

# Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXVIII No. 2

Brentwood, New Hampshire

February 2014

## Candidates for Town and School Offices

The following filings for Town and School Offices were made during the required period from Jan. 22 – 31

Office Selectmen  
Positions Available 1 for 2 years  
2 for 3 years  
Candidate(s) **Jeffrey Bryan** (for 2 years)  
**Andrew Artimovich** (for 3 years)  
**Robert J. Mantegari** (for 3 years)

Office Cemetery Trustees  
Position Available 1 for 3 years  
Candidate(s) **Albert Belanger**

Office Library Trustees  
Positions Available 2 for 3 years  
Candidate(s) **Donald Petterson**  
**Marc R. Wilson**

Office Moderator  
Position Available 1 for 2 years  
Candidate(s) **Richard Chamberlain**

Office Municipal Budget Committee  
Positions Available 2 for 3 years  
Candidate(s) **Robert J. Mantegari**  
**Krista Steger**

Office Planning Board  
Positions Available 2 for 3 years  
Candidate(s) **Robert Wofchuck**

Office Trustees of the Trust Funds  
Position Available 1 for 1 year  
Candidate(s) **No one filed**

Office Supervisors of the Checklist  
Position Available 1 for 6 years  
Candidate(s) **No one filed**

Office School Board – Brentwood Dist.  
Positions Available 2 for 3 years  
Candidate(s) **Elizabeth Faria**  
**Jane Mitchell**

\* Office Cooperative School District Board  
Positions Available 1 from each town  
Candidate(s) East Kingston (for 3 years)  
**Melissa Lyons**

Exeter (for 3 years)  
**Kate Segal**  
**Chris Suprock** (Mr.)  
Kensington (for 2 years)  
**Jane Bannister**  
Stratham (for 3 years)  
**James Firmin**

\* Office ERCSD Budget Advisory Comm.  
Positions Available 1 from each town  
Candidate (s) Brentwood (for 3 years)

**Krista K. Steger**  
Exeter (for 3 years)  
**Roy Morrisette**  
Kensington (for 3 years)  
**Cheryl McDonough??**

\* Office Co-op. School Dist. Moderator  
Position Available 1 for 1 year  
Candidate(s) **Katherine B. Miller**

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

*Editor's note: The first section of this issue contains all the articles and letters pertaining to the February and March business meetings of the Town and School District. The customary articles and updates about the daily life of the town begin on page 11.*

**Candidates' Night will be in the Cross Room at Town Offices on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:30 pm. Please come to meet, hear and talk to the candidates.**

**TOWN OF BRENTWOOD** On the Web: [www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov)**TOWN 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

**MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY**

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

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310  
 Monday–Thursday 8:00-4:00  
 Friday 9:00-12:00

**PLANNING BOARD**

Phone: 642-6400 X 16  
 Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:30

**SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL**

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

**Notes from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector****From the Tax Collector:**

- Partial payments of your taxes are acceptable.

**From the Town Clerk:**

We have had a problem with our computer program while processing February license renewals. If they were done by **e-reg** they are okay. But if they were sent by mail the figures are probably wrong. Please call for the correct figures – 642-6400, X 14. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you.

- Boat registrations can be done here.
- Dog licenses for 2014 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.

On Tuesday, February 11, the office will close at 4:30. The office will be closed on President's Day, February 17.

*Phyllis Thompson,*  
 Town Clerk & Tax Collector

**Recycling Pickup Dates**

February 11 & 12  
 February 25 & 26

**Notes about Disposal at the Highway Shed****Reminder for items accepted at the Highway Shed:**

Disposal stickers will be required for all items beginning February 1, 2014. Stickers will be available at the Selectmen's Office and will need to be obtained prior to disposal. Disposal stickers will NOT be available at the Highway Shed.

Hours for disposing of **brush and scrap metal** will be **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm to 4pm** and the **FIRST Saturday of every month from 9am to 12pm**. Limited construction and demolition may be disposed of on the **FIRST Saturday** of every month from 9am to 12pm ONLY. Please refer to <http://www.brentwoodnh.gov> for more information or call the Selectmen's Office at 642 6400 x10.

*Karen Clement*  
 Town Administrator

**January Mailing Crew**

Many thanks on behalf of the town to the Brentwood Firemen's Association, who prepared the January issue of the *Newsletter* for mailing. Tim Labonte acted as coordinator.

*Linda Rousseau, Editor*

**Waste Tonnage Figures**

	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
Tons, mixed solid waste	113.16	126.02
Tons, recycled goods	28.19 (19%)	33.58 (21%)

**THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER**

Published 11 times a year by the Brentwood Newsletter Committee,  
 Brentwood, New Hampshire. Circulation 1247.

Linda Rousseau, Editor, 580-2358 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: Friday, February 21**

Mail your articles to Linda Rousseau, 156 Front St., # 417, Exeter, NH 03833,  
 or e-mail to [lindarou@comcast.net](mailto:lindarou@comcast.net)

**Fire Department Apparatus Replacement**

A much-needed plan has been developed into a policy which the Selectmen have adopted for the purpose of replacing fire apparatus. The cost of fire apparatus is a large investment and is a never ending process. The town of Brentwood has never had a policy for replacement of vehicles in the fire Department. Over the years the town has waited to the point that we drastically need several engines at the same time, with the average cost of an engine today at \$400,000 this creates large jumps in our taxes. If we spread the cost out over the years the tax rate will not spike up and down so radically. Truck replacement schedule should start in 2014. The Intention is to spread the cost and age of vehicles out over many years. The large apparatus would have a lifespan of 25 years in this Department. This should save on maintenance cost and downtime that these older vehicles are prone to.

As the schedule shows, in 2014 the Fire Department will be requesting a Quint, which is a combination pumper/ladder truck. This will replace a 35-year-old truck that we bought used in 1979. With the versatility of a Quint, the department is able to perform many jobs at an emergency. It can pump water, fight fires as an engine as well as rescue personnel from upper floors and perform elevated operations as a ladder truck. The ladder on a Quint is more stable than ground ladders and will reach twice as high. This provides for a safer access to the second, third floor and roofs of the taller buildings in town. The ladder can be used as a light tower and also a water tower, flowing large GPM's at any elevation.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides a highly recommended guideline fire departments follow. NFPA 1911 recommends first due apparatus of 15 years and then back up for another 5 to 10 for a total of 25 years. We are exceeding this age by 10 years plus. In the past we have refurbished apparatus at an average cost of \$70,000 to extend the lifespan of the truck. NFPA 1912 requires these refurbished upgrades to bring a truck up to the standard. If we want to be *compliant* this would no longer be a cost-effective alternative.

The following truck replacement schedule identifies the age of our apparatus in 2013, the year and the description of apparatus recommended to be purchased, the age of the apparatus it is replacing, and the estimated cost for the new apparatus.

*Fire Chief Kevin Lemoine*

**Brentwood Fire Department  
Truck Replacement Schedule  
2013**

2013 Apparatus		AGE
E3-	1979 Mack pumper/tanker	34 yrs
E4-	1986 Hahn pumper	27 yrs
R2-	1987 International rescue/pumper	26 yrs
F2-	1992 F350 Forestry	21 yrs
U1-	2009 F350 4 door pick up	4 yrs
E1-	2010 pumper/tanker	3 yrs

  

New	Replace	AGE when REPLACED	Estimated cost
2014 Quint (pumper/ladder)	E3	35 yrs	\$600,000
2020 Rescue/pumper	E4/R2	34/33 yrs	\$500,000
2028 Forestry	Forestry	36 yrs	\$75,000
2029 Utility	Utility	20 yrs	\$50,000
2035 pumper /tanker	E1	25 yrs	\$600,000

Replace ambulances every eight years, maintaining two ambulances. Funding through ambulance account.

2013 Amb.	A1	19 yrs	\$210,000*
2021 Amb.	A2	15 yrs	\$260,000*

\*equipped, stretcher, defibrillator, stair chair

**Achievements**

**Larissa Claar** took a gap year after high school and traveled abroad with the well-known group "Up with People." She traveled for six months with a group of approximately 100 people in the 18-29 age bracket representing 21 countries. They visited 20 communities on several continents, living with a different host family each week, doing community service and dancing in a two-hour show at each location. She is now continuing her education at UNH. Her parents are Deb and David Claar of Northrup Drive.

**Hannah Wellington**, daughter of Mike and Christine Wellington of Rowell Road, has committed to play field hockey for Harvard University class of 2018. A senior at Phillips Exeter, she played varsity field hockey all four years and was captain in her junior and senior years. Hannah played on the Jr. Olympic U-16 team for two seasons, played on many national championship teams with Seacoast United, and is currently in Ecuador as part of a term-abroad program. At Harvard she will pursue Pre-Med with an emphasis on Spanish.

**Robert Glowacky**, son of Thomas and Lauren Glowacky of Northrup Drive, has been named to the Dean's List of Iona College (New Rochelle, NY) for the fall semester of 2013. Robert is a double major in Mass Communications and History.

## Exeter Regional Cooperative School District Budget Advisory Committee

**Changes can be made at Deliberative Session at Exeter High School Thursday Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**

**Final ballot vote is at town elections on Tuesday March 11th.**

As is traditional, you will be offered two options when you vote on the costs of operating the Exeter Region Middle and High School programs along with all the sub-programs our students enjoy (SST, the Great Bay e-Learning Charter School, Adult Ed, Alternative Ed, sports programs, administration, transportation, food services, etc). There will be a proposed and a default budget, the final determination of which is still subject to your approval at the Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Deliberative Session.

At Deliberative Session you will either accept or amend the proposed Coop School District operating budget of \$54,385,508, an increase of 3.2%. The other number that will go on the ballot is the default budget amount of \$53,941,272, an increase of 2.36%. Both budgets represent significant increases, including 1.4 million dollars in costs for Special Education out-of-district placements/programming as well as salary and benefit increases. The difference of \$444,236.00 between the two budgets represents planned capital improvements and plant operations as well as a 3% raise for non-union employees.

For Brentwood residents, the current proposed operating budget represents .655 cents per \$1000 valuation; the default budget represents .517 cents. To determine your approximate tax cost, divide the property valuation number on your tax bill by 1000, then multiply that number by the cents per \$1000. If that makes you tear up, be sure to attend the Deliberative Session as a registered voter, as it is the ONLY opportunity you have to amend this budget.

There are two other appropriations Warrant Articles on the Exeter Region Coop District ballot. The first is a collective bargaining unit (union) three-year contract for 15 administrators (excludes principals), asking for raises of 3% / 2% / 2%. This represents .015 cents/\$1000 valuation this year, and about 10 cents/\$1000 over three years. There are also benefits changes, with a 5% increase in employee assumption of health insurance premium costs. The second collective bargaining unit is also a three-year contract that gives teachers a 2.05% raise in year one, then 1.95% in years two and three. That means .127 cents/\$1000 valuation this year and .76 cents/\$1000 valuation over three years. There are also benefits changes, with a 2% increase in employee assumption of health insurance premium costs in year one and again in year three. Your options on both of these union contract Warrant Articles are to vote "yes" or "no", either awarding or denying these increases for another year.

This is my seventh and final year representing Brentwood as well as the other five towns in SAU 16 on this seven year-old Budget Advisory Committee. We meet monthly from August to December, working closely with the SAU 16 Business Office to develop Exeter High and Cooperative Middle School budgets and appropriations. This ERCSD Budget Committee was initiated by a universally supported Citizen Petition in February 2007, and is an example of how important your input is at Brentwood's only Deliberative Session. It is gratifying to have served on a Board that has such a clear impact, as demonstrated by the shaded area on this graph.

Fiscal Year	Operating Budget	% Increase	Enrollment (EHS, CMS)
04-05	\$ 38,027,905	15.43 %	2957
05-06	\$ 41,060,171	7.97 %	2867
06-07	\$ 45,194,940	10.07 %	2967
07-08	\$ 46,435,840	2.75 %	3010
08-09	\$ 48,150,360	3.69 %	3000
09-10	\$ 47,860,270	-0.60 %	3087
10-11	\$ 48,557,860	1.46 %	3016
11-12	\$48,922,530	0.75 %	3068
12-13	\$50,376,606	2.97 %	3108
13-14	\$52,700,000	4.61 %	3066

I hear that there will be an excellent candidate on the ballot for this position in March.

For information about any of the school budgets, go to: <http://www.sau16.org/index.php/home/2013-01-15-16-03-55> Please feel free to contact me with any specific questions.

*Elyse Seeley* Ph: 778-9411

### 2014-15 Budget for Brentwood Voters

On behalf of Brentwood's Municipal Budget Committee, I have attached a grid summarizing our town's cost impact from Town, Swasey School and the Cooperative School District Operating Budgets (OB) as well as the Warrant Articles (WA) that involve expenses or appropriations. This is one side of the equation: the expense side. Every year we take in revenue to offset these expenses, though the state increasingly cuts into those revenues, and has reduced special funding for schools, capital improvements and new program development, all at the same time. If you ask any town official in our great Granite State, the budgeting process is a lot like running on a treadmill. You get the job done and everything gets slimmed and trimmed; the heart even races, whether from hope, excitement or from sheer terror. But in the end you are barely moving forward.

Last March, at Town and School District meetings and on the ERCSD Coop school ballot, our

**BRENTWOOD TAX IMPACTS 2014-15**

**APPROVED by BUDGET COMMITTEE  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

	AMOUNT		DIFFERENCE from prior year		One year % Increase or Decrease		TAX in cents per \$1000 property valuation		300K property cost estimate	
TOWN OB	\$3,046,926		\$185,001		6.46 %		.3786		\$113.58	
TOWN WA	\$592,501		-\$50,321		-( 7.8 %)		-(.1029)		- (\$30.87)	
BOND WA for Fire Apparatus	Lease-purchase for 5 years <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		No appropriation until 2015 <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		No appropriation until 2015 <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		<b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		<b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>	
<b>TOTAL TOWN</b>	<b>\$3,639,427</b>		<b>\$134,680</b>		<b>3.84%</b>		<b>.2757</b>		<b>\$ 82.71</b>	
SWASEY SCHOOL OB	\$5,455,102		\$278,598		5.38 %		.57		\$171.00	
SWASEY Warrant Article #1 <i>Teacher Contract</i>	\$43,887 first year appropriation		\$43,887, \$65,793, \$64,789 plus benefits changes		2.3% per year for 3 years plus benefits changes		.0898 year one @ .538 cents over three years		\$26.94 @ 161 dollars over three years	
SWASEY SCHOOL WA #2 <i>Full Day Kindergarten</i>	\$120,000 <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		\$120,000 <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		100% <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		.2456 <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>		\$73.68 <b>Not Recommended by Budget Committee</b>	
<b>TOTAL LOCAL SCHOOL</b>	<b>\$ 5,618,989</b>		<b>\$ 442,485</b>		<b>8.55%</b>		<b>.9054</b>		<b>\$271.62</b>	
COOP SCHOOL Operations (WA #1)	Proposed (Yes vote)	Default (No Vote)	Proposed (YES)	Default (NO)	Proposed (YES)	Default (NO)	P	D	P	D
	\$54,385,508	\$53,941,272	\$1,685,508	\$1,241,272	3.2 %	2.36 %	.655	.517	\$196.50	\$155.10
COOP WA (2) administrators cntrct	\$49,613 first year appropriation		\$49,613, \$34,856, \$35,553 plus benefits changes		Year 1: 3 % Years 2,3: 2 % plus benefits changes		.015 year one @ 10 cents over three years		\$ 4.50 @ 30 dollars over three years	
COOP WA (3) teachers contract	\$412,058 first year appropriation		\$412,058, \$631,578, \$570,343 plus benefits changes		Year 1: 2.05% Years 2,3: 1.95% plus benefits changes		.127 year one @ 76 cents over three years		\$ 38.00 @ 230 dollars over three years	
<b>TOTAL COOP</b>	\$54,847,179	\$54,402,943	\$2,147,179	\$1,702,943	4.07%	3.23%	.797	.659	239.10	197.70
<b>Brentwood GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$64,105,595</b>	<b>\$63,661,359</b>	<b>\$2,724,344</b>	<b>\$2,280,108</b>	<b>4.44%</b>	<b>3.71%</b>	<b>\$1.978</b>	<b>\$1.84</b>	<b>\$593.43</b>	<b>\$552.03</b>

COOP COSTS subject to change by voting at Deliberative Session EHS on Feb 6th

Continued from page 4

town's voters said *YES* to an increase of .98 cents per \$1000 / valuation. The Selectmen voted to offset that increase with available money in our general fund surplus, so we actually saw a .64-cent increase in the tax rate. I offer this fact to generate some insight into the process, not to offer a false sense of security. The general surplus, still comprised of our tax dollars, is not a money tree. You can see on this chart (bottom line) that our total tax impact, measuring the increase in tax dollars needed to cover all the new proposed appropriations, is currently about two times last year's increase: \$1.978 / \$1.84 per \$1000 property valuation. Even with the possibility of another offset from surplus fund dollars, you know what a .64 cents/\$1000 increase looked like on your recent tax bill. Now double that.

Now we are fortunate in Brentwood to be able to discuss and change our budgets. Additionally, Deliberative Session for the Exeter Region Coop School District gives us the opportunity to amend the largest operating budget affecting our taxes. I am always amazed at the number of people who choose to not participate in this process. **IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND** as a registered voter, you lose the right to exercise your vote, as well as the right to complain about the outcome!

#### **TOWN**

This year, all town personnel were subject to formal supervisory review. Most departments have proposed employee merit increases, some merely the 2% COLA (cost of living), and some a combination of both. Other than wages and benefits, the department budgets have very small to no increases. The legal expense line is up 68%, and there is advance budgeting for 50% of the Town Assessment that will take place and cost over \$90K in 2015. Warrant Articles are almost identical to last year's, with a 50K decrease in requests. The only disagreement between the governing Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee is over a Warrant Article requesting the five-year lease-purchase of a Fire Department vehicle. This will be discussed in detail and voted by ballot first thing at Town Meeting.

#### **SWASEY SCHOOL**

Swasey School proposes an operating budget up 5.38% from last year, primarily due to Special Education out-of-district tuitions. BudCom discussed at length the decreasing student enrollment and the over-budgeting for classroom teachers, suggesting that the personnel line be trimmed to offset the large increase. Due to the concern regarding unknown actual enrollment figures for 2014-15, we agreed to Recommend the budget proposal approved by the School Board, expecting surplus dollars to be returned to taxpayers if a reduction in force is warranted. Two Swasey School Warrant Articles include a three-year teacher contract (Recommended) and a \$120,000 Full Day Kindergarten (Not Recommended).

The tax impact of all proposed appropriations is estimated on page 5. Please bring your questions and comments, as well as your neighbors, when you come to hear the details at **School District Meeting on Saturday March 8, 9:00 AM** and at **Town Meeting on Saturday, March 15, 9:00 AM**, both at Swasey School.

*Elyse Seeley, Chair  
Brentwood Budget Committee*

For complete budget information and meeting minutes online, please go to: <http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/entities.php?show=2>

### **SCS Update**

#### **Hello from Swasey Central School!**

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, the registered voters of Brentwood will consider a warrant article that may bring full day kindergarten to Swasey Central School. As the principal of the school and chairperson of the Kindergarten Research Committee, I am writing to describe the process, and to briefly summarize the reasons that this committee has recommended a full day kindergarten program for Brentwood. As principal, I believe that a full day program would serve our students best at this time.

The current half-day kindergarten program provided by Swasey is a positive and successful experience, but the pace concerns me and other educators. The 2.5 hours per day that our kindergartners are with us is filled with 'back to back' activities, which are rushed and quickly paced with the demands and expectations for instruction. There isn't much time for deeper exploration and experiences.

In January 2013, the Brentwood School Board formed a committee to research kindergarten programming. The committee included parents, teachers, a school board member, and myself. We held several meetings in public so that stakeholders, including parents and community members, could attend and be part of the process. We created a website, accessible to the public, which displayed our resources and meeting minutes. We discussed the needs of our students and surveyed the community. Ultimately, a full-day program for all students was recommended by the committee and accepted by the school board.

Our kindergarten program should include all of the social time, academic time, play time, and integrated arts time that makes a primary school experience complete, with enough time for students to explore the world around them together. The full day format, which is in place nationally in over 70% of all public schools, would provide all kindergarten students access to all of the activities that occur during our school day and will provide more time to support struggling learners. A

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kindergarten program is a requirement of all public schools in NH, and the committee and school board believes that all Swasey kindergarten students should have this full day experience.

On March 8, 2014 at 9:00am in the SCS gym the voters will come together to consider full day kindergarten. I encourage you to be part of the process.

*Ron W. Kew, Principal*

## To the Editor

### All Day Kindergarten is an Experiment

School Boards are *falling in line* for all day kindergarten -- not because of any proven success, but rather, because they are **following a trend**. Proponents of all day say, "the national and local trends show that full day is the norm." (Brentwood Newsletter, January 2014) We've all fallen victim to cultural pressures or so-called studies that tell us what we should be doing or thinking or buying or eating. But shouldn't we be more vigilant when it comes to the well being of our young children? Fads come and go.

Conversely, traditional kindergarten has a history of success. Swasey's traditional model has been producing happy, healthy, joyful and intelligent children since it began in 1995. And these eager kindergarten grads have transitioned to full day first grade, well-prepared, but more importantly - **eager to learn**. Below are some recollections from Brentwood parents, whose children went to Swasey's traditional kindergarten...

*\*\*\* My children are now in 1st, 5th, 7th and 10th grades. All four children attended a half day kindergarten program; three of them at Swasey. Each of my children thrived in the half day program. Academically, all are sound students and have been so from the onset... A half day program was perfect for them socially, as well. All took naps throughout the year, still napping once or twice a week, even at the end of kindergarten. I am certain that they would not have handled a full day program successfully at that point. The half day also provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with their classmates in a way that I have not seen replicated in older grades. Many wonderful play date and free play opportunities were enjoyed in our free afternoons... I am thankful that we "only" had a half day program in the years when my children went to kindergarten. **In my opinion, it was a joyful entry into "being a kid" and provided a solid academic base. But more importantly, a positive imprint for school.***

*\*\*\* Our children have thrived at Swasey, from kindergarten through 5th grade. They were blessed with experienced, effective and engaging teachers, each and every year. They have both been honors and high*

*honor, my daughter now applying to college and my son in 6th grade. Their start was with half day kindergarten, which was **the perfect balance of academics and social time**, but not school all day at age 5. We support the half day program. Why change what is already working?*

*\*\*\* **The beauty of a traditional kindergarten is the gift of time.** At the end of their school day, my children would come home and we'd have a snack and talk about our afternoon's activities. On rainy days, perhaps we'd watch a movie together. On hot sunny days, maybe a trip to the beach. More often, a play date with a friend, a picnic in the park or a bike ride around the neighborhood. Additionally, both my older children made a smooth and easy transition to first grade and both have continued into middle school with academic success and a love of learning.*

Swasey's traditional kindergarten model serves the children of Brentwood exceptionally well. It offers an appropriate amount of instruction, well suited to the attention and focus of 5 year olds. But it also recognizes that 5 year olds, in order to thrive, require regular unscheduled/unstructured time... to play and explore freely, without direction and at their own pace.

All day kindergarten is an experiment. Traditional kindergarten is a proven success story.

*Jennifer Butenas*

## To The Editor

### Fellow Brentwood Community Members:

In March we will be asked to vote on a warrant article that will decide whether our town will have Full Day Kindergarten or Half Day Kindergarten. My family supports Full Day Kindergarten. Here is why: **"Kids spell 'LOVE' T-I-M-E."** I would like to use the word "time" to discuss why I believe FDK is best for our kids.

### **"T" is for "Teaching"**

At SCS, our kindergarten teachers feel that more time will allow for a more balanced program at a more developmentally appropriate pace. Studies show that full-day kindergarten students have more time and opportunity to play with language, explore subjects in depth, have a more flexible, individualized learning environment, and have more individual and small-group interactions with the teacher and less time in large group instruction than is possible in most half-day classrooms (Martinez and Snider, 2001; Elicker and Mathur, 1997; Hough and Bryde, 1996). When it comes to literacy, studies show sixty-eight percent of full-day classes spent more than an hour per day on reading instruction as compared to 37% of half-day classes (National Center for Education Statistics, 2004).

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### **“I” is for “Impact”**

Research shows that the academic gains made in FDK continue through grade 10. Students enrolled in full-day kindergarten performed better than their half-day kindergarten peers in reading, mathematics, spelling, and English through Grade 3. Those same students performed better on every category of the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills in Grades 3, 5, and 7. Full-day kindergarten students earned higher GPAs than their half-day kindergarten peers in Grades 6 – 8 (Evansville-Vanburgh School Corporation, 1988). In addition, full-day kindergarten students scored an average of seven percentile points higher on standardized tests (Cryan et al., 1992).

### **“M” is for “Milestones”**

Between birth and approximately 6 years of age children’s brains are the most receptive to learning; exposure to a broad range of subject matter feeds their natural curiosity. Studies show that parents who are concerned about fatigue in their full-day kindergarteners quickly find that this is not an issue (Clark, 2001). In addition, the positive effects of full-day kindergarten are the same regardless of the preschool experience of the children (Cryan et al., 1992). In fact, full-day kindergarten has been shown to bridge the gap in the age of kindergarteners. Remarkably, full-day kindergarten students, who were significantly younger than the half-day kindergarten group, scored significantly higher than their half-day counterparts on Basic Concept testing (Westside Community Schools, Nebraska).

### **“E” is for “Expense”**

Full day kindergarten should be part of any quality comprehensive early education program. Swasey has an extra classroom to accommodate the class space needed. The warrant article for \$120,000 represents a teacher’s salary, an educational aide’s salary, and classroom equipment expense. The tax impact for a home assessed at \$400,000 would be approximately \$100 per year. I am sensitive to the increases that we are facing this year as a whole but I believe strongly that our kids, our schools and our community will benefit from full day kindergarten.

Please learn more on the topics discussed by viewing the research collected here:

[sites.google.com /a/sau16.org/scs-full-day-k-committee](http://sites.google.com/a/sau16.org/scs-full-day-k-committee)

[facebook.com/FullDayKindergartenBrentwood](https://facebook.com/FullDayKindergartenBrentwood)

I hope that you will come out and vote on March 8th, 2014.

*Amy Brown*

## **To the Editor**

### **What do Educational Specialists Think about Extending the School Day for Kindergarteners?**

Dr. Nancy Carlsson-Paige is a Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Development at Lesley University. She is a distinguished speaker, prolific author and award-winning, leading expert on Early Childhood Development and Education Policy. In March 2013, a concerned parent asked Dr. Carlsson to comment on a matter before her local Board of Education relating to kindergarten. The following are pertinent excerpts from Dr. Carlsson’s letter to the Board.

*“We understand that you are considering increasing the amount of time devoted to academic instruction in your kindergarten in order to boost the chances that (your) five- and six-year olds will meet the Common Core State Standards.... You should know that the committees that wrote the Common Core Standards for kindergarten and the early elementary grades did not include a single early childhood professional or classroom teacher. The exclusion of teachers and child development experts (from these standards) produced a document that is fundamentally flawed.”*

*“Efforts to increase the time devoted to academics in order to meet these kindergarten standards may raise children’s scores on standardized tests in the short term. But they are likely to undermine the deeper, more important aspects of learning that cannot be reduced to numbers, as well as children’s love of learning and their long-term chances of success in school and in life.”*

*“(these standards) tend to crowd out crucial areas of children’s learning, including active, hands-on exploration and development of social, emotional, problem solving and self-regulation skills.”*

*“We urge you to reject any effort to change your kindergarten based on a mistaken belief in the value of the extremely flawed Common Core State Standards for kindergarten.”*

Many teachers quietly comment that pushing an all day academic program on children at the tender age of five is developmentally inappropriate, but believe they have no real choice in this growing trend.

*Mark Butenas*

## To the Editor

Dear Fellow Brentwood Residents:

I sit here, the night before the deadline for any contributions to the Brentwood Newsletter, finally putting my thoughts to paper. It has been a difficult decision on whether or not I should even be writing this commentary. I feel as though I have to, though... I am writing as a parent, a taxpayer and a Brentwood school board member.

I am coming to the end of my first year on the school board, and what a wild ride it has been! We have experienced very large budgetary surprises with special education, talk of implementing full day kindergarten and teacher contract negotiations. Quite honestly, it can be quite draining, viewing everything I see from the perspective of parent, taxpayer and board member. What I can tell you though, is that I have come to like and respect Mr. Kew and Mr. Morgan very much. Mr. Kew has brought such a breath of fresh air to our elementary school. Our school has high academic standards, but now it is just plain fun to be there at times. On Halloween, the children dressed as their favorite book characters, music filled the air and lifted our spirits, as the children paraded throughout the school. There are monthly shin dings where the children celebrating their birthday that month perform the "Ice Cream and Cake" dance in front of the entire school. Did I mention that Mr. Kew dances with the children at the shin dings! I knew I liked Mr. Morgan from the moment I met him. He obviously has his opinions, but he is able to listen and direct objectively. Mr. Morgan was up for review this past year, I cannot tell you how many people that work for and with him were highly satisfied with him. Mr. Morgan truly juggles a great deal, and it amazes me how he does it all...and is so highly rated (amazes me, but after getting to know him, not surprising). For those of you who are wondering who Mike Morgan may be: he is the Superintendent in SAU 16 (or better known as the guy who calls the snow days)! Although my fellow board members and I do not always agree, I do believe that we all work to do what is best, and I do respect my fellow board members. Which leads me to why I am writing in to the newsletter...

A committee was formed to investigate implementing full day kindergarten in the town of Brentwood. There have been so many varying opinions on this issue. It is such a passionate topic. Unfortunately though, the debate has become quite messy and downright ugly. I have literally seen neighbor against neighbor get quite heated over this topic. Also, much of the heated discussion has taken place on Facebook. I believe when such topics are addressed behind the safety of a computer screen, sometimes people may tend to voice things they may not have normally said. The community is divided and it is time for the healing process to begin. We will be voting on this important

issue at the March 8th School District Meeting. Please come and share your thoughts, opinions and knowledge. Cast your vote! There is so much literature on this topic, that it can be quite overwhelming. I am on the School Board, and I did vote no to recommending/implementing full day kindergarten. No matter which side you are on, we all love our children, and we all need to be respectful of one another.

When you vote, I just ask that you consider a few key points. I am speaking to you as a parent of four children, three of which are currently in the school system. NH does not even require attendance in kindergarten --- period (never mind a full day). NH and Brentwood students continue to lead in academic scoring. Obviously if a child is in school all day, yes they will have higher scores at the end of that year than those children who attended less hours. The concern is that the studies continue to show over and over again, that any academic gains level out by the third grade. So why must a FIVE year old child sit in a classroom all day, if the gains are gone quickly anyway. I don't care whether full day kindergarten costs a dollar more or a dollar less, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY FIVE YEAR SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL ALL DAY! That being said though, this will cost everyone. For example, if your home is valued at \$400,000. You are looking at an additional \$100+ per year in additional taxes for your household, every year for as long as you live in Brentwood.... and for what purpose? Our children are going to spend their entire youth in a classroom, and then go on to work full time. Why do they need to start at a such young age, especially if any gains are lost very quickly, and it costs everyone one of us more money. We continue to hear about the high standards for the kindergartners. Has anyone considered the fact that maybe these standards are just too much! Kindergarten should be about learning your ABCs, learning to stand in line patiently, learning to play appropriately with friends... These days you can't even smuggle a cupcake in to school!

If children are truly ready for a full day kindergarten program at the age of 5, why is it becoming such an overwhelming trend, that a parent will voluntarily hold a child back from starting school, if the child has a summer birthday? These children are routinely/intentionally being held back by parents and not even placed in a Half Day Kindergarten program at the age of 5. This is done for the child to gain an extra year of maturity, and it is referred to as *Redshirting*.

I continue to hear about the Common Core Standards and Full Day Kindergarten. I did ask the NH Education Commissioner Dr. Virginia Barry though, at a presentation on Common Core Standards during October, if extended day kindergarten is enough time to meet the Common Core standards. Dr. Barry stated that it is a community decision and it depends on the quality

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of the program, *but that a 2.5 hour quality program can do it!* I have researched Full Day Kindergarten a great deal. I keep hearing it mentioned, that a high percentage of schools offer Full Day Kindergarten. I found a couple of interesting facts during my research... the first fact is that a 4.5 hour to 6 hour program is considered full day in many areas (so are many areas in fact offering extended day, but due to the verbiage we are led to believe it is a 6 hour full day program)? I also read that if even one school in a district offers full day kindergarten, then the district counts as offering full day kindergarten. I can't help but wonder if this skews the numbers/percentages as well. Just some food for thought!

Please do not misunderstand me, I am not completely opposed to children staying at school a bit longer. If the teachers feel they need more time, then let's consider an extended day and see how that goes. That being said, why not consider an extended day program.... and what a nice way to bring people together. Kindergartners will not be in school all day, but they will have additional time. We could consider a YMCA aftercare program for any parents/children that may need it. I just feel that everything is all or nothing right now, you have to pick full or half day, and it is so final. Let's put our heads together and think of options that work for the entire community!

I know your time is valuable, and I cannot thank you enough for taking time out to read this article.

No matter how you may feel about Half Day versus Full Day kindergarten, please come and exercise your right to vote on March 8th. What a beautiful thing...we are given the opportunity to share our thoughts and opinions with others that morning and then vote (and actually have a say in the outcome)!!!

*Melissa A. Litchfield*

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## To the Editor

### **Support SB 2 Brentwood Citizens**

The unsustainable spending of our elected officials in Washington D.C. has put our country on a trajectory of insolvency. Sadly Washington DC's culture of corruption, deception and wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars has trickled down to our locally elected officials in the town of Brentwood and the SAU Cooperative School District.

Our elected officials have become masterful in the use of trickery and deception to convince taxpayers' to support the town and school districts' voracious appetite for property owners' tax dollars. They do not represent

us, they want us to desperately believe they do, but they do not.

How do they facilitate this illusion? The SAU16 School District presents a budget that is slightly less than the default budget, some choice huh? How about Swasey Central School? At its most populated there were 407 children while today there are roughly 340 and there has been no meaningful cuts to lessen the burden for many property owners struggling to make ends meet. Last year there was a miniscule decrease that was pushed for by the Budget committee. The response was a Warrant Article to eliminate this board because they dared to reduce the "sacred cow" Swasey budget. It is quite apparent that no reasonable and responsible reduction will be acceptable.

The teacher, para-professional and administration contracts expire in 2014. The local school contracts are in the works and the town has identified colas and merit increases slated for implementation.

The rest of us continue to struggle to make ends meet to keep their homes from foreclosure, while town and school officials continue their spending sprees, oblivious to the burden they afflict upon hardworking taxpayers

Have we got your attention, we hope so because there is a lot more to cover and the time to make a stand is now. We have the power if we unite to stop the town and school districts' reckless fiscal policies by attending the meetings in March. We cannot continue on this course, Washington DC and the New Hampshire State House have abandoned us and our local elected officials refuse to listen, we the true legislators must be the adults and control our destiny. We must restore fiscal sanity and common sense solutions.

We will be submitting two petitions for SB 2 one for the Town and the other for the SAU 16 School District, We ask for Brentwood Citizens' support so all legally registered Brentwood voters may take part in the election process.

### **We urge all citizens of Brentwood to join us and attend these meetings.**

Thank you,

*Jim Berlo & Jim Johnson*

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## **An Interview with Mark Constance**

Mark S. Constance, a resident of Brentwood, is a professional 2nd AD (Assistant Director) with years of experience on major film sets. He most recently worked on the film "Captain Phillips" that was directed by Paul Greengrass and starred Tom Hanks. The film has already received quite some buzz for awards. Mark was kind enough to sit down with me and talk a bit about his career and his experience on the set of "Captain Phillips."

### **What were some of the shooting locations of "Captain Phillips"?**

The film was literally shot around the world!  
 Malta: *Maersk Alabama* ship on the water.  
 London: *Maersk Alabama* ship interiors and some interior lifeboat.  
 Boston: Phillips family home, airport departure and arrival.  
 Norfolk & Virginia Beach, VA: Phillips rescue and all Navy related shooting.  
 Morocco: Stood in for Somalia.

### **Part of your job as an AD is dealing with the actors on a regular basis. What were some of the challenges on the set of "Captain Phillips" as far as dealing with the actors?**

Hanks was an actor, Keaner was an actor. The Seals were real Navy Seals, so on that basis you have to deal with them differently. Because these guys weren't necessarily real actors who could understand it all, I pretty much dealt with them. Not that you shirk the responsibility, but you all have the job that you're doing and so for me I would say, the first time the contacts are made, it would always be me. I would talk to the actors, explaining, this is what we are doing. But with these guys it was really hard -- like the pirates, they don't get the lingo, and they don't have the handlers to take care of them.

### **Talk a bit about the pirates in the film.**

The pirates were really interesting. They were Somalians living in Minneapolis and had been cast through an open call there. They were all friends and had gone to the casting call together. They caught the eye of casting director Francine Maisler. She brought the idea of their being friends to the director, Paul Greengrass, and he loved it. The crazy thing about them is that two of them have the same name, Barkhad Abdi. We called them Big B and Little B. Big B has been nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Golden Globe and Little B turned 18 while we were shooting in Virginia. It is always funny to see the Pirates having lunch with the Seals or hanging out with them on set when we were in between setups!

### **Describe an experience with the Navy and their ships.**

Once in prep we were supposed to meet a Navy destroyer that was traveling south down the East Coast about 25 miles offshore. The meet was to take place at 12 midnight and we set out of Virginia Beach around 9:30pm. There was a storm offshore and the winds were howling and the water was very rough. We had about 15 people in a civilian boat headed to the destroyer. We were close to the rendezvous spot and we wondered if we had gone to the wrong spot, when all of a sudden we realized the destroyer was right next to us. We never saw it in the darkness (just like the Navy wants!!) and when we did it was one of the most impressive feelings I've ever had. The crazy thing is that we never boarded the destroyer because our Marine and Safety Coordinator for the show would not let us, due to the extreme seas and weather. It wouldn't have been worth someone falling in the water while trying to board the ship via a ladder.

### **Tell me a little bit about working with Tom Hanks.**

He's a total professional, a great guy. One day we were sitting there rigging for a car scene. He pulled out a picture and said, "Hey look, this is my grandson." I had worked with his son Colin before so we were talking about Colin and his grand kids. You don't get that a lot.

### **Describe the challenges between shooting on location versus a studio or local setting.**

I think that sometimes going away is easier. You're all based in the same hotel, you're not chasing down the crew and the actors. When you're shooting in LA or New York, you have to find these guys; as soon as you wrap they are gone. If you are shooting on location and everyone is in the same place, even if they aren't working that specific day, you know where they are.

There's a lot less pressure when you're not at home. When you're at home you think about people you need to call and bills you have to pay. When you're away it's all about work. When you work six months out of the year, you have worked the entire year because of the hours you put in. It's very hard to be away from my family, but once I'm home, I'm home. I get to see all my kid's games, and go to all the plays.

### **Describe working with the Director Paul Greengrass.**

Paul wants someone from the AD department right next to him. Most of the time he's telling that person, have so and so do this, camera operators mostly. Paul likes to shoot with multiple cameras that are continuously filming. The camera operators have headsets on so Paul can give them directions. As far as an AD's job on this particular set, we were on a ship so extras couldn't go too far, which helped. Paul is very respectful of everyone and knows what everyone does on set. He

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came from a world of small crews and trying to get a lot done, and he's made his way. The budget for Captain Phillips was 55 million but to me that sounds crazy because it feels like a 150 million dollar movie.

*David Claar, Jr.*

Note: *David Claar, Jr., whose parents are Deb and David Claar of Northrup Drive, graduated last year from Full Sail University, Winter Park, Florida, from an intensive full-time two-year program with a Bachelor of Science in Film. He is currently living in Framingham, Massachusetts, working full time as a video receiving specialist at [borrowlenses.com](http://borrowlenses.com). Many thanks to him for interviewing Mark Constance. – Editor.*

## To the Editor

### Thank You for the Safety Visit



My name is Alison Wright and I work with people with developmental disabilities for LifeShare on the Seacoast. ([www.lifeshareinc.org](http://www.lifeshareinc.org))

On January 8 the Brentwood Fire Department came out to the Brentwood Community Center and acted as our guest speakers for a class I was teaching on safety. The Fire Department brought over a fire truck and an ambulance. Our folks were able to take a tour of each vehicle. The Fire Fighters and one EMT also gave our group a very informative class about safety.

On behalf of LifeShare I wanted to thank the staff at the Brentwood Fire Dept. -- Heather, Joe, Ben and Albert -- for making our group's day!

Sincerely,  
*Alison Wright*

Activity and Employment Specialist  
LifeShare Management Group, Inc., Portsmouth, NH

## Thank You, Brentwood !

The 2014 Christmas Tree Limo Service was a huge success, once again!

On Saturday, January 4th, Mother Nature was very good to us with a beautiful, sunny day, as we collected 49 trees throughout Brentwood. Boy Scout Troop 322 received over \$600 in donations, which will be used toward camping, day trips and even some needed equipment for rank requirements.

Very special thanks to our dedicated drivers, Matt Eaton, Jim Austin, Mark Shilladay and John Scippa. And, more special thanks to their ride-along helper scouts, Charlie Eaton, Michael Clements, Gavin Shilladay, and Andrew McElroy.

2013 has been a very busy year for Troop 322. The boys have been on many weekend camping trips within New Hampshire; a long weekend at West Point Military Academy, New York; a week-long trip to Hidden Valley Scout Reservation in Gilmanton Ironworks, New Hampshire; and a week-long trip to Camp Sequassen in Connecticut.

Three of our older scouts have been working toward their Eagle Rank this year: **Wyatt Merrill** -- Kensington Fire Dept Smokey the Bear project; **Jason Sisk** -- Brentwood Historical Society porch and patio project; and **Lincoln Lawry** -- Brentwood MEB Library shed ramp, garden bench and landscaping project.

Troop 322 can't thank you all enough for keeping the Christmas Tree Limo going. We really enjoy this fundraiser and are pleased to hear how much you all look forward to us coming each year. Please watch for us next year. Only 10 months left until Christmas!

*Pam McElroy*

## Swasey Central School Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be five years old by September 30, 2014, and you will be sending him/her to Swasey School Kindergarten, please call the Swasey School office (642-3487) and give them your child's name, address, telephone/cell number, date and place of birth.

## Swasey Central School First Grade

If you have a child who will be six years old by September 30, 2014, and has not been attending Swasey School Kindergarten, but will be coming to first grade in the fall, please call the Swasey School Office (642-3487) and give them your child's name address, telephone/cell number, date and place of birth.

*Genevieve Rowe, Administrative Assistant  
Swasey Central School*

## More from Swasey Central School

### Art

First graders –practicing fine motor skills using scissors and glue to make collages.

Second graders – using pastel and pencil on a technique called transfer drawing.

Third grade students -- learning about the life and artwork of Vincent Van Gogh.

Fourth graders -- drawing in a celestial theme using suns, stars and moons.

Fifth graders -- using a radial symmetry design created with a compass.

Every lesson focuses on using and caring for all materials in a responsible way in the art room.

**Library News** – Using the 2014 Winter Olympics to practice research, third, fourth and fifth grade students will focus on the participating countries, learn more about the athletic events, or choose an athlete to profile - using a variety of resources including books, online magazines, World Book Online, and of course the official Olympics website, <http://www.olympic.org/sochi-2014-winter-olympics>

Second graders used the book Me...Jane by Patrick McDonnell, the life of Jane Goodall, as a mentor text to begin a journey into becoming “experts” at something. Using the library’s resources, students discovered a topic of interest to them, and modeled Jane’s research methods.

First graders, studying nonfiction; noticed how sometimes fiction books contain some factual information, and that many authors do research before writing a story.

**Grade 1.** Made donations to the SPCA, which visited them in January with pets. Researching what country their families came to America from, with map study, posters and non-fiction books. Next, studying the eight phases of the moon.

**Grade 3.** Learning about continents, oceans, biomes, the specific adaptations of plants and animals to these areas. Study of vertebrate animals included a visit from Wildlife Encounters. Working on multiplication and division, and complex problems. Writing informational articles.

**Grade 5.** Students are immersing themselves in project-based learning that involves a blend of science, technology, engineering, and math. The 5th grade also participated in a National Hour of Code project that exposed them to the field of computer programming. In reading they have shifted their focus to Determining Importance. Writing includes note-taking skills, personal narratives, and informational text.

## Swasey Parent Faculty Group

The Swasey Parent Faculty Group (PFG) would like to thank all who saved their Box Tops which funded the **new shade structure** adjacent to the school playground. Now there is a wonderful place to get out of the direct sun. It was built during the fall and looks great! This was completely funded by Box Tops! Remember that each Box Top is worth 10 cents! That adds up over the years and has funded this wonderful structure.

Do you enjoy professional hockey? Come join the PFG on March 8th at the next Community Event. There is a dedicated section for our group -- how much fun to watch good hockey with your family and friends. Fireworks after the game! It is American Pride Day, so wear red, white and blue. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information coming soon. Stay warm.

*Sheila S. Lane*

## FFA Chapter -- Seacoast School of Technology

In the fall, 23 members of the SST--FFA Chapter helped with the Pumpkin Patch in Exeter. **Heather Berlo** attended the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts, competing in both the regional FFA Dairy Showmanship career development event as well as representing the State of N.H. as a State Star. The Deerfield Fair had the members busy with Dairy Showmanship, with **Elise McNaughton, Danielle Woodman, Taylor Boucher and Emily Rieder** stepping into the ring to show dairy cattle. **Rachel Georato and Tia Marotto-Potvin** participated in dairy judging as both the novice and senior teams came in first place. On the other side of the fairgrounds the SST-FFA Forestry Team was busy with **Manuel and Miguel Catala** chopping logs for axe split, cross cut and bow saw events.

In October, the Chapter competed at UNH, winning the State Dairy Judging Event with **Danielle Woodman** on the team. The Horticulture team also came back with the first place trophy.

Next was a trip to Louisville, Kentucky in early November to attend the 86th National FFA Convention with 56,000 other FFA members. **Manuel Catala** came home with a bronze medal for Marketing, **Miguel Catala** with a silver medal for Agricultural Communications, and **Heather Berlo** with a silver for Dairy Showmanship. Other SST teams competed and earned medals in: Horse Judging a bronze, Agricultural Sales a bronze, Prepared Public Speaking a bronze and Job Interview a silver.

In December 35 members made a float and walked in the Exeter Holiday Parade. The Chapter mailed out 70 holiday cards to troops overseas and had a successful holiday wreath sale at Tractor Supply on Route 125. Thank you to all in the community who support the SST~FFA Chapter.

*Anne DeMarco*

*Animal and Plant Science Teacher/FFA Advisor*

## New Full Time Firefighter



Benjamin Roesch, who became the newest addition to Brentwood's fire fighting team in September 2013, is a 26-year-old young man with an engaging smile and an enthusiasm for his work. Ben completed his training at the New Hampshire Fire Academy and has been a fire fighter for six years, having started his career in Madbury, NH. Ben lives in Hampton and when asked what he

likes about his job says, "I like going to work (as a firefighter) every day because it is rewarding to be able to help people." While giving me a tour of the three-year-old Firehouse, Ben described the advantages of the engines and rescue vehicles that serve our community.

Brentwood has approximately 700 calls a year for service -- 400 for medical aid and 300 mixed fire/ motor vehicle accidents and alarms. We also provide mutual aid (reciprocal) with several towns including Epping and Kingston. Ben and Joe Bird (deputy chief) are the two permanent employees who staff the Firehouse during the week. In addition there are also on-call staff and volunteers as well. Brentwood is very lucky to have a knowledgeable, capable fire fighter like Ben in our Firehouse.

*Deb O'Connor*

## Historical Society

The Historical Society will hold a business meeting at the Museum at **10:00 am on Thursday, February 13**. Projects and programs for the coming year will be discussed.

Membership dues of \$5.00 per person were due in January. Many thanks to those who have mailed their dues to the secretary. Those who have not paid may send their checks to Mr. Albert E. Belanger, Secretary, Brentwood Historical Society, 128 Middle Road, Brentwood 03833.

The Museum is always available for visits by appointment. For information call Alma Vahey, president, at 679-8635.

## Resident Firefighter

Albert Kozacka, 19, is our resident firefighter and EMT at the Brentwood Firehouse where he is living when he is not at school. This "live in" program has been successful in many New Hampshire towns to provide coverage during hours that the Firehouse is not staffed. Albert is studying Fire Science at the Lakes Region Community College and will graduate in 2015. He comes

from a firefighting family -- his father is Fire Chief in South Hampton and his sister is also an EMT. Albert already has two years of volunteer firefighting experience in South Hampton, where he grew up. Although it is a long commute (1 hour and 20 minutes) to school, Albert enjoys living at the Brentwood Firehouse where he can network and learn from the other firefighters.



*Deb O'Connor*

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*Many thanks to Deb for doing these interviews with Ben and Albert – Editor.*

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## Sympathy

Sincere sympathy and friendship are extended to the family of **Stanley Styrna**, 94, of North Road, who died January 6 at his home. Born and raised in Nashua, he graduated in engineering from UNH in 1941. He served in the US Army from 1941-1946 in anti-aircraft and in the infantry. He worked as a mechanical engineer for 33 years at General Electric in Fitchburg, Mass. and taught electricity to disadvantaged children in Lecomister. A celebration of his life will be held at his home in April.

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of **Evelyn R. Wilson**, 77, formerly of Mill Road, who died January 18 at Exeter Hospital. Born in Biddeford, ME, a longtime school teacher and accomplished crafts person, she is remembered here with great affection for the eight years when she and her husband Bob owned and operated Lindy's Country Store.

## The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

This month we have so many ways for you to escape cabin fever! Join us at the library, where Brentwood residents connect, explore, discover and grow. Here are a few of our offerings for February:

Some foods just go well together, like milk and cookies or wine and cheese. Here's your chance to learn about another great culinary combination: **Danielle Beaudette** of *The Cozy Tea Cart* and certified Tea Specialist will offer a lecture on **Pairing Tea with Chocolate** on Thursday, **February 13 at 7pm!** During this interactive lecture, folks will learn about the types of tea that pair well with chocolate, discover the similarities between cocoa bean and tea plant production, and sample 5 different specialty teas along with sumptuous chocolate of varying cocoa content. Please stop by the library or give us a call so we may include your name on the guest list. **Only those with reservations will be guaranteed a taste**, as the teas and chocolate samples must be prepared ahead of time. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Grab a Great Course to Go!** Want to know more about Famous Greeks, Great Battles of the Ancient World, or Famous Romans? Thanks to our generous Trustee Douglas Mansfield, now you can. Doug recently donated several **Great Courses™** audio lectures to our collection. Patrons may continue their lifelong learning endeavors by listening to college-level course lectures given by world-renowned professors. Stop by to borrow one of our new CD sets today!

Winter Senior Cinema has returned to the library. This month, join us for tea and a treat on **Wednesday afternoons at 1:30** as we visit the world of **Downton Abbey Season 4** in the comfort of the cozy Marilyn Morehead Room. (Carson not included.)

Knitters and crocheters are invited to join us on **Tuesdays from 1–3pm** for beginning instruction or to work on an ongoing project alongside other crafters. **Nighttime Knitting** with Jacqueline will be held on **February 13 and February 27 at 7pm**.

Calling all Mr. Darcy fans! **Ladies Night Movie** will occur on Thursday, **February 20 at 7pm**. We'll be showing the romantic comedy "**Austenland**" [PG-13] starring Keri Russell. It's the tale of a young American woman who spends her life savings on a dream vacation at an English resort catering to fans of Jane Austen.

Speaking of vacations, we've planned a few activities during the February school break which your children may enjoy. On Tuesday, **February 25 at 10:30am**, the Friends will sponsor "**Get Eaten by an Inflatable Whale!**" On **February 26 from 10:30 - Noon**, students in Grade 3 and up are invited to make **Amazing Snowflakes** under the direction of Randi Mulqueen. No registration is required, but participants must be able to handle sharp scissors without assistance.

On Friday, **February 28 at 10:30am** we'll show "**Free Birds**" [PG] starring the voices of Woody Harrelson and Owen Wilson. This is the animated tale of two turkeys travelling back in time in order to change history and get turkey off of future holiday menus.

The **Brentwood Bookers** will be meeting on Monday, **February 24 at 7pm** to discuss *The 100-Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson. Copies of this book with the long title are available at the front desk.

Please note that **the library will be closed** on Monday, **February 17** in honor of **President's Day**. For the latest library news and events, including inclement weather closings, be sure to check out our website at **www.brentwoodlibrary.org**.

*Betsy Solon, Library Director*

## Friends of the Library

The Friends will be offering a "whale" of a program on **Tuesday, February 25 at 10:30**. The library will host a program with a life size, inflatable whale. This is a great interactive program that will teach your children about marine life and whale research.

Upon entering the library you will see a Friends--sponsored table with new travel books. Just in time to plan your school holiday breaks, so be sure to stop by and check out all the wonderful places to visit.

As a reminder, please take a few minutes to view the passes that are available at the library. There are some great locations throughout New England. It does not have to cost a fortune for the whole family to have a day out and enjoy what this area has to offer.

The Friends would like to thank Kathy Upson for all her help and support over the past several years. She has consistently given her time and baking skills for several events we host during the year. In appreciation of her efforts we have presented her with a Mary Bartlett Library fleece blanket.

Our next Friends meeting is **Thursday, February 13, at 9:30**. We would love to welcome some fresh ideas, so please think about joining us for the next meeting. We cannot offer these wonderful programs without help and support; any offer to help would be appreciated.

If you are interested in receiving email reminders about upcoming events simply email [marybartlett76@yahoo.com](mailto:marybartlett76@yahoo.com) and we would be happy to add you to our list. We do not share this information with anyone else.

*Cheryl Scott*

## Brentwood Recreation News

### Youth BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

Registration for our spring Baseball and Softball programs begins January 27. **Sign-up deadline is February 25.**

Our Farm and AAA teams will again play in the Diamond League (East Kingston, Kingston, Kensington and Fremont) and our Softball teams play in the Seacoast Fast Pitch league. T-Ball will play only in Brentwood. Sign-up forms are available in the Recreation office and on our website. You can also register online.

**T-Ball** (5 yr. by 9/30/13) **\$30**  
**Farm** (7yr. by 4/30/14) **\$40**  
**AAA** (8 & 9 yr. by 4/30/14) **\$45**

**U8 Softball** (7yrs. by 1/1/14) **\$50**  
**U10 Softball** (8yr. by 1/1/14) **\$70**  
**U12 Softball** (12yr. or younger on 1/1/14) **\$70**  
**U14 Softball** (14yr. or younger on 1/1/14) **\$70**

**Field Clean-Up Day: scheduled for Saturday, April 5.**

Little League and Babe Ruth registration will be through EJBL and Exeter Babe Ruth [www.leaguelineup.com/ejbl](http://www.leaguelineup.com/ejbl)

### YOGA & NUTRITION CLASS

**Tuesday Evenings 6:30-7:45pm \$64/ eight weeks**  
 Drop-ins always welcome at \$10/class.

Offered by Alicia Rossman RND, RYT owner of Let's Get Movin'! For adults (kids 10+ are welcome to join). Starts with nutrition education, followed by movement to help strengthen and stretch the body, improve balance, flexibility, and focus. Beginners welcome! No experience necessary. Registration is ongoing; you can join at any time. Register at class.

Session 1: Jan 7, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4  
 Session 2: March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
 Session 3: May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24,  
 Session 4: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug 5, 12, 19  
[www.letsgetmovin.com](http://www.letsgetmovin.com)

### COYOTE CLUB Outdoor Wilderness Class Spring Session

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! Designed for kids grade K-5.

Spring session dates to be announced  
 The six week course runs afternoons from 3:15-4:30pm.  
**Cost is \$65** Space is limited.

### SENIORS

**“Join us for Chair Yoga!”** Join us at the Brentwood Community Center the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 10:00am. This gentle movement helps seniors improve range of motion, flexibility, and balance and

relieve aches and pains. You will gain strength and confidence in yourself and feel better with the support of others around you! No experience necessary.

### Up-Coming Events...

● **We're going to Foxwoods Casino in April – Watch for the date!**

● **Egg Hunt and Bunny Breakfast** will be held at the Community Center/ Recreation Area (Route 125) on Saturday, April 19. Egg Hunt starts at 8:45am sharp! Breakfast follows at 9:00am

● **Archery Class** – (Spring dates to be announced)

● **Engineering with Lego** camp June 23 – 27)

Pre Engineering for ages 5-7 and Engineering Fundamentals for ages 8-11.

● **Soccer Skills Camp** with Challenger Sports (Aug. 18 -22) and Registration has already begun online at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com)

● **Surf Camp:** (July dates to be announced)

● **Babysitter Training Course** – Thursday, August 7, 9am--4pm.

### 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.

### RECREATION WEBSITE

Check out the Recreation pages on the town website, [www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov). Forms are there to be downloaded for your convenience, as well as other important information about current programs and events.

*Margaret Dullea, Recreation Director*  
 (603) 642-6400 ext. 20 [recreation@brentwoodnh.gov](mailto:recreation@brentwoodnh.gov)  
 Office hours: Mon. Tues. & Thurs. 8:30am-3:30pm

## Brentwood Seniors

The next meeting of the Seniors will be on **Wednesday, February 26** at the Recreation Center. It will be a potluck luncheon. Members should arrive between 11 and 11:30 for appetizers and conversation. The business meeting will begin at 11:30, after which the buffet will be open. The entertainment for the day will be a “Pound Party”/auction. Bring a white elephant-type item for the sale, gift-wrapped or hidden in a bag. The old-fashioned Pound Party is always fun.

Membership dues of \$7.00 per person were due in January. Marion Arkell, treasurer, will be happy to receive dues from anyone who has not yet paid.

## Willow Pond Community Farm

On Middle Road, diagonally across from Swasey School in Brentwood. (603) 778-8881



Farmer Glenn Preston (207) 751-1302

The food value can't be beat, but the experience is priceless. Families make it an outing where the kids enjoy the unique pleasures of pick-and-pop-it-in-your-mouth beans, cherry tomatoes, peas, ground cherries (husk tomatoes), and more. They can run and play to their hearts' content, discover the mysteries of the pond and delight in the bull frog's unique sound, play in the sandbox, and help with farm tasks. Families come together at farm events like a spring and fall potluck – held on right on the farm at long tables – ice cream socials, the potato or garlic harvest and more.

"Willow Pond" is unique in that it doesn't "just" grow fresh, local, organic food. It fosters farmers and gardeners. While the average age of a farmer in the US is now well over 60, Willow Pond has fostered four farmers, numerous gardeners. That is why every member is asked to participate in the work of the farm, supporting our farmer and helping him or her develop their skills. Glenn Preston is our third head farmer, having come to us with considerable skills, while developing further his abilities to run a farm of his own. The Core Group, which includes both founding members and newer members, supports the farmer and farm.

Come be a part of this grand work. Get a weekly bundle of the most local of fresh, organic veggies, herbs, and flowers. Give yourself and your kids a chance to connect to great food, like-minded families, and a hard-working, knowledgeable farmer. A few spots are open for new members for 2014. Call Joanie Pratt at 778-8286.

[www.willowpondfarm.org](http://www.willowpondfarm.org) (Core Group: Patti Andrews, Jamie Duggan, Bob Gilbert, Chris & Deb McLarnon, Rob McGregor, Joanie Pratt, and Andrea Sweet).

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*A Brentwood Newsletter Business Article*

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### Brentwood Gardeners

The January meeting of the Gardeners started with delicious bowls of chili and all the accompaniments. We then went around the table and listened as each member told about something especially good that happened at Christmas – family, food, whatever – that they might want to repeat another year. Everyone's account was different and fascinating!

The program was presented by our own member Amy Robinson. The subject was "Succulents." She had a charming array of small plants for us to see, and excellent information on how to plant them and keep them flourishing in our homes. Thank you, Amy.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Room of the **Pilgrim Church** on Middle Road. The program will be on Birds and Birdhouses – bringing the birds you want to see to your yard, which birdhouses to put out for them, and how to get the birds to use them! To answer those questions, John Dodge of the Dodge Agway stores will be with us, bringing his knowledge and his easy, interesting manner

of speaking. Another night to look forward to. Visitors are welcome and new members may join at any time. For those who did not pay their dues in January, the membership fee of \$15 per person will be received by Gladys Ray, treasurer.

*Linda Rousseau, Co-chair*

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### Sympathy

Sincere sympathy and friendship are extended by their friends and neighbors to the family of **M. Edward "Eddie" Burt, 85**, of South Road, who died January 24, 2014. Born in Exeter, he attended first Kingston and then Brentwood elementary schools as the family farm home was moved across the Kingston line to Brentwood. He served with distinction in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Marine Corps. His career included logging, construction, owning The Epping Tractor Service, golf course construction, much volunteer construction work for churches and town cemeteries, road and pond construction, and the creation and donation to the state of Northwood Meadows State Park on U.S. Route 4 in Northwood.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Feb. 6 Cemetery Trustees – 4:00 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Office Building  
**Exeter Coop. School District Deliberative Session** – Exeter High School, 7:00 pm.  
**Public Hearing for Brentwood Town and School Budgets – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Off. Bldg.**  
 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, **Sanborn Room**, Town Office Building
- Feb. 10 Library Trustees – 6:30 pm, Bartlett Library
- Feb. 11 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building.
- Feb. 12 Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 13 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Memorial Library  
 Historical Society – 10 am, business meeting, Museum  
**“Pairing Tea with Chocolate” – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library.** Reservation required for tasting.
- Feb. 18 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
 Swasey Parent Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library  
 Brentwood Gardeners – 7:00pm, **“Bird Habitat and Bird Houses,”** John Dodge speaker, Pilgrim Church
- Feb. 19 **Candidates Night – 7:30 pm, Cross Room,** Town Office Building
- Feb. 20 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
**Ladies Night at the Movies – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library, “Austenland”**
- Feb. 24 Brentwood Bookers – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library. *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window..*
- Feb. 25 **“Get Eaten by an Inflatable Whale – 10:30 am, Bartlett Library**  
 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
 Recreation Commission – 6:30 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Office Building
- Feb. 26 **Amazing Snowflakes – 10:30-Noon,** guided by Randi Mulqueen, Bartlett Library  
 Brentwood Seniors – 11:00 am, Community Center. Pot Luck buffet and Pound Party
- Feb. 28 **“Free Birds” – 10:30 am, Bartlett Library**
- Mar. 3 School Board – 6 pm, Swasey School Library  
 Trails Committee – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building  
 Firemen’s Association – 7:30 pm, Fire House
- Mar. 4 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Mar. 6 Cemetery Trustees – 4:00 pm, Sanborn, Town Office Building  
 Planning Board meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Mar. 8 **Brentwood School District Meeting – 9:00 am, Swasey Central School**

**The public is welcome at all above events**

The Brentwood Newsletter  
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