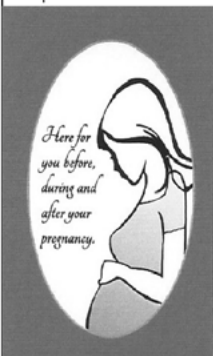
*Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, Curtis Chin

*Hello Beautiful*, Ann Napolitano

*Remarkably Bright Creatures*, Shelby Van Pelt



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While we prefer to hire a Richmond resident with land use experience, we are looking for an enthusiastic, organized, committed person who has the interest in land-use issues and the willingness to work diligently to become familiar with the functions of the boards, who will meet the job expectations, and who will provide exceptional service to the public. This is a chance to serve the people of Richmond in an important and satisfying way. Interested applicants may contact the Town Administrator by phone (603) 239-4232 or by email ([susan.harrington.richmond@gmail.com](mailto:susan.harrington.richmond@gmail.com)) at the Town Hall for more information and may send a letter of application, highlighting their interest, education, and experience; a resume; and a list of three references to Mr. Doug Smith, Chair of the Planning Board at the Richmond Town Hall. The deadline for applications is December 13, 2023.

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"Infusion" is the process of extracting flavor, fragrance and other properties from herbs into a medium by which we can preserve the scent and taste of those herbs. Herbalists refer to an infusion as the steeping of leaves or flowers in boiled water, often for just a few minutes. Roots, stems, bark and peels of plants call for decoction, boiling these hard plant parts to release the attributes desired. A third way to extract essences from herbs is maceration, the steeping of the plant in vinegar, alcohol, or another liquid for a longer period, which allows the liquid to become imbued with the herb's distinct characteristics.

Herbs can also impart their scent and taste by adding them to other food bases, for example, butter or sugar. By chopping fresh herbs and incorporating them into such carriers, we can extend the life of the fresh herb and create tasty and unique blends which you cannot purchase in stores. Most of the methods we will be talking about do not require any special equipment and can be easily mastered by anyone. You are only limited by your imagination, and of course, your supply of herbs.



### HERB SUGARS OR SALTS

You can preserve herbs by layering them with either sugar or salt. This is a wonderful way to preserve basil, for example, as dried basil does not have the best flavor. You simply place a layer of leaves in a jar with a tight lid, then pour a layer of salt or sugar over them, alternating layers until the jar is full. The sugar or salt may cake up



as it absorbs the oils and moisture from the leaves. This doesn't affect the taste, however. Just take out the leaves as you wish to use them, and the salt or sugar may be used as well. Another way is to grind in a mortar and pestle the fresh herbs with sugar or salt. The salt will need to be spread on a cookie sheet and dried in a very low heat. If you have a dehydrator, it will work well for this.

### **Peppermint Rose Sugar**

Place 6 -7 large peppermint rose geranium leaves in two cups of sugar. Let stand for a few days. Remove the leaves before using.

### **Peppermint Rose Sugar Cookie Recipe**

#### Ingredients

3 c. all-purpose flour, sifted  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 c. butter  
1 tsp. rosewater  
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder  
1 1/4 c. peppermint rose sugar  
2 large eggs

#### Directions

Sift all dry ingredients, except the 1/4 cup of peppermint rose sugar. Add butter until mixture is crumbly. Stir in beaten egg and vanilla. On a floured surface, roll dough onto a floured surface to 1/8 inch. Cut into shapes and sprinkle with reserved sugar. Place on an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 6 - 8 minutes in a preheated 400°F oven. NOTE: If you have an abundance of small rose geranium leaves, you can press a leaf into each cookie before baking.

### **Rose Sugar (using Rose Petals)**

Using a mortar and pestle, grind fragrant and unsprayed rose petals with sugar until well combined. Do not use a blender or food processor as the mixture will be the wrong consistency. Put in a tightly sealed jar. Keeps a long time. Good in teas.

### **Rose Stuffed Dates**

For an elegant and delicious treat, mix your rose sugar (to taste) with cream cheese and fill dates with the mixture.



## **HERB SYRUPS AND LIQUEURS**

There are many books on making liqueurs. The process varies, depending on the herb, fruit, spice, etc. Generally, a neutral spirit (such as vodka) is infused with dried or fresh herbs. The jar should sit in a dry, cool place, and should be shaken frequently. The herbs are strained, and a simple syrup added. An herb syrup can be used by itself, as a sweetener, or added to punches or alcoholic drinks.

### **Lavender Herb Syrup**

Take a large handful of dried lavender flowers and place them in a heatproof bowl. Boil water and add enough to cover the lavender. Steep for 15-20 minutes. Strain out the lavender, and measure the water. Measure out an amount of sugar equal to the water. Pour water and sugar into saucepan, and heat until sugar is dissolved. Can be used for flavoring drinks, as a marinade for fruit or to sweeten tea.



Mix with lemonade for a delicious treat. Can be frozen.

### **Seven Seed Liqueur**

Grind one tsp. each of the following seeds: allspice, cumin, dill, caraway, fennel and coriander. Add seeds to four cups of vodka. Let steep four weeks, then strain. Add one cup of sugar syrup (two parts sugar to one part water). Let stand another two weeks before using. You can also use herbs for beauty products. Here is a nice salt scrub that makes an excellent gift.

### **Lavender-Lemon Salt Scrub**

#### Ingredients

1/8 cup of epsom salts  
1 tsp. lavender flowers  
1 - 2 drops lemon oil  
1 tbsp. lemon verbena leaves, crushed  
2 tsp. sweet almond oil  
1 - 2 drops lavender oil

#### Directions

Mix together epsom salts, lemon verbena leaves, and lavender flowers. Add almond oil, then essential oils and blend well. Use a small amount moistened with water to gently scrub skin. Moisturizes, exfoliates,

# Cushing & Sons

## Water Wells and Pumps

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relieves acne, and softens skin. Always use a patch test before using any product containing essential oils. Here are a couple of holiday treats; these are especially good at this time of year.

### **Salted Honey Lavender Nuts**

Ingredients (If you prefer, just use almonds.)

1/4 cup honey

8 ounces raw cashews

1 1/2 teaspoons dried culinary lavender petals

8 ounces raw brazil nuts

8 ounces raw almonds

1/2 teaspoon flaked sea salt

### Directions

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Heat the honey and lavender in a saucepan over medium-low heat until it's melted and thin. Remove it from the heat and let it cool slightly. In a large saucepan or skillet, heat the nuts over low heat. Toss constantly until they are fragrant and slightly toasted. Remove them from the heat and stir in the lavender honey. Stir until all the nuts are coated. Spread the nuts out on the parchment paper in a single layer. Sprinkle with the flaked salt. Let them sit and dry and cool for 1 to 2 hours. Break them apart and either serve or package up for snacks!

### **Fermented Cranberries**

Ingredients

One bag of whole cranberries

5 - 6 pieces of candied ginger

1 cinnamon stick

Raw honey

5 - 6 cloves

Zest of one orange + juice

### Directions

Pierce each berry with an ice pick or skewer. Place in wide mouth jar, and cover with spices



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**The press was to serve the governed, not the governors."**

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

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and juice. Pour honey over ad let sit 5 - 10 days. Good in teas or over cream cheese as an appetizer.

### **"Mewsings" from Gracie Cat**

**Bonnie McCarthy**

### The Rescue

When I'm let out from my cage on a dirt road, I see a field, a barn and an empty house. Why was I brought here? A day, a night, another day, another night and more. Why was I left here? Finally, I see two humans walk by. They call out and try to touch me, but they are unknown to me, so I race into the field. Another day, I see the same humans. They speak quietly to me as they edge closer, holding out fingers and acting friendly. Nope, not today, and I bolt back into the field. Once again, I see the humans, and this time I let the woman touch me and comfort me. I let her pick me up and murmur to me. Then, she and the man put me in another cage and lock the door. Uh, oh... bad news!

We enter a small room, and they open the cage. I see two bowls. I forget about how frightened I am and go to investigate. Food and water; I am overcome with relief. They leave me and take the frightful cage with them. I begin to explore my new surroundings, which look like the room humans use for a sandbox. The humans return sometimes letting me rub against their legs and offering me soft touches. I feel kindness enveloping these two humans and it fills the room, embracing me.

### New Surroundings

I hear noises, and the woman enters the sandbox room with another woman. The man isn't with them. I stay near the woman I know and keep my eyes on the new

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woman. This new human pets me and picks me up. She takes me to the actual sandbox where she sits on the lid and folds me into her arms. For some reason, I cuddle under her chin as she speaks to the woman who brought me here in the first place. The new woman puts me down, stands; both women leave the room. Well, after all that attention, once again I am left alone. What gives?

More noise. The door opens, and the women enter. The new woman picks me up, carries me out of the sandbox room, down the stairs and out of the house. The next thing I know, I am put in yet another cage in the front seat of yet another car. *Deja vu* all over again with the cages and cars (*at least I still have my sense of humor*)! Obviously, I am not a linguist, and, right now, all I can think about is, "What in this crazy living Cativerse will happen to me next?" Finally, the car stops, the human carries me into a house and lets me out of the cage in a really big room in front of two



bowls. This time, I DO NOT stop to investigate. Three strikes! I leap out of harm's way and run down a hall.

#### Another House

Eventually, curiosity, my feline nemesis, gets the better of me (*of course*). The bowls contain water and the same food that was in the human sandbox room. So, I take sniff and decide I would rather explore my new, more ample surroundings. The ground is soft; so much

better than the barn, field and dirt road. I was grateful for the small sandbox room, but these wide, open spaces hold more promise. The human holds out her hand calling to me softly, but keeps her distance. She calls me "Grace", "Gracie Cat", "Pretty Girl" and other such nonsense. I walk back down the hall and let her pet me. She better not try to pick me up or I'm outta here.

I return to the bowls, have a snack and use my sandbox, which is near the bowls. Time to explore. There are stairs which go up and stairs which go down. Best of all, there are beams above my food area which I can use to spy on the human. At the end of the hall, is a room which must be the new human's favorite, because that is where she goes after she finishes petting me and calling me silly names. There is a lot of furniture in this house, and I know better than to get on it. I do not need to be yelled at, sprayed with water, or swatted. I go into the far room and lie down by the human's feet. She bends to pet me. I roll on my back and let her pet my tummy and tickle under my chin. I'm beginning to like this place and my new human.





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### Holiday Plea from Magzalea Farm & Sanctuary

We are sure you've heard the phrase, "borrow from Peter to pay Paul". That's what we are doing right now to try and beat the fast-approaching winter season. We hate to do this, as we carefully budget all expenses, but this year has been a true struggle. The weather has been a huge hurdle. The increasing costs of everything (but our paychecks) is making it harder for donors to help out. Trust us, we COMPLETELY feel the same pain and empathize - personally and for the sanctuary.  
[Editor's Note: Readers may mail donations to Magzalea Farm & Sanctuary, 218 West Lake Road, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447]



### Savings Bank of Walpole and Monadnock Broadcasting Group Team Up with Douglas Cuddle Toys for Annual Good Friends Campaign

*Annual fundraising event kicks off on Friday, November 17th and will benefit Feeding Tiny Tummies*

Keene, NH – Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) and the Monadnock Broadcasting Group/KNE-FM are once again teaming up with Douglas Cuddle Toys to raise money to benefit a local nonprofit - Feeding Tiny Tummies. The campaign kicks off on Friday, November 17th.

Throughout the holiday season, SBW branches will serve as point-of-sale locations, selling stuffed animals generously donated by Douglas Cuddle Toys for \$10 each. Feeding Tiny Tummies receives 100 percent of the sale proceeds and uses the funds to help the community and those in need. This year's warm and fuzzy fundraising ambassadors include Joli the Husky, Brach the Brachiosaurus, Riona the Rainbow Unicorn and Silky the White Tiger Cub.

"The Good Friends campaign is an annual event that all of us at SBW look forward to each year because it highlights the good work we can do for our community when we come together," says Danielle Ruffo, VP of Community Engagement for Savings Bank of Walpole. "Raising money for a local nonprofit like Feeding Tiny Tummies is important because the proceeds enable them to provide food and a number of related resources that help children and families in our community. Of course, the campaign wouldn't be possible without the generous donation of stuffed animals and all the effort of everyone at Douglas Cuddle Toys, as well as the partnership of KNE-FM and the Monadnock Broadcasting Group."



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Richmond Town Hall  
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Email: susan.harrington.richmond@gmail.com | Phone: 603-239-4232

Full job description available online at: <b>richmond.nh.gov</b>	Richmond resident and land-use experience preferred but not required	Averages 10-12 hrs/week flexible schedule
--	--	---

Deadline: Wednesday December 13, 2023  
(Or until position filled)

### Solution to Puzzle #4 from Page 6

9	6	3	7	5	4	8	1	2
7	8	2	6	1	9	4	3	5
5	4	1	2	8	3	7	9	6
3	1	5	4	2	8	6	7	9
8	2	7	9	6	1	5	4	3
6	9	4	3	7	5	1	2	8
1	3	6	5	4	2	9	8	7
4	5	9	8	3	7	2	6	1
2	7	8	1	9	6	3	5	4

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**Town Administration**

**Selectmen:** William Daniels, Doug Bersaw,  
Andrew Wallace

Selectmen Meeting at Town Hall – Mon. 5:30 P.M.

*Public is welcome to attend. Please call 239-4232 for an appointment if you have an item for the agenda.*

**Town Administrator:** Susan Harrington

**Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Thompson

Mon. 9 AM – Noon, 3 PM – 5:30 PM

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – Noon

*For town business outside of the above hours,  
please call 239-4232 for a Monday evening appointment.*

**Town Clerk:** Karen O'Brien

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Cheryl Brake

Tues. 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Wed. 9 AM - Noon & 1 PM - 4 PM

Thur. 8 AM - Noon

*For Tues. appointments (5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM),  
call 239-6202 or email the clerk.*

**Tax Collector:** Steve Boscarino

**Deputy Tax Collector:** Mary Rogers

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

**Planning Board:** Held at Taylor/VanBrocklin Bldg.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month - 7:00 PM

**Transfer Station and Recycling Facility:** 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

**Town Library:** Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

**Police (Non Emergency):** 355-2000

**Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency):** 239-4466

**Fire Warden:**

**Fire Permit:** Buzz Shaw, 239-4238

**Selectmen –** 239-4232

**Town Clerk –** 239-6202

**Tax Collector –** 239-6106

**Road Agent:** Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

**Building Maint.:** Pam Bielunis

**Zoning Compliance Officer:** Richard Drew

*[Phone number area codes are 603, unless otherwise noted.]*

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