



## May Day, the Halfway Point to Summer

Karen O'Brien

May 1st has traditionally been celebrated as an important holiday whose agricultural roots date back over 600 years. Named after Maia, the Roman goddess of growth and increase, it was also known (in Celtic lands) as Beltane, or "bright fire." The fires of Bel acknowledged the Celtic sun god Belenus. Bonfires were lit on hillsides the night before to ward off darkness and usher in spring. It is one of the cross-quarter days in the astrological wheel and the beginning of the summer season. Lots of rituals accompany May Day; it is a time for fertility, dance, gifts (especially of flowers) and other seasonal activities.

The first words spoken on May Day should be "rabbit, rabbit" to ensure fertility or luck for the month. A branch of hawthorn left at a friend's home would bring good fortune. If a woman went to the fields first thing on May 1st and washed her face in the dew of the hawthorn tree, she would forever be beautiful. Houses and animals would be decorated with yellow flowers (symbolizing the sun of summer), and bees were traditionally moved on May 1st. Streets were often strewn with any available flowers or herbs that were gathered at sunrise. May Baskets, simple cones of paper filled with flowers and decorated with ribbons and other ornaments, were placed on doors as a gesture of love, friendship, and hope. Louisa May Alcott wrote about the May basket tradition in the late 1800s, and a group of school children hung a basket on the White House door to honor Grace Coolidge. May Baskets need to be left without the recipient knowing who left them - if caught, the giver would be required to give up a kiss.

In many European communities, a Queen of the May and Jack of the Green would be elected to lead the May procession through the streets. They would also be ushers to the dancing around the Maypole, an important fertility rite which mimicked the spinning celestial wheel of the seasons. Originally, a living tree was used and was often topped with a wreath which symbolized the cyclical nature of the year. Ribbons were attached, and the

dancers would use them to weave around the pole, the union of male and female energy displayed as the ribbons twisted and enveloped the tree. Young men and women would sometimes be paired by sundown. And, six weeks later, they might even be married on Midsummer's Day in June, a celebrated time for weddings.



If you don't have a large tree or pole around which to dance, you can always decorate a bush with ribbons and flowers to create a May Day display. In our area, there may not be many flowers on this date, though some early spring ephemerals might be available. Cuttings from shrubs can be forced into bloom, or paper flowers can be fashioned. Whatever way you choose to celebrate, May 1st is a day to rejoice in the coming year and hope for plenty and abundance.



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## Henry “Hank” Richard Lescynski



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our dear husband, father, Boppa, and friend, Henry “Hank” Richard Lescynski of Lamoine, Maine on April 4, 2023 after a sudden illness. He was born July 27, 1949 in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Walter S. and Blanche V. (Zawrotniak) Lesczynski.

Hank grew up on Long Island and graduated from Hicksville High School in 1967. After high school, he attended the School of Visual Arts and NYU’s School of Arts where he studied advertising art and theater set design.

In October of 1971, Hank married the love of his life, Nancy Yarsinske, and they lived a few more years on Long Island before relocating from the hustle and bustle to the serene, wooded hills of Richmond, NH. Almost entirely on their own, they built a beautiful log cabin in which they later raised their two daughters.

When he first settled in the Monadnock region, Hank worked as a carpenter in Walpole and later worked at Homestead Mills in West Swanzey and Troy Mills in Troy. He was interested in early American life and was drawn to the machinery of the old woolen mills. He and Nancy also filled their home with many Shaker-style furnishings. Hank was an EMT for the Richmond Rescue Squad and Winchester Ambulance, a volunteer with the Richmond Fire Department, Meadowood County Area Fire Department, and various town groups in Richmond.

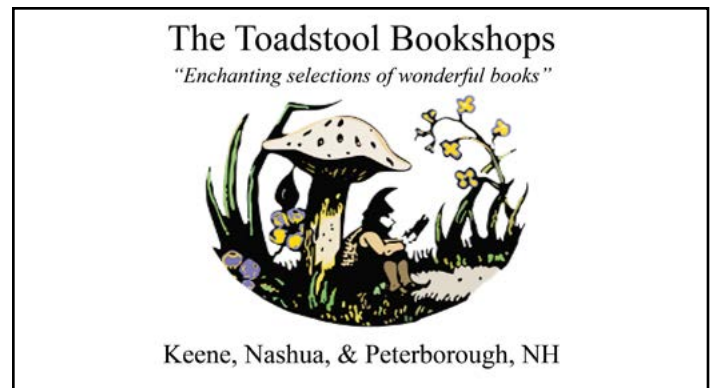
A great passion of Hank’s was his model train layout. He custom-painted model trains and was well known by model train enthusiasts who would seek him out. For a short time in the 90s, he opened “The Loose Caboose”, a model train supply store in Swanzey. Only a month ago, he was selling some of his custom pieces at a train show in St. Albans, VT. His work lives on in pieces that ride the rails on layouts throughout New England.

Hank also loved cars and car racing, specifically dirt track racing. He and his youngest daughter, Susan, were a racing team for many years. Susan was the driver of go-carts and mini-sprints and Hank was the pit crew. At the time, Susan was one of only a couple female drivers, something that Hank was very proud of.

Hank and Nancy loved visiting Acadia National Park and most family vacations were spent there. A few years ago, they decided to retire to Lamoine, ME, which is close to the park, selling the family homestead in Richmond to their eldest daughter, Rebecca, and her partner, Kevin. During the years spent in Lamoine, Hank got to live his dream of working on an actual railroad by volunteering with the Downeast Scenic Railroad and he and Nancy spent many hours enjoying their local coastal beach, visiting the “Rock Goblin”, collecting beautiful sea glass, and enjoying a pint and a pizza at the local brewery, Fogtown.

Hank will be dearly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Nancy (Yarsinske) Lescynski, of Lamoine, ME; his daughter, Rebecca ‘Jane’ Lescynski, and her partner, Kevin Ellis, of Richmond, NH; his daughter, Susan Lescynski, and her partner, Evan Horton, and his beloved granddaughter, Esmé Horton, of Northampton, MA; and his sister, Diane Simone, and nephew, Aedan, of Centereach, NY.

Memorials will be planned at a later date. Gifts in Hank’s memory may be made to Friends of Acadia: <https://friendsofacadia.org/membership-giving/other-ways-to-give/tribute-gifts/> or Northwestern Vermont Model RR Association, 57 River Rd., Suite 1011, Essex Jct., VT 05452. Condolences may be expressed at: [www.jordanferald.com](http://www.jordanferald.com).







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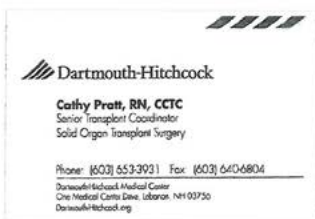
**KIDNEY DONOR NEEDED**  
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My name is Sharon Bush (Keene, NH) and I have end-stage renal failure, otherwise known as kidney disease. I am looking for a live donor who would be willing to donate a kidney to me. Because I am a senior citizen, I do not have the time to be put on a wait list. It could be a 10 year wait, hence the need for a live donor.

Medicare will pay for my donor's surgery which is done with 2 small incisions (arthroscopically). As a donor, one would have a 3-to-6-week recovery time. The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Organ Transplant Department offers a program that will provide a paycheck during recovery to a donor who is normally employed. My donor would be eligible for that.

If anyone is interested in being my donor, they will need to contact the person below. She will provide any information you may need.

I am thanking a donor in advance for saving my life. Much gratitude to you.



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## ATTENTION! CALLING ALL VENDORS



The Richmond Agriculture Commission is joining with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Richmond Public Library in the Spring Fling on June 10th. If you have produce, homemade crafts, etc. to sell, please contact Karen O'Brien at: [karen@greenwomansgarden.com](mailto:karen@greenwomansgarden.com) for more information and to reserve a spot.

### Pasta Salad Terri O'Rorke

#### Ingredients

8 oz. whole grain pasta, uncooked  
1 lb. asparagus, green beans or snap peas  
6 medium tomatoes chopped  
1 cup pitted olives chopped  
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese  
1/3 cup parsley finely chopped  
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil  
1 tbsp. oregano  
2 tsp. garlic powder  
1/8 tsp. red pepper flakes  
1/4 tsp. salt  
Ground black pepper to taste

#### Directions

Cook pasta as per package instructions, under-cooking by 2 - 3 minutes or until pasta is al dente, cooked, but firm. While pasta is cooking, start chopping asparagus or green beans.

Transfer cooked pasta to a large salad bowl. Add asparagus to pasta water and cook until it starts to boil. Remove immediately with a slotted spoon to a bowl with pasta.

Add tomatoes, olives, feta cheese, parsley, olive oil, oregano, garlic powder, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper. Stir gently to combine.

Can be served warm or cold.

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### TRUE BREW REVIEW

#### Old Man Ale from Frogg Brewing

Kevin Ellis



#### AmberAle 4.8% ABV

After a good brew session where I crafted up a light American lager, I dug into the fridge for something simple, yet tasty. That beer turned out to be an amber ale from Frogg Brewing called “Old Man Ale.” An amber ale is a very approachable beer style which can be a little on the malty and sweet side or a little more geared towards the hoppy side. This decision is always left up to the brewer to decide and the consumer to find out. You never really know what you might get. But, usually, this style is very enjoyable whether you’re a hop head or light beer fan. This offering from Frogg turned out to be a little more on the malty side, and I was rather pleased by that.

Once fully poured into a tulip glass, this beer had an amazing ruby-like hue with tints of caramel. Crystal clear beer where you could easily see through the other side. There was a small head which just led me to believe the carbonation was going to be light and smooth on the tongue.

The aroma was full of rich malty sweetness. Lots of caramel and a small presence of noble hops, I assume.

The first sip was fantastic and just what I wanted. Silky smooth mouthfeel with loads of caramel flavor. Well balanced, though, by the brewer’s use of the appropriate amount of hops. Otherwise, this beer would have been too sweet. Kudos to the brewer for finding the right balance.

Overall, this beer was a hit. A very good example of the style and was just what I was looking for at the moment. Easy drinking and checks all the marks. I give this beer a 7 out of 10 and hope you swing by the brewery soon to grab a pint of take-home cans!

A little about the brewery: Frogg opened up in 2018 and has been a popular spot to get together, relax and have fun in Marlborough ever since. Frogg offers everything from stouts to sours, and many other styles in between, including IPA’s, lagers and wheat beers. There always is a good selection on tap, as well as to-go beers. Go check them out during a warm spring day and enjoy the patio along with a tasty beer. Cheers!



### Richmond’s Got Talent!



Saturday, May 6, 2023 – 9 AM to 1 PM

Mark Lanen (keyboard, harmonica, vocals) will perform at the Keene Farmers’ Market on Gilbo Avenue in Keene.

Saturday, May 13, 2023 – 10 AM to Noon

Lenny Solomon (guitar, harmonica, vocals) will perform at the Winchester Farmers’ Market at Winchester Center, weather permitting.

Saturday, May 20, 2023 – 10 AM to Noon

Lenny Solomon (guitar, harmonica, vocals) will perform at the Winchester Farmers’ Market at Winchester Center, weather permitting.

Thursday, June 22, 2023 – Noon to 1 PM

Mark Lanen (keyboard, harmonica, vocals) will perform during “Lunch & Listen” at Depot Park in Peterborough. Bring lunch and a blanket or chair.



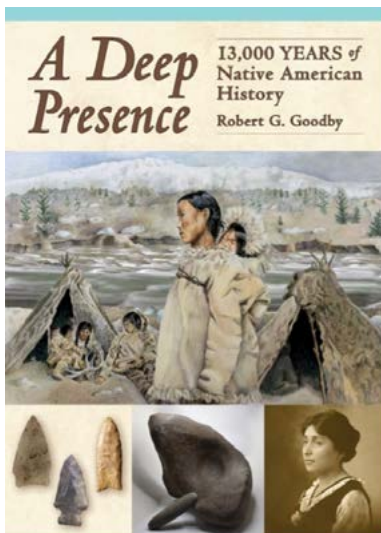


**Richmond Historical Society Announces  
Free Presentation by  
Dr. Robert Goodby,  
Professor of Anthropology**

On May 17th at 6:30 PM in the Vets' Hall, Richmond will be honored by Professor Goodby, who will discuss his decades of excavating archeological sites of the Native Americans of New England, particularly the Abenaki. Refreshments will be served. Come and enjoy a wonderful evening!

The Richmond Historical Society is deeply grateful to New Hampshire Humanities for its Humanities-To-Go Award which funded Dr. Goodby's "Digging into Native History in New Hampshire" presentation.

For those who are unable to attend, Professor Goodby's latest book is available to buy:



**Ordering Information**

**\$28.00**, 7 x 10, paperback, 160 pages

**ISBN: 978-1-942155-40-9**

To order copies online, visit [The Historical Society of Cheshire County's website](http://TheHistoricalSocietyofCheshireCounty.com).

The museum shop is located at 246 Main Street  
Keene, NH 03431. **Phone:** (603) 352-1895

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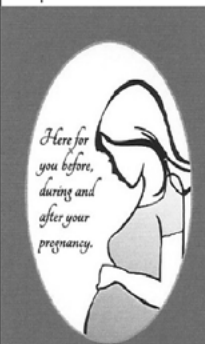
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### **Town Clerk Tidbits**

**Karen O'Brien**

I have been noticing a disturbing trend regarding online registrations. There have been an increasing number of bounced checks, due to insufficient funds, but, more often, due to an inability to locate the bank account. When investigating these issues, I have found a number of things people have done wrong when trying to renew their vehicles online:

- Incorrect routing or account number - be vigilant. One missing or incorrect number means your account cannot be found. The routing number is the bank number; the account number is for your checking account.
- Trying to use a debit card - we do not accept either credit or debit cards. Debit cards are not checking accounts, so the number will be different.
- Alternative methods of pay - someone tried to use Venmo; this won't work! Only checking accounts can be used.

Please remember that we do not always get your check deposited right away. Deposits are generally made only once a week, so don't assume that your check has been cashed, and your balance is good. Double check to see if you have sufficient funds before writing another check that will cause you to overdraw your account.

If you have written a check which cannot be cashed, we will try to contact you by phone or email. Please be sure that we have your most up-to-date contact information. Many folks have phones which do not have messages set up. How do you think we can contact you if this is the case? Also, PLEASE leave your phone number if you call the office. Don't assume that I have your phone number or that it will show up on my phone.

If you do have a bounced check, for whatever reason, note that there will be a \$40 fee in addition to the check charge. If I can't let you know by phone, you will receive a Certified Return Receipt Requested letter. If you do not respond to this, we will then send out an Administrative Complaint. This is sent to the DMV which will then suspend your registration privileges unless payment is made.

Payment for any bounced checks must be made by cash or a bank check. Everyone gets a one time pass for bounced checks. If you do it more than once, though, you will no longer be able to pay online or through the mail, as we will not accept checks from you. Fortunately, most folks do not bounce checks regularly. It's just a mistake, and we won't penalize you for that.

### **We Have a Winner!**

**Karen O'Brien**

In order to encourage dog owners to register their dogs early, Town Hall staff decided to have a drawing of a basket of dog goodies for anyone licensing their dog by April 1st. Eighty-nine dogs were licensed by this date, and the names of their owners were placed in a basket. Town Administrator Susan Harrington drew the winning name, and we are pleased to announce that Sister Philomena and her dog, Caia, won the basket.

Licenses expire April 30th. As of this writing, if you haven't licensed your dog, you will incur a \$1.00 per month late fee. After June 1st, you will be also assessed a civil forfeiture and placed on a list that will be sent to the sheriff's office. If you do not pay, you will be visited by a law enforcement official who will serve you papers citing that forfeiture. So don't delay – license your dog today!





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[opac/home.php](http://opac/home.php). Library  
name: Richmond Public.  
No password required.



## Library News Wendy O'Brien

### Library Calendar for May

Saturdays, 10 AM-Noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

Saturday, May 6th, 10:30 AM: Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Tuesday, May 9th, 6 PM: Book Group, *Long Bright River*

Tuesday, May 23rd, 6 PM: LEGO Club

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 10th, noon – 3 PM: Family Summer Kickoff Party with the Library, Parks & Recreation & the Agricultural Commission

Thursday, June 15th at 6 PM: Invasive Plants Talk by Jeff Taylor

### Volunteer Appreciation Tea

We are pleased to announce, after being put on hold for several years due to COVID, the winners of Elaine Moriarty Volunteer of the Year Award: Roxanne Hubert for 2021 and Dixie Gurian for 2022. We hope you will join us to honor them in the presence of our other greatly appreciated volunteers at our Volunteer Appreciation Tea on Saturday, May 6th at 10:30 AM.

### Book Club: *Long Bright River* by Liz Moore

Our Tuesday Book Club will be meeting on May 9th at 6 PM to discuss *Long Bright River* by Liz Moore. Focusing on the lives of two sisters, one a police woman, the other living on the street, this mystery is “a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of siblings, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist among place, family and fate” (*quote from book back cover*).



### LEGO Club

On Tuesday, May 23rd at 6 PM, join us for a fun evening of creating new designs. Check out the latest creation from expert builder Leonard!

### New Titles

*Last Flight*, Julie Clark

*Coronation Year*, Jennifer Robson

*Loyalty*, Lisa Scottoline

*The Perfumist of Paris*, Alka Joshi

*Hang the Moon*, Jeannette Walls

## Taking a Peek inside the “Washette”

In a follow-up to Ruth Blais Thompson’s March 2022 article about the Richmond Laundromat at Four Corners, Ruth writes:

*I finally found the picture of the inside of the laundromat. Dryers were a dime, and washers were a quarter! I remember it well, because I had to empty containers and roll all the coins so my mom could bring them to the bank.*



## Craft Fair

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## Savings Bank of Walpole Announces Call for Entries for Community Calendar and Website Photo Contest

Roxanne Rubell



Keene, NH - Savings Bank of Walpole is excited to announce a call for entries for its 2023 Community Calendar and Website Photo Contest. The contest, which begins on Saturday, April 1, runs through Wednesday, May 31.

Winning photos will demonstrate a strong focus on community events and people enjoying the venues, attractions and local businesses of New Hampshire while highlighting the unique character and beauty of the state, especially our Monadnock Region.

Chosen images will be featured in a 2024 wall calendar as well as on Savings Bank of Walpole's website and social media accounts. Photos may also be selected for holiday cards and note cards.

A \$100 cash prize will be awarded for each winning photo – and contestants can submit up to a maximum of 10 entries. All submissions will be

done electronically. Decisions will be based on suitability of the subject, quality of the photography, and adherence to the purpose of the contest.

"This is our fifth year holding the contest and we've seen so many beautiful photos -- we encourage photographers of all skill levels to show us their local spirit by submitting entries," says Danielle Ruffo, AVP, Community Engagement for Savings Bank of Walpole. "We appreciate the community's involvement and look forward to another great year of impressive photos."

All eligible entries should be submitted electronically through a dedicated link on SBW's website. Visit: [www.walpolebank.com/photocontest](http://www.walpolebank.com/photocontest) for complete contest rules, details, and a link to upload photos. No payment or purchase is required to enter or win.

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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:**

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:** Meetings held at Veterans Hall.  
1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM and 3rd Tues. if needed

**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:** Ed Atkins

**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.:** James Nolan, 239-3353

**Zoning Compliance Officer:** Richard Drew

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

**Visit town online:** <http://richmond.nh.gov> or in person at  
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