

Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXVI No. 2

Brentwood, New Hampshire

February 2012

Candidates for Town and School Offices

The following filings for Town and School Offices were made during the required period from Jan. 25 – Feb. 3:

Office	<u>Selectmen</u>	Office	<u>School Board – Brentwood Dist.</u>
Positions Available	2 for 3 years	Positions Available	2 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Jane Byrne Ken Christiansen Robert Hartnett Allan Knowles	Candidate(s)	Dianne Vosgien
Office	<u>Cemetery Trustees</u>	Office	<u>Moderator – Brentwood Dist.</u>
Position Available	1 for 3 years	Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	David Menter	Candidate(s)	Douglas Cowie
Office	<u>Library Trustees</u>	Office	<u>School Clerk – Brentwood Dist.</u>
Positions Available	2 for 3 years	Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Robert Gilbert Douglas Mansfield	Candidates	Phyllis Thompson
Office	<u>Moderator</u>	Office	<u>Treasurer – Brentwood Dist.</u>
Position Available	1 for 2 years	Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Richard Chamberlain	Candidate(s)	Katrina Allen
Office	<u>Municipal Budget Committee</u>	* Office	<u>Cooperative School District Board</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years	Positions Available	1 from each town for 3 years
Candidate(s)	William Faria John Lyon	Candidate(s)	<u>Exeter</u> Margaret Bishop Townley Chisolm
Office	<u>Planning Board</u>		<u>Newfields</u> Alicia K. Heslop
Positions Available	2 for 3 years		<u>Stratham</u> Helen Joyce
Candidate(s)	Kevin Johnston John Kennedy	* Office	<u>ERCSD Budget Advisory Comm.</u>
Office	<u>Supervisors of the Checklist</u>	Positions Available	1 from each town for 3 years
Position Available	1 for 6 years	Candidate (s)	<u>East Kingston</u> David Pendell
Candidate(s)	Mary Clancey		<u>Exeter</u> Carl Robertson
Office	<u>Town Clerk/Tax Collector</u>		<u>Stratham</u> Susan Canada
Position Available	1 for 3 years	* Office	<u>Co-op. School Dist. Moderator</u>
Candidate(s)	Phyllis Thompson	Position Available	1 for 1 year
Office	<u>Trustees of the Trust Funds</u>	Candidate(s)	Charles F. Tucker
Positions Available	1 for 2 years		
Candidate(s)	1 for 3 years No one filed		

* Note: voters from all towns in the District may vote for these candidates

Please come to Candidates' Night and meet, hear and talk to the candidates. It will be in the Cross Room at Town Offices: Wednesday, February 15, at 7:30 pm.

TOWN OF BRENTWOOD On the Web: www.brentwoodnh.govTOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR:

Phone: 642-6400 X 14
 Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9:00-4:30
 Tuesday 9:00-8:00
 Friday 8:30-4:00
 Saturday 9:00-12:00

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310
 Monday–Thursday 8:00-4:00
 Friday 9:00-1:00

MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY

Phone: 642-3355 E-mail: bartlettlibrary@comcast.net
 On the Web: www.brentwoodlibrary.org
 Monday 2-7 Thursday 9-5
 Tuesday 9-5 Friday 9-1
 Wednesday 9-5 Saturday 9-1
 Story Hours: Tuesday 10:30 and 2:00 Wednesday 10:30

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Phone: 642-3487
 Swasey on the Web: <http://scs.sau16.org>
 SAU 16 on the Web: <http://www.sau16.org>

February Recycling Pick-Up Dates

February 14 & 15
 February 28 & 29

Notes from the Town Clerk / Tax Collector

From the Tax Collector's office:

- Partial payments of your taxes are acceptable.

From the Town Clerk's Office:

- Boat registrations can be done here.
- Dog licenses for 2012 are ready.
- If you are **transferring plates** to another vehicle, you **must bring in the old registration.**
- You always need **two checks or cash** to complete an auto registration: one for the State and one for the Town.
- The office will be closed on February 20.

Phyllis Thompson

**A chapter of Al-Anon Family Group
 will meet every Wednesday in February
 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the
 Pilgrim Church, 197 Middle Road (Rte. 111A).**

Candidates' Night

Candidates' Night, sponsored by the *Newsletter*, will be in the Cross Room at the Town Offices on Wednesday, February 15, starting at 7:30 pm. We hope many of you will come to meet, hear and talk to the candidates.

Waste Tonnage Figures

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Tons, mixed solid waste	110.11	95.41
Tons, recycled goods	57.15 (34.2%)	34.29(26.4%)

Valentine Buffet

Pilgrim Church's Annual Valentine Buffet will be held on **Saturday, February 11** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (continuous seating). This delightful menu will feature fresh carved ham, turkey and roast beef, a salad bar, and much more, including a variety of Homemade Desserts. All of this makes the **Valentine Buffet** a great midwinter event. Tickets will only be sold at the door and are \$12 per person. The Church is located on Route 111A (Middle Road) in Brentwood. You need a break. Come and enjoy!

Gene Orcutt

orcu416@comcast.net

THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER

Published 11 times a year by the Brentwood Newsletter Committee,
 Brentwood, New Hampshire. Circulation 1217

Linda Rousseau, Editor 772-4534 Marion Arkell, Treasurer, 772-6314
 Jim Clark, 580-1012 Brad Stevens

Business Card Directory: \$20 per insertion, available in April, September & December issues.
 Business Article: \$100 half page, \$200 full page, available in any issue.

Deadline for March Issue: Wednesday, Feb. 22

Mail or bring your articles to Linda Rousseau, 156 Front St., # 417, Exeter, NH 03833,
 or e-mail to lindarou@comcast.net

The American Legion, Post 51, Epping

The writer of these notes is a resident of Brentwood and a member of Post 51. Several other residents are also members of the Post. – Editor.

The reason I am writing: Our soldiers, sailors, and airmen have left Iraq. Many of them have returned to the states over the years, some wounded physically and mentally, some have returned to a life of normalcy and others continue to serve both at home and abroad. The American Legion is looking for these veterans. We are here to assist them. We are here to welcome them as brothers in arms, as veterans, and as the heroes that they are. I am reaching out in several ways to let those veterans know that we are here, that the American Legion is here to assist where we can and to provide a place where they can relate their experiences with some that have "been there" before.

The American Legion and its family are very heavily involved with the community and are only limited by involvement by its membership. The American Legion is a family of groups. These include the American Legion itself, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders.

Eligibility for American Legion membership is limited to those honorably discharged veterans and current personnel of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force who served at least one day of active duty during any of the following periods:

- World War I: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918.
- World War II: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (except that for the U.S. Merchant Marine eligibility dates are December 7, 1941 to August 16, 1945).
- Korean War: June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955.
- Vietnam War: February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975.
- 1982 Lebanon War and Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada): August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984.
- Operation Just Cause (Panama): December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990.
- Gulf War/ War On Terror (Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom): August 2, 1990 to today.

Our Post is an active place. Pack and Troop 136 from Epping frequently meet here and Pack 192 of Brentwood has also been present for ceremonies held at the Post. We support the community through scholarships, donations to food pantries, and assistance to veterans with VA claims, just to name a few. The Post has an Honor Guard that is very active performing in parades, providing honors for veterans who have transferred to the Post Everlasting, and performing a variety of ceremonies.

Our American Legion Riders routinely conduct "runs" to raise money for the Legacy Fund, to participate in ceremonies and support local groups and causes. They are the newest program of the American Legion and are growing rapidly. The Sons of the American Legion are very active with fundraising and community support as well and are a very active part of the post. And then there is the Auxiliary. From taking care of children's parties and Legion functions to assisting families after the passing of a loved one to general support, we greatly appreciate all that they do.

I encourage all veterans who are eligible for membership to look into becoming a member. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to stop into the Post, Rte. 125 and Elm St, across from Telly's restaurant. 603-679-8320. Or email Eric J.Gregg, Past Commander, Post 51: egregg57@yahoo.com .

Eric J. Gregg

News from Willow Pond Community Farm

Several people have asked recently, "What is a CSA?" A very good question! CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. When you join a CSA, you purchase a "share" of the harvest and you also make a commitment to support a local farm and farmer. Because you agree to pay for your weekly part of the harvest early in the year, the farmer can get a salary and buy seeds, soil amendments, tools, etc. ahead of the production season. As a member, you also share with the farmer the risks and rewards of farming in New England.

At Willow Pond we are beginning our 9th season growing vegetables on land generously donated by Victor and Emily Schmalzer, across from Swasey School. We have a new farmer coming this year, Glenn Preston, and we aim to have about 65 families again. Glen will grow for the CSA shares and will also market his crops at two local farmers markets. He has experience on several different kinds of farms and is looking forward to the challenge of managing his own farm for the first time.

If you are interested in becoming a member please contact me for more information.

Joanie Pratt, for the Core Group- 778-8881

Sympathy

Sincere sympathy and friendship are extended to the family of **Leo R. Gauthier** of Homestead Lane, who died December 24 in Campton, N.H. Born and raised in Fitchburg, Mass., he lived also in Hooksett and Bedford, N.H. and had lived in Brentwood for the past ten years. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War, and a member of the American Legion Post 32 in Exeter and Post 51 in Epping. In his civilian career he was an entrepreneur, corporate executive, CPA and tax consultant.

Creamery Brook Farm Protected

Following is a news release just issued by the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, in cooperation with the Brentwood Conservation Commission. – Editor.

Brentwood, NH – While its name may be changing to Stout Oak Farm, the scenic, rolling fields of Creamery Brook Farm in Brentwood will forever remain as open space, protected from subdivision and development, and conserved for agriculture, wildlife, and water quality.

In late January, the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, the Town of Brentwood and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service acquired a conservation easement from the heirs of Lawrence Lyford on the 56.5 acre farm on Middle Road (Route 111A), ensuring its agricultural fields are forever conserved. Immediately following the sale of the conservation easement, the Lyford heirs sold the farm to Kate and Jeff Donald, an established young farming couple, most recently operating from leased land in Epping.

“Conserving this productive farmland and transferring its ownership to a young farming couple is simply the best possible outcome,” explained Brian Hart, Executive Director of the Southeast Land Trust, a non-profit conservation organization based out of Exeter that orchestrated the conservation deal and its conveyance to a farmer. “By doing so, we’re meeting the community’s desire to preserve important lands, helping meet the strong interest in local food by conserving farm soils, and getting the farm into the hands of a successful farmer.”

That farmer and new owner is Kate Donald, and her husband Jeff. Kate has been an organic vegetable farmer for the past 12 years, operating Stout Oak Farm and actively involved with Seacoast Eat Local. At their new location at the historic Creamery Brook Farm, the Donalds will grow four acres of vegetables for CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares, farmers' markets, and local restaurants. They also plan to open a new farm store, which will be stocked with their vegetables, herbs, cut flowers, and seedlings for home vegetable gardeners, as well as other products raised by their friends at other local farms. More information on their plans and goals can be viewed at their website, www.stoutoakfarm.com.

“As new stewards of this historic farm, we are committed to taking good care of the land, and providing delicious healthy food for our community,” explained Kate. “We are thrilled to see this land conserved, and grateful for the opportunity to bring this land back into production. As we get started farming here, I have new optimism about the future, knowing that these farm soils will always be protected.”

Fifty-four acres of the property, nearly the entire farm, are highly productive farm soils that historically supported a small dairy farm, hence the name Creamery

Brook Farm. Under the conservation easement, these soils will remain available for future agricultural production.

“Prime agricultural farmland in New Hampshire is lost every year, so protection from development becomes increasingly important to maintain New Hampshire’s rural integrity and access to healthy, local foods. We are grateful to the Southeast Land Trust, the Town of Brentwood, and the landowners for working with the NRCS to protect this property,” said Rick Ellsmore, NRCS State Conservationist.

The farm also includes more than 1,300 feet of shoreline on Dudley Brook, and is adjacent to other lands protected by the Land Trust and Town of Brentwood, adding to its importance for water quality and wildlife habitat.

“It is fitting that Creamery Brook Farm – which inspired the passage the Town’s Open Space Bond in 2003 – is the final property protected by the Bond,” explained Rob Wofchuck, chairman of the Town of Brentwood Conservation Commission. “We thank the Lyford family for allowing us the opportunity to conserve their family land.”

Creamery Brook Farm was long owned and managed by the Lyford family. When Lawrence Lyford passed away in July 2010, the family was faced with a choice many families face: what do to with the farm? Lawrence’s widow Dolly wanted to honor the wishes of her husband and see that the land was not developed. The family considered many options and decided to provide the community and Land Trust an opportunity to protect it and keep it as an active farm, continuing the family’s tradition of good stewardship.

Now that the land is conserved, the Southeast Land Trust is responsible for annual visits to monitor the use of the land, and if necessary, enforce the terms of easement. The Town of Brentwood and US NRCS hold secondary interests in the easement, ensuring that they can enforce it should the Land Trust fail to do so.

Funding for the protection of Creamery Brook Farm was provided by a grant of \$253,000 from the US Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, administered by the US Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Town of Brentwood provided \$289,843 from its Open Space Bond, first approved in 2003.

Mailing Crew for January

Many thanks to those who assembled the January issue of the *Newsletter* for mailing: Sue Cox, Ellen Christiansen, Ken Christiansen, Lori McClure, Jim McGean and Norman Wilson.

Linda Rousseau, Editor

Your 2012-13 Budget, prepared by the Brentwood Budget Committee

Brentwood's Municipal Budget Committee has been working since August to prepare the town and local school budgets for delivery at this year's Town and School District meetings. We took advantage of some of the quieter meetings to do some housekeeping this budget season, preparing governing Budget Committee By-Laws to formalize and put in writing our structure and procedures. These can be found on the town's website on BudCom's page. We also bid farewell to our long-time member-at-large Tracie May, who resigned and was replaced by appointee John Lyon in November, to serve out Tracie's term until the elections in March. We celebrated just a little when the tax bills came out in December; hopefully you did too. Most of us saw significant reductions in the annual tax assessment due to the town's tax rate reduction. We simply didn't need to raise as much money from taxes this year because of the following factors: an increase in town valuation; you voted in less increases; the \$161,508.00 returned to the taxpayers in school revenue surplus from a dissolved Swasey School Capital Reserve Fund; sound budgeting that helped our town absorb any reduced revenue hits from the State.

This season we pledged to restore some increases to personnel wages across the board. We discussed a 2% cost of living increase with the Selectmen, and our votes consistently supported that commitment, with one exception. We supported two merit increases in the police department budget because it was noted that this budget was managed to maintain a reduction in total salaries in spite of those increases. We had many long discussions regarding our appropriate role in managing budgets, and in the end decided to stick to our 2% increase marker this year.

The town's valuation is now \$483,019,611, an increase of \$5,768,715 or 1.2% over last year. This helped reduce the tax rate.

As of this date, the town's Budget Committee proposed budget is \$ 2,731,291, a 0.44% or \$11,947 increase over last year's budget. The Selectmen's number is \$2,734,720, a 0.57% or \$15,376 increase over last year. There is a difference of \$3,429 between the two, representing wage increases in various departments that are beyond our Committee's comfort zone of 2%.

As of the writing of this article, there are \$613,832 dollars worth of Town Special Warrant Articles coming before the voters, \$212,332 of which are new this year, representing a 22% increase over last year's Special Warrant Articles. You are probably familiar with the usual ones: road repairs, mosquito control, and Capital Reserve replenishment for bridge repairs, highway, police and fire department vehicles. These have all been recommended by the Budget Committee.

One of the town's new Special Warrant Articles is a \$5,832 patrol grant, which needs to be in the budget even though it will come to us in grant revenue. The other requests are for Fire Department technical equipment and three new Capital Reserve requests for improvements to Highway and government owned buildings. The Budget Committee has voted to NOT recommend \$100,000 in Special Warrant Article Capital Reserve requests for Highway Buildings and \$2500 in Fire Department computer equipment. This will reduce total Warrant Article requests to \$511,332, an \$8303 or 1.65% increase over last year.

After much debate over the budgeting of \$69,270 for a new position (Curriculum Coordinator) at the school, the Budget Committee voted to recommend the Swasey School proposed operating budget of \$5,134,767, a 1.5% increase over last year's \$5,058,448 adopted budget, representing \$76,319 in new operating costs.

The Budget Committee also voted to recommend the new two-year Swasey teacher contract. The contract includes a 1% increase in year one and a 1.5% increase in year two, not including step increases. Year one (2012-2013) would add \$53,815 and year two (2013-2014) would add an additional \$57,119. The health plan costs for a family plan break down as HMO 80/20 and POS plan 75/25, the teachers paying 20-25% of health plan costs.

Please remember that the purpose of the Budget Committee is "to assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds" (RSA 32:1). A volunteer committee of taxpayers, we do all the homework with the help of the town office staff in order to prepare a recommended budget for you. It is your responsibility and right to authorize it with your votes by attending our School District Meeting on March 10 at 9:00 AM and Town Meeting on Saturday, March 17 at 9:00 AM, both at Swasey School. If you do not attend, you have no say. Urge your neighbors to come to these two important, once-a-year meetings and vote! Town items are voted on at Town Meeting, the Swasey School items at School District meeting and all of the Exeter Region Coop items will be on the ballot on March 13.

On \$1000 dollar property valuation, these are the Budget Committee recommendations for balanced budget voting along with anticipated changes in your taxes:

0.44% increase in Town Operations:
increase of 3 cents/\$1000
1.65 % increase in Town Warrant Articles:
increase of 2 cents/\$1000
1.5% increase in Swasey School Operations
increase of 16 cents/\$1000
Swasey School Warrant Article (2 year Teacher
Contract):
increase of 11 cents/\$1000
(12 cents/\$1000 additional in yr 2)

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Although the Exeter Regional Coop budget also affects our taxes, this Budget Committee has no authority over its preparation. Your Coop School Board and Budget Advisory Committee have recommended the following:

(See this issue's separate article reviewing the Coop budget and recommendations.)

2.09% increase in Coop School Operating Budget:
increase of 50 cents/\$1000

COOP School Warrant Article (2-year Admin. Contract):
increase of 1 cent /\$1000
(1 cent/\$1000 yr 2)

COOP School Warrant Article (3-year Para. Contract):
increase of 1 cent/\$1000
(2 cents/\$1000 additional per yr in yrs 2 and 3)

COOP School Warrant Article (2 year Teacher Contract):
increase of 11 cents/\$1000
(19 cents/\$1000 additional in yr 2)

150K Coop School Warrant Article (Maintenance):
increase of 5 cents/\$1000

A YES VOTE ON ALL ITEMS WILL INCREASE 2012 TAXES: \$1.00 per \$1000 valuation

This is a gross estimate based only on current revenue information, and does not reflect unforeseen expenses, changes in revenues and new property valuations.

For a complete line-by-line 2012 town budget, to view the Budget Hearing power point presentation, the town and school Warrants as well as the Swasey School teacher contract, please go to

<http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/budget.php>. If you have any questions or need clarification about this budget, please call 778-9411 or e-mail me at elysegallo@comcast.net.

Elyse Seeley, Chair

**Exeter Regional Cooperative School District
Budget Advisory Committee**

From your Representative

**Info for your ballot vote at town elections on
Tuesday March 13.**

For those residents who may be new to the process, I am elected by and represent all six towns in my position on the Exeter Regional Coop Budget Advisory Committee. We work in conjunction with the SAU 16 Business Office to develop Exeter High and Cooperative Middle School budgets and appropriations. Our former Coop Business Manager, Nathan Lunney, was replaced by new administrator Amy Ransom, who was quickly up to speed on the District's operations. Along with the ERCSD School Board, our Committee's

recommendations on the following budgets will be on the March school ballot for all the voters in the six towns of SAU16.

This year presented the challenge of developing an operating budget that will continue to support the population growth in the two schools, that begins to rectify outdated technology, and restores personnel raises. The difficulty was in balancing the need to grow and improve in an economy that is still struggling to raise its head. Not so easy when looking at a bill bumping the 50 million dollar ceiling and raises to a staff of over 500 employees. So on the ballot this March you will be voting on an operating budget, three union contracts (EHS and CMS administrators, paraprofessionals and teachers) and an allocation to a maintenance trust fund. I will summarize the five voting items below, and will explain my personal voting rationale as Brentwood's elected representative.

Items on the 2012 Exeter Regional Coop School ballot:

1. Operating Budget: This **\$49,945,945** budget represents a \$1,023,414.00 increase over last year's operating budget, **up 2.09%**. The default budget, which holds due to contractual increases, is \$443,021 over last year, so the proposed additional \$580,393 is due to 2.5% salary increases to non-union staff, one additional High School teaching position, partial payment for a police officer at CMS, \$160,000 in stipends for department heads at EHS, a 13th technology position (coordinator), \$174,000 in technology improvements, an increase of \$32,570 for telephone lease and a \$645 raise for the transportation coordinator. Our Committee voted to recommend this operating budget to the voters. Unless amended by you voters at Deliberative Session on Thursday February 9 (at Exeter High), this \$49,945,945 budget will appear on the warrant at town elections on March 13. If voted down, the default budget of \$49,365,552 (up 0.91% from prior year budget) will prevail. Due to Brentwood's student enrollment percentage at the Middle and High Schools, these operating costs will impact our town with an estimated increase of \$0.50 cents per \$1000.00 valuation for the proposed operating budget (if you vote yes) and an estimated increase of \$0.32 per \$1000 for the default operating budget (if you vote no).

For your information, I voted against this proposed operating budget, and countered with a lower 1.48% increase. I asked the Budget Advisory Committee board to wait for a professional recommendation and proposal on the technology revamp and to put money towards this estimated \$1.3 million three-year proposed endeavor into a capital reserve fund. I asked for a reduction in raises for non-union staff from 2.5% to 2%, comparable to the proposed contracts. I asked for the stipend money for EHS department heads to come from dollars recouped

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from savings due to retirements. I asked, in a nutshell, for the budget to be tighter in consideration of the economic hardships, and the three union contracts which follow. My proposed reduction was voted down 7-2 by fellow committee members.

2. Collective Bargaining Union Contracts (three contracts):

Exeter Area Administrators' Association Contract –

This two-year contract is for 18 people, and proposes 2% increases per year. Our Committee voted unanimously to recommend this two-year contract to the voters. This budget year cost impact to our town is an estimated increase of \$0.009 cents per \$1000.00 valuation.

Exeter Cooperative Paraprofessional Association Contract –

This three-year contract affects 94 staff members, and includes steps of 2% per year as well as an increase of 1% in years two and three. Paras will be paying more towards their health insurance premiums. Our Committee voted unanimously to recommend this three-year contract to the voters. This budget year cost impact to our town is an estimated increase of \$0.014 cents per \$1000.00 valuation. The total estimated salary/benefit cost for our town for three years is about \$0.10 cents per \$1000.00 valuation.

Exeter Education Association (Teachers) Contract –

For 255 staff members. Last year, for the second time, voters of the six towns voted against authorizing a three-year teachers' contract, including respective and cumulative increases of 1.75% / 2% / 2.15% as well as step increases. Our Budget Committee asked the negotiating team to consider a shorter term contract. The teachers' contract that will come before voters this year is a two-year contract with respective and cumulative increases of 2.15% / 2.15% as well as step increases for about 30% of the members (average 5-7%). There is a change from the former 88%/12% to an 85%/15% split in health insurance premiums. I estimated a cost reduction comparing the first two years of last year's proposal to this contract is about \$34,000.00. In this budget year, this contract cost translates to \$0.113 cents per \$1000.00 valuation for Brentwood voters. The total estimated salary/benefit cost for our town for two years is about \$0.42 cents per \$1000.00 valuation. Our Committee voted unanimously to recommend this two-year teachers' contract to the voters. Though we have more distance to cover when negotiating teachers' contracts, this one grants these professionals long-awaited raises and is a savings to the taxpayers from last year's proposal.

3. Expendable Trust Fund Warrant Article: We voted up to \$150,000 into the Maintenance Trust Fund from undesignated fund balance to take care of repair and maintenance items in the 5-year capital improvement plan for EHS, CMS and the Tuck campus. Last

year we put \$40K in. The fund currently contains \$325,000, and the objective is to build this fund up. This costs Brentwood an estimated increase of about \$0.05 cents per \$1000.00 valuation. Our Committee voted unanimously to recommend this Trust Fund Warrant Article to the voters.

Do contact me with any specific questions about this budget. As some of the Exeter Coop Budget Advisory Committee minutes are not on line, I will post items as they become available (Draft Technology Plan, ERCSD School Warrant, Union Contract Info) on the Brentwood Town website under Budget Committee downloads at <http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/budget.php>.

Elyse Seeley Ph: 778-9411

Report from Your State Representative

The 2012 session of the House kicked off in earnest just a few days into the new year with a calendar so full of bills, it's hard to keep track of them all. I'll start by recapping some of the more recent votes you may have read about in the news.

I voted in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment (CACR13) which, if adopted, will prohibit the implementation of an income tax. The measure passed the House with more than the required 3/5 majority. It now goes to the Senate, and if passed will appear before the voters on Election Day, when it will need to be approved by 2/3 of the voters in the state.

It's a high hurdle to clear, as it should be, but there are quite a few of us who believe this amendment is needed to preserve our state's local control system of government to keep as much power as possible in the hands of the individual, and not in a larger, more powerful centralized state government.

Other votes garnering a bit of press attention (note: the boring bills in which we do things like make it easier or more convenient for small businesses to report earnings and file taxes rarely make the 6:00 pm news) include the recent override of Governor Lynch's veto of HB542, a bill allowing parents to choose to not have their children exposed to subject matter they deem objectionable.

Also, we passed HB334, a bill that would have the rules and restrictions for the carrying of lawfully concealed weapons on "property owned, in whole or in part, by the state, or an agency, political subdivision, committee, or other governmental unit thereof." This bill became known by some as "Campus Carry", as it would take the authority to ban the lawful carrying of concealed weapons out of the hands of the state university system and place it with the legislature.

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The arguments made against this bill were quite similar in nature to the arguments made against the HB542 veto override. They were all based on the assumption that adults overwhelmingly cannot be trusted to act in a responsible manner.

“Override that veto and we'll have parents pulling their kids out of class, because they find math and physics offensive or objectionable.” “Override that veto and we'll have 20 parents pulling 20 kids out of a classroom, forcing the school to teach them 20 different topics at the same time.” Or...”Pass this bill and students will get into gunfights over simple grading disputes!” “Drunks will be blowing people away in dormitories over complaints of loud music!”

I reject these fantastical doomsday predictions and believe that an overwhelming majority of adults among us can and do conduct themselves in a responsible fashion. As I've stated on many occasions, I reject the notion of restricting the rights and liberties of the many, based on the misdeeds of a minuscule few.

Also passed this month was HB 217, which would include “unborn child” in the definition of “another for the purpose of first and second degree murder, manslaughter, and negligent homicide. This expands existing law to allow for stiffer penalties for someone who murders both a woman and her unborn child.

Some oppose this bill on pro-choice vs. pro-life grounds. I see this bill as being very respectful of the choice the woman made to carry her baby to term. If the woman is assaulted, resulting in the death of her unborn child, how can we tell her that her child's killer will not be brought to justice for taking her child's life. To do so would be to undo her choice, as if to say “Sorry, your choice doesn't count here.”

The downside of the bill is that it only covers those unborn children at 24 or more weeks gestation. Speaking from personal experience and knowing how long and hard my wife and I tried, and ultimately succeeded, to have children, if, God forbid, someone were to have murdered or negligently caused the deaths of my unborn daughters, I would want that person to face justice for his crime, regardless of whether my daughters were at 24 weeks gestation or 24 hours.

And, of course, there's gay marriage news. I've received several phone messages and spoken to quite a few people about the upcoming vote on a bill that would repeal New Hampshire's same-sex marriage law. This remains a heated topic, but my position, which I have previously made quite clear, remains unchanged. I will continue to fight for the rights of ALL New Hampshire residents to enter freely into the contract of marriage with the state. The flag on the wall of my garage says “Don't Tread on Me”, not “Don't Tread on Me. Tread on My Neighbors Instead”.

If anyone wants a more detailed explanation of my position and beliefs on this topic, they can read it on my old campaign website which is still on line. (<http://www.bruceforstaterep.com/marriage.htm>)

I'll have more to say next month, I'm sure, as the fireworks are just beginning. Never a dull moment under the golden dome. OK, maybe a few. Right now, I'm going to get myself ready for some football conference championship games this weekend. Go Patriots! All the way to Indianapolis!

Bruce

Bruce A. MacMahon, New Hampshire State Representative
Rockingham County, District 10 – Brentwood.
<http://brentwoodforum.wordpress.com>

Farewell and Thank You

What a beautiful snowy, cold, wintry day it was on Saturday, January 21st. No matter the weather, that was the date of Marilyn Morehead's special retirement party. A few people trickled in early, commenting that the road conditions might affect the number attending. But more and more people arrived, and the story became how so many cars were lining the road and how far away people had to park. The room soon was full of chattering, laughing, happy families. The tables were loaded down with wonderful desserts, appetizers, and treats, all provided by those attending. It surely was apparent by observing the huge crowd that Marilyn had positively influenced so many people, young and old. How fortunate Brentwood has been to have had a library director who was such a dedicated, welcoming, enthusiastic book-lover for so many years. Thank you, Marilyn, for impacting our lives so favorably and making the library the special place it is today.

We also want to express our gratitude to all who attended and made this party such a fabulous event. Thanks to all the talented bakers who created such delicious treats too.

Trustees and Staff

The Mary E. Bartlett Library

Sympathy

Sincerest sympathy and fellowship are extended to the family of **Helen Marjorie Bean Moul**, who died in Fremont January 7th. She was born in Brentwood and lived on Middle Road for 59 years until her recent move to Fremont. She was the librarian for several years at the Mary E. Bartlett Library. She was a baker at the Rockingham Nursing Home and Hospital until 1982, and also helped to start the hot lunch program at Swasey Central School in its early years. She was descended from John Bean of Scotland who settled in Exeter in 1652, and from Josiah Bartlett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

Greetings, everyone! I am so thrilled to have joined the library family and have been overwhelmed by your warm welcome. I'd like to publicly recognize all of the amazing work that has come before me to build the library into the gem that it is (thank you Marilyn!) and I look forward to a great future of reading, entertainment and learning with you all.

We have some great programs planned for February of this Leap Year. For starters, the **Friday Night Flick** will resume on **February 10** at 6:30pm with "**Dolphin Tale**," rated PG. As usual, we will provide the popcorn and you may bring the water bottle.

Ladies Night Movie resumes on Thursday, **February 16** at 7:00pm. We will be showing Woody Allen's 2011 romantic comedy "**Midnight in Paris**," starring Owen Wilson, Kathy Bates and Rachel McAdams.

We're trying something new this month – an afternoon knitting group for anyone 13 or older with some knitting experience: **Knit it. Rip it. Never Mind the Frogs**. Whether you've been knitting for years, or are only just beginning, we hope you'll join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, **February 15** from 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

The **Brentwood Bookers** will be meeting on Monday, **February 27** at 7pm for a rousing discussion. At press time, the book was TBA, so please call or drop by the library for February's exciting title.

Please note that **the library will be closed** on Monday, **February 20** in honor of **President's Day**.

If you're planning a "staycation" during the school break, we have a couple of activities you might enjoy. On Tuesday, **February 28** at 10:30am, the ever-popular Miss Rose will be back with her **Kindermusik** program. Also, on Wednesday, **February 29** at 1:00pm we will present a matinee movie, "**Puss-N-Boots**" (rated PG). Plus we have a great selection of new books and DVDs for you to borrow and enjoy at home.

Looking forward to March, please save Monday, **March 12** from 7:00pm-9:00pm for a special presentation about **Lyme Disease**.

Last but not least, many thanks to Joyce Miller, Niki Reed, Pam Frederick, Joyce Keegal, and Abbi Matheson for ensuring that the library ran smoothly for you all during the transition last month. They are a dream of a team who always go out of their way to give patrons the best possible service. Come on in and see for yourself - you won't be disappointed!

Betsy Solon, Library Director

Friends of the Library

I have not yet had the chance to meet our new librarian, Betsy Solon, but I hope you will join me in giving her a warm Brentwood welcome. I am certain her new job will introduce her to a wonderful community full of friendly people.

Thanks to all of the visitors, from Brentwood and beyond, who came out on a snowy Saturday morning in January to wish Marilyn Morehead a long and happy retirement. Marilyn was honored with the dedication of the reading room in her name – The Marilyn Morehead Room. Thanks to those who baked, cooked or otherwise provided something special for the occasion. From all accounts, Marilyn was touched by the outpouring of residents of our little town.

Marilyn dedicated so much during her years as our librarian. Since I took over as Secretary for the Friends six years ago, there was rarely a day that I went into the Library, when Marilyn wasn't thanking me for something the Friends had recently provided. It's always a good feeling, being involved with a group that gives things to our community which people enjoy and sometimes even need. *Wouldn't you like to share that good feeling?* Come along to our next Friends meeting. We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at the library at 9:30 am. Join us this month on February 9. Find a spot among our group where you are comfortable contributing to our community. It's not a huge commitment of time. All it takes is a willingness to lend a hand or offer a new idea.

Winter took its time coming, but now that the cold days are here, some of you might feel stuck indoors, and getting a little cabin fever. Why not take a look at all the passes available through the Library. These offer excellent, cost-saving opportunities to take advantage of some great museums and attractions in our area. The Friends do have to purchase these passes, so make the most of them!

The Friends are offering what could be THE perfect evening for February. On **Thursday, February 23**, join us for "Chocolate, the Perfect Indulgence." Learn about the biochemical reactions caused in the brain from chocolate – and why it is the perfect choice! Learn how to judge a quality chocolate, by – how else – taste testing! This program will begin at 7 pm and is obtained through the Northern Essex Community College Speakers Bureau.

If you would like to receive email reminders about upcoming meetings and events please send an email to marybartlett76@yahoo.com. Notices will be sent out only as events approach and your name/email will not be shared with anyone.

Michelle Siudut, Publicity

Brentwood Recreation News

BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

Registration for our Spring Baseball and Softball season has begun. **Sign-up deadline will be February 23.** Our Farm and AAA teams will again play in the Diamond League (East Kingston, Kingston, Kensington and Fremont). Our Softball teams play in the Seacoast Fast Pitch league. T-Ball will play only in Brentwood.

New this year – U8 Softball!

T-Ball (5 yr. by 9/30/11)	\$30
Farm (7yr. by 4/30/12)	\$40
AAA (8 & 9 yr. by 4/30/12)	\$45
U8 Softball (7yrs. by 1/1/12)	\$40
U10 Softball (8yr. by 1/1/ 12)	\$65
U12 Softball (12yr. or younger on 1/1/12)	
U14 Softball (14yr. or younger on 1/1/ 12)	

Little League and Babe Ruth registration will be through EJBL and Exeter Babe Ruth, + www.leaguelineup.com/ejbb. Sign-up forms are available in the Recreation office or on our website. There will be a **\$10 late registration fee** and forms will only be accepted as roster space allows. **Field Clean-Up Day is scheduled for April 14.**

Seniors, Join us for Yoga Movement Class!

Join us at the Brentwood Community Center the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Try a Yoga Movement class designed just for seniors at 10:30am.

Yoga Class

Tuesday evenings 6:30pm. The next 8 week session dates: January 17 – March 13
March 20– May 8
May 15 – July 10 (no class 7/3)

Cost: \$64/ eight weeks. Drop-ins always welcome!
Taught by Alicia Rossman, RYT (Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor).

For Men and Women-all levels welcome! Modifications will be provided for those who are new and those who are experienced. Come to class to increase flexibility, strength, and balance, while reducing stress in your life. Never tried yoga? You don't need to be flexible, just drop in and try it! Yoga, movement, food and nutrition contribute to a powerful and fulfilling well-being while increasing quality of life!

Zumba Classes

Zumba and Zumba Strength & Sculpt Classes

Next Class starts: Wed., February 22nd

Zumba 6:00-7:00pm

Sculpt & Strength 7:00-7:40pm

Cost:

\$42 for Zumba class. \$30 for strength & sculpt class.
\$56 for both. Drop-ins welcome! \$9/class

Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers (older worn sneakers work best). Bring water! *Sign-up through the Recreation office or at class.*

Kids Yoga Class

For children, yoga increases flexibility, builds strength and balance, assists with concentration and encourages self-control. While it relaxes the body and helps children feel more centered, it's especially beneficial for those children with attention difficulties. Taught by Alicia Rossman, RYT (Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor)

Next 8 week Sessions: **New Day!**

Thursdays Feb. 23–Apr. 19 (No class March 1)

Thursdays May 3– June 21 **Time:** 3:30-4:15pm.

Cost: \$64/ 8 weeks. \$120 for both sessions!

(Deadline for Feb 23rd session is 2/16).

Join Us at Foxwoods!

Our next trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino will be Monday, March 19. **Cost: \$35 per person.**

Trip includes: coffee/doughnuts on the way down and water/snack on the way back; free \$15 bet; free buffet lunch. Bus leaves the Brentwood Recreation Area at 7:30am and returns approx. 7:30pm. Please mail in your contact information with check, or contact the Recreation office to sign up.

Coyote Club Wilderness Education Class

Coyote Club is designed to introduce children to nature-based studies, native crafts and environmental stewardship. The program includes survival skills, wilderness awareness, navigation/mapping, animal signs and much more! The program is designed for kids grade K-5. The six week course runs Wednesday afternoons from 3:20-4:30pm. **Watch for date of our Spring session! Cost is \$65** Space is limited. Registration forms are available at the Recreation office. See www.nhecology.com for more detail.

Korean Martial Arts

Tang Soo Do Classes

Tang Soo Do is a Korean Martial Art is a true Martial Art comprised of both hard and soft techniques. Classes are taught by Retired Law Enforcement officer Bob Meegan, a 3rd degree Black Belt with the World Tang Soo Do Association. Classes Monday and Friday at the Brentwood Community Center. **6:30-8:00pm.** Enrollment is continual, so you may begin at any point. **Cost:** \$50/single per month \$90/family per month (2 or more).

Facilities Rental

The Brentwood Community Center is available to rent for parties, receptions, meetings and more. Brentwood residents receive a 50% discount off the rental rates! See our website for pictures of the Center and rental application or pick up an application at the Recreation office. Check out the Recreation pages on the town website, www.brentwoodnh.gov. Forms are there to be downloaded, as well as other important information about current programs and events.

Margaret Dullea, Recreation Director

603 642-6400 ext. 20 recreation@brentwoodnh.gov

Office hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 8:30am-3:30pm.

Commission meetings on the fourth Tuesday night of the month at 6:30pm.

Brentwood Historical Society

The February program of the Historical Society, on **Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7:00 pm at the Museum**, will focus on the Scouting movement in this country. February is the traditional anniversary month of Scouting, and last year marked its 100th anniversary. Cliff Cray of Epping, a well known leader in New Hampshire Scouting, will speak on the impact Scouting has had in this country. There will be a display of early Scouting uniforms and equipment. Brentwood Scout leaders and parents have been especially invited to attend, and to bring their own stories and mementos if they wish. The Pack 192 Webelos dens may also attend.

A business meeting of the Society will take place at 10 am on the morning of the 9th, in the Museum.

Seeking Local Beer Microbrewers to Assist with a Tasting before the March Program

Yes, you read that correctly. On Thursday, March 22, 7:00 pm, the Historical Society will present a program called "**Brewing in New Hampshire: an Informal History of Beer in the Granite State from Colonial Times to the Present.**" Glenn Knoblock, the popular speaker affiliated with the NH Humanities Council, has told us many groups enjoy a beer tasting before the program. Local beer brewers contribute a bottle or two of their making and the audience has small samples of each brew (pretzels provided!).

We already have the assurance of brew samples from two residents. We would welcome more! If any other residents who do microbrewing will offer samples for the evening, please contact Linda Rousseau, Program Chair, 580-2358, or lindarou@comcast.net

Brentwood Seniors

The Brentwood Seniors enjoyed one of their delicious potluck luncheons at their January meeting, and also welcomed two new members. President Sandy Thorsell led the short business meeting, during which the annual dues were collected. The musical entertainment was provided by Jim Barnes, folk singer, who also played banjo, acoustic guitar and guitar.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 22** at the Brentwood Community Center, 190 Route 125. Members should arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 for appetizers. Lunch will be a "chili fest" with all the trimmings. Members will be contacted by the telephone committee to confirm what they are bringing.

After lunch there will be a "Pound Party." Members are to bring a "white elephant type" item from home, hidden from view in a bag or other wrapping. Members will bid on the items in auction fashion. (Long ago the items were to weigh a pound. The name "pound party" remains but the rule has been forgotten.) The

money raised from this fun auction will be added to the Seniors' treasury.

New members are welcomed with smiles and applause! You do not have to live in Brentwood to be a member of the Seniors. For more information, call Sandy Thorsell, president, at 772-4476.

Brentwood Gardeners

The Gardeners' January meeting was a terrific evening. It started with a chili supper: four or five types of chili, side dishes and dessert – no one went hungry.

Everyone was asked to tell what their favorite activities are when it's snowing, sleeting, etc, and the family is housebound. The answers were: doing puzzles, board games, cooking, calling friends, watching old movies, reading, cooking for others, reading mysteries, watching the fire by the fireplace, cooking on a wood stove, snowshoeing, knitting, spinning, making soup, listening to music, more reading, and redecorating!

The guest speaker, Lorrie O'Connor of Folsom Farm in Raymond, kept everyone fascinated and asking questions as she told about life with alpacas, how gentle they are with tiny children, what and what not to feed them, what great compost their "Alpacapoo" makes, and last but definitely not least, showing all the products they have developed using alpaca wool. Everyone gave her a great hand at the end.

On **Tuesday, February 21**, the Gardeners will again meet at **7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall of the Pilgrim Church on Middle Road (Rte. 111A). After refreshments the group will focus on a topic they have not had that is probably long overdue: preserving fruit. The instruction will be excellent because the leader will be Gladys Ray, who is steeped in the demands of the Grange traditions and whose preserves we have all enjoyed.

The group gained two new members last month and will welcome more! For any questions, don't hesitate to call the co-presidents, Torie Freeman, 778-3748, or Linda Rousseau, 580-2358.

The Gardeners' Tip of the Month

Now is the time to repot any houseplants with roots coming out of the drainage holes. Choose a pot one size larger than the current pot, remove the plant, trim any errant roots, and repot using fresh potting soil that you can buy in bags at most garden outlets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 9 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library.
Historical Society business meeting -- 10:00 am, Museum, 140 Crawley Falls Rd.
“The Scouting Movement in America.” Cliff Cray guest speaker – 7:00 pm, Hist. Society Museum.
Cemetery Trustees – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building.
- Feb. 10 **Friday Night Flick** at the Library – 6:30 pm, **“Dolphin Tale.”**
- Feb. 11 **Valentine Buffet at the Pilgrim Church, Middle Road – 5:30-7:00 pm. Tickets at the door.**
- Feb. 13 Library Trustees – 6:30 pm, Bartlett Library.
- Feb. 14 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:30 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building.
- Feb. 15 Knitters group at the Library – 3:30-4:30 pm, open to all.
Candidates Night – 7:30 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building.
- Feb. 16 Planning Board – 7:00 p.m., Cross Room, Town Office Building.
Ladies Night at the Movies – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library, “Midnight in Paris.”
- Feb. 21 Swasey Parent Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library.
Selectmen’s meeting – 6:30 pm, Cross Room, Town Office.
Brentwood Gardeners – 7:00 pm, Pilgrim Church Fellowship Room. **“Preserving Fruit,” Gladys Ray.**
- Feb. 22 Brentwood Seniors – 11:30 am, Community Center. Chili buffet and Pound Party.
- Feb. 23 **“Chocolate, the Perfect Indulgence”-- 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library,** presented by the Friends.
- Feb. 27 Brentwood Bookers – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library.
- Feb. 28 **Kindermusik with Miss Rose – 10:30am, Bartlett Library.**
Selectmen’s meeting – 6:30 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building.
Recreation Commission – 6:30 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Office.
- Feb. 29 **Matinee movie “Puss-n-Boots” – 1:00 pm, Bartlett Library.**
- Mar. 1 Cemetery Trustees – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building.
Planning Board meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building.
- Mar. 5 School Board meeting – 6:15 pm, Swasey School Library.
Trails Committee – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building.
Firemen’s Association – 7:30 pm, Fire House.
- Mar. 6 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:30 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building.

The public is welcome at all above events

The Brentwood Newsletter
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