

Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XL No. 3

Brentwood, New Hampshire

March 2016

One goal of this issue of the Newsletter is to inform our community of the upcoming business meetings. The first part of the *Newsletter* will be broken down into 3 main sections – the **Annual School Meeting**, the **Town Elections**, and the **Town Meeting**. Within each of these you will find relevant information such as summaries of warrant articles, candidate statements, articles from various Town Boards, and Letters to the Editor. The *Moderator's Rules* which guide the School and Town Meetings can be found on page 3. The remainder of this issue contains the customary articles and updates about the daily life of the town.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS: EVERYONE IS URGED TO ATTEND

At some meetings monetary decisions which impact taxes are made by the votes of those present. If you do not participate, you are forfeiting your rights and denying others the benefit of your thoughts. Taken together, these sessions determine not only what taxes will be, but also set initiatives which will define Brentwood's future character and infrastructure. **We say it every year: please be apart of this important process.**

DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	WHAT HAPPENS
Friday, March 4 6:00 pm	Swasey Central School	School District Meeting	Discuss and vote on Swasey budget. Changes can be made.
Tuesday, March 8 8:00 am - 7:00 pm	Brentwood Community Center	Brentwood Town Elections	Voting for various town, Cooperative School District and Swasey School District positions. Vote on Cooperative School District budget. Vote on all zoning changes.
Saturday, March 12 9:00 am	Swasey Central School	Town Meeting	Discuss and vote on the various articles of the town warrant. Changes can be made. Swearing in of new town officials.

2015 TOWN REPORT AVAILABLE MARCH 1

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 copy of the Town Report. It will be available at the Town Offices beginning March 1. Copies will also be available at the School District Meeting, at the Community Center on Election Day, and at the Town Meeting.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator

Brentwood NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF BRENTWOOD

www.brentwoodnh.gov

TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR

Phone: 642-6400 X 14

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9:00 am-4:30 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am-8:00 pm

Friday 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY

Phone: 642-3355

E-mail: bartlettlibrary@comcast.net

www.brentwoodlibrary.org

Monday 2:00 pm-7:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am-7:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Story Hours

Tuesday 10:30 am and 2:00 pm

Wednesday 10:30 am

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm

PLANNING BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

Phone: 642-6400 X 16

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-4:30 pm

Planning Board meets the 1st and 3rd

Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Phone: 642-3487

Swasey on the Web: scs.sau16.org

SAU 16 on the Web: www.sau16.org

THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER

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

Marion Arkell

Alisha Neubert

Jim Clark

Michael Neubert

Lynda McCann

Linda Rousseau

Erin Merrill

Brad Stevens

MARCH RECYCLING DATES

March 8 & 9 - March 22 & 23

WASTE TONNAGE FIGURES

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Tons, mixed solid waste	114.99	105.57
Tons, recycled goods	47.41 (29.1%)	30.49 (22.4%)

Karen Clement - Town Administrator - Town of Brentwood

Fire Department Run Report for February 2016

1 Building Fire	3 Hazmat Calls
32 Emergency Med calls	7 Good Intent calls
6 Motor Vehicle Accident	6 False Alarms

FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Absentees ballot for the Town & School Election are available. They must be returned by March 7 by 5:00 pm.

On Tuesday, March 8 the office will close at 4:30 pm.

There will be a Rabies clinic at the Fire station on April 16, from 9:00-12:00.

We wish to thank all those who helped at the primary election.

Phyllis Thompson

THANK YOU TO OUR MAILING CREW FOR FEBRUARY

Many thanks on behalf of the community to those in the Lake/South Road neighborhood who assembled the February Newsletter for mailing: Kirsten Phillips, Anthony Phillips, Nancy Potter, Kelly Ramsdell, Ruth-Ann Cooper, Tim Bond, and June Little.

Linda Rousseau on behalf of the Newsletter Committee

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016

Please send your articles to Lynda McCann

Email: newsletterbrentwood@gmail.com

Mail: Brentwood Newsletter, 153A Pickpocket Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

\$20 per insertion, available in April, September & December issues.

BUSINESS ARTICLE

\$100 half page, \$200 full page, available in any issue.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING: FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Those in attendance at the Brentwood School District Meeting will vote on 7 warrant articles. Following are brief summaries of them. All articles involving money expenditures are recommended by the School Board 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 amount of \$5,130,925 for the salaries of School District officials and agents and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the District. This article does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.
2. Approve expanding the current kindergarten program to full time and raise and appropriate the sum of \$270,049.88 for this purpose.
3. Establish a Safety and Security Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, V for safety and security upgrades at Swasey Central School; raise and appropriate \$20,000 to be placed in the fund; and name the school board as agents. Sum to come from the June 30 fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised by taxation.
4. Citizens Petition: raise and appropriate the sum of \$3893.60 to provide child benefit services, per RSA 189:49, for students who are residents of the Brentwood School District and attend Sacred Heart School in Hampton, New Hampshire. Not recommended by the School Board or the Budget Committee.
5. Citizens Petition: approve expansion of the current kindergarten program to Full Day, and approve the expenditure of its \$270,049.88 allocation that is contained within the proposed operating budget. Not recommended by the Budget Committee.
6. To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees or officers heretofore chosen and to pass any vote relating thereto.
7. To transact any other business that may come before this meeting.

2016 BRENTWOOD TOWN AND SCHOOL MEETING MODERATOR'S RULES

The rules are procedures to guide both the Town Meeting and School District Meeting will be the same and are summarized below. The hope is that consistency will help all the meeting attendees understand the process and how to participate.

Doug Cowie, Brentwood School District Moderator
Richard Chamberlain, Brentwood Town Moderator

By state law the Moderator sets the rules of the meeting. (RSA 40:4)

We will be using the Moderator's rules – not Roberts rules or any other complex parliamentary rules. The goal is a fair, uncomplicated, focused, and understandable process.

As with all public meetings audio and/or video recording are specifically allowed.

To be discussed, the issue or article must be on the warrant, be moved, and seconded. To participate in the discussion you must be a registered voter in Brentwood, have checked in with the Checklist Supervisors, and have a voting card.

The Moderator will read each warrant article as it appears in the warrant and will ask the involved Board or petitioner for a motion and second to place it on the floor of the meeting for discussion, debate and/or amending.

The Moderator will then ask the appropriate Board and Budget Committee, or the petitioner, as appropriate to speak first to the article.

The article will then be open to the floor for your discussion, questions, comments, and/or amendments.

All amendments must be given to the Town or School District Clerk in writing. This insures that we have your amendment exactly as you intend. Negative motions will not be accepted.

Amendments to amendments being debated will not be allowed. If you wish to further amend an article you must do so after the prior amendment has been dealt with.

All discussion and questions will be to and through the Moderator. This includes eye contact. Passionate debate is welcomed and expected – however you are expected to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

You are entitled to an answer to your questions, and one of the Moderator's tasks is to direct your question to someone who can answer it. However, there is no requirement that you like or agree with the answer.

To be recognized to speak, please go to the floor microphone. You are then recognized in that order.

Please state your name and address for the record (we may know you but the recorder probably does not) and contain your discussion to one question or statement.

Please contain your discussion and questions to the motion that is under discussion.

UPDATE TO SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET 2016-17

If you have more than one point or questions, please step back to allow others to speak. You may speak again after others have had their opportunity. To allow everyone the opportunity to speak I will ask that you keep it within a three minute limit for each time you are recognized.

Motions to close debate or move the question will only be accepted by the Moderator after everyone who wishes to speak has had at least one opportunity and must be made from the floor microphone.

Motions to table an article will only be accepted or recognized by the Moderator if the motion is made by the Article's sponsor.

If you have a question of the Moderator regarding the rules of conduct of the meeting or if you disagree procedurally you absolutely may ask at any time (Point of Order). This does not require you to go to the floor microphone but you must state your name and your question or issue.

You may also by law move to overrule the Moderator if you feel that the Moderator's ruling is clearly erroneous, requires a second and a majority vote (RSA 40:4).

RECONSIDERATION OR RESTRICTING

RECONSIDERATION: You may vote after each article to restrict reconsideration of the vote or votes taken. This protects the action taken from being undone or changed later in the meeting, and this vote may not be reconsidered at this meeting (RSA 40:1).

"We in America do not have a government by the majority. We have government by the majority that participate."

- Thomas Jefferson

BRENTWOOD 2016 SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING MODERATORS NOTES

Are handouts allowed at the School District Meeting? They must clearly identify the source, author or sponsorship. Any that do not will be picked up and discarded!

Moderators Rules are the same as last year and are available on the SAU16 web site, in the Brentwood Warrant and Budget page, in this publication, and at the School District Meeting.

When you check in with the Supervisors of the Checklist, you will receive a colored Voting Card that identifies you as a registered voter in Brentwood, and you will receive one or more "yes – no secret ballots". Our hope is that this will speed things up if a Secret Ballot Vote is requested. Please return any unused ballots – and the colored Voter Card to the Supervisors table at the close of the meeting.

Your questions and comments are always welcome.

Doug Cowie

The School District Meeting will be held at Swasey Central School on Friday, March 4th at 6 p.m. The Swasey PFG and Brentwood Teachers' Association have generously offered to provide childcare. If you are not already a registered voter, the deadline to register for the opportunity to vote during the School District meeting is February 27th at 11:30 a.m. You cannot register to vote at the meeting.

In response to requests received by the Brentwood School Board, the Board has listened and voted to remove the cost of Full Day Kindergarten from the proposed 2016-17 Operating Budget. The Board does unanimously support Full Day Kindergarten, it is just simply being presented as a separate Warrant Article at the School District Meeting. The Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee fully supports the proposed 2016 -17 Swasey Operating Budget, the Full Day Kindergarten Warrant Article, and the Warrant Article for the creation of a Safety and Security Fund.

Melissa A. Litchfield, On behalf of the Brentwood School Board

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Brentwood Residents,

Please join us in voting YES for Child Benefit Services (CBS)* at the annual Brentwood School District Meeting on March 4th, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Swasey Central School.

The RSA 189:49; Child Benefit Services (CBS) request went before both the Brentwood School Board and the Brentwood Budget Committee on February 1 and 8th respectively. Both groups opposed the Citizen's Petition request. Please refer to the meeting minutes for both Brentwood groups to better understand their positions. Note that both Hampton and Seabrook's school board and budget committee approved similar 2016 CBS requests made on behalf of Sacred Heart School students.

We hope that you will support this appeal made on behalf of the K-5th grade children from Brentwood who attend Sacred Heart School in Hampton, NH. This request has a tax impact of .0006950 cents/\$1000 house valuation.

We thank you for your support,

Jane and Bob Duarte - Brentwood, NH

*Please refer to our previous article in February 2016's Brentwood Newsletter for more information about CBS.

Is full-day kindergarten right for Brentwood?

A warrant article to fund full-day kindergarten will come before the voters at the School District (ie Brentwood school) Meeting at 6 pm on Friday March 4th at Swasey School. You must be present to cast your vote!

The Swasey operating budget is actually a reduction from last year. But then they want to add in full day kindergarten at a cost of \$270,050. This amount was initially included in the school budget but was pulled out as a result of a citizen petition to have a separate vote on full-day kindergarten. This has previously been rejected by the voters.

The first thing to consider when burdening taxpayers with any expense is whether or not it is necessary? In this instance, the state of NH says No. NH law requires half-day kindergarten be offered, but does not require attendance.

Is there any evidence that full day kindergarten has a long-term impact on a child's academic success?

Is FDK simply a convenience for parents?

The tax impact of implementing full-day kindergarten will be \$.48/\$1000 which is about \$169 on a \$350,000 home.

The School District meeting on March 4th is one of THREE opportunities to decide on issues that could have a drastic impact on your property tax bill. Please also vote in the Town Elections on March 8th and attend Town Meeting on March 12th.

+++++

2 million dollars – for what?

On Tuesday, March 8th Brentwood voters will elect candidates for town and school office positions and will also decide on the budget and warrant articles for SAU16. All voting is by ballot and will take place at the Brentwood Recreation Center.

There will be four warrant articles on the SAU16 ballot. Three of those warrant articles, if passed, would increase our property tax by \$.70/\$1000.

One of the warrant articles being put forth is asking for \$2 million dollars to expand CMS. Interesting fact - the warrant article raises the money but doesn't enable anyone to do anything with it. So just for this warrant article will raise taxes \$.618/\$1000 home value - and that money will sit idly until the voters are presented another warrant article with an actual plan. That would not happen for at least a year (the next voting session).

We were told at the deliberative session that CMS was poorly designed and has been overcrowded since its completion in 1998. The overcrowding is due to programming (it seems much of it special ed related) requirements. Student enrollment has increased by only 9 students since 1998, while staff has increased by 33 during that time.

The 2 million dollars requested in this warrant article would only be a deposit – the full cost of the expansion is yet unknown but could be anywhere from \$8-15 million.

I feel citizens should not be asked to fund a project until we know what that project will be. We should be presented a plan, long-term cost, and alternatives. If you agree, please vote No on this warrant article.

The Town Elections on March 8th are just one opportunity for voters to decide how much their tax bill will increase next year. Please also attend School District meeting on March 4th as well as Town Meeting on March 12th.

Michelle Siudut

Full Day Kindergarten Vote March 4 – NO, NOT AGAIN.

My objections for this are both procedural and evidence based. Procedural first, the voters already spoke on this issue, it should not come back year after year. Second, a warrant article of this nature rightly belongs at a **full** town meeting. **Why** is the school board trying to circumvent standard procedures?

Evidence:

Following are some quotes from a study, “Experimental Evidence on Early Intervention: The Impact of Full-day Kindergarten”, Chloe R. Gibbs, Sept 2014

“Despite its popularity and growing enrollment, research on the benefits of full-day kindergarten, however, is mixed and lacking in rigorous approaches to estimating program impact... The number of kindergarteners in full-day settings has increased dramatically over the last two decades, but *there is no rigorous evidence to support full-day kindergarten as an effective early childhood intervention...* Moreover, full-day kindergarten *provides fully subsidized child care* in the extended hours, and therefore, *constitutes a wealth transfer to parents of full-day kindergarten students...* Some argue that full-day kindergarten could situate children at the point of diminishing returns, generating little return because of the *excessive demands* on young children.” (my italics)

There were favorable outcomes in this year-long study, especially for non-white and Hispanic students, 25 % of the sample. To point out the obvious, the demographics in this study were completely different from our own. From citi-data.com for 2013 Brentwood is 95.4% white and the estimated median income is \$88,698. For comparison, the 2013 U.S. median household income was \$52,250. (from census.gov.) Additional studies, both cited and not cited in this study, pointed to the “fade-out effect”. After a few years the difference in academic performance between half time and FDK disappears. It's also worthy to note that the average FDK class size in this study was 30.5 students.

Those that reviewed this study said, “While encouraging, Gibbs’s findings are just a *first* examination of the students’ outcomes. We will *need further analysis* to get a clearer picture of full-day kindergarten effects.”

Evidence:

The Common Core argument: A friend of mine is a preschool teacher with 30 plus years of experience who also teaches 400 and 500 level classes at the local university. Her comments, “Common Core was never meant for kindergarten. The expectations are not developmentally appropriate.” She also pointed out that children under 7 – 8 years learn differently from older children and that our methods and practices don’t address that. Nationally recognized Expert Diane Ravitch states that the “Common Core standards effort is fundamentally flawed by the process with which they have been foisted upon the nation. The Common Core standards have been adopted in 46 states and the District of Columbia without any field test. They are being imposed on the children of this nation despite the fact that no one has any idea how they will affect students, teachers, or schools. We are a nation of guinea pigs, almost all trying an unknown new program at the same time. It was well understood by states that they would not be eligible for Race to the Top funding (\$4.35 billion) unless they adopted the Common Core standards. Federal law prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from prescribing any curriculum, but in this case the Department figured out a clever way to evade the letter of the law. Forty-six states and the District of Columbia signed on, not because the Common Core standards were better than their own, but because they wanted a share of the federal cash.” Obviously the federal government bought state participation. Now, a few years later, there is a great deal of backlash against this from states and their citizens.

Other points:

The “transitions” on page 10 of the Feb. Newsletter. Parents who work full time will still have to transition kids from home to some kind of day care whether they are in school full time or half time. There’s no net benefit for kids, just a plus or minus on either the parent’s or tax payer’s pocketbook. Other age appropriate, desirable activities mentioned can take place wherever children go after school.

If students are behind in first grade (page 11) it’s because many were not developmentally ready for the inappropriate standards nor the stress that over testing brings. Many “fail” not because they don’t receive enough instruction time, they just need developmental time to be ready for certain learning tasks without being labeled by the system as failures in their early school years.

Back to the question of WHY is this being pushed on voters again.

To get some more information about the current and proposed KDG situation at Swasey I spoke to 2 people who work there, one was a salaried professional. Their unsolicited comments were the most revealing. One said that “parents need FDK.”

“Why?” I asked. The simple answer was essentially that in many families both parents work. The second person said “It’s more convenient for parents”. “What do you mean?” I asked? They explained that it’s hard to have a student in half day or private kindergarten when other family members attend Swasey. It makes scheduling hard for parents. What’s revealing about both these comments and responses? They were about parent’s needs, not the needs of the children. Isn’t school supposed to be about our kids?

What Lies Beneath? (as explained to me by a school employee) Contract teachers who are cut because of decreasing enrollment “reduced in force” must be given the first option to be hired back so it’s a convenient way to higher back the teacher that was cut last year plus one more teacher. The amount budgeted for just the two salaries is about \$148,000. So these will be two very highly paid teachers. It pays to negotiate a good union contract.

Is it because some people think it might improve property values? Where’s the evidence? It might just as easily be said that because many home buyers don’t have and won’t have children who are going to be in FDK, they don’t want the extra tax burden for an unproven program.

Is it so we will look good and be trendy too? Page 10 of the Feb Newsletter pointed out that 4 towns in our SAU district spend more per student. These are the same towns that have extended day or FDK. Just a coincidence? Note the language: Brentwood once again earned the honor of the lowest cost per pupil in the district... a not so subtle shaming tactic from a school board member.

Brentwood doesn’t have to follow other districts, we can think for ourselves instead of trying to “keep up with the Jonses.” The evidence for FDK, either as a long term educational benefit for our children or for the community at large is not persuasive to say the least. The only proven “benefits” if this passes go to a small group of citizens who will have taxpayer subsidized childcare, a couple of teachers and perhaps a School Board who will feel better when discussing how much they spend per student. When did our children turn into a dollar sign, just a mere commodity?

Patty Shorland

Bake Sale on Election Day

The Brentwood Historical Society will have a Bake Sale table at the Community Center on Election Day, March 8, from 8:00 am until sellout. This is one of the primary methods of fundraising for the organization. Members, town residents and friends in the area who generously contribute home-baked items add greatly to the appeal of this popular table. The Historical Society is very grateful for their support.

For more info call Alma Vahey, president, at 679-8635.

TOWN ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Voters will receive three ballots at the Brentwood Community Center on Election Day -- the Town ballot; the Brentwood School District ballot; and the Cooperative School District ballot. Below is a summary of candidates and other items listed on each ballot.

Statements from the Candidates: All candidates were invited to provide statements for inclusion in this issue. Thanks to those who provided their statements.

TOWN BALLOT

On the Town Ballot you will first vote for the candidates for town offices as listed below.

Office	<u>Selectmen</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years 1 for 2 years
Candidate(s)	David Menter (3 years)
Office	<u>Cemetery Trustees</u>
Position Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Brad Stevens
Office	<u>Library Trustees</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Jim Clark
Office	<u>Moderator</u>
Position Available	1 for 2 years
Candidate(s)	Richard Chamberlain
Office	<u>Municipal Budget Committee</u>
Positions Available	2 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Malcolm Allison Elyse Gallo Michelle Y. Siudut
Office	<u>Planning Board</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years 2 for 1 year
Candidate(s)	Bruce J. Stevens (3 years) Matthew Bergeron (1 year)
Office	<u>Supervisors of the Checklist</u>
Position Available	1 for 6 years
Candidate(s)	Charles J. Williamson
Office	<u>Trustees of the Trust Funds</u>
Positions Available	1 for 3 years
Candidate(s)	Roger W. Crosby

Next you will see the "SB2 questions,"

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?"

2. "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?"

In addition to voting for town officials and the questions above, you will be asked to vote on five Zoning Amendments. Explanations for the amendments were provided on page 9 of the February Newsletter. A full copy of the amendments will be available at the polling place.

CANDIDATES REMARKS

David Menter – Selectman

I am a candidate for the 3-year position of Selectman. I live on North Road and have held various positions in the town of Brentwood for the past 31 years. I was on the Brentwood Police Dept. from 1984-2001. I was elected and served on the Budget Committee from 1997-1999. I served as a Supervisor of the Checklist from 1999 - 2003. Then I was elected and served as a Selectman from 2003 - 2013. I took time off after 2013 due to family obligations, although I did begin a term as Cemetery Trustee in 2013 and am still serving in that capacity. I feel that now I have the time to serve again on the board of Selectmen, and I ask for your vote at the upcoming town elections on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Jim Clark – Trustee of the MEB Library

Deb and I had been in Brentwood for about five years when I became a trustee of the library via a write-in vote in 2000. I was re-elected twice and served for nine years before deciding to retire. For most of the last six years I have served as an alternate trustee and have participated in nearly every meeting in that capacity. Many good things have happened at and to the library during these years, and I am proud to have been associated with the superb staff and the trustees in helping to make the library what it is today. These are exciting times for libraries, as they cope with the velocity of changes in the way we communicate and learn. Adapting and innovating are the keys to survival and relevance, and I am asking for your vote so that I can help with this critical process.

Malcolm Allison – Municipal Budget Committee

I am seeking a third three-year term on the Budget Committee. As a retired electrical engineer, I am conservative by nature, and fiscally cautious. I am familiar with both Brentwood town and school fiscal issues, having had 6 years’ experience in the budgetary process, and one year as secretary. If elected, I will continue to analyze the future proposed Town and School budgets to make sure they are fair and equitable to the Brentwood taxpayer, as I have in the past. My technical background will permit me to provide assistance to the other Brentwood town departments in two areas which are currently on the table: Solar power project to offset the town electric usage, and a town-wide information system project. I would appreciate your vote on March 8, thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brentwood: vote NO on SB2

SB2 aims to change the way we vote in Brentwood from Town and School District meetings to the way we vote for the Co-op school budget at the polls. Proponents of SB2 say that more people would be involved in the voting process and would not have to sit through sometimes lengthy meetings. Although more people may vote, they would be less informed voters. I know this because I have attended the Deliberative Session for the Co-op budget numerous times and very few people show up. This is where VOTERS PRESENT can vote on warrant articles, and can increase or decrease the Co-op school budget before the amount goes on the ballot. This year’s proposed operating budget is over 56 million dollars! Out of a possible 25,024 registered voters in SAU 16 only 106 attended this meeting. Approximately 1/3 of those attending were school staff, or on a school board. This is a ridiculously small number of people deciding on a \$56 million dollar expenditure. If 20 more voters attended, or 10 people changed their minds, big or little changes could have been made. This budget is usually the highest percentage of your tax bill. So this year, the proposed budget is almost the same as the default with approximately \$173,000 dividing them. If voters wanted a real choice, they could have amended the Co-op proposed budget to a lower amount at the Deliberative Session.

Currently, at the School District Meeting in Brentwood, we can raise or lower our Swasey budget as the voters dictate. Please note that several towns who have adopted SB2 have tried to go back to the traditional meeting. Generally, the traditional meeting coupled with our Municipal Budget Committee saves each of us quite a bit of money on our taxes. So please educate yourselves and vote NO on SB2 on March 8th, and NO for an Advisory Budget Committee.

Elizabeth Faria



To the Citizens of Brentwood,

SB2 (RSA 40:13) is back! An affirmative vote for SB2 (RSA 40:13) merely shifts voting from two separate deliberative meetings (town & Swasey School budgets) to the second Tuesday in March providing voters the friendly confines of a private voting booth.

We also ask for an affirmative vote on RSA 40:14-b which would complement SB2 by delegating the Municipal Budget Committee to produce the default budget for the Brentwood School district and Town entities. This is a prudent measure which promotes openness and accountability of the budget process.

Town Meeting shuts out the *many* and *does not* allow for absentee ballots, both unintended consequences. RSA 40:13 rectifies these inequities. SB-2 allows the many the opportunity to vote and permits absentee ballots. 1,963 registered voters came out to let their voices be heard in the latest primary elections. This is outstanding.

Opponents (mainly elected officials, administrators, town and school employees) argue that voters unable to attend Town Meeting are uninformed. We disagree, we believe non-attendees are everyday hard working citizens struggling to maintain the American Dream they have worked so hard to achieve. All taxpayers should be afforded the opportunity to participate in the voting process. Sidelining taxpayers from the voting process must end and it is ‘We the People’ who retain the power to make the change. Let’s win on the second Tuesday, March 8th and pass RSA 40:13 (aka SB2) & RSA 40:14-b.

Please Get Out & **VOTE**

Jim Berlo and Jim Johnson

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT

On the School District ballot you will first vote for the candidates for school offices as listed below.

Office School Board – Brentwood Dist.
Position Available 1 for 3 years
Candidate(s) **Melissa A. Litchfield**

Office Treasurer – Brentwood District
Position Available 1 for 2 years
Candidate(s) **John W. Mitchell**

Next you will see the “SB2 questions,”

- 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?”

2. “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?”

**EXETER REGION
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

On the ERCSD ballot you will be asked to vote for Cooperative District officers and to vote on the Cooperative District Warrant Articles. Voters from all towns in the District may vote for all the candidate positions.

* Office Cooperative School Dist. Board
 Positions Available 1 for each listed position
 Candidate(s) Brentwood (3 years)
Melissa A. Litchfield
Exeter (3 years)
Kimberly Meyer
Kensington (3 years)
James B. Webber
Stratham (1 year)
Travis Thompson

* Office ERCSD Budget Advisory Comm.
 Positions Available 1 from each town
 Candidate (s) Exeter (3 years)
No one filed
Newfields (3 years)
No one filed
Stratham (3 years)
Lucy Cushman

* 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.

Next you will see the Cooperative District school warrant articles, which will need a Yes or No vote on the ballot.

1. Shall the District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$56,692,794? Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$56,520,140 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments require3d by previous action of the District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (The School Board and Budget Advisory Committee both recommend \$56,692,794 as set forth on said budget.)

2. Raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$50,000 to be placed in the Synthetic Turf Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for replacement of the synthetic turf field located at Exeter High School. This sum to come from the June 30 undesignated fund balance available for transfer on July 1. No amount to be raised from taxation. (The School Board and Budget Advisory Committee both recommend this appropriation.)

3. Establish a Cooperative Middle School Renovation Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the renovation and expansion of the Cooperative Middle School and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 to be placed in this fund. (The School Board and the Budget Advisory Committee both recommend this appropriation.)

4. Citizens Petition: Shall the district ask the Exeter Regional Cooperative School Board to accept a vote of “confidence” in the continuing leadership and tenure of Superintendent Michael Morgan?

CANDIDATE REMARK

Jack Mitchell – Treasurer of the Brentwood School District

I am John Mitchell, better known as “Jack,” a 40-year resident of Brentwood with two children, who both attended Swasey and the SAU 16 schools. As a semi-retired small business owner, I would be pleased to continue performing the duties of Treasurer for the Brentwood School Board. Your support would be much appreciated.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YES to CMS renovation; NO to \$2 million Capital Reserve

This year on March 8th, SAU 16 voters will have an opportunity to vote on a \$2 million Capital Reserve fund for the future renovation of the middle school. While almost everyone agrees that the school needs renovations, it is important to note that the money collected from taxpayers for the CR this year cannot be spent until next year, at the earliest, after another vote. Many of us who attended the Deliberative Session were of the opinion that the middle school renovation should be a bond, which is cheaper because the cost is spread over 20 or 30 years, and the total cost should be revealed (between \$12 and \$15 million). We don’t want our tax money to just sit in a fund for a year when no one can spend it!! Please explain this to your friends and neighbors. We expect the building committee will come up with specifics for next year.

Of our six towns, Brentwood would have the highest tax impact at \$0.62/\$1,000 or \$216 additional for an average house.

Elizabeth Faria

Note the Change to Citizen Petition regarding Superintendent

A warrant article asking for a vote of confidence in Superintendent Michael Morgan will be on the Cooperative School District ballot, which you will vote on at the election polls on Tuesday, March 8th. This article was originally put forth as a Citizen Petition, asking for a vote of No Confidence in Michael Morgan. At the deliberative session Swasey School Board member Melissa Litchfield made a motion, which passed, to change the wording from “no confidence” to “confidence”.

I'm not sure if this was legal, and I certainly question if it was ethical. This was a CITIZEN petition, written expressly as the CITIZENS wanted it. The irony of this change is that several board members had stated moments before the vote that people should come to them with their opinions and concerns – and then they all voted to CHANGE the wording of what the citizens put forth.

However you feel about the superintendent and his leadership, I bring this to the voters' attention so they are aware of what they are voting on. Those citizens who signed the petition to establish the original warrant article, should now vote NO on the amended article.

The Town Elections on March 8th is one of three opportunities voters have to shape the future of our school district and control how much our property taxes will increase. Please also attend School District meeting on March 4th as well as Town Meeting on March 12th.

Thank you,
Michelle Siudut

A THANK YOU NOTE

This is just a little thank-you to the Brentwood Police Department and the Fire Department.

A few weeks ago we lost our power due to heavy winds. It left us without a phone. I saw my neighbor come home, so I asked her to call the Police Department, Fire Department plus Ever-source. We could all smell something like wire burning. It was a strong smell. The Fire Dept. came, looked all through the house but could not find the cause, even though they could smell it also. They were here for a long time assuring us all was well. We want to thank Officer George Abele as well as all those fire men who came to help us out again. Brentwood residents should be very proud to have such a caring and yes, even funny, fire dept. as well as their police dept. Thank you all.

George and Theresa Gilman

TOWN MEETING SATURDAY, MARCH 10

There are 20 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 \$1,400,000 for the reconstruction of Prescott Road to include replacement of 2 bridges for the north and south tributaries to Dudley Brook and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,250,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. It is anticipated that there will be no bond payment due in 2016. The remainder of the funds (\$150,000) are to be withdrawn from the previously established capital reserve fund for bridge repair, of which the selectmen are agents to expend. 2/3 ballot vote required.
2. Submitted by Petition: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the municipal budget committee in accordance with RSA chapter 32, section 32:14 V and to constitute a new committee to be called “Brentwood Budget Advisory Committee.” It is intended that this new committee be established as an “other committee” as permitted by RSA 32:24. Its duties and functions shall be the same as the discontinued municipal budget committee, except that, as RSA 32:34 provides, its recommendations shall have no limiting effect on appropriations, as set forth in RSA 32:18. The currently elected committee will constitute the membership of the new committee, members of which shall serve until the end of their current terms of office. Upon the expiration of their terms of office, future members at large shall be elected by the legislative body.
3. Raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,283,692 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations in special or individual articles addressed separately.
4. Raise and appropriate \$350,000 to repair roads.
5. Raise and appropriate \$25,000 to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund for the maintenance of town owned buildings.
6. Raise and appropriate \$20,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the repair of town bridges.
7. Raise and appropriate \$88,995 for the first year's payment of leasing a new pumper truck. This lease has an escape clause and in subsequent years if the annual appropriation is not approved, the lease terminates.

BUDGET UPDATE TOWN, SWASEY, & COOPERATIVE BUDGETS

8. Raise and appropriate \$18,524 for the fourth year's payment of leasing a backhoe for the highway department. This lease has an escape clause and in subsequent years if the annual appropriation is not approved, the lease terminates.
9. Raise and appropriate \$27,533 for the purchase of a police cruiser and related equipment.
10. Raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of highway vehicles and related equipment.
11. Raise and appropriate \$50,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the construction of new highway buildings.
12. Authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund to meet our constitutional and statutory requirement that assessments are at full and true value at least as often as every fifth year. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate \$25,000 towards this purpose and appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund.
13. Recommended by the Selectmen. Not recommended by the Budget Committee. Authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund in accordance with RSA 35:1 to acquire new software for municipal operations. Furthermore to raise and appropriate \$20,000 towards this purpose and appoint the selectmen to expend from this fund.
14. Reduce the Brentwood Municipal Budget Committee membership from 8 to 7. If this warrant article is adopted, no change shall take effect until the March 2017 elections, at which time 1 fewer positions shall be open for fulfillment.
15. Raise and appropriate \$1000 to provide funding to CASA.
16. Raise and appropriate \$1000 to provide funding for New Heights.
17. Recommended by the Selectmen. Not recommended by the Budget Committee. Authorize the establishment of a capital reserve fund in accordance with RSA 35:1 to acquire a solar array to offset the town's annual electrical usage. Furthermore to raise and appropriate \$50,000 towards this purpose and appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from this fund.
18. Submitted by Petition: Not recommended by the Budget Committee. Raise and appropriate \$8000 for the July 4th Fireworks Fund.
19. To hear reports and recommendations of all committee and to take any action.
20. To transact any other business that may legally come before the Town.

The Brentwood Budget Committee spent many meetings in January and February reviewing town and school Warrant Articles (WAs) in addition to finalizing the Town and Swasey School Operating Budgets (OBs). I would like to thank all the community members that attended Budget Committee meetings, the Cooperative Deliberative Session, and the Brentwood Public Hearing. Your presence does have an impact.

I've chosen to present the information for the Town, Swasey and Cooperative School District in a single article as all three budgets come together to determine our tax bills. I have included several tables that summarize the tax impact of OBs and WAs as well as a final summary table which combines the tax impacts from all three budgets.

TOWN: Currently both the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen recommend a Town OB of \$3,283,692, an increase of \$95,650.00 (3%) over FY2015. Much of this increase is due to changes in staffing, rising healthcare insurance and NH retirement costs, general insurance costs, replenishment of the Conversation fund, and a new server for the Town Offices.

A number of Town WAs will be put to vote at the Town Meeting on Saturday, March 12. They include items such as charitable contributions, vehicle lease payments, appropriations to current capital reserve funds, establishment of new capital reserve funds, and a bond article for Prescott Road. The Budget Committee recommends all WAs/Citizen Petitions except three (3): \$20,000 to establish a new software capital reserve fund; \$50,000 for a new capital reserve fund for town solar panels; and \$8,000 for the purchase of fireworks.

The total appropriations recommended by the Budget Committee for Town WAs (excluding the Town OB & Bond) are \$657,051 (\$0.458 tax impact). In addition the Selectmen recommend the new software and solar panel capital reserve appropriations bringing their total to \$727,051 (\$0.583 tax impact), representing a \$70,000 increase over Budget Committee recommendations. Details regarding each WA and Budget Committee recommendations can be found in the Public Hearing presentation found online on the town website at www.brentwoodnh.gov/images/pmm_entities/2/Public_Hearing_2_8_2016_1455560186.pdf.

Lastly, the Budget Committee considered a \$1.25M bond article to address updates to Prescott Road. The Selectmen provided a variety of support materials including detailed project estimates and bond payment schedules. The road construction will take place in 2016; however no appropriations, and thus no tax impacts, will be incurred in 2016. The first payment of approximately \$160,000 for the 10 year bond will be in 2017. The Budget Committee recommends this bond article.

Brentwood Operating Budget & Warrant Article Tax Impacts

	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE from prior year	% Change	TAX IMPACT \$/ \$1000 valuation	350K property cost estimate
TOWN OB	\$3,283,692 Recommended by Budcom & Selectmen	\$95,650	3.0%	\$0.171	\$59.85
TOWN WAs (Total of all WAs)	\$657,051 Budcom Recommended \$727,051 Selectmen Recommend	\$256,551 (Budcom) \$326,551 (Selectmen)	64% (Budcom) 82% (Selectmen)	\$0.458 (Budcom) \$0.583 (Selectmen)	\$160.30 (Budcom) \$204.00 (Selectmen)
Citizen Pellon Fireworks	\$8000 NOT Recommended by Budcom or Selectmen			\$0.0143	\$5.00
BOND for Prescott Road \$1.25 Million Recommended	\$1.25 Million Recommended by Budcom & Selectmen	No appropriation until 2017	No appropriation until 2017	2016 = \$0 Anticipated 2017 impact = \$0.30	2016 = \$0 Anticipated 2017 = \$105.00
TOTAL TOWN		RECOMMENDED by BudCom:		\$0.629	\$220
		RECOMMENDED by Selectmen:		\$0.754	\$264

SWASEY SCHOOL: The final Swasey OB recommended by BOTH the Budget Committee and the Swasey School Board is \$5,130,925, a decrease of \$72,471 (-1.39%) over the approved FY15/16 budget. It represents a reduction in staff (one teacher) due to decreased enrollment. Unlike the original draft budget, the final OB going before the voters at the March 4 School Meeting does not include funds for full-day kindergarten.

Establishing full-day kindergarten is addressed by Warrant Article #2. This program requires two (2) additional teachers and two (2) instructional aides for a total cost of \$270,050 (\$0.48 tax impact). Both the Swasey School Board and the Budget Committee recommend this warrant article.

Additionally, both the Budget Committee and the Swasey School Board recommend the creation of a Safety and Security Trust Fund and to appropriate \$20,000 from a FY15/16 unreserved fund balance (WA#3). Thus the total recommended appropriations (OB & WAs) associated with Swasey school are \$5,420,975 (\$0.386 tax impact)

Swasey School Operating Budget & Warrant Article Tax Impacts

	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE from prior year	% Change	TAX IMPACT \$/ \$1000 valuation	350K property cost estimate
SWASEY OB	\$5,130,925 Recommended by BudCom & School Board	-\$72,471	-1.39%	-\$0.13	-\$45.50
SWASEY WA #2 Full-Day K	\$270,050 Recommended by BudCom & School Board	\$256,551 (Budcom) \$326,551 (Selectmen)		\$0.48	\$168.72
SWASEY WA #3 Safety & Security Trust Fund	\$20,000 Recommended by BudCom & School Board	-\$72,471	Funds appropriated from FY15/16 unresolved fund balance	\$0.036	\$12.50
Citizen Pellon Child Benefit Services	\$3800 NOT Recommended by BudCom or School Board			\$0.0068	\$2.37
TOTAL LOCAL SCHOOL		RECOMMENDED by Budcom & School Board:		\$0.386	\$136

COOPERATIVE SCHOOLS (ERCSD): The ERCSD budget is by far the largest portion of your tax bill and is voted on at the polls on Tuesday, March 8. The default budget is \$56,520,140, a 1.43% increase over FY15/16. The ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee and the ERCSD School Board recommend the proposed budget of \$56,692,794 (1.74% increase over FY15/16), which is \$172,654 higher than the default budget.

Cooperative (ERCSD) Operating Budget & Warrant Article Tax Impacts

	AMOUNT	DIFFERENCE from prior year	% Change	TAX IMPACT \$/ \$1000 valuation	350K property cost estimate
ERCSD OB	\$3,283,692 Recommended by Budcom & Selectmen	\$95,650	3.0%	\$0.171	\$59.85
Warrant Article Turf Replacement	\$657,051 Budcom Recommended \$727,051 Selectmen Recommend	\$256,551 (Budcom) \$326,551 (Selectmen)	64% (Budcom) 82% (Selectmen)	\$0.458 (Budcom) \$0.583 (Selectmen)	\$160.30 (Budcom) \$204.00 (Selectmen)
Warrant Article CMS RenovaFon & Expansion Fund	\$8000 NOT Recommended by Budcom or Selectmen			\$0.0143	\$5.00
TOTAL ERCSD Impact (using DEFAULT OB) \$				\$0.702	\$245.70
TOTAL ERCSD Impact (using PROPOSED OB)				\$0.756	\$264.60

Cooperative (ERCSD) Operating Budget & Warrant Article Tax Impacts

ITEM	TAX IMPACT (\$/\$1000 valuation)		Where Determined
Town OB	\$0.171		Town Mtg – March 12
Town WA (total Budcom recommended)	\$0.458		Town Mtg – March 12
Swasey OB	\$.013		School Mtg – March 4
Swasey WA (total Budcom recommended)	\$0.516		School Mtg – March 4
ERCSD OB + Field Turf	\$.084 (default + turf) / \$.138 (proposed + turf)		Polls – March 8
CMS Expansion	\$.618		Polls – March 8
TOTAL (\$/\$1000 valua-on)	\$1.72 (using default OB)	\$1.77 (using proposed OB)	
Estimated Tax Increase for \$350,000 Home	\$602	\$620	

The ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee and the ERCSD School Board also recommend the appropriation of \$50,000 from the FY15/16 unreserved fund balance to the Turf Replacement fund. Although the money is not raised through taxation, it still has a tax impact of \$0.015/\$1000 valuation, as those funds would otherwise be used to offset next year's taxes.

The single largest potential contributor to your upcoming tax bill is the \$2,000,000 Cooperative Middle School Expansion & Renovation warrant article. The established fund would support the future expansion and renovation of the Cooperative Middle School. The \$2M could not be spent without the future approval of the voters. The tax impact for Brentwood would be \$0.618/\$1000 valuation (\$216 for a \$350,000 home). The CMS Building Committee will move forward in 2016 gathering community input, finalizing

plans, and moving through the bid process even if this warrant article does not pass. The ERCSD School Board, ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee and the CMS Building Committee all recommend this warrant article. The presentation given at the Deliberative Session detailing current conditions and needs can be found at: www.sau16.org/content/Deliberative_Session_CMS_Powerpoint_2-4-16.pdf.

Please refer to the Brentwood Newsletter February issue for more detailed information regarding the ERCSD warrant articles or contact me directly with questions.

Krista Steger - Chair of the Brentwood Budget Committee & Brentwood Representative on the ERCSD Budget Advisory Committee ksteger@brentwoodnh.gov

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Along with many others in town, I recently signed a citizen's petition to place an article on this year's town warrant asking voters to change how our town's Budget Committee is authorized – from the current state-defined “Municipal Budget Committee” to a locally defined “Budget Advisory Committee”. Most other towns in our area rely on an advisory type of budget committee, including Exeter which, several years ago, considered and rejected switching to the type of budget committee our town currently has.

The key difference between the current Municipal Budget Committee and the proposed Advisory Budget Committee is the provision stating that the voters of the town cannot increase a budget by more than 10% of the amount set by a Municipal Budget Committee, after certain exclusions which make the effective increase allowed by voters even less than that. While this may seem to be an important cost control authority for the committee to have, in practice this provision makes little sense and undermines the will of the voters at critical times. This provision is relevant only when the Municipal Budget Committee makes deep cuts to the budget proposed by a town/school authority. The irrational effect of this provision is that the deeper the cuts set by a Municipal Budget Committee are, the less authority the people of the town have to restore those cuts if they disagree. The Budget Committee is not constrained in the level of cuts it recommends; needing a mere 4 person majority of the committee, and having no responsibility for living within the recommended budget, or accountability for the results.

As far as I know, the only time this provision has been applied in Brentwood was in last year's school budgeting process. In spite of a required public hearing, where all speakers strongly opposed the cuts, the Budget Committee went forward with a sharp cut to the recommended budget. With record high turnout at the school district meeting, voters rejected these cuts by an overwhelming 80%, but the school budget was still reduced significantly due to this provision. Had the even deeper cuts initially proposed within the Budget Committee gone forward, the voter opposition would likely have been even greater, yet the mandat-

ed cuts imposed would have been even deeper. This highlights the flaw in the Municipal Budget Committee 10% rule.

A second review and opinion on town budgets is a useful and informative process. As such, the proposed warrant article does not just repeal the existing Municipal Budget Committee authority, but also replaces it with an Advisory Budget Committee, with members that will explicitly continue to be elected by the voters to assure independence. As such, nothing is lost in this change, but the final authority on setting budgets will be clearly defined as resting with the wisdom of the voters, who must both pay the tax bill and also live with the services those budgets allow. I hope you will support this change with your vote at Town Meeting on March 12th.

Sincerely,
Eric Turer

MODERATING TOWN MEETINGS FOR 36 YEARS

Where does one start in reviewing 36 years? What rises to the top? What really stands out? I think...the civility... of the citizens of Brentwood. All you need do is read about off and on skirmishes and battles in surrounding towns...some humorous and some ugly...as change, transition, growth take place, and then contrast that with how Brentwood handles its changes, transitions and growth. I'm not implying that we don't have strong feelings, passionate discussion, underlying tensions in Brentwood. Far from it. But we seem to handle them in a relatively civil way.

I give credit to a fairness within Selectmen deliberations, an exhaustive Budget Committee process, Town committees and departments that work well together within the system, a professional Town Office staff, and maturity of citizens at Town Meetings and Elections.

Some observations about Town Meeting

What is wonderful is how well those present deal with decisions surrounding Warrant Articles. What is sad is that there are so relatively few present. Generally 200 out of around 3,000 registered voters. I have often wished that the other 2,800 registered voters could experience the democratic process that takes place as we all determine where Brentwood will spend its money, where it will place its priorities.

Brentwood, like any other community, has its 'cast of characters' in the best sense of the word! What Moderators hope for is a sprinkling throughout the audience of those with financial astuteness, those with humor, those who have the right words to relieve growing tension, those of Great Wisdom...and on and on. You know who I mean, and we have all of those people in Brentwood. It is a joy to see them at work in a Town Meeting.

And there are ones no longer with us whom I miss a great deal...Harriet Gove, who could succinctly sum up a situation, Fran Thorsell, who must have memorized the RSA's and who would call me after a Town Meeting to let me know where I had

screwed up or once-in-a-while done something right, Selectman/financial wizard Ike Cross who always focused us on how today's financial decisions would affect us down the road, etc. You know the kind of people I'm talking about. They and their contributions are what New England Town Meetings are all about.

I'm always amazed at how we can take an enormous amount of time to pick a small Warrant Article to pieces...and then do something like pass the primary Town Budget in what seems like seconds! I think that it is because many of us relish the opportunity of wrestling with all sides of an issue...while at the same time our quick passage of the Town Budget is an affirmation of the work of the Selectmen and the many Town committees and boards (and an awareness that many battles already happened along the way and that now it is time to come together).

I enjoy moderating Brentwood's Town Meeting. Brentwood people are good people who want the BEST for Brentwood. What I can do is provide an opportunity for you to speak...without your being shut off. What you can do is have the opportunity to publicly express how you feel. And I believe that the winner is the Town of Brentwood.

Some observations about our Town Elections

Election Day is often exciting, sometimes really boring, and always...long! For the election officials it starts early and ends late. Friends, if you want to talk professionalism it is Town Clerk/Tax Collector Phyllis Thompson. I have worked elections with Phyllis for these same 36 years and Phyllis is the foundation upon which Brentwood's quality election process is built. The rest of us...Checklist Supervisors, Selectmen, Brentwood Police presence, myself...revolve around Phyllis's knowledge and quiet efficiency.

Generally Brentwood has a slightly better percentage of turn-out than the rest of New Hampshire's towns and cities. And when there is a major issue it has not been uncommon for a 70-75 % turnout of whatever number of voters are registered that year. Over the years there have been some very hot issues. Issues that placed Brentwood citizens strongly on both sides of a fence... such as (would you believe?) that Seabrook might dump nuclear waste in Brentwood, such as residential landing strips, such as its taking X number of years of Town Meetings to build our Firehouse, such as Planning Board and Board of Adjustment proposed changes, etc. Those are the times that citizens might feel they are walking the gauntlet when they pass between people and signs as they enter to vote. More than ninety-five percent of the time those manning the gauntlet and those walking through it have handled themselves well.

And, to take potential disagreement a step further...I have never, as Town Moderator, had to ask the Brentwood Police to remove a citizen from the Town Meeting or from an Election. I'm proud of the citizens of my community for that record.

If there is any disappointment it would be that more registered voters don't vote. I believe that one's commitment as a registered

voter involves accepting the reality that some elections will nearly be non-elections with few running for office and little excitement...but that one's responsibility is to be there for those elections as well as the elections that carry the greater excitement. And if we consider the larger picture I believe that in the long run our continuing election presence will strengthen the entire process.

I thank the citizens of Brentwood for having given me this opportunity of being your Town Moderator and I look forward to continuing to represent you as Brentwood's Town Moderator during the 2016-17 term of office.

Dick Chamberlain

A LETTER ABOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION

Earlier this month, Brentwood Representative Allen Cook made the decision to go along with a minority in the NH House of Representatives and vote to reject the renewal of the NH Health Protection Plan (NHHPP), commonly referred to as Medicaid Expansion. Thankfully, compassionate and economically minded legislators prevailed and the House passed an initial vote to renew the program. A final vote will take place in early March and we hope the House will vote to continue this important and successful program, and that Rep. Cook will be in support.

In 2014, with broad bipartisan support, the New Hampshire Legislature created the NHHPP to expand Medicaid using a unique NH approach that ultimately extends private health insurance coverage to these low income residents. Today, as a result of this program, more than 43,000 low-income NH residents have health insurance coverage and are able to get routine, preventative care that will keep them healthy and avoid costly emergency services.

Many in our town have worked to convince Representative Cook of the value of this program. In December 2015, he wrote in the Brentwood Newsletter about attending a Healthcare Forum presented at the Pilgrim United Church of Christ. The forum provided information on the success of the NH Health Protection Plan through data analysis, and the support of representatives from Lamprey Healthcare and Seacoast Mental Health, two agencies which provide services to the poor in our community. The meeting was attended by Representative Cook who responded to audience questions about his intent to support of the renewal of NHHPP, saying he "would most likely vote for it" at that time. This is not how he voted last week in the initial renewal vote. We might be encouraged that he has invited voters to attend a discussion on the impacts of expanding Medicaid in NH, to be held at his church – though this will likely happen after the final vote. In the description of the program, however he cites inaccurate and highly misleading data asserted by the Heritage Foundation – a partisan national group, and notes that his guest speaker is from the Heartland Institute, another explicitly politically biased national organization without connections to the inner workings of NH or the NHHPP. That said, we still hope residents will attend, but come prepared with objective information.

2ND ANNUAL OFFICER STEPHEN ARKELL COMMUNITY 5K

Representative Cook, and the readers of the Brentwood Newsletter, might do better to rely on information from an organization such as the NH Hospital Association, which refutes the Heritage Foundation data by providing actual NH numbers and stating, “In fact, as of the end of September 2015, emergency department visits among the uninsured are down 30%, uninsured inpatient visits are down 38%, and outpatient visits among the uninsured are down 28%. In the aggregate, uninsured visits have dropped 29% across all settings.” Or, perhaps readers might want to turn to the non-partisan NH Center for Public Policy Studies whose bottom-line assessment of the cost of not expanding Medicaid states, “Without expansion of Medicaid, approximately 24,000 lower-income individuals (largely people younger than 35 who earn less than approximately \$16,000 per year) who might otherwise have insurance coverage would remain uninsured. And at an average expenditure of \$5,676 per Medicaid enrollee, opting out of expansion would mean the state would give up approximately \$136 million in federal money that would otherwise be distributed to hospitals, physicians and other providers furnishing care to individuals who were previously uninsured.” If we don’t continue the NHHPP the people of this town will still pay their taxes into it, we just won’t get anything in return while other states use millions of our tax dollars to help their poor residents and their health care infrastructure.

The people of NH and Brentwood are better served by information generated by those who know and live in the state, rather than outside interests with a national agenda to repeal the Affordable Care Act and stop aid to the states through Medicaid expansion. I believe we are a better state and nation if we choose to support those who are in need of access to quality affordable healthcare.

Thank you,
Liz McConnell

MEDICAID EXPANSION – FORUM

Do you have questions about the Medicaid Expansion that has recently passed at the Statehouse? Do you wonder what this will mean for you, your neighbors, or your state?

Grace Ministries invites you to ‘Pinnacle Forum’ – a community based, open to the public forum with guest speaker Michael Hamilton of The Heartland Institute. There will be a Q & A (Question and Answer) session immediately following his presentation.

This edition of Pinnacle Forum will be hosted on Sunday, March 13, 2016 beginning at 4:00 pm through 5:30 pm, at Grace Ministries, 263 Route 125, Brentwood NH 03833. There is no admission fee or cost to attend this event. There is online registration at www.gracemi.org/pinnacleforum to guarantee a seat for the first 250 people. The remaining seats will be by first come – first served. Doors will open at 3:30 pm.

Consider joining your neighbors and friends as we delve into this important topic, and look for additional community issues and open forums that will be coming soon from Pinnacle Forum



The 2nd Annual Officer Stephen Arkell 87 Community 5K Run or Walk will take place on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 beginning at 12:00 noon**. The starting point will be at the rear of Swasey Central School, 355 Middle Road, Brentwood. Individuals of all ages are welcome to run or walk their way through the course. Kids 12 and under are free.

For information and sign-up forms go online to: <https://www.runreg.com/officer-stephen-arkell-community>. Participants are encouraged to pick up their race packets on Friday, May 6 at the Brentwood Recreation Center, 190 Route 125, from 5-8 pm. Packets can also be picked up Saturday before the race near the Swasey School start point.

Last year the 1st Annual Officer Stephen Arkell Community 5K was celebrated by over 2,000 participants and almost 40 local sponsors. All proceeds were used to establish the Stephen Arkell Memorial Scholarship Fund, for Seniors at Exeter High School. This year after the race the first recipients of the scholarship will be announced. To download an application form go to: <http://officerarkell5k.org/scholarship/>.

Compiled by Linda Rousseau



SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL UPDATE UPDATE

Hello Constant Reader!

This year's annual School District Meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 4th at 6pm at Swasey. I encourage all of the Brentwood community to attend to vote on our school budget and warrant articles, including full day kindergarten. Typically this meeting is on a Saturday morning, but there are often conflicts on Saturdays so the board is continuing with the Friday night meeting, same as last year. Babysitting will be available and we appreciate your attendance. All town meetings are scheduled and available at the town website, <http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/>.

Full Day Kindergarten has been a topic of discussion for the past few years and this year will be presented as a warrant article for the voters to decide on. Please feel free to call me at 642-3487 or email me if you have any questions or thoughts to share. Again, thanks for marking your calendar for the school district meeting. Your participation is encouraged and appreciated.

As ever,

Ron Kew, Principal

Kindergarten

Math instruction or time for play? One does not eliminate the need for the other in our kindergarten classroom.

Early childhood educators recognize that math skills can be developed through active, hands-on play. As kindergarten students use a variety of "play" materials they are developing foundational or prerequisite math skills.

One of the most valuable play materials in a kindergarten classroom is unit blocks, or good old fashioned solid wooden blocks. Block play is a favorite free-choice activity in our kindergarten classroom. Students explore balance and symmetry as they construct block structures. They develop early measurement skills and gain hands-on experiences with 3-dimensional or solid shapes.

In addition to child-directed exploration during block play, explicit instruction during whole-class and small group lessons reinforce the skills and concepts of the kindergarten common core math standards. Our current Everyday Math unit introduces students to flat and solid shapes. Students are learning to name and describe shapes, and to identify shapes as flat or solid. Through hands-on activities they analyze and compare two- and three-dimensional shapes, in different sizes and orientations, describing their similarities, differences, parts (e.g., number of sides and vertices/"corners") and other attributes (e.g., having sides of equal length).

Beyond math skills and standards, classroom block play provides opportunities for important social interactions. When students use blocks in a classroom setting they are learning to share, cooperate, negotiate, and problem-solve with peers. Language skills are enhanced as students share ideas and listen to each other.

What happens in kindergarten goes well beyond kindergarten, as the skills and concepts developed during block play and direct instruction lay the foundation for future math, language and social learning.

Grade 1

First grade just completed their observations of the moon, recorded the eight phases of the lunar cycle, and wrote a nonfiction book of facts about the moon. We will be learning about weather which will incorporate a STEM challenge in the unit.

In math we are working on place value to the hundreds place. Math facts and strategies are being taught and practiced. Time to the hour and counting mixed coins are just some of the skills we will be working on next.

In writing we will expand our writing to include How to Books. Editing skills are being used as we write.

Grade 2

Brrrr...the recent freezing temperatures provided a perfect setting for our second grade study of the Polar Climate Zone. Students have been busy studying this icy cold habitat along with the animals that live there. During this unit, students researched a polar animal and then wrote a report or made a poster in order to share what they learned. In addition, students conducted experiments which helped them better understand the adaptations these animals need to survive in this harsh climate. We look forward to our next unit of study which will be on Patriotic Songs and Symbols. This unit will conclude with a concert featuring a display of student built models depicting many of the symbols we will study.

Learning in the Library

Local author David Elliott will be visiting our kindergarten, first, second, and third grade classes on March 23rd. In preparation for his visit, students will read several of his books, experience his poetry, and design illustrations based on Mr. Elliott's text.

Everyone appreciates a good book recommendation, and our third graders are becoming our resident experts. For the past month they have been practicing book talking, the art of making a quality book recommendation to their peers. The one minute presentations also provide the opportunity to discuss genre. These young readers are teaching each other about the wide variety of books that are available in our school library!

Fourth and fifth grade classes are diving into research. We will build the foundation for good research practices by starting with note taking and bibliographies. We will also explore image sources and how to properly cite them in our projects. These skills will be valuable in both class assignments and in an upcoming library project that will be based on the 2016 Summer Olympics.

The Spring Book Fair will be held from March 31 - April 6. Book flyers will be sent home at the end of March. Read more about the library in our blog, SCS Connections and follow "Swaseylibrary" on Instagram.

Physical Education

March brings out the climbing rope, low and high balance beams, cargo net and mats for our weight transfer, rolling and jumping unit. Students participate in animal movements, tumbling, inverted balances, balance stunts, individual and group stunts. Students create movement patterns as an assessment of what they have learned. In April students will start a striking unit using paddles of all sizes, tennis rackets to ping pong size, small. The students will be working on their racket striking skills. This year in April I am very excited about this year's Jump Rope Show which promises to be electrifying, with light-up jump ropes and possibly glow-in-the-dark designs on the student designed shirts. The Swasey Swinging Stars put on their routines at Exeter High School on Wednesday, April 2. The show promises to have many new and exciting routines compiled by our Swasey Students. There are 168 members of the club in all the grades K-5.

Spring is around the corner and will be very welcome after this winter. Swasey students will be moving outside when the mud dries. See you soon, keep on moving.

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL PARENT FACULTY GROUP



The recently held Community Square dance was a hit. The turnout was large, including students and parents from all grade levels, kindergarten through fifth grade. Ellen Carson started the evening with the students learning how to "hambone", then they were invited to ask an adult to join them for some Contra and line dancing. Before you know it everyone was circling, swinging and a good time was had by all who attended.

The beautiful art work Swasey students create under the direction of our Art Teacher, Mrs. Buswell, will be on various items from Square One Art. This is a memorable way to keep your child's art in a unique way. Also, watch for upcoming information about our spring hanging basket from Wentworth Greenhouses in Dover. The baskets are large and lush and priced just right. Be sure to order one when the time comes, you won't be disappointed.

Please keep on clipping Box Tops! After you have clipped the Box Tops, send them into school. The Box Top money is used to support many worthy projects; the shade structure is a good example of the use of Box Top money. Remember, spring is around the corner.

Sheila S. Lane - On behalf of the Swasey PFG

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!

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with **Driving-Tests.org**, one of the nation's top sites for driver's license practice tests. This partnership will strengthen the library's mission to be a vital gateway to information. The new service includes **free tests**, written specifically for our state and based on NH DMV materials, and is the only site of its kind to include accessibility tools that allow users to hear selections read aloud, make them into MP3s, translate pages into other languages, magnify text, and mask sections of the screen for greater visibility on driving practice tests. Check out our website for this free drivers' education program, including 11 car practice tests, 9 motorcycle practice tests, 10 CDL (Commercial Driver's License) practice tests, 3 online driver's manuals (car, motorcycle, CDL), and an FAQ section with detailed answers to 100+ DMV-related questions. We are excited to bring this resource to Brentwood and feel the new program will benefit several valued groups of our patrons, such as teens, those with disabilities, those who participate in the library's programs for seniors and need to take a renewal exam, and patrons at every other stage of life.

Several patrons have asked us to bring a program to the library on the recent **Opiate Epidemic** and we are pleased to announce plans to do so. We've arranged for a panel of presenters from the Brentwood Police Department and the Seacoast Public Health Network to discuss how the opiate epidemic got to this point, how to talk to your kids (prevention strategies), and more. It will be on **Wednesday, March 16th at 7pm**.

50 Shades of Green – Adult Coloring Event on March 17 from 1pm-3pm. We challenge you to create a masterpiece in shades of St. Patrick's Day colors! No registration required. All materials will be provided.

Do you want more control over the taxes you pay? Financial Advisor Elliot J. Evans will be at the library on Thursday, **March 10 from 5:30pm – 6:30pm** to present a seminar on tax-advantaged investments called "**Tax-free Investing: It's Not What You Make, It's What You Keep.**" You'll learn about tax-advantaged investments and their features, tax-free investment returns vs. taxable investment returns, three ways to purchase municipal bonds, how tax-free investing can help you achieve your goals. Refreshments will be served.

A new **Brentwood Writer's Group** is forming. The first meeting will be held in the Marilyn Morehead Room on **Saturday, March 19 at 9:30am**. This will be an informal group, open to anyone who enjoys writing - whether it's for fun or you are writing the next great American novel! Michelle Belskis has kindly offered to coordinate this first gathering. Future meetings will be held once a month on Saturdays at the library. No registration necessary.

Ladies & Gents Night Movie will occur on **Thursday, March 24 at 7pm**. We will be showing the highly acclaimed 2015 historical drama, "**Brooklyn**," [PG-13]. Light refreshments will be served.

We are looking forward to co-hosting with the **Brentwood Gardeners** on **March 31** at 7pm for "**Discovering New England Stone Walls**." The presenter will be NH scholar and personality, Kevin Gardner. He will explain how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, and their significance to the famous New England landscape. Along the way, Kevin will occupy himself building a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket. Come join us for this smart, witty and delightful speaker!

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/MEB Makerspace Nights** will be held on **March 3, 17 and 31 at 7pm** in the downstairs Gilbert Gathering Room. Bring along your latest project (any craft at all). We have plenty of electrical outlets and table space!

This month **Wednesdays@One Cinema** will feature some terrific new movie releases (Wednesday afternoons at 1pm in the comfort of the cozy Marilyn Morehead Room.) The schedule:

March 2: Trumbo, March 9: Room, March 16: Grease Live!,
March 23: Miss You Already, and March 30: Brooklyn.

The Trustees will meet at **6pm on Monday, March 21**. Public is welcome to attend.

The Brentwood Bookers will be meeting on **Monday, March 28 at 7pm** to discuss *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal.

****Please note that the library will be closed on Saturday, March 12 so that all patrons and staff may attend the annual Brentwood Town Meeting.**

For the latest library news and events, including inclement weather closings, be sure to check out our website at www.brentwoodlibrary.org.

Check it all out @ your Brentwood library

Betsy Solon, Library Director

WANT BOOKS?!?!

The "Basement Bookstore" at the MEB Library has tons of them! The Friends invite you and your family to shop during the "Maker Space" nights in March -- not only will the bookstore be open but we'll be providing some refreshments as well to fuel your creative mind!

The Basement Bookstore will be open 3/3 and 3/17 at 7-9 pm, and 3/31 at 6-9 pm. Browse and buy -- hardcovers are \$1, paperbacks are \$.25, and you can fill a bag for \$5!

All proceeds benefit the Friends of the MEB Library, who provide extra programming and services for the library's community-at-large.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Pass worthy

"Years ago I decided that the greatest need in our Country was Art... We were a very young country and had very few opportunities of seeing beautiful things, works of art... So, I determined to make it my life's work if I could."

- *Isabella Stewart Gardner, on the creation of her Museum, 1917*



The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (Save \$5.00) displays an art collection of world importance, including works that rank among the most significant of their type. Isabella Stewart Gardner collected and carefully displayed a collection comprised of more than 2,500 objects—paintings, sculpture, furniture, textiles, drawings, silver, ceramics, illuminated manuscripts, rare books, photographs and letters—from ancient Rome, Medieval Europe, Renaissance Italy, Asia, the Islamic world and 19th-century France and America. Built to evoke a 15th-century Venetian palace, the Museum itself provides an atmospheric setting for Isabella Stewart Gardner's inventive creation.

Rachel Perry is the seventh artist-in-residence invited to create a temporary site-specific work for the Museum's façade. Ms. Perry's project at the Isabelle Stewart Gardner reflects on life, culture, and consumption in the 21st century.



Museum of Science.

With the reduced admission for up to 4 people, here are a few activities at the MSB that you could spend your savings on.

Thrill Ride 360° Twist and turn like never before in these dynamic simulators with full-motion, 360-degree pitch, roll, and spin technology, surround sound, and 3-D imaging! With two options of the Roller Coaster where you design your own roller coaster, and then enjoy a fantastic adventure as you drop more than 100 feet and travel through loops and tunnels at record speed. Or choose a pre-designed feature, where you and a friend can go along for the realistic ride and enjoy the thrilling twists and turns along the virtual track. Or you can Fly Over Boston where you get to jump into the pilot's seat, and control an airplane from takeoff to landing as you fly over famous local landmarks.

Laser Floyd: The Wall at the Planetarium-Pink Floyd's classic 1979 epic about personal struggle weaves its story into one of the most popular laser shows ever produced. *Please note: Laser shows contain bright, flashing lights that may cause discomfort to those with light sensitivity or other pre-existing conditions.* The Set List for the show: In the Flesh?, The Thin Ice, Another Brick in the Wall (Pt. 2), Mother, Goodbye Blue Sky, Young Lust, Is There Anybody Out There?, Comfortably Numb.



Reserve one of our many Museum and Fun passes online! (Once you have reserved the pass, print out your confirmation email and stop by the library to collect the pass.)

4-H MEMBERS SHOWCASE KNOWLEDGE AT HORSE QUIZ BOWL CONTEST

PEMBROKE – Rockingham County 4-H senior and junior teams showcased their equine knowledge and took first place standings in the annual NH 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl held on Saturday, Jan. 23 at Pembroke Academy.

Forty-two 4-H members participated in the junior and senior divisions, and an additional 20 members, age 11 and under, participating in the novice division. Three or four-member teams raced to be the first to “buzz in” with the answer to a variety of horse-related questions in a lively double elimination contest.

Members of the first place 4-H senior team are Jackie Johnson of Brentwood, Kayla Murphy of East Kingston, Keelin Berger of Epping, and Cody Gleason of Danville. The first place 4-H junior team includes Lindsey Stenmark of Lee, Zach Gleason of Danville, Sophie Szaniawski of Fremont, Karissa Martin of Epping.

When not competing in Horse Quiz Bowl matches, members enjoyed a variety of horse-themed activities including explorations of equine behavior, horse judging and anatomy. Attendees were challenged to figure the identity and use of items displayed at the “Whatsits” table, where a variety of unusual horse items were displayed.

The top eight members in the senior division will begin preparing to represent New Hampshire at the New England Regional 4-H Horse Contest held in October, and the top team will be eligible to represent New Hampshire at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Louisville Kentucky in November.

The NH 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl contest is supported by a grant from the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire. 4-H is the youth educational program of UNH Cooperative Extension. For more information on clubs and programs in Rockingham County, visit bit.ly/RockCty4H or call (603) 679-5616.

Picture caption- 4-H Senior Team: The Rockingham County 4-H Senior Team stands with first place ribbons earned at the annual NH 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl held in January. From left are Jackie Johnson of Brentwood, Kayla Murphy of East Kingston, Keelin Berger of Epping, and Cody Gleason of Danville.



OFFICER GEORGE ABELE AWARDED



Surrounded by family, friends and colleagues at the Brentwood Town Offices on February 16, Full Time Officer George Abele, front center, shakes hands with Police Chief Wayne

Robinson after he was presented with the Life Saving Medal. He was honored for “extraordinary heroism in the line of duty on August 5, 2015” when he saved the life of a suicidal man who had locked himself inside a running truck in a closed garage at a business on Route 125. Two assisting officers and paramedics helped with the rescue. From left to right, Officer Michael Greeley, Samantha Furtado, Sgt. H.D. Wood IV, Officer Abele, Lt. David Roy, Chief Robinson, Kelley Michael and Abele’s mother Karen Abele.

BRENTWOOD GARDENERS

The Gardeners had a most enjoyable February meeting, with a dreary winter evening transformed into a delightful program on Fairy Houses. Thanks to Amy Robinson for all she researched and demonstrated for us.

The March program will take place Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 pm in the Pilgrim Church Fellowship Hall. Another fine program will be offered. Randi Mulqueen will coach everyone in making easy, colorful hummingbird feeders.

We recently welcomed two new members to the group and we always welcome more! Being a resident of Brentwood is not a requirement for belonging to this fun group of “country gardeners.” For more information feel free to call one of the co-presidents, Torie Freeman, 778-3748, or Linda Rousseau, 772-4534.

Linda Rousseau

BRENTWOOD SENIORS

Many thanks from the Brentwood Seniors to all who baked and/or purchased home-made foods for the Bake Sale table at the February 8 Presidential Primary election. We enjoy saying hello to everyone and very much appreciate the monetary contribution to our treasury.

The March meeting of the Brentwood Seniors will take place at the Community Center on Wednesday, March 23. Members will gather at 11 am for appetizers and social hour. The luncheon theme will be – of course! – Irish corned beef and all the trimmings. Details about the program will be discussed at the February meeting.

New members are always welcome at Seniors meetings. You do not have to be a Brentwood resident to join us. For further information please call Alma Vahey, president, 679-8635.

Linda Rousseau

BRENTWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

275th Anniversary Next Year

If you enjoy living in this little town and find yourself wondering how people lived and what they did from the late 1600s to the present day, this next year may be very interesting for you. The town of Brentwood will observe its 275th anniversary in 2017. That’s the 275th year since the town was incorporated, in 1742. Actually, people were settled here, farming and operating mills on the river, for some 100 years before that. From 1638 to 1742 all this land belonged to Exeter. Furthermore, even after Brentwood became a town, for another 34 years its residents honored the flag of England and pledged loyalty to the King as their leader.

A Comprehensive History of the Town

In April the Historical Society will sponsor a program giving a comprehensive history of Brentwood. The speaker will be Matthew “Sandy” Thomas of Fremont, one of the most knowledgeable historians in the region. Sandy has always been a friend of Brentwood. He’s a walking treasure trove of interesting details about this area. Save the date — Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm at the Historical Society Museum. This will be a valuable lead-in to any events that are planned in the coming year for the 275th anniversary.

Bake Sale Table on Election Day

This Historical Society will have a Bake Sale table on Election Day, Tuesday, March 8, at the Community Center. In addition to the items baked by its members, home-baked items from town residents and friends will be gratefully received. For more information call Alma Vahey, president, 679-8635.

Linda Rousseau

THE PILGRIM UCC

Holy Week begins at Pilgrim United Church on Palm Sunday, March 20th, 10 AM with very special worship and great music.

On **Thursday night at 7** a quiet service of readings and music will remember Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples. Then on **Sunday, March 27th** we will celebrate **Easter** with a 7 am informal outdoor service next to the church, and then again at 10 AM in the sanctuary!

Pilgrim United Church of Christ will hold its delicious monthly community breakfast on Easter Sunday. We enjoy, not only great eggs, maple sausage, corned beef hash, and lots of home-made breads and muffins, but warm fellowship with friends and neighbors. Free will offering only. All are welcome!

Pilgrim UCC is an inclusive, accessible, diverse community of all stripes and shapes. Wherever you are on life’s journey you are welcome here.

Rev. Linda Lea Snyder

4TH ANNUAL CONNOR'S CLIMB 5K & FAMILY WALK



Connor's Climb Foundation (CCF) will host the 4th annual Connor's Climb 5K & Family Walk, on Saturday, May 14, 2016. The event will support the foundation's work of providing suicide prevention programming to middle and high schools throughout New Hampshire. This year's event will take place at Exeter High School. Paralympic gold medalist and ESPN correspondent Victoria Arlen will be back to help kick off the race.

[To register for the race or family walk](#)

visit <http://www.connorsclimb.org/#!2016/z0qaw>. Same day registration begins at 8:30am with a race start time of 9:30am. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting info@connorsclimb.org.

Since 2012, CCF has raised over \$70,000 to fund expanded education and awareness for suicide prevention in New Hampshire schools. CCF has hosted three trainings for over 200 New Hampshire educators and community organization leaders, and given "30 Signs of Suicide (SOS)" education kits to New Hampshire schools. "This was an excellent training that all educators need to have. Thank you very much for this resource," one New Hampshire educator said when providing anonymous feedback.

"The support of the community is what allows us to make measurable changes and real progress in the fight against suicide and stigma. To be able to honor the memory of Connor while saving lives is such a meaningful tribute to his life," said Tara Ball, Connor's Climb Foundation President.

BRENTWOOD RECREATION NEWS, MARCH 2016

Youth BASEBALL and SOFTBALL Sign-up deadline is February 24th

Our Farm and AAA teams will play in the Rockingham County Baseball League (East Kingston, Kensington, and Newfields) and our Softball teams play in the Seacoast Fast Pitch league.

*T-Ball will play only in Brentwood.

T-Ball (Kindergarten)

\$35

Coed

Farm (1st & 2nd Grades)

\$45

Players may move up if they can hit a ball pitched by a 3rd or 4th grader

AAA (3rd & 4th Grades)

\$55

Round Robin Tournament (mid-season weekend day) in place of postseason playoffs

U8 Softball (8yrs. or younger on 1/1/16)

\$50

U10 Softball (10yr. or younger on 1/1/ 16)

\$75

U12 Softball (12yr. or younger on 1/1/16)

\$75

U14 Softball (14yr. or younger on 1/1/ 16)

\$75

Sign-up forms are available in the Recreation office and on our website. You can also register your player online.

Looking to become a coach or umpire? Contact the Recreation Department for more details.

****Field Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th.
(Make-up date is April 16th)**

Little League and Babe Ruth registration will be through EJBL and Exeter Babe Ruth www.leaguelineup.com/ejbl

COYOTE CLUB Outdoor Wilderness Class Late Winter - March 2nd-March30th

Coyote Club is designed to introduce children to nature-based studies, native crafts and environmental stewardship. The program includes survival skills, wilderness awareness, navigation/mapping, animal signs and much more!

The five week course runs Wednesday afternoons from 3:15-4:30pm. *2 hour special on 3/30 (last class).

Cost is \$65 Space is limited

Red Cross Babysitter Training Course August (dates TBD)

Interested in earning your Red Cross Babysitting Certificate? Would you like to learn more about basic first aid and infant/child care? Brentwood Recreation has offered this opportunity in the past and we are looking to schedule another training day this summer. If you or anyone you may know would be interested in becoming certified or recertification, please contact the Recreation Department at the Brentwood Town Offices.

LITTLE PEOPLE PLAYGROUP 9-11am Thursday Mornings

Located at the Brentwood Community Center, this is a playgroup for young children and their parents.

Sip & Sign

Friday, March 18th, 6:30pm

\$30 per person

Enjoy some social time with friends, family or co-workers, while creating your own winter/Valentine's Day themed sign. Choose one of MANY designs and our instructor will guide you step-by-step as you relax, sip and paint along. No experience necessary, all painting supplies included, feel free to bring your favorite sipping beverage (soda, coffee, or even wine!)

Bunny Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Saturday, March, 26th

Join us at the Brentwood Community Center for our traditional Easter Egg Hunt and Bunny Breakfast. The Egg Hunt begins promptly at 8:45am (for toddlers and children up to 5th grade). Breakfast is from 9:00-10:00am. Get your picture with the Easter Bunny, find the "Golden Egg", and celebrate the start of the Spring season!

\$5 for Adults

\$3 for Kids (9 yrs. & younger)

ADULT YOGA CLASS

Tuesday Evenings 6:30-7:45pm

\$64/eight weeks. \$10/class.

Offered by Cheryl Rossman

The Recreation Department would like to welcome Cheryl Rossman. Cheryl recently completed Yoga Therapy training and the YogaLife Institute of NH 200-hour course. Refresh your body and mind at a very thoughtful class that you are sure to love! If you try the first class and then register for the full session, your first class is FREE! Registration is always open, join whenever you want! www.letsgetmovin.com.

YOGA MOVEMENT FOR SENIORS

Join us at the Brentwood Community Center Tuesday mornings for this FREE class. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 am, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:00 am. This gentle movement class helps seniors improve range of motion, flexibility, and balance and will help relieve your aches and pains. No experience necessary. This is a great social activity too!

TANG SOO DO CLASSES

Mondays and Fridays

6:30-8:00pm

Tang Soo Do is a Korean Martial Art comprised of both hard and soft techniques. It emphasizes whole body physical training. It's beneficial for self-discipline, self-defense and health. Classes are taught by Retired Law Enforcement officer Bob Meegan, currently a 3rd degree Black Belt with the World Tang Soo Do Association.

Community Center

The Brentwood Community Center is available to rent for parties, receptions, meetings and more. Brentwood residents receive a discounted rental rates! See our website for pictures of the Center and rental application or pick up an application at the Recreation office. For information and to check availability, please contact Alicia O'Brien at 642-6400 ext.: 30 or AO'Brien@brentwoodnh.gov.

Have a Good Idea for a New Program?!

The Recreation Department is always looking for new instructors/programs to implement. If you believe your program/event idea would be beneficial to our community, please contact the Recreation Department. It is simple to get a program started; all you need to do is let us know. Fill out one of our "Program Development Guides", located online and at the Town Offices. Your idea might just be our next popular program!

For information regarding programs and field rentals, please contact the Recreation Office at 642-6400 ex: 20.

David Tovey - Brentwood Recreation Director

1 Dalton Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

603-642-6400 ext. 20

www.rec.brentwoodnh.gov/

recreation@brentwoodnh.gov



**KEEP
CALM
and
THINK
SPRING**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 4 **Brentwood School District Meeting -- 6:00 pm, Swasey School Gymnasium**
March 7 **Absentee ballots must be returned to Town Clerk's Office by 5:00 pm**
Trails Committee – 7:00 pm, Town Offices
School Board – 6:15 pm, Swasey School Library
- March 8 **Brentwood Town Elections -- Polls open 8:00 am-7:00 pm, Community Center**
March 9 Friends of the Library -- 12:30 am, Brentwood Library
Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices
- March 10 Historical Society board business meeting – 10:00 am, Historical Society Museum
Seminar on Tax-Advantaged Investments – 5:30-6:30 pm – Brentwood Library
- March 12 Town Meeting - 9:00 am, Swasey School Gymnasium
March 14 Seacoast Area Adoptive Families Support Group – 6:30 pm, Pilgrim UCC Church, 197 Middle Rd.
March 15 Selectmen's meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices
Swasey Parent-Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library
Brentwood Gardeners -- 7:00 pm, Fellowship Room, Pilgrim Church, "Hummingbird Feeders"
- March 16 **Opiate Epidemic, Panel Program – 7:00 pm, Brentwood Library**
March 17 **Coloring for Adults** – 1:00-3:00 pm, Brentwood Library
Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices
- March 19 Brentwood Writers' Group – 9:30 am, Brentwood Library
March 21 Library Trustees – 6:00 pm, Brentwood Library
March 22 Selectmen's meeting -- 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices
Recreation Commission -- 6:30 pm, Sanborn Room, Town Offices
- March 23 Brentwood Seniors -- 11:00 am, Community Center
March 24 **Ladies & Gents Night at the Movies – 7:00 pm, Brentwood Library, "Brooklyn"**
March 28 Brentwood Bookers -- 7:30 pm, Brentwood Library
March 29 Selectmen's meeting -- 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices
March 31 **Discovering New England Stone Walls –7:00 pm, Brentwood Library. Presented jointly by the Library and Brentwood Gardeners.**
- April 4 Swasey School Board -- 6:00 pm, Swasey School Library
Trails Committee -- 7:00 pm, Town Offices
- April 5 Selectmen's meeting – 6:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices
April 7 Cemetery Trustees – 5:00 pm, Town Offices
Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Offices

The public is welcome at all above events

Brentwood
NEWSLETTER

c/o Linda Rousseau
PO Box 282
Exeter, NH 03833

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