

# Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXVIII No. 3

Brentwood, New Hampshire

March 2014

## The Town and School Meetings

This *Newsletter* is arriving just before the town heads into a two-week period of annual business meetings, voting and elections. All the articles and letters about those events are in the first part of the issue – grouped as much as possible around the business meeting they pertain to. The second half contains the customary articles and updates about the daily life of the town.

The dates, times and locations of the town and school meetings:

**Brentwood School District Meeting – Saturday, March 8, 9:00 AM, Swasey School Gymnasium. Discussion & voting on Swasey Warrant Articles, including the Swasey School budget.**

**Election Day – Tuesday, March 11, polls open from 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the Brentwood Community Center, 190 Route 125. Voting by ballot for:**

1. Town officers & Town Zoning Amendments.
2. Brentwood School District Officers.
3. Cooperative School District officers and Warrant Articles, including the Coop District budget.

**Brentwood Town Meeting – Saturday, March 15, 9:00 AM, Swasey School Gymnasium. Discussion & voting on Town Warrant Articles, including the Town budget.**

## The Town Report

The Town Meeting warrant articles, as well as the School District warrant articles, the annual reports of the town and school officers and department heads, and a great deal more, are published in the annual **Town Report**. Every household is entitled to a Town Report. It may be picked up now at the Town Office Building.

Copies will also be available at the School District Meeting on Saturday, March 8; at the Community Center on Election Day, Tuesday, March 11; and at the Town Meeting Saturday, March 15. After that copies will always be available at the Town Office Building.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

### The School District Warrant Articles

The Brentwood School District Meeting on Saturday morning, March 8 will have six warrant articles for the voters' consideration. Following is a summary:

1. To raise and appropriate the Municipal Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$5,455,102.00 for the support of schools, payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents, and the statutory obligations of the District. The School Board recommends \$5,455,102.00. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. (Majority vote required)

2. Shall the District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Brentwood School Board and the Brentwood Teacher Association covering the three-year period from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2017 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2014-15	\$ 43,877
2015-16	\$ 65,793
2016-17	\$ 64,789

and further raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,877 for the 2014-15 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year? Pursuant to RSA 273-A:12, if approved, the terms of this collective bargaining agreement, including the pay plan will continue in force and effect until a new agreement is executed. (Majority vote required) (The School Board and the Municipal Budget Committee recommend this appropriation.)

3. Shall the District approve expanding of the current kindergarten program to full time and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$120,000 for this purpose? (Majority vote required) (The School Board recommends this appropriation and the Municipal Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation.)

**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>

**Recycling Pickup Dates**

March 11 & 12  
 March 25 & 26

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

- If you are transferring plates on your vehicle, please remember to bring in the old registration certificate. If there is no registration when transferring plates, it will cost \$17.50 for a duplicate.
- Applications for **Absentee Ballots** are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Ballots must be returned by Monday, March 11, at 5:00 pm.
- A reminder that boats may be registered at the Town Clerk's office.
- Partial payments on taxes are accepted.
- The office will be closed on March 8 and March 15 for the School District and Town Meetings.

*Phyllis Thompson*

**Rabies Clinic**

There will be a rabies clinic at the Brentwood Fire Department **on Saturday, April 5 from 9 am to noon.** The Town Clerk's office will also be open at that time if you want to stop in and register your dogs.

**Fire Department Information Meeting**

There will be an informational meeting on fire department apparatus and the need for a replacement schedule. Questions about our current apparatus and the needs for the future will be reviewed and explained. The meeting will be held **Wednesday, March 12, 7 PM at the fire station.** All residents are encouraged and welcome to attend.

*Fire Chief Kevin Lemoine*

**Supervisor of the Checklist**

The Supervisors of the Checklist for the Town of Brentwood, NH are seeking a Brentwood resident to fill an open Supervisor position. Supervisor of the Checklist is an elected position for a term of 6 years. The Supervisors are responsible for maintaining an up-to date and correct voter checklist. We are looking for someone who is available during the day and also has good computer skills. If interested, contact Mary Clancey at 642-3280 or email [mlancey@yahoo.com](mailto:mlancey@yahoo.com).

*Mary Clancey*

**Waste Tonnage Figures**

	Dec.	Jan.
Tons, mixed solid waste	126.02	147.59
Tons, recycled goods	33.58 (21%)	24.80 (16.8%)

**THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER**

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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 April Issue: Friday, March 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)

Continued from page 1 – School District Meeting

4. To engage in public discussion regarding the proposal to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Brentwood School District on the second Tuesday of March? (By Petition)
5. To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers heretofore chosen and to pass any vote relating thereto.
6. To transact any other business that may come before this meeting.

**Brentwood Teachers Association  
Contract Highlights (Warrant Article 2)**

- As part of the three year contract The Brentwood School Board is proposing a 2.3% salary increase in each year of the contract.
- For the past three years the BTA's average raise was less than 1%. The Cost of Living Average for the past three years was 2.23%.
- By the end of the proposed three year contract, the teachers' contribution to their benefits will increase by 2% across all plans, which yield significant savings to the district and town.
- The Teachers Association shifted to a different healthcare plan. They agreed to a plan that doubles their copayments, which also yields significant savings to the district and town.

**Year One Summary:**

2.3% salary increase 2014-2015	\$ 66,959
1% increase in health care contribution and increased copay	\$ (23,082)
Total amount to appropriate	\$ 43,877

The Brentwood School Board strongly recommends that you show your support by coming out to vote at the **School District meeting on Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 am in the gym at Swasey Central School.** Child care will be provided.

*Amy Mitchell for the  
Brentwood School Board*

**To the Editor**

**What is SB 2?**

New Hampshire RSA 40:13 also referred to as SB-2 merely shifts voting from two separate deliberative meetings (town budget & Swasey School budget) to the second Tuesday in March providing voters the friendly confines of a private voting booth. That's it.

SB-2 allows the opportunity to the many. Town meeting shuts them out.

SB-2 permits absentee ballots. Town meeting does not.

The predominant argument advanced by opponents of Sb2 (mainly elected officials, administrators, town and school employees) is that with the absence of town meeting somehow voters will be less informed. If the voters are uneducated about the budgets and actual needs of the town and school then the fault lies not with the voters but with the town and school districts failure to clearly and concisely enlighten the electorate of the issues. Blaming hard working taxpayers is a ploy to detract the electorates' attention and make them feel guilty.

We believe many are skeptical of our elected officials and school Administrators and with good reason. They appear to be totally detached from the reality of everyday hard working citizens' struggling to maintain the American Dream they work so hard to achieve. Town meeting has now become a barrier that limits the people's right to vote.

How many are aware that the SAU 16 School District is in receipt of a refund that consists of four payments from the Local Government Center (LGC) totaling \$1,575,468.66. This reimbursement is for overpayments to the LGC health and dental risk pools. We had to educate ourselves on this matter because nowhere is \$1,575,468.66 documented in any of the cooperative school board or the SAU 16 Joint Board meeting minutes. What happened to this money?

The Brentwood Board of Selectmen (BBOS) have refused to represent the people's interest in 2012 sale of the Crawley Falls Firehouse. Under RSA 154 a; the proceeds of the firehouse are to go to the town. The BBOS claim the association has a deed to the property. Well of course they have a deed that is precisely the point. The Association is a non-profit entity therefore they may not profit from the proceeds of the sale of the firehouse. Why hasn't anyone questioned how a non-profit entity could become embroiled in legal tax issues over the sale of the firehouse property?

Both of the above issues demonstrate the hypocrisy and futility in arguing the electorate's lack of knowledge. It also illustrates that citizens are treated to 'cherry picked censored information' in violation of the people's right to know law. What else is out there we are not privy to.

*Jim Berlo & Jim Johnson*

**To the Editor****What Does Your Vote Mean?**

*"What moves me are injustices that I can do something about" Anonymous.*

We live in a lovely small town. Great schools, charming library, caring teachers, good sports programs... a place where neighbors are friends... a place where my children know the kids in the neighborhood and play indoors and out. I chose to live here because of the warmth, character and authentic pace of a small town and what that would mean for my children. I wanted to give my children a rich, nurturing childhood.

My two older children have benefited greatly from living here and I am more than pleased with the education they are receiving. They went to traditional half day kindergarten, love school and love to learn. So, when I first heard about the school's proposal for all day kindergarten, I was taken aback. Why? Why race young children out of childhood and into a classroom? Like no other age, the age of 5 is tender and transitional. A half day of kindergarten plus a half day of out-of-school unstructured play is the perfect formula for a 5 year old to thrive.

Here's another good thing about living in a small town. **In a small town, a single vote can have a big impact on the outcome of an issue.** You can make a difference in a child's life and in the character of this town.

**On March 8th, 9:00 am at Swasey School, there will be a town vote for or against the proposal for full day kindergarten. We urge you to vote against full day kindergarten.**

*Jennifer Butenas*

**To the Editor****The Real Price of All Day Kindergarten****The Real Price to Taxpayers**

The current estimate for all day kindergarten is \$120,000 and climbing. That's a 300% increase over the original estimate of \$30,000 which was erroneously announced to you, the taxpayer, in the January 2014 Newsletter.

How will that affect your tax bill? For a typical Brentwood home with an assessment of \$400,000, this is what your 2014 tax bill may look like...

Overall 2013 tax, based on \$23.88 per \$1000 of assessed value	\$ 9,552
+ increase to Swasey budget, including all day kindergarten pending town vote on March 8th	\$ 362
+ increase to Coop budget pending town vote on March 11th	\$ 319

+ increase to Town budget pending town vote on March 15th	\$ 110
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Total 2014 tax bill increase, if all proposals are approved	\$ 791 \$ 10,343
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This represents a permanent increase in your taxes for a trendy program with doubtful benefit. A permanent tax increase to fund this year's "in" thing.

**The Real Price to Parents and Children**

If you are a parent, you are allowing the school board to gamble with your child's first real school experience. For the past 18 years, the Brentwood School Board and teachers have enthusiastically supported the half day kindergarten model as an age appropriate introduction to school. So how can the school board that has, for 18 years, celebrated and promoted a 12 hr/wk model as age appropriate, now say we want to almost triple the number of hours for kindergarteners to 32 hrs/wk?

A half day of academic instruction is appropriate and suitable for a 5 year old. But beyond that many 5 year olds will experience fatigue and stress. For many, this can result in **burnout** and a dislike for school.

**On March 8th, 9:00 am at Swasey School, there will be a town vote for or against the proposal for full day kindergarten. We urge you to vote against full day kindergarten.**

*Mark Butenas*

Next . . .

**ELECTION DAY**

**Tuesday, March 11**

8:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Brentwood Community Center  
190 Route 125**

**The Election Day Ballots**

Voters will receive **three ballots** at the Brentwood Community Center on Election Day, Tuesday, March 11 – the Town ballot; the Brentwood School District ballot; and the Cooperative School District ballot.

On the **Town Ballot** you will first vote for the **town officers**.

Next you will see the "SB2 question," QUESTION #1. "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before Town of Brentwood on the second Tuesday of March?"

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On the **Brentwood School District Ballot** you will vote for the Brentwood **school officers** (only 2 positions this year).

Then you will see the "SB2 question," QUESTION #1. "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before Town of Brentwood on the second Tuesday of March?"

On the **Exeter Region Cooperative School District** ballot you will vote first for the **Coop School District officers**. Brentwood voters, like all voters in all the towns, are to choose one candidate from each of the towns listed. Then you will vote on the **Warrant Article for the Coop District**. Again, this is to be voted on by all voters in all the sending towns.

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### Statements from the Candidates

All candidates were invited to provide statements for inclusion in the *Brentwood Newsletter*. Our thanks to those who put their thoughts into words to be passed on to the community. – Editor.

**Jane Bannister, for the Coop District School Board.** My name is **Jane Bannister** and I am on the ballot to represent the town of Kensington on the Cooperative School Board. My husband and I have lived in Kensington for 20 years and have two children; a daughter who is a junior at Exeter High School and a son in 8th grade at CMS. I am a UNH graduate and work for a local software company as a Corporate Recruiter. Although neither my husband nor I are originally from the New Hampshire seacoast we certainly consider it our home now.

When my kids were in Kensington Elementary I was very involved with the PTO serving as one of the Volunteer Coordinators for six years and my husband has been part of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department almost since we moved in. The opening on the Cooperative School Board seems to be a productive way for me to give back to my local community as well as the larger district we belong to. I'm hoping I can use my organizational skills as well as my business experience to be an active part of the board and a fair representative of the people in my town. Thanks for the opportunity to share my background with you all!

**Albert Edward Belanger, for Cemetery Trustee.** Having grown up in Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1961 my wife, Sandra, and I moved to Hampton and then Exeter with our two children, Stephen and Dianne in 1964. Aaron and Daniel came along and all four went through the excellent Brentwood School system. After teaching French and English at Hampton Academy for five years, I took a position on the faculty of Pentucket Regional Junior High in West Newbury, MA, from which I

retired in 1997. In the 1980's I took on the job of mowing the cemeteries and later ran for Trustee of Trust Funds, a position I held for several terms. The town took ownership the Tonry Cemetery in 1990, and created the position of Trustees of Cemeteries. Within a few years a position became available and I was elected to that board. The voters of Brentwood have seen fit to reelect me every three years since, and I offer my services again for another term.

**Dick Chamberlain, for Town Moderator.** I have been Brentwood's elected Town Moderator since 1979. My wife Ann and I purchased our home at 15 Crawley Falls Road in 1971. Our sons Ian and Brett graduated from Swasey School and grew up in Brentwood. I thought it would be helpful if I wrote something about the Duties of the Town Moderator.

The Duties of the Town Moderator are:

To conduct all Town, Primary, and Presidential elections held in Brentwood.

To Moderate (chair) our Annual and Special Town Meetings.

I believe that the Primary Criteria for filling the role of Town Moderator are:

Fairness and trust...in appearance and reality.

A basic knowledge and use of parliamentary procedures (which Townspeople can always challenge and change by majority vote.)

A combination of seriousness and humor.

The ability to follow discussion and to articulate and summarize what is happening.

To show respect for Townspeople and for the process.

I have some Convictions about Town Meeting:

It should be a time and place of dignity.

It should accomplish its primary purpose...which is to deal with all Warrant Articles.

All decisions should be fair decisions.

The Townspeople and the Moderator work together to accomplish what is necessary.

A successful Town Meeting grows out of a team effort: our Town Clerk Phyllis Thompson, the Selectmen, the Budget Committee, our Chief of Police Wayne Robinson.

I consider it a privilege to be your elected Town Moderator. I believe that all of us are fortunate to live in Brentwood...this is a wonderful Town. Wonderful because of the beauty of our rural natural habitat, because of the open way Town business is conducted, because of the wonderful spirit of Townspeople as evidenced by so much in the way of buildings/ programs/activities that can be detailed, because of the openness of discussion about issues of importance.

I hope that you, as a registered voter, will attend and participate in our Tuesday, March 11th Election and in our Saturday, March 15th 9 AM Town Meeting.

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**Liz Faria, for Brentwood School Board.** I am running for the Brentwood School Board because our schools are our most important assets, and because I have perspective and institutional knowledge. I served on the Swasey Board for four years, 2006-2010, and on the regional Co-op Board from 2010-2013. I believe Swasey has done a very good job of educating our children but that in the future it needs to do so in creative and cost-saving ways. For example, I would like to see a regional preschool for, at least, our four smaller SAU16 schools.

Regarding kindergarten: I have taught 5-year olds and, while I think the current 2.5 hours of K are too short, I believe the 6.5 hours of full day are too long. I am a proponent of extended day K, as Stratham has. I believe that developmentally young students do best in extended day. I also think that there will be unanticipated consequences if we are the only SAU16 school to offer full day K. We should be attracting families to our town because of the quality of our school, not just because it is the longest one.

My husband is retired and on a fixed income. He is a member of the Budget Committee so I can see the big picture when it comes to all of the budgets that we need to consider. I would like to bring the best possible education to Brentwood students at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers. I would appreciate your vote on March 11. Thank you.

**Robert Mantegari, for Selectman.** I am seeking election as Selectman for the Town of Brentwood and would like to count on your vote. My family and I have been residents of Brentwood, New Hampshire for the past 15 years and approximately 11 years ago, my family and I moved into our current house.

I just finished serving my third elected term on the Town Budget Committee. I would like to serve our town in a new capacity as Selectman. I believe in being fiscally conservative and being prudent when it comes to the taxpayer's money. Eleven years ago our property tax was around \$5300. This past year our property tax was \$10700.00. In ten years will they be \$21400?

I am a firm believer that sometimes good intentions, wants and desires are not always the best when it comes to the taxpayers. I have watched my neighbors, the elderly and veterans of town struggle to pay their tax bills and believe that I could be a positive addition to our town as a member of the Selectman's Board while taking into consideration our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you.

**Cheryl York McDonough, for the Coop District Advisory Budget Committee.** Having been a Kensington resident for 26 years, I have served on the local school board, the SAU Joint Board and the Joint Chairs Committee. I have completed a year on the Cooperative Advisory Budget Committee, which impressed me as a

group with both insight and integrity. As a school administrator, an attorney, an educational consultant and a mother of three children who all, at some point, attended district schools, I am diversely qualified to serve the families and students of our district. My first term on the Kensington School Board was the year the Cooperative was formed and that historical perspective is invaluable in the budget process. Community service is a responsibility I embrace and I look forward to continuing as a member of the budget committee. My mission is to balance fiscal responsibility with the obligation to provide a quality education for all students in the ERCSD. Thank you.

**Kate Miller, for Coop District Moderator.** I am running for a second term as the Moderator of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District. If re-elected as Moderator, I will continue my efforts to run the Deliberative and Balloting sessions of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District fairly and efficiently. Participating in local government, including the public school district, is an important part of our responsibilities as citizens in New Hampshire. I pledge to do my best if re-elected to ensure that voters who want to participate in the process can do so.

I was born and raised in Waterville, Maine. I have an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a law degree from Northeastern University. My husband, my three children and I have lived in Exeter since 1999.

I am a partner with the law firm of Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella, in Exeter. My practice areas include telecommunications law, representation of NH municipalities, non-profit organizations and individuals, especially in the area of estate planning.

I was elected and served two terms on the Exeter Elementary School Board, starting in 2005. I was also elected and served one term on the Board for the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District, from 2010 to 2013. I served as the Chair of the Joint Boards for SAU 16 for two years.

I was elected as Moderator of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District in 2013 and am seeking for a second term on the ballot, March 11, 2014. So far, I have moderated the Deliberative Session of the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District, which was held February 6, 2014. I welcome your support, and I hope everyone gets out to vote on March 11th! Thank you.

**Kate Segal, Coop District School Board.** I am currently the Chair of the Exeter Region Cooperative District School Board and I am running for reelection. Along with the six years representing Exeter on our board, I have almost 30 years of experience working in New Hampshire public schools, teaching, coaching, counseling, and five years as a building administrator. I believe in the power of our public schools.

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My son, Bobby Harrington Segal, is almost 12 and a six grader, Pod 2, at the Cooperative Middle School. I believe in my son's future and future of each student in our district. Blue Hawks fly together. I believe in serving the public educational community that I live in, meeting the educational needs of students, while being fiscally responsible to our tax payers.

Three of my six years of service, our proposed budget was equal to or lower than the default budget. All six years, the voters in our district passed the budget that our board proposed and created, with the tireless assistance of the Cooperative Budget Advisory Committee. During that same time period, the middle school met Adequate Yearly Progress and the High School earned its NEASC Accreditation. This year, our high school students had the highest NECAP scores in literacy, in the state of New Hampshire, and one of the highest in math.

My record proves that I support high academic standards, while being fiscally responsible. Breaking the tie to reduce paraprofessional hours this year was one of the most emotional decisions I had to make. My next door neighbor is a paraprofessional at our middle school, and my dearest neighbor across the street is Arthur Baillargeon, United States Veteran, a senior citizen of Exeter, raised in Exeter, educated in Exeter, and on a fixed income budget. It would be an honor and a privilege to be reelected to continue serving folks like Arthur, my neighbors, our neighbors, our taxpayers, the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District, students, faculty and staff.

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## To the Editor

### **Bob Magnusson, write-in candidate for Planning Board**

I am currently completing my third term on the Brentwood Planning Board and request your write-in vote for another term on March 11, 2014. I am a life-long resident of Rockingham County and have lived in Brentwood for over 15 years. I appreciate the rural nature of our community and am also respectful of property owners' rights. I was educated in New Hampshire and have been a registered professional civil engineer in New Hampshire for over 20 years. I believe the purpose of the Planning Board is to insure development takes place in accordance with the Town's rules and regulations while maintaining the community characteristics we find important as residents, as outlined in our Master Plan. My wife Kris and I have lived on Wendell Drive since 1998 and have 2 daughters, 1 serving in the Air Force in California and the other a junior at Emerson College. I will appreciate your write-in vote on March 22, 2014.

*Bob Magnusson*

## To the Editor

### **“Write-in for Wrighton”**

Dear Neighbors, please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nick Wrighton and I am running a write-in campaign for Trustee of the Trust Fund (1 year). I am a four year resident of Middle Road and would like to find a way to volunteer for and serve my community. I am a research scientist working in biotechnology and have an excellent grasp of mathematics, data analysis and computational visualization. On the financial side, I have some useful experience in personal investing. I will be able to use these skills to help Brentwood benefit to the fullest from its Trust Funds. So, on Election Day, please remember to write my name, Nick Wrighton, in the write-in line for Trustee of the Trust Fund. See you there!

I will be happy to take any email questions at [nick@wrighton.com](mailto:nick@wrighton.com), or by phone on 580-1141.

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Next . . .

## TOWN MEETING

**Saturday, March 15, 9:00 am**

**Swasey Central School Gymnasium**

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## The Town Meeting Warrant Articles

There are 17 warrant articles to be considered this year. Following are brief summaries of them. All articles involving money expenditures are recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee unless otherwise noted. Non-money articles do not require a recommendation. All require a majority vote to pass, unless otherwise noted.

1. Raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,046,926 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations in special or individual articles addressed separately.

2. Recommended by the Selectmen.  
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee.

Authorize the selectmen to enter into a five year lease agreement not to exceed \$510,000 for the purpose of leasing a fire apparatus with equipment with an annual payment of \$99,291 in subsequent years. No payment to be raised this year. This lease agreement has an escape clause and in subsequent years if the annual appropriation is not approved, the lease terminates.

3. Raise and appropriate \$75,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the repair of town bridges.

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4. Raise and appropriate \$990,000 for construction and construction engineering for the replacement of the Crawley Falls Road Bridge..., a Town-owned and maintained bridge with critical deficiencies and limited loading capacity. \$198,000 will be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund for Bridge Repair with the remaining amount to be offset by an 80% grant from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) through the NHDOT Municipal Managed Bridge Aid Program of an amount of up to \$792,000 towards the actual construction and construction engineering costs. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is complete or until December 31, 2019 whichever comes sooner.

5. \$30,500 to fund a mosquito control program. If passed, this expenditure will be included in the general operating budget for 2015.

6. \$250,000 to repair roads.

7. Raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the construction of new highway building(s).

8. Raise and appropriate \$31,477 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of highway vehicles and related equipment

9. Raise and appropriate \$18,524 for the second year's payment of leasing a backhoe for the highway department. This lease agreement has an escape clause and in subsequent years if the annual appropriation is not approved, the lease terminates.

10. Raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the replacement of fire and rescue vehicles.

11. Raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the maintenance of town owned buildings.

12. Raise and appropriate \$40,000 for the purchase of a police cruiser and related equipment. The Police Special Details Revolving Fund balance of \$4,000 will be withdrawn for this purpose, the remaining \$36,000 to come from taxation.

13. Raise and appropriate \$1,000 to provide funding to New Outlook.

14. Submitted by Petition:  
Adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems, wind-

powered energy systems or wood heating systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statutes.

15. Submitted by Petition:

By petition of Eric Turer of 33 Peabody Dr. and other eligible voters of the town of Brentwood, NH to see if the town will vote to urge:

That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that: 1) guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and 2) clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations.

That the New Hampshire Congressional delegation support such a constitutional amendment.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Brentwood's congressional delegation, and to Brentwood's state legislators, and to the President of the United State informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the Board of Selectmen within 30 days of the vote.

16. To hear reports and recommendations of all committees and to take any action.

17. To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

*Compiled by Linda Rousseau*

### To the Editor

An article will appear on this year's town warrant seeking a resolution in support of a constitutional amendment to control unlimited spending by corporations, unions, and non-profit political organizations in political campaigns. I am hoping you will vote to support it. Given the unusual nature of this article, I feel it deserves some explanation. First, it is a non-binding measure that simply expresses the will of Brentwood residents. It will not cost town residents anything now or in the future. In fact, it is intended to limit the massive and wasteful spending that has flooded recent elections; overwhelming the expression of individual thoughts and priorities at the heart of our democratic process. Second, this should not be a partisan issue. The newly

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granted authority for corporations, and other legally-created entities, to spend unlimited amounts to influence elections undermines the role of anyone with a view of how our country, state, and even town should be represented.

A resolution by one small town may seem far removed from a Constitutional amendment, but supporting it would include Brentwood in a grassroots national movement in reaction to this serious issue. While the role of money in politics has always been a struggle, this issue is relatively new – precipitated by the 2010 “Citizens United” Supreme Court decision which struck down key provisions of the McCain-Feingold Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA). The court found that money equals speech and that any limits on corporate spending limited corporations’ constitutional right to free speech. Without arguing the merits of that decision, it is a radical shift in the way constitutional rights have been interpreted – stripping the Congress’ right to regulate political spending and granting corporations rights that had traditionally been reserved for natural human citizens.

I don’t take the time of town residents to consider this article lightly, and less so the prospect of amending our nation’s founding document. Rather than a change to the constitution, I view this as a clarification of basic principles that have always been at its core. The Constitution begins with the words, “We the People...” Artificial legal entities have no organic needs, no conscience or ability to ‘seek happiness’, and can be subject to foreign ownership and direction with goals potentially contrary to our interests. Elevating them to the same status as natural human citizens is a radical change in how constitutional rights have been interpreted. The town warrant article seeks support for an amendment which simply clarifies that Constitutional rights are afforded to ‘we the people’ (individual humans) and, as such, Congress has the right to regulate political spending by corporations without violating any right to free speech. This was true prior to the recent Citizens United decision and it is how it should be.

I will end by noting that this is not an abstract issue here in Brentwood. In the weeks before our last election, a large 2-sided professional color mailer appeared in many mailboxes in town attacking one of the candidates for Brentwood’s NH state representative seat, with false and misleading statements and a sinister-looking doctored photograph from the web pasted into a template. It wasn’t from either of his opponents or others here in town, but rather from a national level non-party organization that had apparently flagged this race, and easily outspent what the candidate had raised locally for mailings. (see <http://bit.ly/1myzjQK>). Did this change the outcome of the election? Probably not, but the presence of such an intrusion in a small town House election shows the magnitude of the spending that has been unleashed by this decision and the danger for our

political process. Please vote to keep our rights and our elections in the control of individual citizens.

*Eric Turer  
33 Peabody Dr., Brentwood*

## **(End of Town Business Meetings)**

### **Town Report Dedicated to Martha Clark**



From left: Jeff Bryan, Jane Byrne, Andy Artimovich, Martha Clark and Ken Christiansen.

The Brentwood Town Report, year ending December 31, 2013, is dedicated to Martha Clark. The presentation was made at the February 26 Selectmen’s meeting. She is honored particularly for her eleven years’ service as a Supervisor of the Checklist. During her tenure the New Hampshire voter check-list system changed from typed paper lists to a complex electronic data system. For several years Martha devoted untold hours at a Town Office computer, transferring paper records to the electronic format, and later finding the best ways to navigate the ElectionNet system to ensure that Brentwood was in line with the state requirements. To all who worked with her she has been, and will continue to be, a valuable asset to the community.

### **Bake Sale on Election Day**

The Brentwood Seniors will have a Bake Sale table at the Community Center on Election Day March 11. This is one of the primary methods of fund-raising for the group. If any residents or friends in the area wish to contribute home-baked items, they will be most gratefully received.

## Swasey Central School Update

Snow and more snow! SCS has had 4 snow days and our last day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17. I'd like to thank the community for their support of our school. Swasey is a wonderful place and the children that come to school here are provided with an excellent school experience. Our yearly NECAP scores came out and we are once again far above the state average in Reading and Math. This is a great accomplishment and we are very proud of our students. I would like to remind parents of students entering kindergarten and first grade in the fall of 2014 to be sure and call Mrs. Rowe in the office to register. Be sure to keep up to date on Swasey happenings on our school website. <http://scs.sau16.org/>

As always,  
*Ron Kew, Principal*

### Other Swasey Updates:

**Kindergarten.** Kindergarten students are learning how animals survive in cold, snowy environments. In math they are solving addition word problems and making combinations of ten with objects, understanding teen numbers as a group of ten and some ones. In reading, they are focusing on sounds in a word, initial and ending consonant sounds, and blending sounds. They are learning to identify fiction and nonfiction texts.

**Grade 2.** Second graders will research animals in Arctic and Antarctic habitats using various nonfiction resources. In math, we learned and practiced several ways to add two digit numbers with and without regrouping. Next we will begin work on fractions and making arrays. We are looking forward to our upcoming Innovation Day – choosing a topic of interest, designing and creating a project, which demonstrates learning about that topic, and sharing with other classmates.

**Grade 4.** Fourth graders were reading aloud about the life of Hastin, the elephant caretaker, in *Chained*, in preparation for their Skype visit with author Lynne Kelly on Feb. 5th, Digital Learning Day. They also had a mini-unit on Greek Mythology focusing on the allusions that are found in modern day fiction.

**Physical Education.** Winter class activities include snowshoeing on the Swasey school trails, a number of fitness skills and exercises, fitness concepts all through the year, and dribbling balls with the hands. Also starting is a unit of rhythmic, using Chinese jump ropes, scarves and jump bands, and the aerobic drumming program Drums Alive.

**Music.** Grade 2 studied patriotic music, Grade 3 studied Native American music, Grade 4 worked with folk songs from across the regions of the US, along with songs about our country. First graders are having fun with winter songs and activities as they continue with matching pitch, finding AND feeling the beat, and being introduced to pitched percussion instruments. Grade 5

is reviewing the staff and understanding letter names of pitches as they prepare for a unit on playing barred instruments as they read notation.

## The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library

We'd like to start this month out by thanking the hard-working Brentwood Highway Department for doing such a great job this winter keeping the library plowed out and the parking lot open for patrons. Nicely done, gentlemen! Thank you also to the Brentwood patrons who shared their collections in the new library display case – Mary Bergeron (age 6) exhibited her Russian Nesting Dolls, and Julie Hoyt (older than 6) shared her miniature pitchers. Do you have a collection you'd like to display? Stop on over and sign up! Soon we will see Russian artifacts, rabbits, seashells and even a few leprechauns!

Town Meeting is a sacred institution, not only in Brentwood, but in all of New Hampshire. It has rituals, traditions and a very unique history. **Rebecca Rule**, NH Author, Humorist and Storyteller will present the lighter side of this great institution (as well as its wisdom) on Thursday, **March 13 at 7pm with "Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire."** This humorous and educational program will be made possible through a generous grant from the NH Humanities Council. Please join us for a bit of fun just 2 days before our own Town Meeting (**March 15 at 9am!**)

March Madness is fast approaching, but why should basketball fans have all the fun? Help us name the **2014 Brentwood Book Champion!** Through a series of votes, we will narrow down our list of 32 popular 2013 books to one grand champion. Based on the popular basketball tournament, participants will fill out a bracket, then vote for their favorite books on the library's website. Pick up your bracket form at the library or print one off at home from the website. Submit your completed bracket by **Saturday, March 15** in person or via email ([bartlettlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:bartlettlibrary@comcast.net)), then vote online for your favorite titles! Winner announced **March 31**.

Thanks to a generous sponsorship from the Friends of the Library, we are excited to host nationally-known pianist and composer **Deborrah Wyndham** on Thursday, **March 27 at 7pm**. Deborrah will share "**The History of Ragtime**," an entertaining program about ragtime music, an important part of our American musical heritage. Not to be missed!

This month **Winter Wednesdays at One** will feature some terrific new movie releases on **Wednesday afternoons at 1pm** in the comfort of the cozy Marilyn Morehead Room. The schedule: **March 5: Nebraska**, **March 12: The Book Thief**, **March 19: Gravity**, and **March 26: 12 Years A Slave**. We'll provide the popcorn for all ladies and gents who attend.

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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 **March 13** and **March 27** at **7pm**.

We “mustache” all young readers to join us on Wednesday, March 19 for **Mustache Day** when Mrs. Miller and the rest of the library staff will have some crazy stories and drop-in activities for all to enjoy.

**Ladies & Gents Night Movie** will occur on Thursday, **March 20** at **7pm**. We hope to show “**Philomena**” [PG-13] starring Judi Dench, but the DVD release date has been waffling and it may not be available. Our second choice will be “**Saving Mr. Banks,**” with Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson.

Enjoy a fun night out with the family on Friday, **March 28** at **6:30pm** when we’ll show “**FROZEN**” [PG]. We’ll provide the popcorn and you may bring the water bottles. And for those who asked, “Yes, all children must be accompanied by an adult.” Thanks for checking!

The **Brentwood Bookers** will be meeting on Monday, **March 31** at **7pm** to discuss their latest selection. Copies of the title will be available at the front desk. We’ll also be announcing the 2014 Brentwood Book Champion that evening.

The **Trustees** will meet at 6:30pm on Monday, **March 17**. Public welcome.

Please note that **the library will be closed** on Saturday, **March 15** so that all patrons and staff may attend the annual **Town Meeting**.

For the latest library news and events, including inclement weather closings, be sure to check out our website at [www.brentwoodlibrary.org](http://www.brentwoodlibrary.org).

*Betsy Solon, Library Director*

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## Friends of the Library

The Friends are excited to offer “History of Ragtime.” Pianist Deborah Wyndham will share the history of our nation’s first “pop” music. She will also explain how the beginnings of jazz and ragtime influenced many other styles of music. The program will be held **Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 pm**.

Please be sure to stop by the library and take a look at all the great passes that are offered by the Friends. One in particular is Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. This center is located in Holderness, NH and offers visitors an understanding of ecology by exploring New Hampshire’s natural world. Through live animal exhibits, education programs and lake cruises. The Center is open May – November and is the only AZA-accredited institution in Northern New England.

Come in and check out our new display case in front of the librarian’s desk. Anyone can display their collections. Just notify the librarians for more information.

Our next Friends meeting is **March 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 and passes 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*

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## Join Us at FOXWOODS CASINO!

Join us on Monday, **April 14**. It’s so easy to experience “the wonder of it all” at the beautiful and fun Foxwoods Resort and Casino in southeastern Connecticut. Passenger receives a bonus package worth up to \$34 at the casino upon arrival. Enjoy coach bus transportation with coffee and donuts for the ride down and a snack on the return trip. Cost is \$35.

Bus leaves the Brentwood Recreation Area at 7:30am and returns approx. 7:30pm. Please call the Recreation office by April 7 to reserve your seat.

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## Brentwood Seniors

At the Brentwood Seniors’ February meeting the officers for the coming year were chosen. Alma Vahey and Maureen Menter will serve as co-presidents, with Maureen focusing on the programs and Alma serving as the presiding officer. Theresa Sherry will continue as Secretary and Marion Arkell will continue as Treasurer.

Sandra Thorsell stepped down after two years as president. She was given a hearty round of applause for her leadership during her term.

Details of the **Bake Sale** were arranged. The sale will take place at the Community Center **on Election Day, Tuesday, March 11, from 8:00 am on**. All members are reminded to bring home baked items for the table, and to tell any friends and neighbors that donations of home-baked goods will be most welcome.

The March meeting will take place on **Tuesday** rather than Wednesday – **Tuesday, March 25, beginning 11:00 am**. This will be to accommodate the schedule of the visiting entertainment, the Sunset Tappers from Andover, Massachusetts. Luncheon will be a soup and sandwiches buffet. Members are reminded to wear “**a touch of green**” or they will “pay a forfeit!” For more information, call Alma Vahey at 679-8635.

## Brentwood Recreation

### THANK YOU!!

We want to thank all our volunteer Basketball coaches for another great season. We had over 30 parents step up to help this year and we really appreciate all your time and effort with the players.

### COYOTE CLUB Outdoor Wilderness Class

**Mondays 3:15-4:30pm March 17 – April 28**

Designed to introduce children to nature-based studies, native crafts and environmental stewardship. Survival skills, wilderness awareness, navigation/ mapping, animal signs and much more! Designed for grade K-5.

**Cost is \$65** Space is limited.

### Join Us at FOXWOODS CASINO!

**Monday, April 14 Cost is \$35.**

Experience "the wonder of it all" at the beautiful and fun Foxwoods Resort and Casino. Receive a bonus package worth up to \$34 at the casino on arrival. Coach bus with coffee and donuts for the ride down and a snack on the return trip. Bus leaves the Brentwood Recreation Area at 7:30am and returns approx. 7:30pm. Please call the Recreation office by April 7 to reserve your seat.

### Youth BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

**Join us for Field Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 5** (a change from originally posted date), beginning at 9am.

Please bring your rakes, wheel barrows and gloves and join us as we can get our fields ready for the season! All schedules will be available soon on our website. Regular season to start Saturday, May 3.

### EGG HUNT & BUNNY BREAKFAST

The Recreation Department will host our Annual Bunny Breakfast and Town Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 19.**

The Egg Hunt will start promptly at **8:45am** and the Bunny Breakfast will run 9:00-10:30am. Breakfast Cost: \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids.

The Egg Hunt is free to town residents.

### ADULT OVER 30 COED SOFTBALL

**We will again offer our over 30 Coed Softball** League here in Brentwood. The season will run late June through mid-August. If you are interested in playing or have a group interested in forming a team, sign up at the Recreation office or register online through our website. **Sign-up deadline is May 15.** For more information, contact the Recreation office.

### OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

**Save the date – Friday, June 20.**

At the Recreation fields. Bring a picnic dinner or enjoy a hamburger or hot dog from our concessions stand. Watch for more information. (Rain Date Friday June 27)

### YOGA & NUTRITION CLASS

**Tuesday Evenings 6:30-7:45pm \$64/ eight weeks**

Offered by Alicia Rossman RND, RYT owner of Let's Get Movin'! For adults (kids 10+ are welcome to join with

parent). Nutrition education, followed by movement to help strengthen and stretch the body, improve balance, flexibility, and focus. Beginners welcome! Registration is ongoing; you can join at any time. Register at class. Drop-ins always welcome at \$10/class

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)

### WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE COURSE

A one day event to increase your awareness, help you avoid dangerous situations and empower you with simple escape techniques. This 4 hour class can help a woman recognize possible danger before it escalates into physical attack.

**Saturday, May 17 11:30am-3:30pm Cost: \$10**

Brentwood Community Center Space is limited.

Please call office to reserve a spot.

#### **Some of the topics covered:**

- Situational Awareness
- Stance and Balance
- Action vs. Reaction drills
- Take Downs and Escapes
- Time/Space distance for defense/protection

The worst part of an attack situation is the feeling of total helplessness the victim experiences. Learn to defend yourself. *Bring a friend and join us!*

### 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! No experience necessary. Class is FREE.

#### Up-Coming Events....

- \* **Archery Class** – Tuesdays May 6 - May 27
- \* **Outdoor Movie Night at the Recreation Fields** – Friday, June 20
- \* **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. Registration has already begun online at [www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com).
- \* **Surf Camp** with Summer Sessions in Rye, NH July 21 – July 25.
- \* **Red Cross Babysitter Training Course** – Thursday, August 7, 9-4pm.

### 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.

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### 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

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### A Thank-You from Joe Gancarz

Joe Gancarz wishes to convey his deep gratitude to all who have responded in so many ways to him and his family since his leg amputation in December. He sends particular thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary, to Rev. Kim McKerley and to Betty Stevens. He adds special thanks to his friend Ben for helping since the beginning.

Joe is finally back home on Lake Road and looking forward to being fitted with his prosthesis in about three weeks.

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### Brentwood Democratic Committee

The Brentwood Democratic Committee will meet on **Monday, March 10, 7:00pm at 52 Stevens Drive**. All are welcome for a discussion of Town Elections and Warrant Articles.

*Liz McConnell*

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### Sympathy

Deepest sympathy and fellowship are extended to the family of **Robert J. Wilson**, formerly of Mill Road, who died February 3 at the VA Hospital in Manchester. Born in Exeter, he grew up in Brentwood and lived here for many years. He served eight years in the U.S. Air Force. He owned and operated Lindy's Store from 1977-1984, and later worked as custodian at Swasey Central School and Stratham Elementary. He served over 20 years with the Brentwood Fire Department, formerly holding the rank of Deputy Chief. He was also a member of the *Brentwood Newsletter* Committee from 1978-1984, serving for several years as Treasurer.

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### Historical Note

1717 -- The greatest snow ever known in New England fell in the latter part of April of this year. It was so deep that people were obliged to walk from their chamber windows. It was said to be eight feet on a level, and has ever since been called the great snow.

*Brentwood's 225 Years, 1742-1967 – page 117*

### Fire Department Run Report for 2014 to

#### Date:

Ambulance Calls: 67

Fire Total: 60

Building Fires – 11

False Alarm/Fire Alarm Activation – 16

Motor Vehicle Accidents – 23

Vehicle Fires – 1

Other Emergency Responses – 9

Service Calls: 18

**Total Calls for 2014 to Date: 145**

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### Mailing Team for February

Many thanks on behalf of the community to those in the Pickpocket Road neighborhood who prepared the February issue of the *Newsletter* for mailing: Ann Barker, Merrill Dwyer, Kris Johnson, Linda Johnston, Jane Storm, Diane Wade and Diantha Wade.

*Linda Rousseau, Editor*

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### Hymn Sing at the Baptist Church

A public Hymn Sing will be held at the First Baptist Church of Brentwood **on Sunday, March 9, beginning at 7:00 pm**. All who love to sing the favorite hymns of the past and present are invited to come and join in the spirit of the evening. Refreshments will be served afterward in the vestry.

This is also an opportunity for you to bring used shoes, old shoes in any condition, to donate to the "Soles4 Souls" program. The church is a designated collection site for the program. To learn more, visit the website <http://soles4souls.org/>.

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### Historical Note

"On May 31, 1975, the Brentwood Free Library was dedicated "The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library" in compliance with the terms of a memorial gift given by the Bartlett family. Many improvements have been made thanks to this gift and to the generous contributions of some of the citizens of the town. The interior has been redecorated, the grounds landscaped, and the driveway paved.

"A Friends of the Library group was formed in the Spring of 1974 and is very active."

*Brentwood's 225 Years, 1742-1967 --  
1976 edition, introductory page 6.*

## Brentwood Enterprises

### Raising Mink

During the Depression Ernest LeBreux, then living in West Peabody, Mass., started trapping to make a few dollars. When he caught a pair of wild mink the thought **occurred** to him that breeding and raising mink might be a profitable venture. He started in 1935, purchasing some breeding stock and going at it part time, until its growth allowed him to pursue it full time in the 40s.

By 1956 West Peabody had become a bedroom community for Boston and many farms were becoming tracts of houses. Ernest and Dot LeBreux moved to Brentwood with their family and soon had ten to eleven thousand mink in nearly a mile of pens. Their farm was the former Lovell Smith place on Prescott Road, now the site of Advanced Custom Cabinets. [13 Prescott Road] The house is now gone as well as the barn which was across the street.

Ernest's son Dick remembers the two and a half tons of food which was required to feed them daily, composed of fish, meat by-products and grain. They employed five full time and a number of part time people and were the second largest mink farm in New Hampshire. The pelts would be dried and shipped to the auctions in New York.

By 1969 profits had dropped and the LeBreuxs decided to close the business. The Floyd family, a little farther up on Prescott Road [89 Prescott Road], who had also raised mink, had already ceased. And so another chapter in Brentwood history was closed.

### The Pheasant Farm

When John and Millie Gove moved from Kingston to Brentwood in 1942 they had already been raising pheasants. They built a small house on South Road [287 South Road] and built some pens and started raising a few thousand pheasants. John was still working and Millie tended the pheasants during the day. They gradually built up the flock over the years, hatching their own eggs.

Most of the pheasants were sold to the State which used them for stocking all over the state where there was good cover for them. A few were killed and dressed for people willing to pay the price.

Finally they reached a point where John was able to quit his job as it became self supporting. They built more houses and pens and got more breeding stock in the spring. At the peak they had about 12,000 birds.

The State Fish & Game Dept. bought the farm from them in 1948 and they became superintendents and hired two or three more people. They had by that

time acres of holding pens and breeding pens and brooder houses.

After John died in 1958 Walter Stevens, John's nephew, took over as superintendent. When in 1973 an epidemic of equine encephalitis swept the state and several horses were lost in Brentwood, it was felt that the pheasants were a contributing factor in the spread of the deadly disease and the whole flock was destroyed, ending the program. Birds for stocking are now imported from New York state and the farm is now used by UNH for a wildlife study facility.

*Brentwood's 250th Anniversary Program and Historical Souvenir, pages 18 and 21.*

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### Gardening Tips for March

- If you left any perennials or grasses standing over winter, cut back the dead stems before or as the plants put out new growth.
- Here's a hint: Cut dead stems back to 3 or 4 inches tall. This will help you remember where late-emerging varieties such as perennial hibiscus and butterfly weed are. Plus, the stubs may stop rabbits and other critters from nibbling on your plants' new growth.
- Remove winter mulch from your perennial gardens once you notice new growth emerging from your plants. Afterward, watch for weeds. Early season varieties such as chickweed and henbit thrive in cool temperatures and may start sprout.
- If you haven't already done so, now 's a great time to prune fruit trees (including apples, pears, and cherries) and fruits such as raspberries and grapes.
- You can also go ahead and prune summer-blooming shrubs such as butterfly bush and rose of Sharon. Wait to prune your spring-blooming shrubs (such as forsythia and lilacs) until they've finished blooming so you don't cut off next year's flowers.
- This is also the season to prune back roses. Typically, you'll want to cut hybrid tea, grandiflora, and floribunda roses to about 6 inches tall.
- If your landscape trees need pruning, now's the month to do it. (Except oaks. It's best to avoid pruning oaks right now to reduce the threat of disease.)

From *Better Homes & Gardens*, [www.bhg.com/](http://www.bhg.com/)

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83 Middle Road  
[stoutoakfarm@gmail.com](mailto:stoutoakfarm@gmail.com)

**Stout Oak Farm**  
**Kate and Jeff Donald**

[www.stoutoakfarm.com](http://www.stoutoakfarm.com)

**News from Stout Oak Farm**

When you drive down Middle Road, you've probably noticed some new activity at the old farm at the corner of Deer Hill Road – chickens up on the hill, vegetables growing in the old hay field, tractors driving around . . . As many of you know, this farm, formerly known as Creamery Brook Farm, was previously owned by Lawrence Lyford. Lawrence was the 9th generation of his family to live and work on this land, which was managed as a dairy farm beginning in 1803. When Lawrence passed away in 2010, the future of the farm was uncertain. Thanks to the efforts of the Town of Brentwood, the Southeast Land Trust of NH, the NRCS, and Dolly Lyford and her family, the land was protected by a conservation easement in 2012.

With the easement in place, we (the new farmers, Kate & Jeff Donald) purchased the property, with a plan to establish a new organic vegetable farm called Stout Oak Farm. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to farm on this beautiful land. Our mission is to grow healthy food for the community, and help revive active agriculture in Brentwood. We also hope to share the fascinating history of the farm, as we gather stories and photographs from Lawrence's family and friends.

As we begin our third growing season here, we wanted to let you know about some Stout Oak Farm happenings.

- **Pre-Order Organic Seedlings for Your Vegetable Garden.** We're offering 25+ varieties of tomatoes, and lots of other vegetable seedlings. Download an order form at [www.stoutoakfarm.com](http://www.stoutoakfarm.com). The pre-order deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Plants will be ready for pick-up at our Spring Seedling Sale in late May.
- **Stop by Our Farm Store:** We're open 6 days a week from mid-May through October. We sell our own organic vegetables, herbs, and seedlings, and our own pasture-raised eggs. We also partner with other local farms to offer meat, dairy, bread, fruit, and other local foods.
- **Join our CSA or Buy a Farm Store Credit Share.** Visit [www.stoutoakfarm.com](http://www.stoutoakfarm.com) for information about our weekly Vegetable CSA Share and our store credit option. We hope you'll consider becoming part of our farm community!

Thank you for your support these past two years, as we've worked to get our new farm business established. We are looking forward to getting to know more of our Brentwood neighbors with each new growing season.

*A Newsletter Business Article*

**Brentwood Gardeners**

The Gardeners were snowed out of their usual February meeting but convened the following week, because they didn't want to miss their scheduled speaker, John Dodge of Dodge Agway Farm & Garden. The topic was to be bird houses, or nesting boxes as the better term, and how to get birds to use them. Using the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as his source, John provided much detailed information that most members had never known before. If you want to know something about nesting boxes, you can now ask a Brentwood Gardener!

The March program, arranged by Diantha Wade, will be presented by Sherry

Parson of Churchill's Gardens in Exeter. The topic will be "Using Your Herbs," making bath salts, body scrubs, soaps, and flavoring vinegar and oil. This will be **Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall of Pilgrim Church, Middle Road. All interested residents or friends are invited and welcome to attend.

Members who have not yet paid their dues should mail or give them to Gladys Roy, treasurer, at the earliest opportunity. For other information, please contact the co-presidents, Torie Freeman, 778-3748, or Linda Rousseau, 580-2358.

*Linda Rousseau for the Gardeners*

**Springtime Buffet at Pilgrim Church**

Pilgrim Church is serving a Springtime Buffet on **Saturday, April 12, 2014** with continuous seating from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. This dinner features fresh carved roast beef, roast turkey, roast pork and ham along with assorted hot entrees, a delightful salad bar and delicious homemade desserts. Tickets will be sold at the door at a cost of \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under 10.

Pilgrim Church is located at 197 Middle Road (Route 111A) in Brentwood. The building is accessible.

Calendar of Events

- Mar. 6 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
Cemetery Trustees – 4:00 pm, Town Office Building
- Mar. 8 **School District Meeting – 9:00 am, Swasey School Gymnasium**
- Mar. 9 **Daylight Saving Time begins.**  
**Hymn Sing, public invited – 7:00 pm, First Baptist Church of Brentwood, Rte. 125 & North Road**
- Mar. 10 Brentwood Democratic Committee -7:00 pm, 52 Stevens Drive
- Mar. 11 **Election Day – Polls open 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, Brentwood Community Center**
- Mar. 12 Wednesday at One Movie - **“The Book Thief,”** Bartlett Library, 1:00 pm  
**Fire Dept. Information Meeting – 7:00 pm, Fire Station**
- Mar. 13 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library  
Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
**“Moved and Seconded” program by Rebecca Rule – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library**  
Nighttime Knitting – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library
- Mar. 15 **Town Meeting – 9:00 am, Swasey School Gymnasium**
- Mar. 17 Library Trustees – 6:30 pm, Bartlett Library
- Mar. 18 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
Parent-Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library  
Brentwood Gardeners – 7:00 pm, Pilgrim Church Fellowship Hall: **“Using Your Herbs”**
- Mar. 19 Wednesday at One Movie – **“Gravity,”** Bartlett Library, 1:00pm  
Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Mar. 20 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
**Ladies & Gents Night at the Movies – 7:00 pm, “Philomena,”** Bartlett Library
- Mar. 25 Brentwood Seniors – 11:00 am, Brentwood Community Center  
Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building  
Recreation Commission – 6:30 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Office Building
- Mar. 26 Wednesday at One Movie – “12 Years a Slave,” Bartlett Library, 1:00pm
- Mar. 27 **“History of Ragtime,” with Deborah Wyndham – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library**  
Nighttime Knitting – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library
- Mar. 28 **Family Night at the Movies – “Frozen,” 6:30 pm, Bartlett Library**
- Mar. 31 Brentwood Bookers – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library
  
- Apr. 1 Selectmen’s meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Apr. 3 Cemetery Trustees – 4:00 pm, Town Office Building  
Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
- Apr. 5 **Rabies Clinic – 9:00 am – 12 noon, Brentwood Fire Station**  
**Field Clean-up Day at the Recreation Center – 9:00 am.**

The public is welcome at all above events

**The Brentwood Newsletter**  
c/o Linda Rousseau, Editor  
PO Box 282  
Exeter, NH 03833-0282  
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