

TRENDY TIMES

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Town Meeting... A Vanishing Tradition?

By Marianne L. Kelly

Thomas Jefferson called them, "The wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government." Unfortunately, town meetings are quickly becoming victim to modern life, as each year attendance declines and they are snubbed by the very people they are meant to empower.

EARLY TOWN MEETINGS

Town meetings have a long tradition in New England with the first gathering of voters taking place in 1633 in Dorchester, MA, where town's people voted to meet at regular intervals to "see to the good and well ordering of affayres of the Plantation." A Town Meeting Square tablet commemorates the approximate site of the meetinghouse, which also housed the school. Boston soon followed suit with other New England states eventually declaring a "Town Meeting Day."

The well-established late 17th century Puritan colonies viewed the concept of family and village so important that it was against the law to live

alone. These Puritan communities were strongly interconnected, and believed that group efforts benefited everyone. Contrastingly, the colonists in the Chesapeake Bay area were interested only in farming to gain wealth. These villagers collaborated on the distribution of land, and while the amount given to anyone was only enough to sustain their families, those fortunate enough to obtain land were expected to share with other villagers.

AGENDAS

Town meeting agendas are as individual as the people who populate them. Commonly voters come together about once a year to elect officers, and discuss and debate school budgets, financing town projects, police protection, hiring staff, assessing taxes and any other business relevant to the efficient running of the town. Anyone attending a town meeting can stand up and voice his or her concerns, agree or disagree with policy, suggest new policies or solutions to problems, or

simply vent their feeling on current issues. Town Meeting participants practice democracy in its truest and purest form, while learning how it works.

Those active in New England Town Meetings demonstrate to those who choose not to participate, that it is indeed possible for people of differing views to come together and conduct business in an adult and orderly manner, which is something our representatives in Washington might consider doing.

"One man, one vote," is the mantra that permeates town meetings, and several municipalities throughout New England still rely on town meetings as their primary means of local government decision making.

ARE TOWN MEETINGS DECLINING?

Every tradition has its critics and town meetings are no exception. While proponents are quick to point out that town meetings are direct democracy in action with no intermediaries between voters and public decisions, critics point to increasingly declining numbers each year.

Recently some towns adopted a charter calling for representative town meet-



ings that restrict voting on warrant articles to elected town meeting members, while a number of towns retain traditional town meeting only for the appropriation of funds. Vermont saw a decline in attendance from little more than ten percent in 2008 to a mere 7.2 percent in 2009. Legislative historian and author, Joseph Zimmerman whose book, "The New England Town Meeting: Democracy in Action," notes that this apathy permeates not only politics, but also civil involvement in organizations from the Elks to local volunteer fire departments.

What does all this mean? Many Americans lament the lack of connection to and attention from those elected to

represent us, yet many national policies begin at the local level. This year Vermonters, at their local town meetings, will be asked if they think local governments should urge Congress to vote on a constitutional amendment saying, "Money is not speech and corporations are not persons." While the actual passage of this resolution is non-binding, your voice will be heard in the halls of Congress.

We the people hold an awesome amount of power to effect change for the common good, regardless of what we read and hear each day, and it all starts at local level participation.

Vermont Town Meeting Day is Tuesday, March 6, and in New Hampshire, Tuesday, March 13. Attending your respective town meeting gets your opinions, your concerns and your voices heard in the purest form of democracy.

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Wednesday, February 22
 6:30 PM - 1 - Barrewood vs. Ryegate
 9:00 PM - 2 - Robco vs. Rockwood Agency

Thursday, February 23
 6:30 PM - 3 - Railway vs. Haverhill
 8:00 PM - 4 - Fishers vs. Burroughs
 9:30 PM - 5 - Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2

Friday, February 24
 6:30 PM - 6 - Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4
 8:00 PM - 7 - Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2
 9:30 PM - 8 - Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Saturday, February 25
 6:30 PM - 9 - Loser Game 8 vs. Winner Game 5
 8:00 PM - 10 - Loser Game 7 vs. Winner Game 6
 9:30 PM - 11 - Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

Sunday, February 26
 1:30 PM - 12 - Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 10
 3:00 PM - 13 - Loser Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12

Championship Game:
 8:00 PM - 14 - Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 13

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The Night the Bed Broke*

*(it's not what you think)

By Elinor P. Mawson

Our friend Bill was an antique dealer and a lover of cats (he had 11). He was a lot of other things too, but those descriptions apply here. Every year he displayed his antiques at a big show in Concord, NH and as he had a few health issues as time went on, he hired us to pack him up at his home and set him up at the show. At the end of three days we packed him up once more and reversed the process.

Time meant very little to Bill, and even when we had gotten up at the crack of dawn and driven 100-some-odd miles, he was never ready for us. It took most of the day to get the van filled, and he was always trying to get "just one more" piece into the jumble that was already there.

Once, when we were just about done, he remembered that he had bought a table from a lady down the street--we had to unpack the van, go get the table, and try to figure out where we were going to put everything. By the way, we sold the table, but the buyer couldn't fit it into her Vega so we had to bring it back to Bill's.

Bill loved chairs. They are a terrible thing to pack up; their legs go every which way and they waste space--but Bill always had a slew of them, both coming and going. Sometimes he would put them in his station wagon, but more often than not, we were faced with the dilemma of where they would go.

Needless to say, we were always the last dealers to arrive at the show and had to maneuver around everyone else to get set up. Sometimes--but not often--Bill would sell something on the sidewalk on the way in, making it a little quicker and easier to get him up and running.

He always told us to "just put everything where we wanted it" while he went around looking for things to buy. I never knew if we did it the way he liked, and more often than not, we had one or two sets of chairs to deal with after his wanderings.

It never made a difference if he sold one item or most of his merchandise, we always had just as much (or more) to pack up when the show closed. And we were

always the last people out of the place because we had to wait for Bill to finish his business (usually involving more chairs).

One night after the show, we arrived back at Bill's house very late in the evening. We had stopped along the way for dinner, and again for a "nightcap". Needless to say we were exhausted and a little giddy. Bill invited us to stay the night in his guest room and leave the unpacking until the next morning. It didn't take us long to say yes.

I don't think the guest bed had been used in a long time. I knew for sure when I sat down on it to take off my shoes. There was a loud bang and a crash and I found myself sitting on the floor. After screaming with laughter for about 5 minutes, we looked around. The bed had just exploded! There were parts and pieces all over the room. Amongst the mess were broken pieces of string, odd nails and screws and a lot of sawdust. The bed had obviously been repaired more than once along the way. When Bill ran in to see what had happened, he just shrugged and directed us to another bedroom.

This room had no light and smelled of cat, but we thankfully sank down on the bed and didn't even cover ourselves (it was hot in there). We slept like logs.

The next morning when the sun came through the window and we woke up, we discovered why we had sunk so luxuriously into bed--it was covered in several inches of cat hair!

I needn't tell you that we unpacked the van in record time, and headed for home and the shower. And I don't need to tell you that for the last couple of years we worked for Bill, we timed our exits to the minute and never "stayed over" again.

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‘Inside the Writer’s-Reader’s Notebook’ With Linda Rief ³

Statewide Conference On Teaching Writing March 31 In North Conway

For Teachers, Administrators, Writers, Parents

NORTH CONWAY — “Inside the Writer’s-Reader’s Notebook” is the focus of the annual statewide “Write Now!” conference on the teaching of writing on Saturday, March 31, at Kennett High School in North Conway.

Presented by SAU 9 and the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, the conference features nationally known author and outstanding New Hampshire educator Linda Rief, who will explain how the Writer’s-Reader’s Notebook has been crucial to the work she and her students do as both writers and readers.

The notebook gives students a place to collect and develop their thinking and their voices and supports Rief’s unshakable belief that students’ voices need to be heard as they wonder, question, argue, reason, change their minds or affirm their thinking. The notebook provides a structure that gives consistency in form and function for students as learners and for their teachers.

The conference takes place from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Lloyd Auditorium at Kennett, with registration and book sales beginning at 8:15 a.m. The conference is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Donald Graves. Heinemann books will be sold at a 30% discount throughout the day.

Rief, recently featured in a New York Times article about high-stakes testing, is passionate about the need to keep the focus on children and learning, not on test scores “At a time when educators are overwhelmed and stressed with mandates that drain the joy, the energy, and rigor from learning and teaching, we have to strengthen our resolve to do what is basic and right for children,” she said. “We need to allow, encourage and teach the reading and writing that focus on wonder, curiosity, and a love of learning. It is in our notebooks, and their use with students, that we capture the voices, the beliefs, the feelings, the thinking of real writers and readers.”

Specific topics addressed will include how to introduce Writer’s-Reader’s Notebooks to students; how to use them on a daily basis; how to find and extend writing ideas; how to frame feedback that helps writers move their writing forward; how to encourage writing from, and

about, reading; assessing the Writer’s-Reader’s Notebook and final writing; and extending the uses of a notebook.

Rief teaches 8th grade at Oyster River Middle School in Durham, and is an instructor in the University of New Hampshire’s Summer Literacy Institute. She is a national and international presenter on issues of adolescent literacy.

She is the author of numerous books, including 100 Quickwrites (Scholastic 2003) and Inside the Writer’s-Reader’s Notebook (2007), published by Heinemann, and for five years co-edited with Maureen Barbieri Voices from the Middle, a journal for middle school teachers published by the National Council of Teachers of English.

In 2000 she was the recipient of NCTE’s Edwin A. Hoey Award for Outstanding Middle School Educator in the English Language Arts. Her classroom was featured

in the series Making Meaning in Literature produced by Maryland Public Television for Annenberg/CPB. For three years she chaired the first Early Adolescence English/Language Arts Committee of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

There is no registration fee for SAU 9 teachers, employees or parents; registration for those outside SAU 9 is \$55 before March 10, \$65 after, with discounts for Arts Alliance members, faculty/staff at Arts Alliance member schools, and college and graduate students. Morning coffee and brunch are included in the fee. Heinemann books will be available at the conference at 30% off list price, and there will also be door prizes and raffles.

Staff development and continuing education credits are available, and graduate credit may be available.

A conference brochure and registration form can be downloaded at www.aannh.org, where online registration is also available. Contact the Arts Alliance at info@aannh.org or call 323-7302 for information and registration. Early registration is appreciated.

The Write Now! Conference on the Teaching of Writing is designed to inspire and support educators, as well as administrators, writers, parents, and everyone interested in the teaching of writing across the curriculum.

The Arts Alliance, a non-profit working to promote, support and sustain cultural life throughout northern New Hampshire, is funded in part by an operating grant from

the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.



Author and consultant
Linda Rief

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GRANITE STATE OF MIND

By Rob Azevedo

Cello? How Much?

You might figure shopping for a cello starter kit would alleviate the hypertension, dial it back some, right?

Foiled again, meatball.

Simple enough: My youngling needs a starter instrument for music class this year. I'm fine with that. Never really got into it myself when I was in grade school, I told her. But then again never really got into much outside of Sha Na Na reruns and a certain coral colored cling-on bikini worn by Cheryl Tiegs.

"So what's it gonna be?" I asked my daughter. "You gonna get all acoustic on me? Cross it up between Mavis Staples and Adele?"

"I want to play the cello, Dad."

Then let's get gone.

Off we went to Elm Street in the city of Manch. But I called the music store first. It's a must because I hate surprises, especially when I'm dropping the big ones. So I called and got the score.

I was informed of the \$50 rental for the first three months. Not bad. Then if the kid decides they're confident enough to sport a two-tone Aussie on a Friday night while rocking a windpipe in front of a football crowd, that'll cost you \$40 a month going forward.

All bets were in. I know my kid; She's the committed type. I'll be shopping for a brand-new used cello just five days before Christmas this year. Forty a month is, sadly, \$40 a month. There are better deals out there when harboring a doer.

But I wouldn't be making the purchase a day sooner. Attention spans for kids are at

an all-time low these days. They're over-wired, like us all, but glued up, disproportional and frantic-looking. One day they want to be a kindergarten teacher, then Hope Solo, then a buoy-eyed underground poet with butt breath. Next thing you know I got a Kim Kardashian on my hands, hounding me for a hooded drying lamp.

Who cares? This was one of "those moments." Chew on it.

We make it to the music store on Elm Street and it's a great place to walk into, like any record store or Spencer's Gifts. Instruments you only dream of playing were everywhere — mandolins, saxophones, organs and amps line the walls and floor. Great smells too, like a hot armpit on old stretched wooden skin.

A fine chap came around the counter and greeted us. He knew right away where this was going. "What school you go to?" he asked my daughter. "Ah, you've got a fine teacher there. Follow me."

He brought us to a folding table in the middle of the store to fill out a credit application. Fine. He handed us a fairly well-chipped cello and a small box with a music book on top. Then he re-explained the whole deal, \$50 for three months, then \$40 each month after. Again, fine.

We were both excited. I blew it musically as a kid, caring only for the fantasy of selling out the Silverdome. Then I reminded my daughter that learning to play an instrument was serious business. Nobody can fake a Vivaldi concertina.

"Okay, sir. Let's get you cashed out."

This is where "our moment" gets somewhat trampled upon.

I whip out my debit card, look down at the credit machine and this pig reads \$96.92. Wha, wha, what? Somewhere inside a B-minor that \$50 deal went bye-bye.

So I say, "What's with the \$96 bucks?"

"Well that's the total."

"But I was just told right over there it'd be \$50."

The man itemized the bill: \$8 for the bow, another \$8 for maintenance, then there's the stand and book for \$29.99. And I guess \$50 for the cello.

Was all this talk of \$50 just a ploy to get me to the register? Was my bluff being called in front of my daughter? In the face of this moment?

Cruder things have happened.

To the arrogant sod this situation might sound low-brow. And you're right. What man grapples over \$50 as Julliard awaits? What difference does it make if it felt like I was walking out of a graft parlor instead of a music store?

A night later, as I fired down these very words, I was summoned to my daughter room. As she sat on her bed in front of her sheet music and stand with the cello between her legs, plucking away at a D to A rhythm warm up, I surmised my anger streak and came to one conclusion.

Yes, it was worth the shakedown. And the elevated hypertension.

Contact Rob Azevedo at onemanmanch@gmail.com .



The Grey R

In this truly riveting tale of man versus beast Liam Neeson stars as a wolf hunter protecting oil drillers in Alaska. On their way back to the continental U.S. the small plane carrying the rough bunch crashes due to extreme weather. Most die. A few survive. The perfect setting for this thrilling rendition of Ian MacKenzie Jeffers' "Ghost Walker". Just one more sign that Hollywood is running out of fresh ideas. Yet they pull it off with surprising finesse. Perhaps due to the help of Jeffers in writing the screen play.

Like most films of this nature the survival of the fittest is the biggest piece at play. And as any Neeson fan would tell you this is a perfect role for him. After surviving the crash the seven men left try to beat the odds with only the things they could find in the remains of the aircraft. Soon however they find themselves on the wrong end of the territory line with a vicious pack of wolves, the likes of which no one has seen before. Being up on his wolf bios Neeson guesses that they must be close to the den when they find the mangled, but uneaten, body of one of the survivors. Soon they realize that the wolves see them as threats and intruders to their territory and will not stop until the threat is no more. Taking lead as the "wolf expert" and apparently the only guy who ever knows how to survive, no matter the scenario, Neeson and the remaining survivors head for the woods in order to gain more coverage. Perhaps even find some sort of help in the middle of the tundra.

With the scariest wolves since The Night Creature in The Never Ending Story when I was six (and even still), this showdown of revenge and survival tops the

monster list for the year so far. (Sorry Jacob, but you and the Quillette tribe better be watching your back for the nomination of most epic wolf pack.) Done with lots of shadows and that wonderful mystery of 'what's lurking in the dark' this film is not for the faint of heart. The best sort of monsters, I say, are the ones that your imagination can run away with. And though this picture entreats that it is only to a certain extent. So don't be too frightened that the shadows will haunt you always.

One thing that may haunt you for quite a while from this movie however is the soundtrack. Now I know that I very rarely, if ever, talk about the soundtrack but this one is well deserving. Without the captivating sounds constantly keeping you at the edge of your seat this story, along with many others (Psycho, Jaws), wouldn't be nearly as thrilling. It really does come down to the music in a few scenes to make it as nail biting as possible. And there is a lot of wide eyed nail biting to be had in this flick. One soundtrack that will be added to my own collection as soon as possible.

All in all this exhilarating show of what it takes to survive and the things that we live for is one to keep an eye out for. Between the leading actor, yes I'm a huge fan, and the way that the film was put together I would have to say it takes the biscuit for best survival of the fittest film so far this year. Though the story is predictable to an extent, it is overall a must see for anyone that calls themselves a Neeson fan. Or even an animal fan. The Grey is a movie that will keep you on the edge of your seat and perhaps leave you Scrutonizing those shadows in your backyard.

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From The Desk Of NH State Senator

Jeanie
FORRESTER

Dear Constituents,

It has been a little over a year since the New Hampshire Legislature began the process of writing the current two-year budget for our state. As required by the NH Constitution, we must produce a balanced budget. At that time, the state faced a nearly \$800 million budget shortfall as a result of a slowed economy, significant reductions in federal aid, years of projecting unrealistic revenues, and the state simply spending beyond our means.

There were two choices in creating a balanced budget: increase taxes and fees to maintain existing service levels or make spending reductions across state government. Faced with this daunting task, the legislature nevertheless kept its promise to the voters by looking carefully at our budget, making reductions and finding efficiencies where possible and asking state agencies to do more with less. We produced a budget that reduced spending as necessary while still providing for those that could not provide for themselves, such as those with mental illness, children in need of services, and low-income students hoping to attend college. Make no mistake, there was no way we could fully fund programs with the revenue projections we had. We balanced our budget with no new taxes while also taking steps to ensure that additional revenues that may arise due to a recovering economy be directed to those programs most in need.

Difficult changes have been made in the eight months since the budget became law. Government departments continue to adjust and organizations that rely on state-funding are making the decisions necessary to operate in a climate of renewed fiscal discipline.

As those state agencies that spend taxpayer dollars continue to make adjustments, we've also seen that the wage earners the economy relies on are making decisions that will help get us all moving again. In the last year the state's unemployment rate has dropped to 5.1%, tying us for fourth lowest in the nation. Since the current legislature took office in

December of 2010, 7,300 more people have returned to work. Revenues for two important tax categories – business taxes and rooms & meals taxes – are currently running nine and three percent ahead of plan respectively. These two indicators show businesses are turning a profit, tourists are visiting the state, and families are feeling somewhat more at ease with their spending decisions.

Though bright spots in our economy have begun to show, this is not the time to begin revisiting the two-year plan set out by the state's budget. More than anything, taxpayers and businesses are seeking stability. While we would like to have revenues available to increase spending for our university system, various social services, or other worthy programs, any new spending would require corresponding reductions or revenue enhancements – either of which would upset the delicate balance created by the current budget.

As an example, recently a bill came to Senate Finance asking for an appropriation of \$15 million for the universities and colleges—money we do not have. In order to vote "yes" to this request, we would have to decide which program was going to get cut so that in-

state tuition could be lowered, or alternatively, figure out which taxes and/or fees to raise to get \$15 million. Another piece of legislation asked for funds for child care assistance for individuals pursuing a bachelor's degree (with a fiscal impact of \$2.9 million in 2013 and \$5.9 million each year thereafter). We can debate back and forth whether these two requests have merit, but the fact is, we simply don't have the money.

On the state, local, and national level we are still a long way from fully recovering from the recession of the last few years. However, challenging times like these commonly provide the impetus and the political will to make the difficult decisions necessary to enact lasting change. The current budget has resulted in a leaner, more efficient state government, but there is still work to be done. I am confident that by working together we can continue to improve our state and public institutions to ensure New Hampshire is poised to lead New England and the nation forward.

As always, I want to hear from you. If you have a concern you'd like to share, an event you'd like me to attend, or a problem you think I might be of assistance with—please call or email. I also have an e-newsletter that provides information on activities in the District and in Concord. If you'd like to subscribe, just complete the form on the home page of www.jeanieforrester.com.

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603-747-3200

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*Also meet: Blenda Lakin Cakes, Lia Sophia Jewelry,
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*Also meet: Rustic Gatherings Caterer, All Seasons
Motel & Nootka Lodge*

**Located at: Shear Animal Salon
& Serenity Day Spa**

*Also meet: Abbott Rental-Tents and Party Supplies
and Mike Luca, DJ*

Calendar of Events

This is a full page of Calendar of Events for local non-profits. Courtesy of Trendy Times.
Put **YOUR FREE** listing here!

SUNDAYS

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT

1:00 PM
American Legion Post #83, Lincoln

OPEN GYM

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

MONDAYS/THURSDAYS

NORTH COUNTRY YMCA AEROBIC FITNESS CLASS

6:30 PM
Woodsville Elementary School

WEDNESDAYS

BINGO

6:30 PM
Haverhill Memorial VFW Post #5245
North Haverhill

THURSDAYS

JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 23

**HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET:
CONNECTIONS BETWEEN OUR HEALTH
& THE ENVIRONMENT**
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Bradford Public Library

TUESDAYS

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 27

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Department Of Health Conference Room 107
Eastern Avenue, St Johnsbury

THURSDAYS

MARCH 8 – APRIL 5

CRIBBAGE TOURNAMENT
1:00 PM
Horse Meadow Senior Center, North Haverhill

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Wells River Congregational Church

NH STATE VETERANS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Woodsville American Legion Post #20

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

COHASE LIONS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
6:30 PM, 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM
Bagonzi Community Building, Woodsville
See ad on page 2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

COHASE LIONS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
6:30 PM, 8:00 PM and 9:30 PM
Bagonzi Community Building, Woodsville
See ad on page 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

COHASE LIONS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
6:30 PM, 8:00 PM and 9:30 PM
Bagonzi Community Building, Woodsville
See ad on page 2

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

WINTER FARMERS MARKET
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Bradford Elementary School Cafeteria

COHASE LIONS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

6:30 PM, 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM
Bagonzi Community Building, Woodsville
See ad on page 2

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

COHASE LIONS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
1:30 PM, 3:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM
Bagonzi Community Building, Woodsville
See ad on page 2

ALZHEIMER'S WORKSHOP

2:00 PM
Groton free Public Library
See article on page 9

SUZANNE FARRELL BALLET COMPANY

7:00 PM
Lyndon Institute
See article on page 8

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Reservations Encouraged
New England Wire Mill, Lisbon

HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

NEK CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
St. Johnsbury House, 1207 Main Street

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**UPPER VALLEY TEA PARTY
MONTHLY MEETING**
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Enfield Community Center, Enfield

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

GROWING BLUEBERRIES WORKSHOP
1:00 PM
UNH Extension Service Conference Room
North Haverhill

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

MARCH 3 & 4
MOLLY SIMONDS BENEFIT FISHING DERBY
5:00 AM Both Days
French Pond, North Haverhill

MONDAY, MARCH 5

GOOD OLE BOYS MEETING
12:00 Noon
Happy Hour Restaurant, Wells River

GROWTH BUSTERS – HOOKED ON GROWTH

6:30 PM
Colatina Exit, Bradford

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

**VT TOWN MEETING DAY AND
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**
Check Your Town For Times
And A Ballot Box Near You

NH STATE VETERANS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Woodsville American Legion Post #20

CONNECTICUT VALLEY SNOWMOBILE CLUB MONTHLY MEETING

7:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

3 RIVERS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING

8:00 AM
Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank, Woodsville

WOODSVILLE/WELLS RIVER 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE MEETING

7:00 PM
Clifford Memorial Building, S. Court St, Woodsville

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

6TH ANNUAL KALEIDOSCOPE OF TALENT
7:00 PM
Spaulding High School Auditorium, Barre

MONDAY, MARCH 12

**ROSS-WOOD AUXILIARY UNIT 20
MONTHLY MEETING**
6:00 PM
American Legion Home, Woodsville

HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

6:00 PM
Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

NH TOWN MEETING DAY
Check Your Town For Times
And A Ballot Box Near You

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

**MONTHLY MEETING -
ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION**
6:00 PM
American Legion Home, Woodsville

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

GROTON GROWERS COMMUNITY MARKET
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Groton Town Hall Gym

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

**NH STATE VETERANS COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE**
8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Woodsville American Legion Post #20

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Deadline for submissions is Thursday, March 1st for our March 6th issue.

House Manager Job For 2012 Season Needed

Greetings,

You are receiving the first notice of the 2012 season House Manager job as a member of our e-mail list. We hope to fill this position soon and look forward to hearing from interested persons. The first show opens May 4th!

For the board, Jim Heidenreich (Publicity)

House Manager, paid position, part-time.

Bradford's Old Church Theater is looking for a House Manager for its 2012 season.

Responsibilities: Secure and supervise volunteer ushers and box office help, coordinate with play director and production managers,

receive inquiries and manage reservations, organize refreshments, greet patrons, and oversee audience comfort, overall cleanliness, lobby protocols, and a few minor publicity-related tasks. Qualifications: Essential: attention to details, problem-solving, well-groomed, and personable. Ideally, some experience in theater. Must commit to work schedule (below).

Work schedule: Fri and Sat nights 6pm to 10pm, and Sunday 2.30 to 6.30pm. We present five productions, each two weekends in a row, beginning in early May and ending in late September. Additionally, there will some time worked at home on your phone and computer receiv-

ing reservations and arranging for ushers.

Pay rate to be determined by experience.

To apply, please respond to treasurer@oldchurchtheater.org. Please include a phone number and resume or letter stating experience. Since this position handles receipts, letters of reference will be required.

Old Church Theater is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Except for this position, cleaning and poster distribution, all activities are volunteer: Auditions and other production activities are open to everyone!

www.oldchurchtheater.org

There's nothing like live theater!"



The 2012 Season!

The board of the Old Church Theater sets its 2012 season of plays!

Opening the season on May 4th will be the farce "Don't Tell Mother!" by Monk Ferris, directed by Paul Hunt. On June 8th, will be the thriller "The Uninvited" by Tim Kelly, directed by Chuck Fray. Opening on July 13th will be "Caught in the Acts", a collection of short plays by various playwrights and directors, produced by John Hunt. On August 17th will be "Anne of Green Gables" by Sylvia Ashby, from the novel by L M Montgomery, directed by Gloria Heidenreich. And closing the season on September 21st will be a drama, "The Price" by Arthur Miller, directed by Sheila Kaplow. All plays will run two weekends with Friday and Saturday evening performances and matinees on Sunday.

For more information about the plays, please email info@oldchurchtheater.org, and the directors will respond to you. The website will soon have details about the plays and the audition dates: Anyone and everyone is welcome to audition!

We are now in our 27th

year, offering community theater to the upper valley, 5 productions a year, May to September. As a volunteer organization, there are plenty of opportunities for you to contribute to the performing arts, such as ushering, lighting, stage

managing, set crew, makeup, costumes, sound, publicity, photography. Please send your interest to info@oldchurchtheater.org.

As usual, thank you for your continued support and patronage! There is nothing like live theater!

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2012 4TH OF JULY
Woodville Wells River Celebration Theme
Theme Ideas Needed

The Woodville/Wells River 4th of July Committee is looking for theme ideas for the 2012 celebration. All ideas are welcomed. The theme is portrayed on the cover of the annual souvenir booklet, plus it is a guide for those entering floats in the parade. The person submitting the winning theme will receive a prize of \$25. Deadline for submission is Friday, March 2.

Send your suggestions to:
Woodville/Wells River 4th of July Committee
PO Box 50, Woodville, NH 03785
or email to: woodvillefourthofjuly@hotmail.com
Or check our facebook page.

The committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.
The public is welcomed to attend.
(NOTE: The March Meeting will be held at the Richard E. Clifford Memorial Building, So. Court St., Woodville)

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Looking for committed members who believe changes in town, state and federal government needs to start with us. If you are interested in making a difference in your community, call Lauren at 603-747-3839.

CELTIC CELEBRATION
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Featuring: Iain MacHarg
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Thursday, March 1, 2012
6:00 PM
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Tickets: \$15 per person, \$25 for couples.
Tickets must be purchased in advance.

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Legendary Suzanne Farrell Ballet To Perform At Lyndon Institute Sunday, Feb. 26

"Understated glamour, alluring reserve, and attention to detail" is how the New York Times describes the Suzanne Farrell Ballet, led by the legendary New York City Ballet principal dancer whose career of three decades made her the most influential American ballerina of the late 20th century. On Sunday, February 26th, Kingdom County Productions will present the world-renowned Suzanne Farrell Ballet company at Lyndon Institute for what promises to be an inspired and unforgettable evening of dance. Showtime is 7pm.

One of master choreographer George Balanchine's most celebrated muses, Farrell is reputed to have inspired no less than a third of the master choreographer's total output. And she has staged Balanchine's acclaimed dances for a range of companies, including the Paris Opera Ballet, Royal

Danish Ballet, Berlin Opera Ballet, Vienna State Opera Ballet, and Bolshoi Ballet.

Produced by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Suzanne Farrell Ballet will perform an all-Balanchine program at Lyndon Institute. It includes some of this dance master's most cherished creations. Balanchine was known for his musicality and his extensive work with composer Igor Stravinsky—and Farrell's trademark performance style was always noted for its potent articulation of music. Indeed, New York Times senior dance critic Alastair Macaulay recently commented that Stravinsky told Balanchine that "Ms. Farrell was the most musically intelligent dance he had ever seen."

"Now Farrell is passing that quality on," commented Macaulay.

The Washington Post adds: "Boldness is a trademark of

the Farrell dancers, and it's why her company's engagements always rank among the most anticipated events of the dance season. The work is too distinctive, too juicy, too fabulously fearless to pass up."

Suzanne Farrell's February 26th Lyndon Institute program will include Agon (1957), the iconic black and white ballet; Meditation (1963), the first ballet created for Farrell that was left to her upon Balanchine's death in 1983; Haieff Divertimento (1947), last performed by the New York City Ballet in 1993; and Diamonds Pas De Deux, an excerpt from Jewels (1967) performed in celebration of the company's 10th anniversary season. The New York Times calls Farrell's Balanchine program "one of the most courageous projects in ballet today."

Tickets are available for the 7pm, Sunday, February 26th program at the Cata-



mount Arts Regional Box Office in St. Johnsbury or by calling 802-748-2600. Online sales are available at www.CatamountArts.org. Group sales and information are available by contacting Kingdom County Productions series producer Jay Craven at [jcraven@](mailto:jcraven@marlboro.edu)

marlboro.edu.

The Suzanne Farrell Ballet is being presented by Kingdom County Productions working in association with America's arts center, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C. – and with Catamount Arts.

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The Cohase Chamber hosted the November table at the Bradford Conservation Commission's "Calendar Dinner" on Feb. 11, 2012. Their theme for November was "Election Day 2012" and those attending dressed appropriately in red, white and blue. Table centerpieces featured masks of well known current political figures. In this picture everyone at the table wears a mask for a quick photo opportunity!

L-R: Gail Bromley, Dale Bromley, Lisa Hervey, Craig Hervey, Anne Dall, Marvin Harrison, Louise Harrison, Steve Whalen, Karen Whalen.

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Winter(Spring?)Fest 2012

By Gary Scruton



One of the main ingredients to a winterfest should be winter. At the very least one would expect plenty of snow in mid February in the Mountain Lakes District. Or at least some ice! Well, there was indeed plenty of ice! Some naturally, and some put there on purpose. There was also some traces of snow. And there were times when the wind blew that winter certainly felt like it was still holding on.

The annual Winterfest was held on Saturday, February 18 at the Mt. Lakes Lodge. This year's sponsors included the hosts, Mt. Lakes Recreation Commission, plus the Haverhill Recreation Commission who has kept this event going now for several years. And for 2012 those two groups were joined by Ross-Wood Post #20 American Legion, represented by four members who showed up with game ideas, clipboard, a stop watch, and plenty of enthusiasm.



The lack of snow did not stop the attending participants from enjoying all of the events planned, even if some needed to be modified somewhat to take into account the prevailing conditions. For example, the Cardboard box race did not come down the hill, but instead traveled around the skating rink. Judges also took into account the work creating the unusual modes of transportation.

In past years the obstacle course could have been run with snowshoes. This year ice was cleared from some sections of the course to allow for better footing on bare ground. The two person ski race was able to find enough snow to make a short track. The issue was the actual manipulation of the tandem boards, and the accompanying ropes. And the final event of a tug-of-war turned into a battle of the girls against the guys. Depending on where you stand, some would say that the winners had an advantage with sheer numbers.

During breaks in the events the sponsors had a very nice spread of hot dogs, popcorn, cakes, hot and cold beverages, and more inside the lodge where one could eat, drink, and warm up.

Though the numbers for the Winterfest 2012 were less than they have been in some years, all that showed up appeared to enjoy the time in the outdoors doing winter activities. (Even when it looked more like spring.)

Alzheimer's Workshop In Groton

Groton Free Public Library will be hosting a workshop on Alzheimer's disease, "Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters." If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to

learn the facts. Early Detection of Alzheimer's disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer's dis-

ease. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association, the event will take place on Sunday, February 26 at 2 pm in the Groton Free Public Library, 1304 Scott Highway, Groton. For more information, call 584-3358.



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USDA Updates Its Plant Hardiness Zone Map

By Heather Bryant, Extension Educator, Agricultural Resources

On January 25th the USDA released an updated version of its Plant Hardiness Zone Map. The new map is a result of a collaborative effort between the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Oregon State University's PRISM Climate Group (OSU). A quick comparison of the 2012 map and its most recent predecessor published in 1990 will make you think Grafton County got warmer. But of course it's not that simple and I'll have to back up in order to explain.

The map takes the US and divides it up into 10 F

numbered zones and 5 F sub-zones labeled "a" or "b". Each zone represents the area's average lowest winter temperature over a particular time frame. If you live in Zone 1, your average low winter temperature is between -50 and -60 F (ex: Alaska). If you live in Zone 13 your average low winter temperature is a much balmer 60 to 70 F (ex: Puerto Rico). According to the 2012 map, the southern part of Grafton County falls mostly in Zone 5a (-20 to -15 F) and the northern part is mostly Zone 4b (-25 to -20 F).

The earliest plant hardi-

ness zone map was published in 1927 by Alfred Rehder at Harvards' Arnold Arboretum. Over the years updated versions have been published and the criteria for defining the zones has been modified.

Plant hardiness zone maps are primarily useful because most plants are classified as well. If a plant is labeled "Hardy to Zone 8", that means it is likely to survive in Zone 8 and higher numbered locations but not in locations with lower numbers (colder areas).

Of course the system is not perfect, today's zone maps are based on the "aver-

age" low winter temperature, an extreme weather event could cause the temperature on a given day or in a given winter to go much lower. Also plant survival is not based on winter temperature alone, microclimates caused by buildings, elevation, bodies of water, or the insulating effect of snow or mulch also have an impact, as does humidity, soil moisture, summer heat and a host of other factors. Nevertheless the map and the hardiness zones can give us a place to start when choosing what to plant where. Researchers also use this infor-

mation when developing computer models to predict the spread of invasive species.

So what's different about this updated version of the map? The 1990 version was based on 13 years of weather station data from 1974 to 1986. It placed most of Grafton County in Zone 4b (-20 to -25 F). By comparison, the 2012 map is based on 30 years of weather station records from 1976 to 2005 and it uses mapping techniques that can account for some of the factors that impact temperature such as elevation and proximity to water bodies. It leaves most of Northern Grafton County in Zone 4b, but reclassifies the Southern part of the county as Zone 5a (-20 to -15 F).

Does that mean it's getting warmer in Grafton County? The researchers at ARS and OSU would say 'we can't answer that with these maps'. They designed this new version to be more detailed and accurate. Most of the country is now classified a half a zone (5 F) warmer than it was before, but some areas are classified as colder. In other words, because the 2012 version is based on a longer data set and incorporates more factors that create microclimates, it can't be compared to the 1990 version. It is apples and oranges.

To look at the map go to <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>. Rather than printing and selling large maps as they have done in the past, the USDA has posted this version on the web in an interactive format. You can look at and print your own map of the entire country or just one state. You can also type in your zip code and the program will tell you which zone you are in, eliminating the need to squint and guess. I recommend you take a look particularly if you just moved here or are new to gardening, but don't assume the information is absolute. If you live in Littleton and really want to try a plant that is classified hardy to Zone 5, go for it, just put it in a protected spot.

Information contained in this article was compiled from the USDA's ARS web page and 1/25/12 press release by Kim Kaplan, "Plant Hardiness-Zone Maps" by Donald Wyman and Harrison L. Flint published in *Arnoldia*, Vol. 43 Number 4, 1985, and Wikipedia.

February 21, 2012 Volume 3 Number 10

Not all Times are Trendy but there will always be Trendy Times

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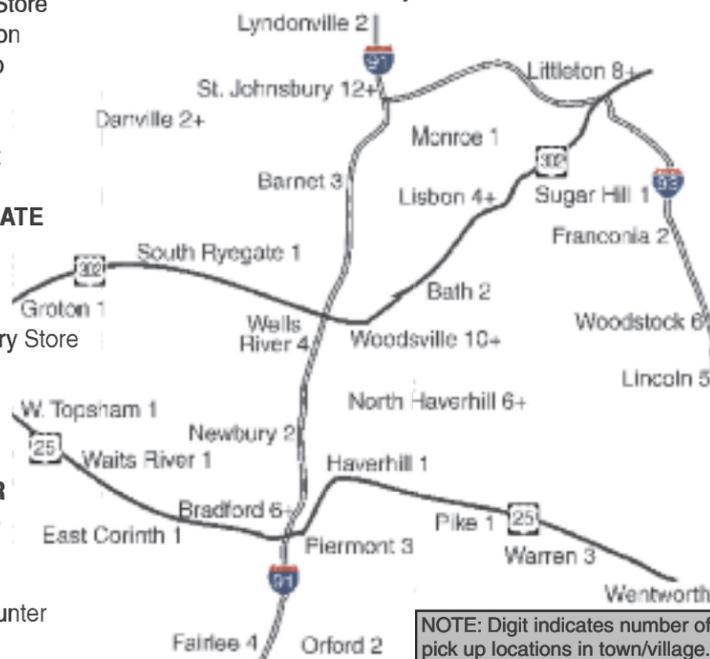
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Letter To The Editor

Woodsville High Seniors Squander Scholarship Money

I am one of the members of the scholarship committee for the Woodsville American Legion Ross-Wood Post #20. Each year for at least the past 25 years and probably longer Ross-Wood Post #20 has been awarding scholarships to deserving graduating seniors of Woodsville High School. In fact the scholarship program has expanded over the years so it now awards two scholarships to seniors of Woodsville High School, two to graduates of Blue Mountain Union High School, one to a graduating senior of Lisbon High School and one at large scholarship to a son or daughter, or grandson or granddaughter of an American Legion member of Ross-Wood Post #20.

The deadline for submissions is May 15th of each year. Last year we awarded two scholarships to graduates of Blue Mountain Union High School and two to graduates of Lisbon High School. There were approximately 13-15 applications from each of those schools.

Paul,

First, to the readers of this letter let me say that I am also a member of this Scholarship Committee. And I would like to add a couple of other details to these scholarships. Though they are awarded at the same time as other scholarships (in the case of Woodsville High School, during graduation ceremonies) the scholarship money itself is awarded later. In the belief that most students will still be looking for assistance later in their college careers, our scholarships are awarded once the student has been accepted to their second semester. The amount is at least five hundred dollars and is sent directly to the student to be used toward books or other living expenses as the student sees fit.

*Gary Scruton, Editor
& member Ross-Wood Post #20 American Legion*

NO scholarships were awarded to Woodsville High School simply because no one from the school bothered to fill out an application.

Scholarship money is available from numerous sources, including many local organizations such as the American Legion, The Veterans of Foreign Wars and others. If you are a graduating senior and have been selected to attend an institution of higher learning take some time to do the research, see your guidance counselor, fill out the forms accurately and be sure to enclose required information. (one side note, some of the applications were not considered simply because transcripts required were not attached to the application)

Woodsville High seniors: This year's deadline is approaching, Please don't squander another opportunity.

Respectfully,
Paul A. Bailey, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)



The Bath Village School basketball teams would like to thank Riggie Electric and the Happy Hour Restaurant for their help in purchasing their new uniforms.

*Back: Maegan Roystan, Madison Riggie, Ethan Houston, Wyatt Basch, Caleb Avery, Gabriel Elliott
Front: Noah Titorenko, Moriah Jellison, Conner Maccini, Corey Bemis, Harmony Evans, Alex Marcy*

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Disobey Your Mother

By Sheila Asselin

I am sure if your mother is anything like mine she warned you to never talk to strangers. Well I am here to tell you to go ahead and talk to strangers. In public places with other people around it is perfectly safe and can yield surprising rewards. Obviously you do not meet ax murders in dark alleys at midnight. The bloody ax he carries around is a dead give away. Sorry for the terrible pun. Just use common sense. I am reminded of the time my husband and I were on a train going from Katowicz, Poland to Prague, Czech

Republic. We knew we had to change trains in Prague going from one train station to another to catch the train for Vienna but had no idea how to get to the other train station. European trains run on a tight schedule and are always punctual so we did not have a lot of time to make the connection at the new station. We were wondering out loud how we would be able to do this when a young man across the aisle introduced himself in perfect English. He said he lived in Prague and his wife was meeting him at the station. He phoned his wife and explained our predicament. Everything taken care of. At the Prague station a pretty young woman met us subway tickets in hand. The young couple literally walked us to the subway train and wrote the name of the stop we needed to get off at, the stop for the train station

where we could catch the train for Vienna. The wife had bought us two subway tickets but they would not accept any payment. Thanks to them we made the connection on time. If we had obeyed our mothers we would never have met this delightful young couple. I still remember them fondly and their generous help. We had gone to Katowice because it is the closest city to Auschwitz. To tour Auschwitz is to despair for humanity and it's cruelties to their fellow human beings. Our mood was somber and depressed when we left. Meeting this young couple helped restore our faith in the basic decency of most people. I am certainly glad we chose to talk to these strangers. So go ahead and talk to strangers. It can be a wonderful rewarding experience. Disobey your mother! Remember you heard it here first.

GOT AN OPINION?

Send it to:
gary@trendytimes.com

Haverhill Town Manager

By Gary Scruton

Back in the late 80's the voters of Haverhill made the decision to create the position of Town Manager. It happened by a vote of the people at an annual Town Meeting and was with the recommendation of the selectboard. Now the question is being asked if that position should continue.

One of the articles on the ballot when voters in Haverhill go to the polls on Tuesday, March 13th will be, ARTICLE 3: "Do you favor continuation of the town manager plan as now in force in this town?" (By Petition)

The wording on the ballot comes from the state statute. By state statute it must ap-

pear on the written ballot. It is not a question that will be discussed during the evening deliberations. If this vote passes, the Town Manager position will cease to exist as of April 10, 2012, again according to state law.

For those who are not aware there are many rules & regulations governing a town manager. One states that a town manager must take an oath for the "faithful and impartial performance" of duties. The same section requires a bond be executed in favor of the town "in such sum and with such surety or sureties as may be approved by the selectmen."

The state statutes also make mention that the town

manager should be a non-partisan position, outside of politics. It can be noted at this point that the current town manager, Glenn English, was the first town manager in Haverhill. He was hired by the selectboard after a search and a process of working thru viable candidates. He currently has a contract with the Town of Haverhill for his services.

There are many other sections to Chapter 37, entitled Town or Village District Managers. These sections spell out that a town manager shall have certain duties. Those duties include the authority to hire and supervise most all town employees. This would include the

highway and police departments as well as the Recreation Director, Welfare Administrator, and office staff. By statute the elected positions of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are outside of this supervision duty. The law also spells out the limits of such duties. Full copies of these regulations are available at the town office.

The results of the day long voting will be announced at the beginning of the evening meeting. Those results will also include voting for two selectboard seats, each for a three year term. One seat currently belongs to Lynn Wheeler, who has signed up for re-election. The other seat has been occupied by David Joslin, the current vice-chairman, who has decided to not run again. Tom Friel was the only can-

didate to sign up before the deadline and therefore have his name placed on the ballot for a three year term.

Other items on the ballot include some other elected positions, all without competition.

Voters in Haverhill will also be voting on March 13th for three members of the Haverhill Cooperative School District. These are also three year terms and a full list of those running will be listed here in Trendy Times in the next edition.

NOTE: Trendy Times would also like to welcome any candidate for any position in any town, to offer their views pertaining to their desired position. We will publish as much and as many as possible in the March 6 edition.

OBITUARY – PAUL MEAD DAVIDSON



A graveside service will be on Saturday, June 16, at 11 AM, at the Pinehurst Cemetery in South Ryegate, VT.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kingdom Animal Shelter,

P O Box 462, Route 5 South, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

Ricker Funeral Home, Woodsville, NH assisted the family with arrangements.

For more information or to offer an online condolence please go to www.rickerfh.com

Houma, LA – Paul Mead Davidson, 68, died on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at the Terrebone General Hospital in Houma, LA.

He was born in Worcester, MA, March 20, 1943, the son of Clyde Richard and Ruby (McLam) Davidson. Paul graduated from Woodsville High School. In his early years in South Ryegate, VT, he worked for 15 years in the granite business at Rosa's Stone Shed as a sandblaster. Later he worked as a welder for Kellogg Brown and Root, a global engineering and construction company based in Houston, TX. When he was younger, Paul purchased a Harley Davidson which he owned his entire life. He loved watching Nascar and dancing. Paul had lived in Florida for several years prior to moving to Louisiana.

He is survived by his companion, Janice Cofelt of Houma, LA; two daughters, Rita Ames and husband Randy of Groton, VT and Tracy Davidson of Henryville, PA; two brothers, John Davidson of St. Albans, VT and Robert Davidson of Ocala, FL; three grandchildren, Tausha Ames, Sumner and Graham Davidson; one great grandson, Logan Ames; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

There will be no calling hours.

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Credit Card Crunch – Telephonic Terminator

By Robert Roudebush

The voice on the other end of the phone was female, businesslike and slightly breathless, both reassuring and frightening at the same time just the way she was supposed to be. She said the exact same things this time that she'd always said all the other times before, before I hung up on her, every time. She was the dreaded "robo-call", the telephonic terminator. Today would be different.

On my end of this game, I had already learned a rule - a hang-up told the computer to call again, keep calling you endlessly.

As always after I picked up the phone and said "Hello, robo-woman" started her recorded spiel. "Hello. This is Anne at Service Accounts International Bank, Creditors Collection Division. This is an urgent notice about your credit card debt to help you avoid further penalty payments. You may consider this a second and final notice before further action may be taken. We offer reduced interest on your various credit cards and urgently seek to resolve the matter today for your benefit. While there is no specific amount overdue this date, we are attempting to avoid legal

action. Please press "1" to be put in touch with a transfer specialist who will help you emerge from your current situation. Thank you and please stay on the line".

The same scare-words as always. "Urgent." "Credit card debt." "Penalty payments". "Second and final notice". The kind of words intended to worry a senior citizen or anyone already feeling guilty about their cards. It's "predatory calling" and today, I would not be the prey.

I pressed ONE. A speaker came on whose first language was not English. "Welcome to Service Accounts, how may I be of service to help you?"

Back in my college acting days, I learned how to produce an "old-man" voice, even older than I really am now, sounding like late 80s or mid 90s. I used it now, a raspy-voiced crotchety old goat like I'll be some day soon.

I wheezed out, "Hello?"

"Yes Sir, welcome to Service Accounts, which credit card do you wish to change?"

"Hello, hello, who's there? Can you speak up please. Hello?"

"Yes Sir, of course, is this better? I'm Sajeed, good day Sir, which credit card please".

"Hello Sajeed, who is this? I can't hear you. Is that girl Anne there? Hello?"

"Yes Sir, we are here to help. Anne is not here at this time." He was practically shouting now. "This is Sajeed speaking. Which card would you like to change?"

"Change, no I don't carry change, too heavy to haul around, don't want to get robbed. Don't carry cash or my social security card either. I've got a conceal and carry permit though, nobody better try. No need to shout. I hear just fine. Is this Anne? So you say your last name is Sardine? That's a funny name. Bet you get teased by all the boys. Your voice sounds funny. No need to shout, I'm not deaf. Hello? Hello, who's there please?"

"No no Sir, my name is Sajeed. Sorry to shout. We need to talk about your credit cards. Are you able to hear me all right?"

"Of course I can hear you. You shout all the time. You said it was urgent about my credit cards. I don't want to go to jail. Hello?"

"Yes Sir, I am here. Perhaps you can let me speak to some other member of the family, your son or a grandson perhaps Sir."

"I AM the grandson. Just turned 92. Dad's out hunting turkeys on the tractor. Granddad's passed out in the pumpkin patch again. Do you want to talk to him? Let me see if I can get him back into the wheelbarrel one more time. Can you give me forty-five minutes or so?"

"No no, please Sir, no. Are other family members there?"

"Bear? No, I said he's out hunting turkeys. Maybe moose. You need to get your hearing checked. Hello?"

There was a long pause and I heard Sajeed breathing hard. I glanced at my watch. I'd tied him up for about three and half minutes. My typical hang-up took place within 10 seconds and never solved a thing. I wasn't afraid of paying any interest or overdue penalties. Because I don't have any credit cards, don't use them, none at all.

He tried again. Very loud now, each word distinct and slow. "SIR – WE MUST DISCUSS YOUR CREDIT CARDS. WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE TO DEAL WITH?"

"Credit cards, yes I'm glad you finally got to the point. I don't want any penalty payments. Let's don't talk about hunting any more. Is this a final notice?"

"Yes it is final notice. Please Sir, which card."

"Good, thank you so much for calling. Which credit card are we talking about?"

"Sir, which credit card do you wish to give me?"

"No, I don't want to give you my card. Let's just get it fixed. What one is overdue?"

"Your Visa, BankAmerica Card, Diner's, Discover, or American Express please, any of those."

"Do I have any of those?"

"Of course Sir, we are here to help with any one of them at this time. Please pick one."

"No, you pick one."

"Any of the cards I have mentioned is fine, what is the number of the card and your bank account number please."

"I thought you had all that stuff at the bank."

"Please Sir, I'm just asking because your name is on the list for today."

"The list."

"That's correct, yes Sir."

"Then it must be list of people who don't have credit cards." Suddenly, I was my age again, short and to the point. "Sajeed, please make note of my name on your list and don't call me again. Tell that to your supervisor or I will. And pass that along to Anne if you should run into her in the recording studio. Or you could come out to the farm and I'll show you around the pumpkin patch, maybe take a little walk in the woods, do some hunting, talk things over a little bit. No moose. No bear. Just you and me. Goodbye."

Anne never called again, or Sajeed.

February 21, 2012 Volume 3 Number 10

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Haunted Lakes Of Vermont: The Tavern Ghosts Of Lake Bomoseen Bomoseen, VT

Lake Bomoseen is no stranger to fame as it is Vermont's largest lake, but it's also home to a Vermont ghost legend. One night, long ago when Irish settlers called the place home, three men decided to go to their favorite tavern for a little night-cap. They had to take a rowboat in order to get across to lake to get to the tavern, but that was the last time they were ever seen, because when their boat was found, they weren't in it

and no bodies were ever recovered.

The lake grew around them: spawning a campground here and there, hiking, boating, fishing, and in 1960 it became a state park. But even though it grew from an Irish settlement where they would work at the local slate quarries to a state park, sometimes when the moon is lit right, a phantom row boat can still be seen going across the lake before disappearing without a trace.

Sources for this Article:

VTStateParks.com - Information on the lake can be found here.

GhostsofNewEngland.blogspot.com - Information on the ghost legend was found here.

The Phantom Steamboat Of Lake Morey – Fairlee, VT

Bitterness can make us do funny things that if not controlled can go to a new extreme. Such an event happened, when it all started back in 1807, when Robert Fulton's Clermont steamboat first launched onto the Hudson River. He's noted as the creator of the first steam engine boat, but those facts just don't add up to some people. The fact is that Fulton's steam boat was the first to be commercially successful, not the first ever though.

The first operational steam boat was a tiny one that was invented by Vermont's very own, Captain Samuel Morey as early as 1793. According to historical documents, it didn't even hold Morey, but it was still the FIRST steam boat. Whatever the argument may be, the animosity grew within Morey about how Fulton stole his idea.

Granted, some documents say that he was a frustrated person in life, but that's only because he was

way ahead of his time in terms of a scientific mind. One such story is of the Aunt Sally, his own boat, a prototype that he sank in frustration of the whole case of Robert Fulton and his Clermont. After that, he abandoned steam boats and went to gasoline powered engines.

Samuel Morey died on April 17th, 1843 a respected contributor to science and perhaps he passed happy and is enjoying his eternal sleep. His prototype, however, has been reported to not rest so easily...even if it did sink two centuries ago. Aunt Sally can't seem to rot in peace after her inventor deliberately sank her all these years ago, because they say that every month the steam boat rises from the depths of Lake Morey and sails one last time before disappearing in a fog. Some witnesses have even reported seeing Morey himself at the helm.

Until next time, this has been another Scared Sheetless. Happy hauntings graveyard disciples. Sources for this story: Vermonter.com. Haunted Vermont: Ghosts and Strange Phenomena of the Green Mountain State by Charles A. Stansfield, Jr. Don't be a stranger to scares. Check out my website: scaredsheetlessncn.blogspot.com for videos, EVPs, photos, articles, and more!

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John P. Rivera (l) and Walt Dellinger recently teamed up to compete in the New Hampshire State American Legion Pool Tournament held in Epping on Sunday, February 12. The two qualified for the states by finishing third in the District 8 tournament held at Ross-Wood Post #20 in Woodsville. The two sharks came back to their home post in Woodsville with a third place finish among 17 competing teams. John & Walt enjoy playing pool on the table at the Post Home in Woodsville, plus at other locations.



By Ronda Marsh

Beef Carbonnade

Like most everyone else who resides above the Notches in New Hampshire, I have found this winter to be rather out of the norm: Not a lot of snow, but still a great deal of bone-chilling cold. Is it me, or does it just seem colder because of the lack of multiple feet of snow cover? Regardless of the source, this chilly weather just makes me want to turn to comfort food to warm the body and the soul. Now is the time to get out your soup pot and keep it filled with a nourishing stew or chili to help your family ward off the winter blues, and this Flemish version of beef stew will certainly accomplish that! I found this recipe while cruising around the internet one day. Originating in Belgium, there seem to be many versions of Beef Carbonnade, but all of them have two common ingredients: Stew beef and beer. I played with the various sea-

sonings until I got what I wanted, which was a simple stew, but one where the beef was ultra-tender and the flavorings not too overpowering. The Flemish people sometimes serve this over noodles, or alongside mashed potatoes. I've tried both, and I can't decide which I like best, so I'll leave that decision up to you!



- 1-1/2 pounds stew beef, cut into large chunks
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 2 Tablespoons flour

- 1 large onion, thinly sliced
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 12-ounce bottle beer (choose a pale ale type beer)
- 1 cup chicken or beef broth
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 1 bay leaf

Combine salt, pepper, thyme, sugar and flour on a plate. Pat meat dry, and then lightly dredge in the flour mixture, tapping off any excess. In a large skillet or in a stewpot, melt the butter and add the onions, cooking until translucent. Remove onions and set aside. Add half the floured meat to the pot and allow it to sear on each side before removing

and browning the remaining meat. Pour in the beer to deglaze the pot, stirring to remove all the accumulated fond from the bottom. Add the broth, vinegar, and bay leaf and bring the mixture to a boil. Add the rest of the onions, nestling them into the liquid. They should be about half submerged. If more liquid is required, add

broth, beer, or water. Cover and reduce to a bare simmer. Continue to simmer, partially covered for 2-3 hours, until meat is fall-apart tender. To thicken gravy, remove cover and allow to simmer, uncovered for a few minutes. Alternatively, you can finish the dish in the oven by baking it covered, at 350°F for 2 hours.

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