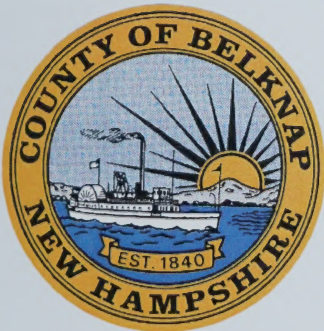



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# County of Belknap New Hampshire 2007 Report of the Belknap County Commissioners



For the Year Ending December 31, 2007



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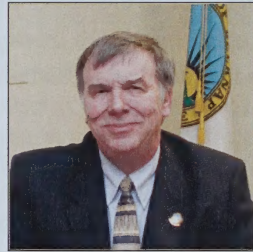
# Annual Report of the Belknap County Commissioners



Chairman  
Philip P. "Bud" Daigneault



Vice Chairman  
Christopher D. Boothby



Clerk  
Richard W. Long

For the Year Ending December 31, 2007

# Belknap County, New Hampshire HISTORY

**Form of Government:** The County of Belknap, New Hampshire, was established in 1840 under the laws of the State of New Hampshire.

The seat of Belknap County is based in Laconia and provides support to the citizens of ten towns and one city in the form of the following services: Citizens Council on Children and Families, Corrections Facility, County Attorney, Finance, Human Services, Registry of Deeds, Juvenile Restorative Justice, Maintenance, Nursing Home and Sheriff's Department.

The county operates under the Commissioners (Executive Branch consisting of three elected Commissioners) and Convention (Legislative Branch consisting of 18 elected Representatives) form of Government and provides services as authorized by the State statute.

The three member Board of Commissioners (as mandated by New Hampshire Statute RSA 28) are part time elected officials responsible for overall supervision, custody and care of all county departments, buildings and land, and have budgetary oversight of all county expenditures. They are elected into staggered four and two-year terms by the voters of the districts each are assigned to. The annual county budget is prepared by the Commissioners and Department Heads and submitted to the County Convention for final approval.



## Belknap County Seal

The seal of Belknap County was commissioned in the latter part of 1976, the year of our nation's bicentennial, and adopted in February of 1977. Designed and executed by Mr. Norman M. Dexter of Nashua, who donated his services to Belknap County, the seal includes several symbols important to the county and its history.

Depicted on the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee, the largest body of fresh water in the northeast (which touches the shores of just about every town and city in the county) is the old paddle wheeler Mount Washington. The Mount graced the Big Lake until 1939, when it was destroyed by fire. Yet, to this day it continues to serve as a symbol of the grace, dignity and unique New England character for which the people and the area are known throughout the country. It could be said that the Mount stands for the commerce the Lake has provided for our people, going back to the fishing days of the Indians; for the many recreation and leisure time activities the county has offered its many visitors from throughout the world; and for the great creativity with which the people of Belknap County have used these natural resources to their ultimate advantage and prosperity.

The rising sun – a symbol of hope and renewal as well as the blessings of a patient, graceful Providence – is shown bursting forth over the Mount Belknap, which lies just east of the center in the county. The Mountain is named for Dr. Jeremy Belknap, noted historian, clergyman, and naturalist, after whom the county was named in 1840. Dr. Belknap wrote the first history of New Hampshire, pastored the First Congregational Church at Dover (1766-1786), and founded the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1794.

Originally part of the Strafford County, the County of Belknap was formed by Legislative act in December 1840.



## Table of Contents

Belknap County Officers.....	6
Belknap County Convention.....	7
Belknap County Directory .....	8
Minutes of the County Convention.....	9
Belknap County Commissioners.....	29
Belknap County Budget Report.....	32
Report of the County Attorney.....	42
Report of the Department of Corrections.....	46
Report of the Human Services Department .....	51
Report of the Nursing Home.....	55
Report of the Registry of Deeds.....	57
Report of the Sheriff's Department.....	59
Report of the Restorative Justice Department .....	67
Report of the Maintenance Department .....	69
Report of the Belknap County Citizen's Council .....	73
Report of the Economic Development Council.....	78
Report of the Cooperative Extension.....	84
Report of the Conservation District .....	91
Report of Genesis Behavioral Health .....	98

# 2007 Belknap County Officers

## COMMISSIONERS

Philip P. Daigneault, Chairman – Laconia,  
Christopher D. Boothby, Vice-Chairman – Meredith  
Richard W. Long, Clerk – Belmont

## COUNTY TREASURER

Michael G. Muzzey – Laconia

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

James Carroll - Laconia

## SHERIFF

Daniel Collis – Laconia  
Craig Wiggin - Meredith

## CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

Dana W. Zucker – Gilford

## JUDGE OF PROBATE

Christina M. O'Neill – Laconia

## REGISTRAR OF PROBATE

Karen H. Brickner– Laconia

## DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF PROBATE

Linda D. Clark – Laconia

## REGISTRAR OF DEEDS

Rachel M. Normandin – Laconia

## DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF DEEDS

Barbara R. Luther – Laconia

## SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Richard A. Grenier – Gilford

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Brian J. Loanes - Belmont

## NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR

Bernard H. Gray, Jr. – Concord

## HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

Carol N. Schonfeld – Gilmanton

## COUNTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Thomas A. Andrew – C.M.E.

## SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

D. William Jenkins – Thornton  
Harold Powell - Alton

## COUNTY CHAPLAIN

Reverend Harry Woodley

## CITIZEN'S COUNCIL ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alan Robichaud – Belmont



## **2007 Belknap County Convention (Legislative Delegation) (18)**

### **District No. 1**

Center Harbor, New Hampton (1)  
Francine Wendelboe (r) – New Hampton

### **District No. 2**

Sanbornton, Tilton (2)  
Gail C. Morrison (d) - Tilton  
William B. Tobin (r) - Sanbornton

### **District No. 3**

Meredith (2)  
Bruce D. Heald (r)  
Stephen H. Nedeau (r)

### **District No. 4**

Laconia (5)  
Judith Reeve (d)  
Donald H. Flanders (r)  
Beth Arsenaault (d)  
Franklin T. Tilton (r)  
Jane Wood (d)

### **District No. 5**

Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Gilford (7)  
Janet F. Allen (r) - Barnstead  
Laurie J. Boyce (r) - Alton  
Charles L. Clark (r) - Gilford  
Alida I. Millham (r&d) - Gilford  
James P. Pilliod (r) - Belmont  
John H. Thomas (r) - Belmont  
Michael D. Whalley (r) - Alton

### **District No. 6**

Gilmanton (1)  
David H. Russell (r) - Gilmanton

### **Executive Committee**

Stephen Nedeau – Alida Millham  
David Russell – John Thomas  
Jim Pilliod – Jane Wood – Frank Tilton

# Belknap County Directory

<b>Board of Commissioners</b>	527-5400
<b>Chairman:</b> Philip P. Daigneault, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5409
<b>Vice Chairman:</b> Christopher D. Boothby, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	
<b>Clerk:</b> Richard W. Long, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	
<b>County Treasurer</b>	527-5400
Michael G. Muzzey, 34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5409
<b>County Administrator and Finance Officer</b>	527-5400
34 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246 (Currently Vacant)	Fax: 527-5409
<b>County Attorney</b>	527-5440
James Carroll, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5449
<b>Registrar of Deeds</b>	527-5420
Barbara Luther, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5429
<b>Sheriff</b>	527-5454
Craig Wiggin, 42 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5469
<b>Corrections Superintendent</b>	527-5480
Richard A. Grenier, 76 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5489
<b>Restorative Justice Program Director</b>	527-5493
Brian J. Loanes, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5498
<b>Human Services Administrator</b>	527-5470
Carol N. Schonfeld, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5471
<b>Maintenance Superintendent</b>	527-5490
Harold Powell, 64 Court Street, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5449
<b>Nursing Home Administrator</b>	527-5410
Courtney Marshall, 30 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5419
<b>UNH Cooperative Extension Administrator</b>	527-5475
Amy Ouellette, 36 County Drive, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 527-5477
<b>Conservation District Director</b>	527-5880
Lisa Morin, 719 North Main Street, Room #203, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 528-8783
<b>Economic Development Council Executive Director</b>	524-3057
Jennifer Boulanger, Southern Univ. Bldg., 2 Airport Road, Gilford, NH 03249	Fax: 524-0314
<b>Belknap County Citizen's Council Executive Director</b>	528-3185
Alan Robichaud, One Mill Plaza, Laconia, NH 03246	Fax: 528-3635

# BELKNAP COUNTY CONVENTION

Meeting March 5, 2007

**Present:** Rep. Tobin, Rep. Wendelboe, Rep. Heald, Rep. Nedeau, Rep. Reeve, Rep. Tilton, Rep. Wood, Rep. Allen, Rep. Boyce, Rep. Millham, Rep. Pilliod, Rep. Thomas, Rep. Russell. Commissioner Daigneault, Commissioner Long.

Rep. Nedeau called Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Daigneault introduced department heads. He then explained changes from the first budget draft that included a \$310,000 increase in the Nursing Home Budget, and a \$244,000 increase in Human Services Budget. This makes a total increase of 7.6% over last year.

## Budget Deliberations:

### GENERAL FUND:

1. MOTION Rep. Millham, Second Rep. Pilliod to approve the General Fund Revenues of \$12,441,718. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES: \$14,592,335. MOTION Rep. Millham, Second Rep. Thomas. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

2. Commissioners Budget \$311,978, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED.
3. Finance Budget \$299,689, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED
4. Citizens Council Budget, \$311,223, Rep. Clark, APPROVED
5. County Attorney Budget, \$545,313, Rep. Tilton, APPROVED
6. Registry of Deeds Budget, \$567,648, Rep. Tilton, APPROVED
7. Sheriff's Department Budget, \$1,921,577, Rep. Flanders, APPROVED
8. Restorative Justice Budget, \$127,957, Rep. Flanders, APPROVED
9. Medical Referee Budget, \$18,000, APPROVED
10. Maintenance Department Budget, \$376,388, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED
11. Human Services Budget, \$5,330,474, Rep. Tilton, APPROVED
12. Corrections Department Budget \$3,099,353, Rep. Flanders, APPROVED
13. Gunstock Budget, \$245,283, Rep. Pilliod, APPROVED

At this time, Gunstock General Manager Greg Goddard was recognized, and rose to give a report. He said January was a very bad month, February was good, and March is starting off very well. Expenses were kept in line with revenues, but sales to date are off 15%. If the good March weather holds out,

we could recover at least to the break-even point. This is Gunstock's 70th Birthday, and some interesting promotions are in the works.

14. Outside Agencies:

- a. Cooperative Extension, \$141,869, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED
- b. Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid, \$447,070, Rep. Russell, APPROVED
- c. Delegation Expense, \$7,000, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED
- d. Conservation District, \$99,146, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED
- e. Genesis, \$34,200 original motion, Final budget \$27,500. Rep. Boyce.

Discussion ensued. Commissioners and Director of Human Services recommended \$27,500, Sub-committee, \$34,200. Motion Rep. Boyce, Second Rep. Wendelboe. \$27,500 PASSED 8/4, one abstention. Line (and entire budget) down \$6,700.

- f. Airport Authority, \$10,000, Rep. Allen, APPROVED
- g. Community Action Program, \$50,905, Rep. Boyce, APPROVED
- h. Economic Development, \$75,000, Rep. Thomas, APPROVED  
At this time, Eliza Leadbeater, Director, announced her retirement effective April 15th. She was thanked profusely for her excellent service, and received a standing round of applause.
- i. Nursing Home Revenue, \$11,062,582, Rep. Millham. Motion, Rep. Millham, Second Rep. Pilliod, \$11,062,582, Nursing Home Revenues, UNANIMOUS
- j. Nursing Home Expenditures \$11,062,582, Rep. Millham, Motion Rep. Thomas, Second Rep. Tilton, \$11,062,582, UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.
- k. Debt \$289,600
- l. Interest \$70,112
- m. Interest on TAN \$119,250
- n. Contingency \$100,000

Motion by Rep. Thomas, Second by Rep. Tilton, to adopt the year 2007 Belknap County Budget, authorizing General Fund Expenditures in the amount of \$14,592,335 and Nursing Home expenditures in the amount of \$11,062,582, making the 2007 Belknap County Budget \$25,654,917. Give the Commissioners authorization to use \$2,500,000 of any fund balance to reduce the 2007 tax rate yet to be determined. Give the Belknap County Treasurer, Michael Muzzey, authorization to borrow in anticipation of revenue through taxation in the amount of

\$13,213,199, UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

Motion by Rep. Thomas, second by Rep. Pilliod, that all funds appropriated for all Line- items of the year 2007 Belknap County Budget shall be non-transferable without prior approval of the Executive Committee or the full County Convention in accordance with RSA 24:14. The one exception is that the Commissioners are authorized to transfer funds within each department from one line item to another in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 on any given instance. A report of said transfers submitted to the County Convention monthly. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

Motion by Rep. Thomas, second by Rep. Boyce, to authorize the clerk to make such monetary changes to the budget as may be necessary to submit the final budget to the Department of Revenue Administration (MS 42), UNANIMOUS APPROVAL.

Chairman Nedeau closed the Public Hearing, offered a 5-minute recess to the Convention.

**Executive Committee:**

Three members already established by statute: Chairman Nedeau, Vice-Chairman Millham, and Clerk Russell.

Nominations open for four members at large,

Motion Rep. Nedeau, Second Rep. Allen

Rep. Thomas

Motion Rep. Tilton, Second Rep. Russell

Rep. Pilliod

Motion Rep. Boyce, Second Rep. Wendelboe

Rep. Wood

Motion Rep. Pilliod, Second Rep. Thomas

Rep. Tilton

Motion Rep. Thomas, Second Rep. Heald, adopt slate (Reps. Thomas, Pilliod, Wood, and Tilton) UNANIMOUS

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Rep. Tilton announced a tour of the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Facility on Friday, March 9, 2007, at 8:30 a.m.

Motion Rep. Thomas, Second Rep. Heald, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. UNANIMOUS.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

## BELKNAP COUNTY CONVENTION MEETING

**Monday, March 26, 2007, at County Complex**

Present: Reps. Nedeau, Russell, Pilliod, Tilton, Clark, Millham, Whalley, Allen, Boyce, Arsenault, Reeve, Morrison, Tobin and Flanders.

Also Present: Bill Quigley, Marketing Director, Gunstock

Gunstock Commission: Chuck Lowth, Howard Chandler, John Morgans and Bob Durfee

Chairman Nedeau opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and introduced Dave Caron from the N.H. Municipal Association, who was there to make a presentation on the proposed changes to the N.H. Retirement System (NHRS). His testimony in its entirety is on file at the County Commissioners' office, and available for public observation. Highlights included information from N.H. House Bill #653, which spells out the recommendation of the Government Accounting Standards Bureau (GASB) to change the system from "Open Group Aggregate Method" to "Entry Age Normal Method". He urged that all Delegates study the bill carefully, as it comes to the House floor this week. Rep. Pilliod expressed concern that the Fire Service was not represented and was not in favor of the proposal.

Chairman Nedeau thanked Mr. Caron for his presentation, and closed that portion of the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

### **Public Hearing:**

Presentation of Gunstock Mountain Resort by General Manager, Greg Goddard. Mr. Goddard made a detailed report of the winter activities at Gunstock, as well as the proposed Budget for the coming year. All this information is on file at the County Commissioners' Office. He explained that they have exceeded their March revenue estimate, but will still come up about \$1.2M short. They were able to trim \$900,000. in expenses, and managed payroll on a daily basis. They reduced the electric bill by \$140K, and saved \$200K in repair and maintenance. Cash loss was about \$300K. On a brighter side, they have launched a 70th Anniversary season ticket sale, and have sold \$250K so far, and advertising has not yet started. Mr. Goddard then made a request for a Revenue Anticipation

Note Authorization in the amount of \$950,000.

Public Hearing closed at 8:25 p.m. Motion was made by Rep. Pilliod, second by Rep. Boyce to approve the request. Vote Unanimous (14-0).

**Other Business:**

Rep. Boyce advised that we need to have a County Delegation Task Force; members chose to wait until the end of summer to deal with this item.

Motion by Rep. Boyce, Second by Rep. Morrison to Adjourn @ 8:30 p.m. Vote Unanimous (14-0).

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk



**MINUTES OF BELKNAP COUNTY  
DELEGATION MEETING**

Tuesday, May 29, 2007, 6:30 PM

Public Hearing on SB319, establishing a task force to study County Government.

Present: Reps. Allen, Arsenault, Boyce, Flanders, Heald, Millham, Morrison, Nedeau, Pilliod, Reeve, Russell, Thomas, Tobin, Wendelboe, Wood.

Rep. Boyce is the County Representative to this task force and explained its charge, which is to study the possibility of doing away with county governments, and have the State absorb those duties. Discussion ensued, with the consensus being that the State could not handle the additional work load, and that local control works best.

M/Rep. Wood, S/Rep. Pilliod. Recommend to the task force that the Delegation could not come up with any recommendation that would improve the configuration of our County Government. Vote Unanimous.

The second part of SB319 dealt with prohibiting filing with the Registrar of Deeds a document including Social Security numbers or financial information.

M/Rep. Russell, S/Rep. Millham, Confirming the Delegations agreement. Vote Unanimous.

M/Rep. Russell, S/Rep. Millham, Close Public Hearing 7:25 PM. Vote Unanimous.

Chairman Nedeau opened the meeting for discussion for the vacant Sheriff's position.

M/Rep. Boyce, S/Rep. Pilliod to enter a non-public session per RSA 91:A-2.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Reps. Wood, Thomas, Heald, Arsenault, Boyce, Russell, Nedeau, Millham, Allen, Flanders, Pilliod, Reeve, Tobin.

Nays: Rep. Morrison.

Vote 13-1

Chairman Nedeau announced that the applications for seven candidates have been sent to each Delegation member, and that letters of recommendation are on file in Angela Bell's office, and will also be sent out. The Delegation agreed that all seven should be interviewed, and asked specific questions. Each Delegate will have a score sheet for each candidate.

These interviews are to take place Monday, June 11, 2007 at 6 PM at the County Complex, and each candidate will be assigned to a 15-minute time slot. A sub-committee consisting of Reps. Arsenault, Boyce, Millham and Russell will prepare the questions and score sheet.

M/Re. Wood, S/Rep. Thomas to come out of non-public session and Adjourn. Vote Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

## MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE

**June 11, 2007, 5:00 PM**  
**County Complex**

Sub-Committee to prepare procedures and questions for interviewing Sheriff Candidates.

Present: Reps. Arsenault, Millham, and Russell

A list of six questions the Committee selected as important was made up to distribute to the Delegation. They included:

1. Why do you want the job?
2. Are you certified by Police Standards Training?
3. What is your management experience?
4. What is your leadership style?
5. What do you consider the most important aspect of the job?
6. Are you familiar with the details, such as salary and duties?

Interviewing Process: Rep. Millham suggested:

1. Develop in public session the process for filling the position of Sheriff.
2. Interview applying candidates in non-public session for the purpose of screening the candidates for appropriateness and eligibility.
3. Identify two (preferably) candidates for final interview in public session.
4. Conduct the final interview in public without public comment.
5. Appoint a person to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff.

## MINUTES OF BELKNAP COUNTY DELEGATION

**June 11, 2007, 6:00 PM**

**County Complex**

The County Delegation came to order to interview Sheriff candidates.

Present: Reps. Tobin, Whalley, Tilton, Flanders, Russell, Nedeau, Millham, Reeve, Arsenault, Wendelboe, Heald, Wood, Morrison, Pilliod, and Clark.

Rep. Millham presents proposal of sub-committee for approval. Rep. Whalley would like to see more public involvement. A question was added to the list asking candidates if their names may be announced. Rep. Whalley proposes to wait a week to accept public input; change finalists to not less than two; there shall be a public in-put period of at least a week. Decision unanimous. M/Whalley; S/Wood. Enter Non-Public Session Roll Call, unanimous.

Candidate interviews commenced at 6:35.

Interviews concluded at 9:15 p.m. Discussion resumed regarding procedure of paring down the field. Each Delegate chose their top three and the results follow:

M/Flanders; S/Heald; reduce field to two: Nielsen and Wiggin, unanimous, 9-5, Motion passes.

M/Arsenault; S/Flanders, to come out of non-public session. Unanimous.

M/Reeve; S/Arsenault; Adjourn 9:45 p.m., unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

## COUNTY DELEGATION MEETING MINUTES

**June 25, 2007, 7:00 PM**  
**At the Belknap County Complex**

Present: Reps. Tobin, Arsenault, Reeve, Tilton, Flanders, Russell, Nedeau, Millham, Allen, Whalley, Clark, Boyce, Wood, Heald, Thomas.

Carol Schonfeld, representing the County Commissioners, was recognized to speak to the issue of HB2 as it applies to County Nursing Home Care. Asks Delegation to oppose this legislation. Says it will have a negative impact on the Juvenile Justice Initiative, as well as HCBC (Home and Community Based Care).

6:20 p.m.: Interviews for Sheriff commence.

M/Russell, S/Boyce, vote by secret paper ballot, approved 13-1.

**Craig Wiggin** - Gives brief history of his law enforcement career, his ability to train and work with his fellow Sheriffs. Would seek out weak spots and work to fix them, that's my vision for the agency.

Q&A followed, including homeland security, juvenile justice, etc. He has examined the run sheets and budget of the Sheriff's Dept. so he would understand what's going on should he be chosen. He admits to having no experience in the political role the Sheriff plays. Explains his experience in grant writing, was responsible for getting laptops for State Police cruisers. He would meet with all the Town Chiefs, and begin a dialogue with them. His certification as a police officer is valid, needs only to re-certify his firearm qualification.

**Dave Nielsen** - Likes Belknap County, has been his home all his life. Would meet with the County Supervisors he will be dealing with

to see if changes need to be made. Would listen to all the employees to get to know them and the system. Helped form the “Special Operations Group.” Merrimack County is using Belknap as a model to establish their own.

As President of the Belknap County Chiefs’ Association, he worked closely with Brian Loanes in the Juvenile Justice Initiative. County Sheriff has a broader jurisdiction than a Town Chief. He has written three grants, all of which were successful. Understands modern electronic technology in law enforcement. He prefers being a “hands-on cop” to being an administrator, but realizes that both issues have to be satisfied. He might have to take a two-week course to get re-certified.

Interviews concluded at 7:25 p.m.

M/Tilton, S/Heald to vote - unanimous.

Result of voting:

Nielsen - 4

Wiggin - 10

Rep. Arsenault abstained

M/Flanders, S/Clark, Adjourn, Unanimous, 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

## COUNTRY DELEGATION MEETING

7/24/2007, 3:30 p.m.

County Attorney's Office

Present: Reps. Allen, Boyce, Flanders, Pilliod, Russell, Millham, Wood, Tilton, Nedeau

Jim Carroll, County Attorney

Nancy Cook, Administrator

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

Motion was made by Rep. Boyce to enter non-public session for attorney/client discussion relative to the pending lawsuit. Second by Rep. Pilliod. Clerk called the roll. Vote 9-0, motion fails for lack of a quorum.

Discussion followed in public session, but no action was taken and no decisions were made.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

## BELKNAP COUNTY DELEGATION

### Minutes of Meeting October 29, 2007

Present: Representatives: Allen, Arsenault, Boyce, Clark, Flanders, Heald, Millham, Nedeau, Pilliod, Reeve, Russell, Thomas, Tilton, Tobin and Wood.

Commissioners: Daigneault and Long.

Chairman Nedeau calls meeting to order at 6 p.m.

#### 1. Interviews for the vacant Gunstock Commissioner:

Margaret McCabe, Sanbornton

Professor of Legal Skills at Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord.

Admitted to Maine and New Hampshire Bars.

Feels she is a good candidate having government experience.

Wants to promote Gunstock as an all-season resort. Quite familiar with Sunapee Ski Area, and feels that privatization there was not in the best interests of the area.

William McLean, III, Incumbent Commissioner seeking second term, Gilford.

Feels his experience and training in the real estate field makes him an ideal candidate given the goals of the Commission in the future. Wants to make sure Gunstock is no longer a tax burden to the County. States that there are 3,000 acres of land at Gunstock, most of which are not at their highest and best use.

Interviews concluded at 7:37 p.m. Discussion ensued. Motion to call the question made by Rep. Clark, 2nd Flanders.

A roll call vote was taken with McLean getting 12 votes, McCabe

2. Candidates were invited back and informed of the results. McLean



was congratulated on his re-appointment, and McCabe was encouraged to re-submit her application for the next vacancy.

2. Gunstock Strategic Meeting/Up-date

General Manager Greg Goddard introduced Commissioners McLean, Lowth, Durfee and Morganstern, and also explained that Commissioner Chandler was unable to attend. A power point presentation ensued, with the emphasis being on expanded four season family recreation. The Commission will investigate options to raise money by partnering with one or more private entities to expand into new areas such as a Hotel, Conference Center, Golf Course, Spa, Shops, and possibly town homes. It was also emphasized that the Commission has no interest in the sale or lease of the area, nor does it plan to change the natural look of the entire parcel.

3. Attorney Daniel Mullen of Ransmeier and Spellman will represent the County in the Lambert/Tardif v. Belknap County Suit.

4. Retirement of Rachel Normandin as Registrar of Deeds.

After 38 years of service, Ms. Normandin announced that she would retire December 31, 2007. She urged the delegation to consider her Deputy, Barbara Luther, as her replacement. An open house in Ms. Normandin's honor will be held December 5th from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Deeds office.

5. Salaries of Elected Officials

Motion by Rep. Tilton; second Rep. Flanders to approve 4.9% increase (53-week year). Unanimous.

6. 2007 Budget Transfers

Motion by Rep. Flanders, second Rep. Pilliod to approve transfers in the budgets of Sheriff's Dept., Dept. of Corrections, and Nurs-

ing home. Unanimous.

7. County Commission Chairman Daigneault announced they would present the new Budget to the Delegation Monday, December 3, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn 8:50 p.m. by Rep. Arsenault, second Rep. Piliod. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

**BELKNAP COUNTY DELEGATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, November 26, 2007, 4 p.m.  
Commissioner's Office**

Present: Reps. Nedeau, Millham, Russell, Pilliod, Thomas and Wood.  
Nancy Cook, Chief Financial Officer.

Chairman Nedeau opens meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Discussion ensued in regard to filling the vacancy in the Registrar of Deeds Position. M/Millham, 2nd/Thomas to enter non-public session per 91-A 3:(b) - 4:15 p.m.

Roll call unanimous.

Rep. Russell suggested the entire selection process be conducted in non-public session. Rep. Thomas agreed. Rep. Pilliod concurred. Rep. Millham feels that we represent our constituents, and may be better held in open session.

Rep. Wood feels people would be frustrated if voting is held in non-public session.

Interviews should be conducted in non-public session.

M/Thomas, 2nd/Pilliod to conduct entire process in non-public session.

Roll call vote: Reps. Millham Y, Russell Y, Nedeau Y, Thomas Y, Pilliod Y, Wood N

Vote: 5-1

M/Millham, 2nd/Thomas - out of N/P, Unanimous.

M/Nedeau, 2nd/Pilliod - adjourn - 5 p.m., Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

**BELKNAP COUNTY CONVENTION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
YEAR 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET  
December 10, 2007**

Present: Reps. Heald, Thomas, Boyce, Allen, Millham, Nedeau, Russell, Reeve, Clark, Flanders, Tilton, Tobin, Wendelboe, Morrison and Wood.

Commissioners Daigneault and Long  
CFO Nancy Cook

Chairman Nedeau called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Rep. Bruce Heald leads Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Nedeau recognized Commission Chairman Daigneault, who advised that this hearing is informational only, as Sub-Committees will meet in January to review the budgets in detail. He went on to introduce the Department Heads. He also advised that the Commission was able to reduce the capital budget by almost half (\$440,000 to \$219,000) with the approval of the Department Heads.

Nursing Home and Jail contracts (Collective Bargaining Agreements) were successfully negotiated for 2008 - 2011. Nursing Home increased by \$80,000.00 (3%); Corrections increased by \$28,000.00 (3%). M/Russell, S/Boyce to accept contracts. Vote - Unanimous.

The Commissioner went on to explain that the State reimbursement rates for nursing home care will be reduced again this year, accounting for a major portion of the budget shortfall. Rep. Wendelboe suggested divesting the County's interest in the Nursing Home by either selling it to the State or to private ownership. Commissioner Daigneault responded that no one could offer the quality of care that the County does.

There were six budget transfers (housekeeping) requested by the Commission. M/Thomas, S/Boyce to approve transfers. Vote - Unanimous.

Rep. Thomas moved to appropriate \$36,700 to be paid out of the County Treasury from the Registry of Deeds special equipment account

for Computer Indexing and a Kyocera copier. Second Boyce. Vote - Unanimous.

Chairman Nedeau recognized Michael Muzzey, County Treasurer, who requested that the Delegation authorize the borrowing in anticipation of taxation (Tax Anticipation Notes) based on cash flow up to the amount of \$14,271,909. M/Flanders, S/Wood to approve. Vote - Unanimous.

Motion requested for Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) to authorize the County Commissioners to expend up to 25% of the Year 2008 appropriation until the Year 2008 County Budget is finally adopted, less any capital items. M/Thomas, S/Clark. Vote - Unanimous.

Chairman Nedeau advised that Committee Chairs need to set up department budget meetings with Nancy during January.

Other Business: Rep. Wendelboe asked that the employees who won awards at the recent N.H. Association of Counties Annual Meeting be recognized. All were shown appreciation by a round of applause.

M/Russell, S/Thomas to enter Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A: 3. Passed 12-3.

The reason for the Non-Public Session was challenged, and a Motion to reconsider was made by Rep. Millham, Second, Rep. Wendelboe. Roll call vote was taken, motion passed 13-1.

Chairman Nedeau informed the Convention that Doug Lambert and Tom Tardif have filed a petition for Ex Parte Temporary Injunction as of this day, (Dec. 10, 2007) which would prevent any action from taking place in filling the vacancy for Registrar of Deeds.

County Attorney Jim Carroll was present and several questions were asked of him by the Delegation. Discussion followed as to the process (public, non-public or both) and are we appointing or electing?

M/Tilton, S/Boyce to conduct all proceedings and votes in filling the

vacancy of the Registrar of Deeds be held in public session. Roll call vote 10-4, motion carries.

Chairman Nedeau advised that applications will close December 14th, and interviews will be held at a later date.

M/Wendelboe, S/Boyce to adjourn, 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David H. Russell, Clerk

## REPORT OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To the Citizen's of Belknap County:

As an overview of the year 2007, we would like to make you aware of issues the Board has been dealing with in Belknap County. New Hampshire, like many other states, is seeing the impact of the national economic slowdown. The mortgage crisis has grown, the stock market has dropped, and oil prices have increased more than 50 percent. Another worrisome issue is something called 'stagflation' which is a slowing of economic growth along with soaring prices.

Cutbacks from the State of New Hampshire continue as they have the last few years as well as inadequate Medicaid rates. Proportionate Share (PSP) and Bed Tax revenue continue but nowhere near offsetting this burden on the county taxpayer. The transfer to the Nursing Home from the general fund continues to grow and is projected to reach \$4.0 million in 2008.

Due to House Bill 2 (HB2) proposed in 2007 the counties will be assuming 100% of the non-federal share for the most expensive programs given the fact that the population trend is predicted to increase. As the county is on a calendar year, the full impact of these changes will not be realized until 2009. The Association of Counties has filed a petition to seek a judicial determination regarding the unfounded mandate issue. The county will have no responsibility for OAA (Old Age Assistance), APTD (Aid to the Permanently & Totally Disabled), and Care of Children (Abuse/Neglect, Children in Need of Services, Delinquents). The counties share will double in the two largest mandated programs of INC (Intermediate Nursing Care) and HCBC (Home and Community Based Care). Discussions have taken place on the following: parental reimbursement function, hold harmless determination, cap determination, transition billings (run-off), rate setting and medical eligibility.

Moody's Investors Service upgraded the County to A1 from A2, the long-term rating assigned to Belknap County's general obligation debt. The upgrade to A1 reflects the doubling of the county's economy to \$11.2 billion since 2001. The A1 rating also incorporates the above-average socioeconomic profile as captured by strong equalized value per

capita, average income levels, declining but still solid reserve position, and minimal debt burden.

All accounts held by the county are insured and collateralized by the Federal Reserve through Citizens Bank. Bond Council continues to give us a qualified opinion on our Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN's). The TAN sale is done once a year with \$6.0 million borrowed in 2007. This change saves county taxpayers in excess of \$70,000 a year in interest expense.

The Commissioners negotiated another lease renewal for the Superior Court who rent the top floor of the Court House in 2007 with the State of New Hampshire Administrative Offices of the Court (AOC). We received a CPI-U annual increase.

Numerous hours were spent on a maintenance consolidation proposal with Municipal Resources of Meredith. The Commissioners are looking to find better energy efficiency and consolidate maintenance departments within the county.

Contract negotiations were quite amicable and successful in 2007 with both the Nursing Home and Department of Corrections signing agreements. The Commissioners signed a 4-year contract with both unions so now they are not due to expire until December 31st 2011. The majority of discussions were wages and health insurance concerns.

The county continues to be active with three Community Development Block Grants (CDBG's). The first is for a capacity building grant for the Belknap County Economic Development Council for \$220,000. Grant funds were provided to the New Hampshire Alliance of Regional Development Corporations on behalf of its 12 members each receiving \$19,500. The funds are used to assist with the operation and strengthen economic opportunities in each area. The second is an emergency CDBG grant to the State's Community Action Agencies up to \$226,000. The funds will be used to perform necessary improvements to homes that were damaged by the flooding in April 2007. The third CDBG is with the Laconia Area Community Land Trust to purchase the Cook Building in Laconia to rehab it with 4 commercial offices and 11 residential units for low-income housing. The amount of the grant is for \$500,000.



Our annual “Employee Day” was held in November and well attended. Local vendors educated employees on healthy lifestyles and employees received their yearly flu vaccine.

In closing, the Commissioners would be remiss in not mentioning the County employees for their dedication and hard work. Also, our thanks to the Belknap County Convention for their role in providing the necessary funding for departments to carry out their mission. Your continued cooperation in matters of mutual interest are most appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Philip P. Daigneault  
Christopher D. Boothby  
Richard W. Long

EXHIBIT C  
COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds  
December 31, 2007

**DRAFT**

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,132,891	\$ 3,342	\$ 4,136,233
Investments	52,133		52,133
Accounts receivable, net	124,177		124,177
Due from other governments		200,500	200,500
Due from other funds	2,566,891		2,566,891
Restricted cash and investments	71,343		71,343
Total Assets	<u>\$ 6,947,435</u>	<u>\$ 203,842</u>	<u>\$ 7,151,277</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 655,333		\$ 655,333
Accrued expenses	335,765		335,765
Deferred revenue	102,638		102,638
Due to other governments	1,020,841		1,020,841
Due to other funds		\$ 200,564	200,564
Payable from restricted assets	71,343		71,343
Total Liabilities	<u>2,185,920</u>	<u>200,564</u>	<u>2,386,484</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>			
Unreserved, reported in:			
General fund	4,761,515		4,761,515
Special revenue funds		3,278	3,278
Total Fund Balances	<u>4,761,515</u>	<u>3,278</u>	<u>4,764,793</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 6,947,435</u>	<u>\$ 203,842</u>	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds 4,366,827

Revenues are recognized on an accrual basis in the statement of net assets, not the modified accrual basis 50,000

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. Long-term liabilities at year end consist of:

Bonds payable (1,494,600)  
Other long-term obligations (379,250)  
Accrued interest on long-term obligations (17,700)  
Compensated absences (217,778)

Net assets of governmental activities \$ 7,072,292

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

EXHIBIT D

COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances  
Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Taxes	\$ 13,213,199		\$ 13,213,199
Intergovernmental	380,610	200,500	581,110
Charges for services	1,516,113		1,516,113
Interest income	128,858	235	129,093
Miscellaneous	454,479		454,479
Total Revenues	<u>15,693,259</u>	<u>200,735</u>	<u>15,893,994</u>
Expenditures:			
Current operations:			
General government	2,236,179	5,500	2,241,679
Public safety	5,557,840		5,557,840
Health and welfare	5,244,380		5,244,380
Education and Social Service Agencies	319,420		319,420
Economic development		195,000	195,000
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	289,600		289,600
Interest and fiscal charges	192,796		192,796
Total Expenditures	<u>13,840,215</u>	<u>200,500</u>	<u>14,040,715</u>
Excess revenues over expenditures	1,853,044	235	1,853,279
Other financing sources (uses):			
Operating transfers in	161,403		161,403
Operating transfers out	(3,234,227)		(3,234,227)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(3,072,824)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,072,824)</u>
Excess revenues and other sources over (under) expenditures and other uses	(1,219,780)	235	(1,219,545)
Fund balances at beginning of year, as restated	5,981,295	3,043	5,984,338
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 4,761,515</u>	<u>\$ 3,278</u>	<u>\$ 4,764,793</u>

COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures  
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds  
to the Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

Net Change in Fund Balances--Total Governmental Funds	\$ (1,219,545)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current period.	(291,846)
Revenues previously recognized in the statement of activities are reported as revenues in the funds when they provide current financial resources.	(25,000)
Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.	289,600
Repayment of principal on other long-term obligations is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets.	209,750
In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding bonds, whereas in governmental funds, an interest expenditure is reported when due.	1,767
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities, such as compensated absences, do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	(16,573)
Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ (1,051,847)</u>

EXHIBIT E  
COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Statement of Net Assets  
Proprietary Funds  
December 31, 2007

**DRAFT**

ASSETS	Business-type Activities		
	Nursing Home Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Fund	Totals
Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 900	\$ 4,925	\$ 5,825
Accounts receivable, net	86,700	390	87,090
Due from other governments	731,583		731,583
Inventory	20,541		20,541
Total Current Assets	<u>839,724</u>	<u>5,315</u>	<u>845,039</u>
Noncurrent Assets:			
Accounts receivable, net	11,706		11,706
Capital assets:			
Non-depreciable capital assets	9,957		9,957
Depreciable capital assets, net	6,862,283		6,862,283
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>6,883,946</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,883,946</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 7,723,670</u>	<u>\$ 5,315</u>	<u>\$ 7,728,985</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ 139,603		\$ 139,603
Accrued expenses	348,921		348,921
Deferred revenue	22,855		22,855
Due to other funds	2,339,934	\$ 2,123	2,342,057
Due to other governments	109,563		109,563
Current portion of bonds payable	455,000		455,000
Current portion of compensated absences	25,000		25,000
Total Current Liabilities	<u>3,440,876</u>	<u>2,123</u>	<u>3,442,999</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
Bonds payable	4,215,000		4,215,000
Compensated absences	67,794		67,794
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>4,282,794</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,282,794</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>7,723,670</u>	<u>2,123</u>	<u>7,725,793</u>
NET ASSETS			
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	2,213,946		2,213,946
Unrestricted (deficit)	(2,213,946)	3,192	(2,210,754)
Total Net Assets	<u>-</u>	<u>3,192</u>	<u>3,192</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 7,723,670</u>	<u>\$ 5,315</u>	<u>\$ 7,728,985</u>

EXHIBIT F  
**COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

**DRAFT**

	Business-type Activities		
	Nursing Home	Nonmajor Enterprise	Totals
	Fund	Fund	
Operating revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 4,688,074	\$ 4,011	\$ 4,692,085
Medicaid pool funds	1,972,622		1,972,622
Miscellaneous	454,034	307	454,341
Total operating revenues	<u>7,114,730</u>	<u>4,318</u>	<u>7,119,048</u>
Operating expenses:			
Administrative	1,198,358	4,325	1,202,683
Maintenance and operations	686,216		686,216
Physical Therapy	251,493		251,493
Dietary	1,192,939		1,192,939
Nursing	5,194,987		5,194,987
Laundry	212,268		212,268
Housekeeping	376,825		376,825
Physician/Pharmacy	30,263		30,263
Special Services	6,294		6,294
Activities	311,988		311,988
Hairdressing	49,074		49,074
Depreciation	370,350		370,350
Total operating expenses	<u>9,881,055</u>	<u>4,325</u>	<u>9,885,380</u>
Operating loss	<u>(2,766,325)</u>	<u>(7)</u>	<u>(2,766,332)</u>
Non-operating revenues (expenses):			
Interest revenue		30	30
Interest expense	(222,621)		(222,621)
Net non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>(222,621)</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>(222,591)</u>
Income income (loss) before transfers	(2,988,946)	23	(2,988,923)
Operating transfers in	<u>2,988,946</u>		<u>2,988,946</u>
Change in net assets	-	23	23
Total net assets at beginning of year	<u>-</u>	<u>3,169</u>	<u>3,169</u>
Total net assets at end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,192</u>	<u>\$ 3,192</u>

**DRAFT**

**EXHIBIT H**  
**COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets**  
**Fiduciary Funds**  
**December 31, 2007**

	Agency Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 43,772
Accounts receivable	24,270
Total assets	<u>\$ 68,042</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Due to other funds	\$ 24,270
Due to others	43,772
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 68,042</u>

**DRAFT**

SCHEDULE A  
COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Combining Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds - All Nonmajor Funds  
December 31, 2007

	RDC Capacity Building Grant <u>Fund</u>	Drug Forfeiture <u>Fund</u>	Total Nonmajor <u>Funds</u>
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 200,500	\$ 3,342	\$ 3,342
Due from other governments	\$ 200,500	\$ 3,342	200,500
Total Assets	<u>\$ 200,500</u>	<u>\$ 3,342</u>	<u>\$ 203,842</u>
LIABILITIES			
Due to other funds	\$ 200,500	64	\$ 200,564
Total Liabilities	<u>200,500</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>200,564</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Unreserved, reported in:			
Special revenue funds	-	3,278	3,278
Total Fund Balances	<u>-</u>	<u>3,278</u>	<u>3,278</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 200,500</u>	<u>\$ 3,342</u>	<u>\$ 203,842</u>

SCHEDULE B  
**COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds - All Nonmajor Funds**  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

**DRAFT**

	RDC Capacity Building Grant Fund	Drug Forfeiture Fund	Total Nonmajor Funds
Revenues:			
Intergovernmental	\$ 200,500		\$ 200,500
Interest income		\$ 235	235
Total Revenues	<u>200,500</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>200,735</u>
Expenditures:			
Current operations:			
General government	5,500		5,500
Economic development	195,000		195,000
Total Expenditures	<u>200,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,500</u>
Excess revenues over expenditures	-	235	235
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>-</u>	<u>3,043</u>	<u>3,043</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,278</u>	<u>\$ 3,278</u>



**DRAFT**

SCHEDULE C  
COUNTY OF BELKNAP, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets  
Fiduciary Funds - All Agency Funds  
December 31, 2007

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	Inmate Agency Fund	Patient Agency Fund	Payroll Agency Fund	Combining Totals
Accounts receivable	\$ 7,363	\$ 36,409	\$ 24,270	\$ 43,772
Total assets	<u>\$ 7,363</u>	<u>\$ 36,409</u>	<u>\$ 24,270</u>	<u>\$ 68,042</u>

LIABILITIES

Due to other funds	Inmate Agency Fund	Patient Agency Fund	Payroll Agency Fund	Combining Totals
Due to others	\$ 7,363	\$ 36,409	\$ 24,270	\$ 43,772
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 7,363</u>	<u>\$ 36,409</u>	<u>\$ 24,270</u>	<u>\$ 68,042</u>

Belknap County

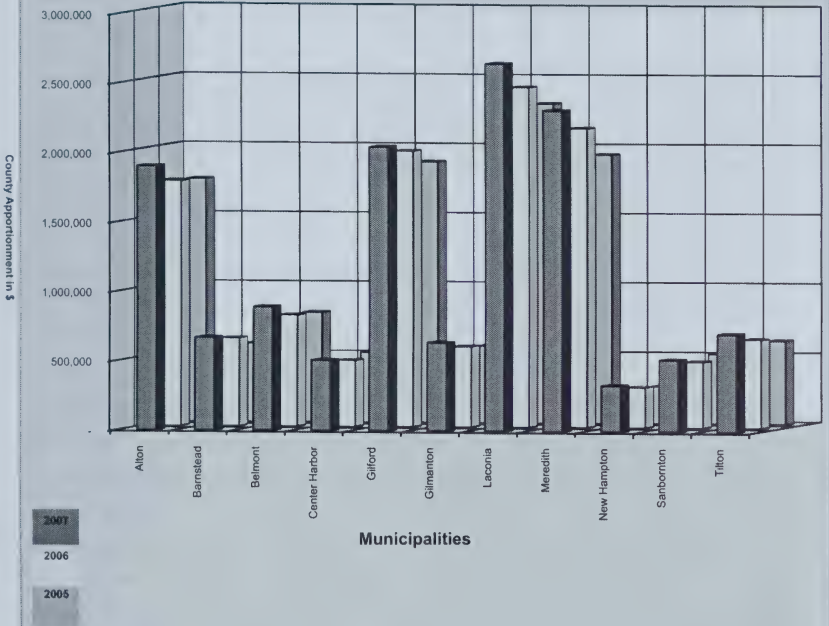
<b>2007</b>	<b>% Proportion To County Tax</b>	<b>Apportionment of County Budget</b>
Alton	14.4125%	1,904,353
Barnstead	5.0823%	671,529
Belmont	6.7774%	895,517
Center Harbor	3.8655%	510,750
Gilford	15.5215%	2,050,890
Gilmanton	4.8459%	640,297
Laconia	20.1023%	2,656,158
Meredith	17.5474%	2,318,567
New Hampton	2.5274%	333,954
Sanbornton	3.9537%	522,404
Tilton	5.3642%	708,780
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>	<b>13,213,199</b>

<b>2006</b>		
Alton	14.3955%	1,769,778
Barnstead	5.1862%	637,597
Belmont	6.5424%	804,320
Center Harbor	3.8975%	479,162
Gilford	16.2053%	1,992,285
Gilmanton	4.7397%	582,696
Laconia	19.9759%	2,455,844
Meredith	17.5781%	2,161,049
New Hampton	2.3796%	292,552
Sanbornton	3.8881%	478,008
Tilton	5.2116%	640,709.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>	<b>12,294,000</b>

<b>2005</b>		
Alton	14.9975%	1,755,822
Barnstead	4.8760%	570,856
Belmont	6.7936%	795,356
Center Harbor	4.3367%	507,717
Gilford	16.1162%	1,886,790
Gilmanton	4.7671%	558,103
Laconia	19.7202%	2,308,721
Meredith	16.5840%	1,941,554
New Hampton	2.3229%	271,957
Sanbornton	4.3332%	507,308
Tilton	5.1524%	603,211.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100.0000%</b>	<b>11,707,395</b>

excel:cntytax

BELKNAP COUNTY TAX



## REPORT OF THE BELKNAP COUNTY ATTORNEY

To the Honorable Commissioners, the Legislative Delegation of Belknap County and the Taxpayers of Belknap County:

It has been an incredible honor to have completed my first year of service to the citizens in Belknap County. There was a seamless transition into the new administration.

The citizens of Belknap County should feel well protected by men and women of law enforcement agencies of the different communities, as well as the men and women of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department, the New Hampshire State Police, the New Hampshire Marine Patrol, and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Officers. These agencies worked in unison with the County Attorney's Office to provide protection, intervention, and prevention powers so that the communities of the county retain their safety and welfare.

Although the County of Belknap is not immune to the dangers of violent crime and substance abuse fueled by drug dealing, the men and women of Belknap County in law enforcement are fighting the good fight with professionalism, proficiency, and a high-level competence.

The Belknap County Attorney's Office offers 24/7 response to the needs of area agencies, from advise on police procedures in solving crimes, support in prosecuting not only cases that will be in the County Attorney's office, but also to support those agencies at the District Court level, and dealing with a plethora of other civil and criminal issues.

The Belknap County Attorney's Office provided legal support to the Belknap County Legislative Delegation during the appointments of a new County Sheriff and a new Registrar of Deeds by legal advocacy in the Belknap County Superior Court.

For eleven months of the year 2007, the County Attorney and one assistant served the office in this county. During the year 2007, the office presented 589 indictments to Grand Juries sitting every six weeks. That presentation occurred after the Office reviewed approximately 620 felony referrals from local law enforcement agencies.

The Grand Jury process is used primarily for the review by a group of peers, citizens of the County, to insure that there is probable cause to implement the criminal process against an individual. The indictment, itself, is only the mechanism to implement the process.

Although the Grand Jury process is primarily utilized for the purposes of that above review, the process is also utilized to review investigations, which may be on-going. The County Attorney's office did utilize that process in that fashion during this year 2007.

The Office was also heavily involved with one of the first attempts by the State of New Hampshire to maintain confinement of a sexual offender. 2007 resulted in the implementation of the Sexual Predators Act. This act allows the State to implement a review of the pending releases of sexual offenders potential for reoffending and the corresponding need to maintain these individuals in a custodial setting. The law of continued committal remains complex and is relatively untested. There are significant time restraints placed upon the process due to the individual being subjected to further custodial status. These time restraints demand immediate and continued attention by the County Attorney's Office.

The County Attorney's Office is readily available to the State Medical Examiners for consults on untimely deaths. The County Attorney was consulted directly on 70 occasions. Of central issue in these notices, is whether or not there is suspicion surrounding the passing of an individual. An extraordinary spike has been observed in the untimely deaths of young people in our communities. Many of these passings were causally related to drug overdose. The County Attorney's office is presently prosecuting two cases involving the untimely death of a young person from a drug overdose.

The Office also handled 117 Probation violations. These events are generated by the actions of defendants who have been placed on Probation following the dispositions of their cases in court. There is a wide range of events which may cause these violations to be presented to the Court - further criminal behaviors by the Defendant, failures of the Defendant to maintain their rehabilitative efforts, etc.

The Office handled 18 misdemeanor appeals. The criminal justice system in New Hampshire accords a defendant an opportunity to a jury trial upon a finding in the District Court.

The Office continues to have their victim/witness coordinator work with victims and witnesses from pre-indictment stages of a case, through trial and beyond for each of our cases. The coordinator works directly with the prosecution team as the trial proceeds and maintains the highest level of communication with victims and witnesses. Long after the trials have ended, the coordinator continues to monitor the parole processes of defendants and notices the defendant's victims of such developments. The coordinator is also critical to the maintaining of accurate restitution figures and communicating with probation and parole to insure the flow of restitution.

It has been the County Attorney's desire to maintain our attorneys' connection with the community. The Victim/Witness advocate continues to devote volunteer time with the Child Advocacy Center at the Community Action Program building on Route 106 in Laconia. The Center offers a unified and coordinated interview process of victims without the former multiple interviews that befell the investigative process. The present interview system is a team approach with members of law enforcement investigative teams, members of the NH Division of Children, Youth and Families, and members of the prosecution team at the County Attorney's office.

In this community effort, the Assistant County Attorney Barnes dedicates hours to the local Domestic Violence Prevention Council in addressing issues, which arise systemically and institutionally.

Further, the County Attorney continues his dedication to the youth needs of the region with a present focus at creating a region wide model of providing pre-court services for children and families in crisis. He is also serving upon a committee, which is addressing the question of a need for additional mental health considerations for our citizens whose behaviors become troubling.

The County Attorney upon entering office wrote the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections requesting consideration of the alterna-

tive disposition process utilized in many counties - The Academy Program. This disposition works intensively with Defendants for nearly 18 months to create changes in behavioral decision-making resulting in their return to the communities as a contributing citizen. Failure to effect that change results in the defendant's imposition of a State Prison sentence. The Defendant must be adjudged a non-violent offender.

The County Attorney is attempting to implement a cost effective transition program between the District and Superior courts which will address through sanctions, the implementation of rehabilitative efforts by the Defendant to become employed full-time, deal with substance abuse issues and to continue or complete their educations so that their competencies for future success can be raised.

The County Attorney is looking forward to implementing a volunteer program for citizens who wish to contribute their time and energies in supporting a meaningful team at the office, in protecting our communities, and in promoting safer and healthier communities to live in. The County Attorney's office is presently working with the Community Action Program to give volunteer opportunities to their clients. The County Attorney has utilized three college interns over the past year to introduce them to the duties of the office while giving great support to the office's team.

The Office continues to have an open door policy for inquiries from the citizens of Belknap County on any number of issues. The Office continues to commit itself to successful prosecution, but also successful change in the lives of Defendants to return them to the communities to contribute in the same fashion as each one of our citizens do on a regular basis.

Respectfully Submitted,  
James M. Carroll, IV

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County,

I opened my previous annual report by stating that 2006 was a year of extraordinary transition. At the risk of being repetitive, I feel equally strong about 2007. The loss of the two most senior staff to retirement, the addition of a Community Corrections Officer and the corresponding electronic bracelet monitoring program, building our own nurse's station to compliment the nursing staff brought on board in 2006, the major project of rebuilding the Master Control panel in place, a host of maintenance issues and record average daily inmate populations added up to make for a very interesting period.

Inmate numbers were up across the board. Total bookings were slightly higher, 1,971 vs. 1,955 in 2006. While intoxication bookings were up, 689 vs. 665, the big jump was in the female population, 371 vs. 309. The increase in this aspect of the inmate population is typical of every county and state corrections facility, without exception. The following figures were calculated without factoring in the intoxication bookings to give a more accurate picture of our general population: average length of stay went up from 26.47 days to 29.33 days and the most telling figure of all, the average daily population, continues its' steady climb upward to 92. For comparison purposes, it was 78 in 2005 and 85 in 2006.

The inmate housing crunch has brought challenges throughout the year. The ebb and flow of the inmate population is the most difficult I've seen, from a high of 108 to 81 and back up again, all in the space of two weeks. As has been done in the past, minimum security inmates on work release, as well as inmates assigned to permanent work in the Nursing Home and outside work details, reside in the gym. A multipurpose room used for a variety of staff and inmate functions, including as a short-term emergency dormitory, was permanently converted to house six inmates.

For the second year in a row, Motorcycle Week was near record lows. While bookings for the entire event period was up by 11, many



of the bookings came earlier in the week, leaving the second weekend of the event the quietest I've seen. We were again able to transport, courtesy of the Sheriff's Dept., all our pre-trial and female population to Grafton, Hillsborough, Rockingham and Merrimack DOC's.

We acquired, through a donation, two Tasers for the facility. Six staff are certified in its' use and other staff will receive training and certification by the Sheriff's Dept. when the training schedule permits.

If you are looking for a challenging job where you just don't know what can happen one day to the next, I can heartily recommend corrections for a career, as was borne out over the course of 2007. While we face a number of issues in dealing with the care, custody and control of our inmate population on a daily basis, equipment and maintenance problems seemed to plague us more than normal this year.

Despite the budgeted rebuild of the electric door control panel in Master Control, other parts of the original 18 year old system failed, damaging several expensive electric locks beyond repair. Major problems with the plow truck and other vehicles, as well as the old boiler, the air handling system and plumbing combined with routine maintenance items to expend the entire maintenance budget, and then some.

The fledgling electronic bracelet program began in earnest last June. For the sentenced inmate, the bracelet is the goal of a multi-step process, which includes Work Release. We have been hampered by the unavailability of jobs and reluctance on the part of some employers to hire for the short term, but the Community Corrections Officer is working diligently to address employer concerns and increase the number of inmates on the program. While intended for sentenced inmates, the bracelet has been beneficial to both the Sheriff's Office and the DOC in several situations where it was used in very specific circumstances involving medical care outside the facility. I'm confident that once past its' initial stages, this program will compliment all involved.

Program highlights 1/1/07 thru 12/31/07 as reported by Jan Best, Programs Director:

**Belknap County Industries:**

\$4,017.49 gross wages paid

22 inmates employed

*A lack of space prevented this program from reaching it's potential.*

**Substance Abuse Programming:**

-Alcoholics Anonymous

139 inmates have attended.

-Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program (Project ADAPT)

This grant's criteria allow only incarcerated individuals who will be able to complete the program to participate.

45 inmates have participated.

**GED Program, Southeastern Regional Educational Services Center and Inspirations:**

-SERESC and Inspiration provided tutorial services to educationally disabled inmates under the age of 21 through a state-funded grant program. No services were provided from 7/1/07 thru 10/14/07, as the grant had not been awarded.

41 inmates have participated.

13 have earned high school equivalency certificates.

0 have tested and failed to earn certificate.

7 inmates are currently preparing (4 will test mid-January).

21 inmates were released or transferred, were non-compliant, or stopped participating during the preparation phase.

**Supplemental Programming:**

22 inmates participated in Planning Ahead/Staying Ahead (Food, nutrition, fitness, and money management)

21 inmates participated in Parenting Skills.

16 inmates participated in Conflict Resolution.

A time-honored tradition re-instated this year after a long absence was a garden work program on the county property behind the facility. We still own a 1969 Ford tractor with a surprising amount of farm implements. We also found buried under old equipment in the root cellar, two usable roto-tillers, one an antique Gravely with a sulky and grass cutter

attachment. The inmates restored it and put it to work tilling a 100x100 foot garden. Produce from the garden served two complete meals to the entire complex, as well as donated to the activities department of the County Home, where residents canned 90+ pints for sale at the Christmas Craft Fair to benefit the activities department. The balance of the produce was sold to staff, the proceeds purchasing seed for next year. The inmates also began restoring the old hay field behind the county complex, which was being overgrown with brush and other new growth. An obstacle course was constructed, with donated materials procured by former Sheriff Collis, for the Regional Special Operations Group. A 21x31 foot greenhouse was donated by Moe Martineau of Trustworthy Hardware, which was made complete with additional material donations by Person's Concrete and Tilton Sand & Gravel.

Plans for 2008 include tripling the amount of tilled land, a pick-your-own pumpkin patch, bartering with local farm stands for a variety of produce, providing fresh vegetables to the Nursing Home kitchen and, depending on yield and barter with other local farms, our own farm stand. We are looking at working with the Co-Operative Extension Service on other projects, as well as Grafton County's extensive farm program and various material donations from local farms, Wal-Mart and other resources.

This year continued the loss of long time staff with the retirement of Corrections Officers Rick Watson and Dick Casey, 44+ years of experience between them. We have now gone from a large majority of 20 plus year veterans to that same majority of staff with 2 years or less experience. We have been fortunate in that regard, having excellent candidates that applied for, and consequently hired, to fill the openings created by the retirements.

The staff rose to meet every unique challenge in this difficult environment and performed their duties professionally and with pride. I would like to take this time to acknowledge two outstanding staff for the accolades they received this year. Each NHAC Correctional Officer Academy class has a student that is selected as the Honor Graduate, by vote of the students and the Academy Cadre. For the first time since the inception of the award, a Belknap County graduate earned that honor, Corrections Officer Scott Salway. Recognition also goes to Lt. Ed

White, named Corrections Officer of the Year at the 2007 NHAC Convention. I would also like to note that after 23 years of public service to the citizens of Belknap County, Lt. White will be retiring at the end of February.

My thanks to the Delegation for their continued support, both legislative and budgetary, for the facility and staff, and the difficult role we fill in society. A special thank you to the Commissioners for their open mindedness in listening to old and new ideas alike in how best to manage this ever increasing segment of our population.

Respectfully submitted,  
R.A. Grenier  
Superintendent

## REPORT OF THE BELKNAP COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The following reports are submitted for the Belknap County Human Services Department for the year 2007, detailing by town/city the number of clients served and the dollars expended in State mandated programs serving youth, elderly and disabled residents.

### **RSA 166 Aid to County Assisted Persons**

County reimburses the State for 50% of the cost for Old Age Assistance and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled.

### **RSA 167-18f : Local Medical Assistance Contribution**

County reimburses the State \$27.00 for each Old Age recipient and \$52.00 for each Disabled recipient.

### **Old Age Assistance**

<b>Town/City</b>	<b># Cases</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Alton	9	\$7,622.00
Barnstead	8	\$3,893.00
Belmont	10	\$7,892.00
Center Harbor		
Gilford	1	\$122.00
Gilmanton		
Laconia	46	\$41,704.00
Meredith	4	\$1,560.00
New Hampton		
Sanbornton		
Tilton	2	\$972.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$63,765.00</b>

### **Aid to the Permanently & Totally Disabled**

<b>Town/City</b>	<b># Cases</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Alton	20	\$18,279.00
Barnstead	17	\$14,023.00
Belmont	46	\$38,525.00
Center Harbor	7	\$5,999.00
Gilford	40	\$48,218.00
Gilmanton	16	\$17,071.00
Laconia	216	\$208,518.00
Meredith	29	\$25,735.00
New Hampton	14	\$16,831.00
Sanbornton	12	\$14,782.00
Tilton	34	\$31,480.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>\$439,461.00</b>

**RSA 167:18-b Reimbursement of Funds for Persons Eligible to Receive Nursing Home Services.**

County reimburses the State for 25% for the cost of recipients of Nursing Home Care and those in alternative settings to placement in a Nursing Facility.

**Intermediate Nursing Care**

<b>Town/City</b>	<b># Cases</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Alton	22	\$152,877.00
Barnstead	11	\$63,102.00
Belmont	41	\$332,933.00
Center Harbor	4	\$29,636.00
Gilford	37	\$260,233.00
Gilmanton	16	\$143,957.00
Laconia	117	\$938,451.00
Meredith	46	\$331,872.00
New Hampton	5	\$41,022.00
Sanbornton	10	\$47,757.00
Tilton	26	\$198,473.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>\$2,540,313.00</b>

**Home Care Community Based**

<b>Town/City</b>	<b># Cases</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Alton	14	\$41,376.00
Barnstead	8	\$25,887.00
Belmont	22	\$72,309.00
Center Harbor	2	\$4,529.00
Gilford	8	\$76,863.00
Gilmanton	5	\$16,410.00
Laconia	62	\$156,600.00
Meredith	9	\$19,578.00
New Hampton	4	\$14,539.00
Sanbornton	8	\$26,997.00
Tilton	12	\$43,223.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>\$498,311.00</b>

## Provider Payments

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditure
Alton	32	\$36,383.00
Barnstead	18	\$39,271.00
Belmont	68	\$76,749.00
Center Harbor	5	\$3,123.00
Gilford	48	\$42,704.00
Gilmanton	24	\$20,945.00
Laconia	189	\$641,222.00
Meredith	55	\$132,393.00
New Hampton	10	\$24,561.00
Sanbornton	17	\$16,851.00
Tilton	41	\$56,867.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>\$1,091,069.00</b>

## RSA 169-B Delinquent, 169-C Child Protection Act and 169-D Children in Need of Services

County reimburses the State up to 25% of the costs incurred for services to children and their families.

### Care of Children

Town/City	# Cases	Expenditures
Alton	19	\$24,645.00
Barnstead	29	\$31,113.00
Belmont	59	\$126,215.00
Center Harbor	5	\$5,837.00
Gilford	31	\$74,044.00
Gilmanton	8	\$3,981.00
Laconia	211	\$483,829.00
Meredith	28	\$80,362.00
New Hampton	10	\$41,321.00
Sanbornton	5	\$6,724.00
Tilton	18	\$48,324.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>\$926,395.00</b>

Under each juvenile statute listed above, the County is authorized to collect on behalf of the State, payments from persons chargeable by law for the minors support.

Parental Reimbursement collected for 2007 \$100,357.

Incentive Funds received annually since 1986 from the Division of Children, Youth and Families, for the purpose of encouraging the development of community based diversion and alternative disposition programs, were awarded to the following:

The Appalachian Mountain Teen Project/Riverland Youth Initiative Initiative  
Family Connections Center

Community Health & Hospice, Care Management of Young Families

Youth Assistance Program of Northfield, Tilton and Sanbornton

Youth Services Bureau, Court Diversion & UPSWING Program

Girls, Inc.

Upstream, Parenting Series

The Circle Program

Restorative Justice

The TIME Program of Winnisquam Regional Middle School

Attendance Improvement Program, WRSD

The Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes Region

Ozanam Place

LRCSC, Giggles & Grins

Elementary School Attendance Coordinator, LSD

Memorial Middle Attendance Coordinator, LSD

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the support of my staff and to thank the Belknap County Delegation as well as the Commissioners, for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol N. Schonfeld

Human Services Administrator



## BELKNAP COUNTY NURSING HOME

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

The last year can best be summed up as a year of “Positive Change.” The management team instituted numerous changes in the Nursing Home since the problems of 2006 resulting in our 94-bed home being placed in “immediate jeopardy.” We rallied together as a team working to improve the level of care and implemented numerous changes that have placed us back in good standing.

The general nursing shortage continues to have an impact on our ability to fill available positions. In those instances we have used “pooled nursing” to fill vacancies. The Commissioners have tasked us to decrease this dependency on agency nurses and after a lot of hard work we have brought that number down significantly from the previous year.

The consulting firm of Landmark Health Solutions helped us streamline operations and proposed that we transition to a new “Nursing Model” where we have Unit Managers and Charge Nurses on each wing. This new model will give continuity with documentation between the wings while still providing excellent care to our residents. Our plan is to make this transition early in 2008.

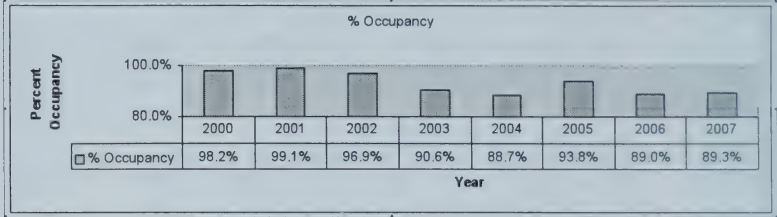
A short-term goal of continuing to show positive results on state surveys will be critical for 2008. A “deficiency free” state survey is attainable. Nursing Home employees have worked hard over the last year and are ready for the challenge.

Looking beyond that a long-term goal will be to make clinical, administrative, and rehabilitative changes needed to allow the facility to accept “skilled” Medicare patients coming out of the hospital.

The New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services has also gone through a lot of changes in 2008. They started a Nursing Home Quality of Life Council that will grant annual Quality of Life Awards to nursing homes that successfully implement culture change. The overall goal is “to develop a culture that improves quality of life through transforming a facility into a home, a patient into a person, and a schedule into a choice.”

Now on to some statistics for 2007: Our average daily census of 84 remained constant from the previous year. Our average occupancy rate was 89.3% up from 89% in 2006. We had 25 total discharges, 29 admis-

sions, 23 deaths, and 2 transfers. Total vacant bed days were 3,678 with 336 total hospital bed days.



We would like to thank all department heads, staff members, consulting professionals, and volunteers for their commitment and dedication. They show love and compassion in caring for our elders. We appreciate the constant support of the County Convention and County Commissioners. We would also like to thank the community for allowing us the opportunity to demonstrate our steadfast determination to bring Belknap County Nursing Home to the level of excellence it once had.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Howard Chandler, NHA  
 Temporary Nursing Home Administrator

## REGISTRY OF DEEDS

To the Honorable Commissioners of Belknap County:

Belknap County continues to feel the entire country's economic problems. We experienced a substantial decrease in documents recorded and copies requested this year. Rachel was prepared for this; anticipating a revenue fairly equal to 2006 for the county - thus allowing the Commissioners to plan accordingly. Unfortunately, we also saw an increase in foreclosures to a total of 116 from 50 during 2006.

I respectfully submit the following relative to our activity for 2007:

Total transfer taxes dispensed	\$8,227,764.00
4% Commission received from State	\$ 329,110.56
Revenue derived from recording fees	\$1,041,774.10
Revenue derived from copies and fax	\$ 158,052.09
Total surcharges collected	\$ 37,440.00

Total documents recorded 19,076  
(2500 less than in 2006)

Use of our website ([www.nhdeeds.com](http://www.nhdeeds.com)) continues to grow. We now have 530 internet accounts, many of which are very active. We consistently receive comments that our site is user friendly; web site users are amazed that ALL the records at our Registry are available on the internet. Belknap County continues to enjoy the reputation as the best Registry of Deeds in the state.

Total pages printed in Registry office	14,881
Total pages printed via Internet	62,187

As you are aware, on December 31 Registrar Rachel M. Normandin retired after a 39 year career with the Registry. On December 5 we held an "Open House" for her at our office. Rachel had a wonderful time visiting with the many friends, fellow Registrars and dignitaries that stopped in

to wish her well. She received several beautiful gifts and many flower arrangements.

On January 7, the County Convention voted unanimously to appoint me as Commissioner Registrar. I have chosen Judy McGrath Kelley as my Deputy. Judy has been a staff member since April 2004.

As I begin my year as Commission Registrar, I look forward to working with the Commissioners and members of the Belknap County Convention. Thank you to the Delegation for your confidence in me.

A special “thank you” to Rachel for 22 years of guidance and encouragement. Rachel was always happy to share her knowledge and skills; she was a great teacher!

On behalf of Rachel and myself, thank you to Judy Kelley, Saralee Wheeler, June Martel, Carol Morin and Sue Gagne. This past year brought more than a few challenges - each of which was met by teamwork and dedication.

Barbara R. Luther  
Commissioner Registrar

## BELKNAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT 2007 COUNTRY REPORT

Craig Wiggin – Commissioner Sheriff  
Lieutenant Christopher Cost – Operations Commander  
Cheryl Larose – Administrative Assistant



The members of the Belknap County Sheriff's Department are dedicated to providing professional law enforcement services to the citizens and visitors of the county. The Department is tasked with an extensive and diverse array of responsibilities, which are provided by a group of highly trained and talented deputies, communications specialists, court officers and civilian personnel. A summary of the various divisions, related responsibilities and accomplishments for the year are highlighted below.

### CIVIL PROCESS

Staff: Sergeant Thomas Alden  
Deputy Michael McCarn  
Deputy Judy Estes  
Special Deputy Joseph Schillinger  
Special Deputy Vincent Kondrotas  
Evelyn Sanville – Civil Division Secretary

The Sheriff's Departments are the only law enforcement agencies in New Hampshire with the authority to serve civil process, consisting of legal documents requiring service and return. This includes subpoenas, writs, landlord-tenant documents, property attachments, petitions, motions, ex-parte' court orders, and evictions. Many of these legal proceedings involve sensitive and potentially dangerous tasks, such as domestic violence and other restraining orders, forced evictions, and custody orders involving minor children. Deputies involved with these matters conduct themselves with sensitivity and professionalism. The

Department also generates revenue from the service of process in towns throughout the county. In 2007, a total of 3,692 such documents were served and \$90,414.17 was collected and returned to the county.

## **PRISONER TRANSPORTS AND ARRESTS**

The Department is responsible for the transportation of persons incarcerated statewide, whose attendance is ordered at any court proceeding in Belknap County. Likewise, those incarcerated at the Belknap County Jail or House of Correction are transported outside the county. This includes transports to and from other county jails, State Prison facilities in Laconia, Concord, and Berlin, local and out-of-town medical facilities, motor vehicle hearings, and other events. We transport juveniles to and from halfway houses, the Youth Development Center, Youth Service Detention Unit and secure facilities within and out of state. The Department is also tasked with transporting persons to the New Hampshire Hospital in Concord pursuant to Involuntary Emergency Admission proceedings. Lastly, we arrange for transports of wanted persons who are located in other states and coordinating extradition proceedings. In 2007, we conducted 1,626 total transports.

We are also responsible by state law for serving various arrest warrants, including bench warrants, *habeas corpus*, as well as criminal and civil contempt orders issued by the Superior Court, Family Court, and District Courts. During 2007, the department made 489 arrests on court-issued warrants and arrests generated by detectives and deputies pursuant to criminal investigations.

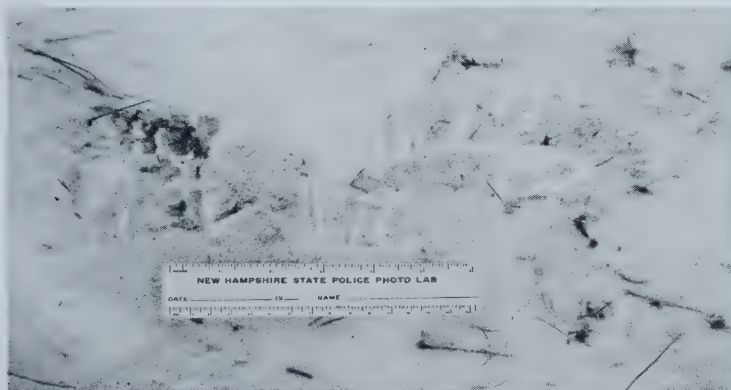
## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Staff:     Sergeant William Robarge  
           Detective Denise Miller  
           Detective David Perkins  
           Deputy William Wright – Warrants Officer

The Criminal Investigations Division is staffed with investigators highly trained and experienced in crime scene processing and reconstruction, evidence processing, forensic interviewing, photography, polygraph, and the use of other specialized and technical equipment. The division is

involved in numerous technical investigations of personal and property crimes, typically working in collaboration with other local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies. In addition, the division conducts sensitive investigations related to internal affairs and public integrity investigations, in conjunction with the County Attorney and/or the Attorney General's Office. Investigators engage in the time-consuming work related to locating wanted persons on a national and sometimes international level. They also conduct a significant number of financial crimes investigations, running the gamut from bad checks to large-scale fraud and embezzlement cases. In 2007, the division was successful in obtaining over \$8,000 in restitution paid to victims of bad check cases throughout the county.

Polygraph examiners conduct forensic testing related to specific criminal investigations, internal affairs, as well as employment security clearance examinations for newly hired sworn and civilian employees of various law enforcement agencies. 50 total examinations were administered during 2007.



Investigators document a boot print at the scene of a Bank Robbery

## JUVENILE SERVICES

Staff: Sergeant Thomas Alden  
Detective Denise Miller  
Deputy Judy Estes

This Division assists with the investigation of juvenile cases at the request of area police departments. These cases involve investigations,

referrals, drafting of petitions, prosecutions, as well as cases related to children in need of services (CHINS). Cases were entered in both the Laconia and Franklin District Courts. These cases involve crimes, such as Criminal Trespass, Criminal Mischief, Shoplifting, Resisting Arrest, Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Threatening, Possession of Controlled Drugs and Sexual Assaults. They may also involve cases of abuse, neglect, runaways, or truancy.

The Division collaborates with the Greater Lakes Child Advocacy Center in matters involving sexual assault and abuse investigations. The Division has two detectives with extensive training and experience in the forensic interviewing of child victims. This is a tremendous asset to area law enforcement agencies in the investigation of these difficult cases.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Staff:    Communications Director Suzanne Hankard  
          Dispatcher Robert Estes  
          Dispatcher Jennifer Schillinger  
          Dispatcher Elizabeth Morse  
          Dispatcher Sarah Harris  
          Dispatcher Mia Annis  
          Dispatcher Brian Dumka  
          Part-Time Dispatcher Jessica Jaluna  
          Part-Time Dispatcher Scott Breault  
          Part-Time Dispatcher Marci DeCarli

The communications center provides services for nine towns in Belknap County. Communications services are also provided to the Northfield Police Department on a contractual basis. In addition to the local towns, the communications center takes telephone calls and provides dispatch services for the local Fish and Game Officers, Liquor Investigators, Medical Examiners, and the County Attorney's Office. The communications center is in operation 24 hours a day. It provides State Police Online Telecommunications Systems (SPOTS) services for agencies without a dedicated SPOTS terminal. SPOTS is a vital link to criminal and motor vehicle records, missing and wanted persons, and other critical information.



The communications center relays information to the local patrol officers and agencies to ensure efficient and timely response to emergencies and requests for service. In addition to these duties, communications personnel are responsible for entering and locating warrants and wanted persons, missing persons and additional data into the National Crime Information Center system, as well as disseminating information to and from other public safety agencies, such as E-911 and emergency responders. In 2007, personnel handled 38,548 calls for service, a 9% increase from 2006.

## COURT SECURITY

Staff: Sergeant Donald Belyea, Supervisor

The Sheriff's Department works cooperatively with the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Belknap Superior Court, Probate Court, Laconia District Court, and the Laconia Family Division to provide security and protective services to the judges, staff, jurors, and all visitors to those facilities. Deputies and Court Security Officers also provide security during jury views at various locations for criminal and civil trials. Pending legislation will transfer oversight for all security functions in all the state's courts from the AOC to the respective Sheriffs in 2008, thereby further increasing our role and responsibilities.



CSO Dominick Tarrallo escorts Kirkman Casavaugh III into Belknap Superior Court on charges of alleged double murder.

Photo courtesy: Daryl Carlson, The Citizen of Laconia

In 2007, the Laconia District Court moved from its previous location on Academy Street to temporary quarters on Fair Street. Prisoner control is one of the more critical functions of the Court Security Division. Hence, a Deputy or Court Security Officer is assigned to the District Court to take custody of prisoners, which allows local police officers to assume their patrol shifts, rather than guarding prisoners. The security of the courts and handling numerous prisoners is one of the hazardous duties that we perform on a regular basis.

With the support of the County Commissioners, we were successful in securing funding for a complete upgrade of the video monitoring systems at the Superior Court building, which will provide state-of-the-art digital technology to enhance the security of the facilities and safety of employees and the public.

## **BELKNAP REGIONAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM**

The Belknap Regional Accident Investigation Team (BRAIT) is the oldest, continuous regional Traffic Accident Reconstruction unit in the State of New Hampshire and is made up of police officers and deputies from various police agencies in Belknap County, Carroll County and Strafford County. The team has a civilian Master Mechanic, a civilian Accident Reconstructionist, a Mechanical Engineer, a Forensic Mapping Expert and members of the New Hampshire Highway Patrol.

BRAIT provides technical accident or “crash” reconstruction services to the police departments within the Belknap County region and assists departments in matters such as scene documentation, vehicle autopsies, training to first responders, assistance with legal matters such as search warrants and court testimony in accident cases, and proper reporting of facts. BRAIT reconstructs collisions involving passenger vehicles, motorcycles, pedestrians and commercial motor vehicles. BRAIT continues to provide quality investigation services to law enforcement agencies within the Belknap County region and to train and offer technical expertise in all areas of crash/crime scene investigation. The team continues to assemble and distribute personnel and resources in such a fashion that will assist investigators in conducting investigations in an expedient, professional and cost effective manner that will result in quality products presented to chief law enforcement officers and prosecutors.



Rendered drawings of a double fatal motorcycle crash in Meredith

During 2007, BRAIT handled more than a dozen call-outs throughout the county, including Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Gilford, Meredith, and the City of Laconia. Accident Investigation has evolved over the years and now Crash Reconstruction is based on science and math, taking many hours to complete a technical reconstruction and provide the requesting agency with enough information to allow them to make an informed decision whether they charge an individual or not. These charges range from simple Speeding violations and Negligent or Reckless Driving to more serious crimes such as Second Degree Assault and Negligent Homicide.

## **BELKNAP REGIONAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP**

The Belknap Regional Special Operations Group (BRSOG) is now in its fifth year of operation. The BRSOG is comprised of law enforcement officers, emergency medical professionals, and communications specialists from various agencies throughout Belknap County. Team members volunteer for participation and undergo a rigorous selection process. Once selected, all team members undergo regular, intensive and demanding training. The BRSOG is equipped with a variety of tools to assist in completing its missions, including an armored rescue vehicle, as well as a fully equipped mobile command center. Team members are prepared for immediate response 24 hours a day.



BRSOG members conduct a training exercise utilizing the armored rescue vehicle.

There were 8 full activations of the team during 2007. These calls ranged from high-risk arrest warrants, search warrants, a search and saturation patrol for an armed robbery suspect, armed/barricaded individuals, and armed/suicidal persons. All of these operations ended successfully and without serious incident.

In conclusion, I offer my personal thanks to the Belknap County Delegation for their support and for their faith in me by appointing me to the position of Sheriff. I would also like to thank the County Commissioners for recognizing the important work this agency does every day and for their efforts in helping us accomplish our mission. Of course, that mission could not be accomplished without the dedication, cooperation, and professionalism of every member of the Sheriff's Department.

Lastly, I wish to thank my predecessor Dan Collis for his efforts and hard work in establishing a first-class Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Collis is congratulated for his five years as Sheriff and many years of dedicated law enforcement service to the citizens of Belknap County. I pledge to continue that spirit of service going forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig H. Wiggin  
Commissioner Sheriff

## BELKNAP COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

2007 was another exciting and busy year for the Restorative Justice Program. A total of 43 juvenile offenders had been referred into the program in 2007 and another 36 successfully completed their “Good Citizen Contract”. The youth completed 2,716.5 hours of community service and the program collected \$5,704.66 in restitution. In addition we were able to put other youth and young adults to work on Community Service projects around the County. .

Our volunteers have been very generous with their time and are always there to help when we need them. All of our volunteers are a tremendous asset to the Program. They help victims of crime, juvenile offenders and are involved in community service projects.

One of our volunteers, Ginger Kay Wells, who is the owner of Garden Artisans, got some of the youth in Restorative Justice involved in Laconia’s “Adopt A Spot”. The spot that was adopted was Rotary Park. This was a fantastic project for our youth to work on. Ginger was able to teach the youth some gardening skills and is a positive adult role model for them. If you had a chance to see Rotary Park during the spring, summer and fall months I think you would agree that it looked beautiful. The youth were very proud of the work they did. The Mayor’s office gave out an award for the best “Adopt A Spot” to the Laconia Rotary Club, Garden Artisans LLC, and the youth of The Belknap County Restorative Justice Program. This is the second year in a row that our Youth were part of an award winning effort.

The Restorative Justice Program allows victims and the community to speak freely about how crime affects them. It strengthens the juvenile offender’s relationship with the community. Our program allows the juvenile to see the damage caused by their crime and lets them openly apologize for their actions. We are looking forward to another year of working with victims of crime, juvenile offenders, and the community to repair the harm caused by their crime.

Our Restorative Justice Program uses community service as a way of holding juveniles accountable for what they have done and as a way of repairing the harm caused by their crime. We are always looking for

meaningful community service projects. Meaningful community service projects are either restorative to the victim or the community, allows the juvenile to have a positive interaction with his/her community, teaches the juvenile a new skill or builds a positive relationship with an adult.

If you have any ideas for meaningful community service projects or if you would like to volunteer with the program, please contact us. We are always looking for opportunities for the youth to help the communities in Belknap County.

We would like to thank the County Commissioners and the County Delegation for their continued support.

Brian J. Loanes, Executive Director  
John M. Egan, Community Service Coordinator  
Victoria O'Hara, Case Manager

## **COURTHOUSE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**August 7th through December 31, 2007**

I came over to the courthouse on a part-time basis (20 hrs/wk) August 7, 2007 and certain projects were undertaken as requested by some department heads. They are as follows:

All personal tools and possessions of David Jenkins were gathered together and Frank took them to his wife.

Build pipe enclosure and repair wall cracks in stairway near judge's chambers (courtroom #1). Main stairway oak railings were removed, re-finished, re-installed and tightened. Baseboard moldings were made and installed near pillars in the Registry of Deeds office. A building vent was made, installed and painted in the outside generator shed near the rear of the building to insure proper ventilation.

The fire exit door near the dumpster end of building was inspected and it was determined that rot has set in around the frame and door itself and needs to be replaced. It was added to the 2008 budget for replacement. An outside drain cover near that door was removed and the drain inspected. It was found to be inadequate to handle surface water and a change needed to be made in order to keep water from entering the building as it has in the past. Bids were accepted and Dupont Construction was contracted to do the work. A commercial city culvert was installed and has worked fine so far. It was determined that if it is not able to handle spring melt run-off, we will be able to connect to the city drain by running a pipe from the culvert to the street through the parking lot if it becomes necessary. This will be determined in April of 2008.

Damp and mold ridden carpets were removed from the maintenance work area in the basement and floors scraped and painted using inmate labor when it could be arranged. Excess collected items accumulated over years were taken to the dump to free up space. All ceiling tiles in building were inspected and it was determined that some needed replacement soon. Doors were added to existing storage cabinets for security reasons.

A meeting was scheduled with Aquafax to inspect an existing chemical treatment pump presently installed on the main boiler. It was determined that the boiler needs to be brought up to specs to satisfy the laws and a new chemical pump would be installed after the boiler repairs are done. The repairs were accomplished and the new pump installed.

All fire extinguishers were located, listed, and inspected throughout the courthouse, sheriff's department, commissioner's office and county extension service buildings. Missing signage was installed to identify the location of these fire extinguishers. Monthly inspection reports were generated on Microsoft Excel and a maintenance program was put into effect. Currently, the inspection program is working well.

A maintenance inventory of all floors and carpets was generated building wide which consists of type of floor, color of carpet, and a maintenance schedule of when cleaning and shampooing will be needed. A floor repair list was also generated and kept on file with type of repairs and dates done. All floors in basement shop area were scraped, sanded, and painted gray.

Rachel Normindin had a few requests for the Registry of Deeds office. The microphones were removed from certain desks and old labels taken off of oak drawer fronts. The counter top was repaired at the entry way and an oak bench was re-surfaced. An unsafe electrical situation was remedied in the kitchen area and a loose leg on a large oak table in the vault was tightened. The fire safety window shields inside the vaults were inspected and it was determined that they are controlled by lead links and cannot be tested.

It was determined that certain storage rooms in the basement could be utilized for storing supplies to relieve shop area. Some plumbing parts and supplies were moved and the room labeled accordingly. A missing floorboard up in the attic was replaced.

The maintenance office downstairs was cleaned and old curtains were removed from windows. The windows were cleaned and new blinds were installed. An old desk was taken to the dump and a file system was generated for records and receipts. The office computer had an OS upgrade and in the process, all software and files were deleted. That



situation has been taken care of.

Storage shelves and steel and lumber racks were built in the basement shop area and a complete re-organization was accomplished. Tools were categorized, supplies were labeled, and a steel paint storage cabinet was installed. A workbench was built and tools were purchased and hung on the rack. Baseboards were replaced in the basement and holes in walls plugged and painted. A janitor's sink was installed in an unused bathroom and a leak in the kitchen sink pump was repaired. A cabinet was built and installed in the men's room outside the maintenance office.

An oak railing and baluster system was built and installed at the front main entrance doors of the courthouse and an oak coat rack built and installed in the County Attorney's office.

Several electrical boxes were located in the ceiling panels and covers were installed in the basement area. Bad electrical outlets were repaired and a twin 110 outlet was installed in the County Attorney's office for the new computer system. A 110 outlet was installed for the chop saw in the workshop.

In conclusion, there were many maintenance projects identified and undertaken by the crew and myself at the courthouse utilizing what resources we had available. Future projects will include adding a Dutch door in the County Attorney's office, adding a push-button lock to that door, replacing the fire emergency exit door in the basement, and the continuation of floor repairs in the remainder of the basement area. Identification of existing circuits in all panel boxes throughout the building will be a priority and unsafe electrical boxes repaired. Additional tools and equipment may be purchased in order to continue providing excellent service in our maintenance department.

Changes and/or improvements suggested are as follows:

The "Doors Security Program" for the courthouse should be transferred from the maintenance supervisor's office computer to the sheriff's department office computer upstairs, which would ultimately put security where it should be. .

A standard maintenance purchase order system countywide should be put into effect as soon as possible. Fire sprinkler contracts should be reviewed and changed to lower costs. A change in the fire alarm company for the courthouse is in process right now, which will save us over \$1,000.00/year. Each individual maintenance department should be working on organizing their work areas, offices, record keeping (files, etc.), and involved in making suggestions that possibly could result in a savings for the county. We, as a department, will endeavor to maintain the quality service we have provided in 2007 throughout the coming year. Thank you!

I submit this annual report 4th day of February 2008

Harold R. Powell,  
Director of Maintenance



## BELKNAP COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Annual Report

~ 2007 ~

On November 28, 2001, the Belknap County Commissioners signed a Proclamation solidifying their pledge to create a Citizens Council on Children and Families. This report marks the latest in the Council's six-year history as we continue to implement that pledge. Today, the Council remains strong and committed to its mission to make Belknap County a safe community where children and families can live with dignity and respect.

During 2007, the Council welcomed five new members adding to our representation of Belmont, Center Barnstead, Gilford, Laconia and Meredith. We are extremely fortunate to find people so committed to the values and mission of the Council. Together, through all they give throughout the year, our Council members contributed over 1,000 hours of in-kind service to our initiatives. At a calculated rate of \$20/hr this accounts for over \$20,000 in contributed service on behalf of Belknap County.

Our work is performed through the many coalitions and networks we create to support community justice. This past year we have helped to secure continued funding for the CoRe Coalition, the Belknap County alcohol and substance abuse prevention coalition, through restructuring their by-laws, job descriptions and hiring of new staff. CoRe brings in \$100,000 a year to Belknap County through a Drug Free Communities grant, which the Council helped to write the initial grant. Over \$500,000 of additional federal dollars will now come into Belknap and Carroll Counties through the Community Prevention Coalition (CPC) under the Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health (LRPPH). The Council was instrumental in spearheading the initial effort to steer the grant to the LRPPH and is represented on both the LRPPH Board and the CPC Oversight Board.

Major planning efforts have been invested in two major initiatives this past year. The first is the Community Prevention Coalition's outreach to communities in developing a comprehensive plan to reduce underage drinking and binge drinking in youth adults; the other is through the work of the Belknap County Early Learning Council on which the Council is also represented. Working closely with organizations such as United Way, Lakes Region Community Services Council and others, more than \$1.3M has been leveraged to help fund early Childhood initiatives over the years. The Council has facilitated bringing the private sector into conversations on early learning so that the impact of well-nurtured children will be supported and felt by all sectors of the community. Presentations were made to members of the local Chambers of Commerce and to Leadership Lakes Region.

The Council's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) has approved and distributed a Victims Rights brochure and has recently implemented a Victim Satisfaction Survey. Adding these features to the Victims Restitution Fund, the Council has placed victims of juvenile crime high on the list of priorities and assisting our providers in introducing restorative practices within their programs. Victim satisfaction surveys will be mailed back to the Council for collating and reporting to JJAC for quality assurance and program improvement. Providers have agreed to make this part of their case closing proceedings. Additionally, Title V dollars secured by the Council allowed the Youth Services Bureau to compile and disseminate 120 Juvenile Justice Service Resource Directories to each police department, district courts, public libraries, school guidance counselors, provider agencies and many others throughout Belknap County. This three-ring binder is packed full with agency referral information, brochures and contact information. It has been found to be extremely helpful to all who have them.

The Data Committee has done an exceptional job this year preparing and disseminating the second annual Report Card on community juvenile justice. Every household in Belknap County (32,634) received a copy of the Report card in their mail with an additional 9,000 copies inserted in the Citizen newspaper and another 4,000 distributed through Council drop points (e.g. libraries, police departments, schools and the

like. The Council secured a \$47,000 grant from the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice to develop an automated data collection, analysis and reporting process. As a result, 25 provider staff were trained in the use of a database designed specifically for the Council based on the case closing process developed by the Data Committee. Finally, the Data Committee developed a whitepaper on Perspectives on Child Maltreatment, CHINS and Juvenile Delinquency in Belknap County, which will serve as the basis for inviting state and local policymakers to develop responses to the needs of children and families, in the weeks ahead.

Training workshops and other facilitated sessions provided by the Citizens Council, with others, included Communication and Negotiation skills, Follow-the-Child/Student Aspirations, Child Trauma, Justice for All, Circle of Grace, Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region – sustainability support. Other presentations requested of the Council included those to Coos Families - Connected and to Carroll County Juvenile Justice group. Both of these groups are working to develop regional supports similar to those implemented here in Belknap County and have received planning grants from the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice to pursue these ventures. And, on a more national scope, the Council presented at the National Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Portland, Oregon and was invited to Southeastern Kentucky by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Reclaiming Futures as the State of Kentucky is planning to expand its project to communities beyond their initial scope. Belknap County contributed a great deal to the development of the Reclaiming Futures Community Fellowship Monograph entitled: Moving Toward Equal Ground – Engaging the Capacity of Youth, Families and Communities to Improve Treatment Services and Outcomes in the Juvenile Justice System.

Collectively, over 500 people received training or facilitation services by the Citizens Council last year in the above-mentioned areas. Further, last year’s Convocation involved most of the school districts in the county and registered 281 individuals for the event, the largest convocation to date. Over fifteen agencies contributed endless hours to the planning of the annual convocation while over 40 organizations exhibited information for children and families.

Another large effort that reinforces strong family and community ties is the annual Multi-Cultural Market Day celebration. This event brings in over 3,000 people to experience diverse cultural experiences creating a spirit of community and respect and dignity among all members of the community. As in past years, the Council contributes its planning and coordinating efforts to making this a successful, healthy event for children, youth and families throughout the county.

A leader in the community - making a difference for children and families – the Council’s efforts have been recognized by individuals and local organizations for its contributions to the community. Here is what some have said about us:

*“Exemplary leadership that has translated into a lasting impact on the community.”*

Daniel Webster Council, Boy Scouts of America

*“The Belknap County Citizens Council has been an invaluable partner in the development and support of multidisciplinary initiatives that benefit at-risk youth. The Council’s promotion of the philosophy of restorative/ community justice has brought healing to the victims of crime as well as strong, positive effect for juvenile offenders.”*

Tom Oetinger, Chief, Laconia Police Department, Retired

*“Exceptional leadership in strengthening the fabric of this community thereby enhancing the economic well-being of Belknap County and the Lakes Region.”*

Belknap County Economic Development Council

Challenges on the horizon include the erosion of court diversion programs by municipal budget cuts, continued sustainability of key prevention and early intervention services at the community level and policy changes that will shift cost burdens from the state to county and local taxpayers. Prevention programs save taxpayers money in the long run but their very existence is being challenged by deep reductions in local appropriations. The Council is working closely with providers and com-

munities to re-conceptualize juvenile justice sanctions and services in Belknap County and we welcome your participation in these and other matters confronting children and families. We are your Citizens Council. We are here to serve you. Contact us today at:

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families  
528-3185 (P)  
One Mill Plaza  
528-3635 (F)  
Laconia, New Hampshire 03246  
[www.bccj.org](http://www.bccj.org)

Sincerely yours,  
Sarah Fox  
Chair

Alan Robichaud  
Executive Director

**BELKNAP COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
2007 Annual Report to Belknap County

To the Honorable Commissioners:

Since establishing our offices in July of 1992, we have been providing economic development and business assistance to municipalities and existing, new, and prospective businesses on a request basis without charge. As a regional development organization, we strive for a “climate” that understands what sustainable economic development is and how it works, as well as the importance of planning and maintaining the economic infrastructure and well being of the community and a region. In our regional capacity, we have worked to unify the efforts of the region while ever mindful of the desire to preserve the uniqueness of our communities.

The organization is structured as a non-profit 501(c)(6) regional development corporation with 100 Incorporators representing Belknap County municipalities, businesses, organizations, and residents. The Incorporators elect up to a 21-person Board of Director.

Most of the assistance provided in any year focused on the needs of existing companies. Over 250 businesses, organizations, and individuals were provided with technical assistance that included business planning, counseling, financial/loan program information, assistance with site/facility identification, general regulatory information, and demographic data.

Highlights of 2007

**Area Assistance**

- The website, [www.bcedc.org](http://www.bcedc.org) which focuses on getting the information to our businesses whether they are seeking more details about our services, commercial lending options, topical published reports, or direct links to registering a business, traffic counts, commercial property or simply “who is who” in local and state government. During 2007 we have averaged 1,280 Unique Visitors per month with over 270,000 hits over the course of the year. Further each



visit averages 15 minutes in duration and each visitor views more than one page.

- The website, [www.liveworkandplaynh.com](http://www.liveworkandplaynh.com), which promotes the region as a place to live and work, have averaged 560 Unique Visitors per month with over 10,850 hits over the course of the year. Further each visit averages 8 minutes in duration and each visitor views more than one page.
- Board Members Beyer, Edelstein, Frawley Drake, Koulet and Lipman along with Executive Director Boulanger joined the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee to further the development of a CEDS report and the region's eligibility for EDA funding of projects.
- Eight-page glossy brochure promoting Belknap County, as well as other marketing materials, continues to be distributed.
- Participated with various communities/organizations on events and long-term initiatives including community forums and economic development planning. This includes programs and workshops with Main Street communities, meetings with Town Boards and community groups. Attended Bootcamp 101 on Regional Branding, participant in Leadership Lakes Region, meet and work with local investors working towards resurrecting a performing arts center, meeting with various city/town planners regarding their opportunities and developments, attendance at the Laconia Gilford Business Park advisory committee meetings on park status.
- Continued work with re-use projects including Granite Media Center (industry clustered tenant space and production room opportunities), Riverfront Plaza/Tilton (mixed commercial), Allen Rogers/Laconia (under development 76 units of housing and future commercial space 30,000+ sf.), as well as other major development or conservation properties in Alton, Barnstead, Belmont, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, and Tilton.
- Handled over ten (non-local) requests for relocating/new facility assistance and in addition continued to provide "Belknap County – The Place We Call Home" packets to new businesses and key new business/organization leadership. In addition, we handled over 10+ requests from area owners, realtors, and state industrial agents on sale/lease and reuse of existing property.
- Continued support to Lakes Region Childcare on new facility.
- Acted as a liaison for the County on CDBG projects attending re-

quired training programs to qualify for grants.

### **Business Assistance**

- Approximately 250 entities sought assistance varying from information on zoning in various communities, hiring workforce, rules and regulations on subdivisions to extended counseling on starting business, financing expansion, etc. In addition to the usual general inquiries, our two websites have created efficiencies in dealing with inquiries.
- 180+ businesses, organizations, or aspiring entrepreneurs received extended assistance:
  - 110 Belknap County entrepreneurs and businesses received extended assistance from a SCORE counselor. SCORE has been a great addition compensating for the loss of the SBDC counselor.
  - 70 businesses and organizations received extended assistance from BCEDC's professional staff.
- Resources of the Business Information Center (BIC) continue to be enhanced. Purchased \$1,500.00 of additional resources with a focus on non-profit board development and main street community development.

### **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)**

- Received 35 inquiries about borrowing from the RLF totaling over \$5 million
- Acted on 5 applications totaling \$845,000.
- Closed on 3 loans totaling \$420,000 and leveraging approximately \$3 million in external financing.
  - One loan supported the expansion and relocation of a local eye care practice.
  - One loan supported the restructuring of existing debt for a local fitness establishment.
  - One loan supported working capital for a local retail establishment.
- Satisfactorily completed USDA/Rural Development annual audit. Executive Director attended annual RLF training.
- Attended CDBG training through the NH Community Development Finance Authority.

- Promoted use of RLF with local lenders and expanded representation on the RLF Loan Committee.
- Maria Del Rio, was hired in September as the Loan Fund Manager.
- Revisited and revised the RLF's policies and procedures manual with respect to confidentiality and conflicts of interest.

### **Workforce Assistance**

- Continued to work with NH Employment Security on employer needs.
- Jointly with NH Employment Security met with regions top employers to discuss ways, which the demands and supply of our current workforce can be better utilized.
- Assisted members of Leadership Lakes on planning training days. Organized and presented Economic Development day.
- Continued to provide local employers with materials they can use for recruitment of new employees.

### **Management**

- Redesigned (and rewrote) the BCEDC membership materials.
- Reconfigured job descriptions for the organization in keeping with future needs identified in the Economic Profile and the organization's strategic plan.
- Interviewed and hired a Program Coordinator (January 2007) and a Loan Fund Manager (September 2007). As of September of 2007, BCEDC will have a full complement of staff: Executive Director (Jennifer Boulanger), Loan Fund Manager (Maria Del Rio), and Program Coordinator (Lyn O'Callaghan).
- Provided administrative support and office facilities to SCORE.
- Continue to collaborate with SNHU on the development of initiatives that helps both entities fulfill their mission.
- Collaborate with the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce on a four part workshop series for 2008.
- Executive Director
  - Continued membership and service in the Laconia Rotary Club
  - Participant and speaker for Leadership Lakes Region

Since inception, funding for our services has come from a mixture of public and private sources. In 2007, we received over \$70,000 in grants

and contributions to underwrite various activities. Over 100 community investors help us maintain services and develop initiatives that enhance the region's economy. Southern New Hampshire University continues to provide office and meeting space for the Council and its partners; this contribution is valued in excess of \$25,000. The County provided \$75,000 in operating revenues for 2007. The balance of revenues was raised through our revolving loan fund lending. The Council oversees more than \$2.9 million in assets for the benefit of Belknap County. To date, the Council has assisted the County and towns in securing approximately \$5.5 million in Community Development Block Grants that are invested in community projects. For the second year, Belknap County sponsored a \$220,000 Community Development Block Grant for the NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations, which provided capacity building funds to eleven regional development organizations.

Our success and contribution to the economic well being of the region is to the credit and commitment of many people, all who have come together in a cooperative manner in the best interest of Belknap County. The quality of assistance the Council offers to Belknap County communities, businesses, and organizations could not be realized without your continuing support.

Some fifteen years have passed since three businessmen met on a cold January morning in 1990 to discuss possible solutions to the economic crisis that was gripping our region. They recognized that the region needed to find its own way of stemming the alarming flow of businesses, jobs, and private investment out of the area. Reaching out to other business, civic and elected leaders, they collaboratively envisioned the possibilities and began to chart a path to renewed prosperity for Belknap County. With a more vibrant economy we are now challenged with new issues associated with that success. As we reflect on fifteen years of service, be assured that our commitment to enhancing the economic vitality of Belknap County and the greater Lakes Region is as strong as ever. The Board of Directors and staff are prepared to meet current and future challenges. With the continued collaborative efforts of the public and private sectors, we recognize we are better positioned than ever to deal with the inevitable ups-and-downs of the region's economy.

Thank you for your support — together we are making a difference!

**Respectfully submitted,**  
*Board of Directors*

Greg Goddard, *Chair*  
Gunstock Mountain Resort  
Andy Patterson, *Vice-Chair*  
LRGHealthcare  
Joe LaPlante *Secretary*  
3M Tilton/IPT  
Michael Persson, *Treasurer*  
Lawson and Persson, PC  
Bill Beyer, *Director*,  
Meredith Village Savings Bank  
Christopher Boothby, *Director*  
County Commissioner  
Fred Clausen, *Director*  
Proctor's Lakeside Cottages  
Jim Dirubbo, *Director*  
Malone, Dirubbo & Co, PC  
Mark Edelstein Ph.D., *Director*  
NH Community Technical College  
Tony Ferruolo, *Director*  
Hospitality Consultant  
James Fitzgerald, *Director*  
Retired Educator

Debbie Frawley Drake, *Director*  
Lakes Region Linen  
Tom Garfield, *Director*  
Laconia Savings Bank  
David Haley, *Director*  
Munsey & Brazil Insurance Agency  
Kimon Koulet, *Director*  
Lakes Region Planning Commission  
Henry Lipman, *Director*  
Councilor, City of Laconia  
Don Morrissey, *Director*  
Retired Educator  
Representative John Thomas, *Director*  
Belknap County Delegation  
Jane Wood, *Director*  
Shore Title Abstracting, LLC  
  
Jennifer D. Boulanger, *Executive Director*  
Maria Del Rio, *Loan Fund Manager*  
Lyn O'Callaghan, *Program Coordinator*

[www.bcedc.org](http://www.bcedc.org)

*The Full 2007 Report of the BCEDC Board will be released on March 27, 2008 and can be accessed on our website, [www.bcedc.org](http://www.bcedc.org), or by calling the BCEDC office at 603-524-3057.*

## BELKNAP COUNTY UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UNH Cooperative Extension provides New Hampshire citizens with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that strengthen youth, families and communities, sustain natural resources, and improve the economy. As a university outreach program, we have a network of professional Extension staff located in all 10 New Hampshire counties. Our staff work with local volunteers and specialists on the UNH campus to design and conduct educational programs that meet societal, environmental and economic needs.

### **Agricultural Resources Program Highlights**

Amy Ouellette is Extension Educator of Agricultural Resources for Belknap County. The Agricultural Resources program provides education to commercial businesses, municipalities and citizens. Information is delivered through educational programs, site visits, walk-in service, telephone and email. Ag. Resources made over 1,100 contacts in B.C. this year. In addition, Master Gardener volunteers answered calls at UNH's Family, Home and Garden Education Center. This is a toll-free number 1-877-EXT-GROW. The center is staffed M-F 9-2 and W 5:30-7:30. Two hundred seventy eight B.C. residents called the education center in 2007.

**Landscaping at the Water's Edge:** A 91 page book titled Landscaping at the Water's Edge was co-written by Amy Ouellette and Extension staff and published in March of 2007. This book explains how landscaping impacts surface and ground waters and demonstrates how ecologically-based design and low impact maintenance practices can protect, and even improve, the quality of our lakes and streams. Workshops were presented to audiences comprised of landscapers, conservation commission members, lake association members, municipal employees and shore-front property owners.

**Sustainable Fruit and Vegetable Production:** Soil and nutrient management, pest identification and control, crop production, marketing and business planning information was provided to commercial fruit and vegetable growers. In 2007, technical assistance was provided to busi-

nesses in Belmont, Meredith, New Hampton, Laconia, Gilford, Gilman-  
ton, Sanbornton, Alton and Barnstead. Local workshops were attended  
by 272 citizens.

**Turf Management:** Technical information was provided to municipal  
employees and volunteers in Laconia and Tilton. Town employees from  
Alton, Laconia and Gilford attended a Turfgrass Management for Mu-  
nicipalities workshop.

**Natural Resource Business Institute:** Seventeen people completed this  
thirteen week class (one night/week) co-taught by Amy and Extension  
staff. Several topics important for people opening an agricultural or for-  
est-related business were covered: site analysis, overview of biological  
systems (plant and animal), cash flow, budgeting, loans, market devel-  
opment and more. During the course, participants developed operating  
plans for their proposed businesses.

**Pesticide Safety:** Commercial growers, landscapers and town employ-  
ees received education through workshops, demonstrations and tele-  
phone calls. Pesticide safety workshops were attended by 73 people,  
including 16 from Belknap County. At a later date, all 16 B.C. residents  
passed exams to obtain pesticide licenses from the NH Division of Pes-  
ticide Control.

**Master Gardeners:** Over 50 trained volunteers delivered a total of 798  
hours of education and service through community gardening projects  
and demonstrations in Belknap County.

**Animal Forage & Grazing:** Amy identifies forage and weed species in  
pastures and works with livestock owners to improve pasture fertility  
and condition. Thirteen livestock owners from Barnstead, Alton, Gil-  
manton, Meredith, Sanbornton and Belmont received pasture visits and  
recommendations from Amy.

### **Family & Consumer Resources Program Highlights**

Suzanne Cagle is Extension Educator of Family & Consumer Resources  
for Belknap County. FCR programs fall into three broad subject areas:  
Food Safety & Nutrition, Resource Management, and Child Develop-

ment. Information is available through one-day workshops, workshop series, publications, and direct consultation. Over seven hundred individuals participated in the various programs offered this year. In addition, more than 1000 families received parenting information through the Cradle Crier and Toddler Tales newsletter series.

**Food Safety and Nutrition:** The CDC estimates that 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5,000 deaths occur annually from food-borne illness. FCR food safety programs target knowledge and behavior within the food service environment that is known to be connected to a reduction in risk such as good personal hygiene practices, preventing cross contamination, and controlling time and temperature conditions of food. The SAFE-Safety Awareness in the Food Environment program was offered 7 times this year.

**Family Resource Management:** Many B.C. families are feeling increasing financial pressure. Family Resource Management programs focus on increasing knowledge and skills in a variety of areas, including: identifying goals and developing a spending/savings plan, understanding credit and reducing overall debt, stretching resources, and becoming a more educated consumer. Two “Making Money Work for You”, 5 part series were offered this year, both at the B.C. Extension office and through the Laconia High School Adult Education Dept. Five “Planning Ahead/Staying Ahead,” 3 part series were offered at both the Belknap County House of Corrections and New Hampshire State Prison-Lakes Region Facility to inmates preparing for release. Ten workshops focusing on stretching resources were offered to residents at the Carey House.

**Child Development:** Research indicates that when we increase positive, age appropriate experiences in childhood and support healthy adult/child relationships, we decrease the risks that children will engage in risky or anti-social behaviors as they move into adulthood. To that end, the FCR Child Development programs focus on providing adult caregivers and role models with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the experiences and relationships of children.

**Parenting Programs:** A variety of parenting programs were delivered to 99 citizens. Parenting During Difficult Circumstances- This six part series focusing on strategies to assist families under stress was offered



twice, at Barnstead Elementary School and Gilford Elementary School in collaboration with Upstream. Parenting-Birth through the teen years-This twelve week, age paced series was offered through Laconia Adult Education in collaboration with Upstream. A six week parenting series was offered at the B.C. House of Corrections. Five workshops were offered in collaboration with Upstream's workplace parenting initiative to employees at JJill in Tilton. Grandparents as Parents – monthly support group. Facilitation and resources provided in collaboration with the Giggles and Grins Family Resource Center.

### **Nutrition Connections Program Highlights**

Brenda Carey is an Extension Program Associate for the Nutrition Connections program in Belknap County. Nutrition Connections helps people living in or near poverty acquire the knowledge and skills needed to make changes in behavior, improve diets and to get more for their food dollars. Education is offered in the areas of nutrition, money management, food preparation, food safety, menu planning and smart shopping. Nutrition Connections also works with schools that meet income criteria. Three hundred and thirty-one youth, 74 families with 188 family members and 66 senior citizens enrolled in Nutrition Connections programs in 2007.

**Nutrition for Adults:** Lessons were offered both as home visits and through the mail with “Eat Healthy Stay Fit”. Seventy-three people enrolled in these programs in order to improve their knowledge related to nutrition: Series ranged from four to eight lessons.

#### **Adult Activities**

- 56 individuals at the Carey House homeless shelter participated in classes on nutrition/food safety. This is a particularly high risk group that usually gets food stamps. Twenty-eight sessions were taught.
- Seventeen people at Lakes Region Community Services Council attended a one time session on how to make healthier choices at the supermarket.
- “Walkways”, a new program to encourage walking with a pedometer, along with nutrition education was introduced in September.
- Ninety-six food stamp recipients at NH Employment Program were introduced to the Nutrition Connections program and 45 people par-

ticipated in the “Eat Healthy Stay Fit” home study course. Twenty-three visits were made to NHEP during the course of the year.

- Nutrition Connections supplied the Division of Human Services with approximately 900 “How to use your food stamp benefit” flyers for food stamp recipients.
- Lake Village, Stafford House and Sunrise Towers (senior housing) each hosted 5 presentations related to senior nutrition and food safety. These sessions were attended by 58.
- Eight seniors in the “Laconia Sight Savers” group attended a session on food safety.
- NutriNews, a four lesson home study course for seniors on food stamps, was sent out to 10 households. Eight lessons were completed.

**Youth programs:** Overall 331 youth received 5-6 lessons on healthy eating.

- Eighty-six pre-school age children from Head Start in Laconia and Woodland Heights Pre-school participated in lessons.
- Two hundred twenty-three first graders and 18 second graders from Laconia and Meredith were taught at Woodland Heights Elementary, Pleasant Street School, Elm Street School and Interlake’s Elementary School. Lessons revolved around food groups and always involved sampling a variety of healthy foods from each food group.
- Forty-four second graders at Pleasant Street School had a follow up on “MyPyramid”.
- Fifty-eight fifth graders at Woodland Heights School learned “How to read food labels”.
- Twenty-five teens participated in one or more classes that included cooking during a six week series at the Teen Center.
- Food is Fun, a 4 lesson home study course for elementary school youth on food stamps was delivered to 17 children. Eight completed the course and the others are continuing. In addition, 4 participated in a 3 week cooking class “Healthy Cooking is Fun”.
- Nutrition Connections joined eight high risk teens participating in the Gilford Meadows summer program for a 6 week nutrition series. The teens followed up each lesson by planning, shopping and cooking a meal

## 4-H Youth Development Program Highlights

Becky Levesque is Extension Educator of 4-H Youth Development for Belknap County. 4-H Youth Development programs provide opportunities for 214 Belknap County youth 5 – 18 years old increase life long skills through projects of interest. 12 new volunteers were screened giving a total of 103 adults trained and supported to deliver the varied parts of the program. Using the experiential learning model youth naturally build self esteem, confidence, workforce preparation skills, leadership, and community awareness.

Examples of Youth Programs that Build Life Skills: *“One of the things 4-H has helped me learn is how to believe in myself when I didn’t think it was possible...” (11 year old) “I love how 4-H programs incorporate family values at the very core. I appreciate the opportunity for personal growth and have gained knowledge in a great environment.” (18 year old)*

- Traditional clubs in local communities. (22 groups)
- 4-H Afterschool programs. (Alton, Sanbornton - 73 youth)
- County Activity Day: public speaking, demonstrations, photography and more (29 youth)
- Food Is Fun, Cooking Is Fun & Kids Club Cooking for Food Stamp eligible youth.(33 youth)
- Favorite Food Festival: displays, demos & nutrition knowledge shared. (27 participants)
- Belknap County 4-H Fair: project skills, exhibits, talent shows, youth judging skills, fundraising.
- Teen Resumes & Junior Record keeping Workshops. (28 youth-2 received national recognition)
- Youth Interviews for county and state awards (14 youth participating)
- Teens: Career Trip, UNH Teen Conference, Regional Forum, 4-H Teen Club (30youth)

**Volunteer Training and Support:** *“My daughter started 4-H four years ago and has come a long way...She has proven to me and others that having animals is very important to her, and she has definitely shown her love, devotion, and responsibility.”* Training is available through one-on-one and small group contact, workshops, local & regional conferenc-

es, correspondence course, phone calls and e-mail. Volunteer advisory groups include BC 4-H Horse Council, BC 4-H Foundation, BC 4-H Fair Association, & BC Leaders Association. In addition many non-enrolled adults serve as assistant 4-H volunteers.

**Reaching Underserved Audiences:** In collaboration with BC Citizens Council, 4-H was featured in local papers explaining that 4-H is more than cows and chickens which encouraged 4 new families to join the program. A 35 year volunteer received the Unsung Hero Award at the Belknap County Convocation where 250 participants had the opportunity to see 4-H in action as one of our youth gave his public speech which had received regional recognition. In order to assist Food Stamp recipients make healthier nutrition choices a cooking short courses were held with engaged 6 youth. They all joined 4-H and 1 demonstrated her knowledge learned at the county Food Festival. The Alton community has taken ownership for the Alton 4-H Afterschool by passing a warrant article to support the director. During its 3rd year of operation, membership has grown from 12 to 59 youth in the 3rd – 8th grades.

After thirty years working with foresters and landowners in Belknap County, our County Forester, Sumner Dole, retired. At printing time, a search for a new Extension Educator of Forestry and Wildlife is underway.



BELKNAP COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2007



527-5880 or -9146

719 N. Main St. Room 203, Laconia, NH 03246-2772

**COMMUNITY PLANNING:** Funding from the Pardoe Foundation assisted BCCD's Roger Hogan in work obtaining conservation easements on several properties. His work with municipalities, The New England Forestry Foundation, USDA and others generated funds: \$90,000 for Hillcrest Farm in Laconia, from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Grazing Land Program; Ram-blin' Vewe Farm in Gilford \$352,500 from the USDA NRCS' Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and \$44,250 from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP). Gilford, Laconia and private donors have paid considerable additional funds into these two important projects. The Annual Meeting featured Alternative Energy and how it connects to Smart Growth. Dr. Rob Wills of Solar-Stream in Temple, NH explained the basics of solar and wind technology for home use. He described the projects BCCD is implementing thanks to Conservation Innovation Grants from USDA NRCS. Other speakers included:

- Mo Gouin of Meredith explained using water wells for heating and cooling, - Rick DeMark of the North Country Resource Conservation and Development Area (NCRC&D) described Biomass (wood and pellet) burning systems that can be used by institutions and businesses,
- Ward Bird of Moultonboro explained his "off the grid" solar home,
- Jeff Burns of Sanbornton described the straw bale homes he has been constructing and the alter-native energy methods being used with them.

Please see the Agriculture and Alternative Energy section below for more information.

NCRC&D, Prescott Farm – NH Audubon and BCCD collaborated on a Land and Shoreland Management program held at Paugus Bay Park, and at Prescott Farm. Speakers included:

- UNH Cooperative Extension's (UNHCE) Amy Ouellette on Landscaping,
- NH Dept. of Environmental Services' Jacquie Colburn (NH Lakes Coordinator) and Diane Hanley (Laconia's Conservation Commis-

sion) on shorefront rules and changes due to begin in April 2008.

- BCCD's Jan Hooper assisted the Town of Ctr. Harbor with information on stormwater and its impact on their bay of Lake Winnepesaukee. Nancy Rendall, Supervisor, participated in the Belknap Mt. Range group. Review and monitoring services continued to be available to and used by municipalities (fee program). BCCD's Lisa Rixen has been working with the Town of Alton on our first monitoring project for road installation with Ray Wenninger, PE retired USDA NRCS. The Clean Air Cool Planet's Global Warming and Energy Solutions Conference was attended by 3 BCCD staff and 1 supervisor, providing many more connections and ideas. Promotion of the "Stormwater Management and Erosion Control for Urban and Developing Areas of NH" Manual continues. Many of the practices used to control stormwater also provide protection to water quality.

**WATER QUALITY:** Gunstock River/Brook provided the venue and model for a program sponsored in part by NCRC&D;

- Steve Couture, NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES) Rivers Coordinator and former BCCD intern discussed how waterways behave naturally and how human intervention can interfere with or augment them
- Rick DeMark (NCRC&D), discussed decades worth of problems and plans for improvements along the river,
- Sheldon Morgan, Gilford's Public Works Director described several situations and concerns for the future,
- James Hayes, Gilford's Fire Chief, the problems with siltation in dry hydrant intakes making them unusable.

Roger Hogan continued working with the Lake Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee. They were BCCD's Cooperator of the Year in recognition of their award winning Lake Waukegan Watershed Management Plan for the Town of Meredith water supply. The plan at <http://meredith.nh.org/> is serving as a guide for other groups' watershed plans in the Lakes Region and across the state. Hogan is also working the group creating a septic system data base for Lake Waukegan. He also worked with individuals and groups to help plan improvements to their waterfront situations to reduce erosion and improve water quality. BCCD's grant from Samuel P. Hunt helped support these activities. Activities in the watersheds surrounding waterbodies, including yard man-

agement, are being emphasized in projects because they, in addition to shoreline activities, affect water quality. Water Quality testing was done at Hunkins Pond in Sanbornton in conjunction with NHDES' Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, please see the agricultural section for more description of the entire project. Programs for the NH Association of Conservation Districts (NHACD) and district employees by NHDES' Ted Diers provided training on river management and opportunities to provide input on Wetlands rules changes. BCCD is seeking ads from local businesses to assist in printing the Woods Loop booklet, for the 1/2 mile trail at Gunstock Area that explains how logging and other roads in the woods can use best management practices to help protect water quality. BCCD Chairman John Hodsdon served on State Committees: NHDES' Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee and the Commission to Study the Relationship Between Public Health and the Environment. He is chairman of the NHACD Water Quality and Urban Conservation Committee, chairman of the NCRC&D Water Resources Committee, serves as NH's Director to the National Association of Conservation Districts and was recently appointed to the National Assoc. of Conservation Districts (NACD) Water Resources Committee. Hodsdon and Hogan attended NHDES' fall Watershed Conference and Rixen attended DES' spring conference.

#### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION:**

- Booths were staffed and materials provided for numerous local fairs and expositions promoting the USDA Cost Share programs and conservation measures for landusers.
- BCCD's Nancy Sapack attended the "No Child Left Inside" Conference, to promote outdoor activities for children.
- Students from Inter-Lakes High School assisted with packing plants for our annual fundraiser through the Belknap County Restorative Justice Program.
- BCCD's Jan Welch provided an educational activity for the Inter-Lakes Clean Lakes Day for 7th graders.
- Information was provided to schools and other agencies to assist with adding soils to their student curriculums.
- Sapack and Rixen assisted with the NHACD High School Soils Judging Contest.
- Hooper filled in one day for the NH Technical College's Environmental Science teacher utilizing materials from Project Food, Land

& People and Randall Arendt to guide students in understanding Smart Growth and using natural resources information to help with decisions.

- The Lakes Region was represented at the NH ENVIROTHON (Alternative Energy theme) by Newfound High School. The 2007 theme is Recreational Impacts on the Environment. On a voluntary basis Hooper continues to serve as the NHACD ENVIROTHON Steering Committee Chair.
- Contact the office for information on new teams for either high school program.
- “The Power of Conservation” poster contest winner for NH was Sarah Morin, grade 3 from Holy Trinity. K to gr 12 can compete, the 2008 theme is “Water is Life” and entries are due in the fall; call the office or visit <http://www.nacdnet.org/education/contests/poster/>.
- The EnviroScape water quality landscape model was borrowed by local teachers, NHDES and the White Mt. National Forest for demonstrations.
- The Watershed and Water Quality (WSWQ) Days for middle school students at the Wetlands Walk area have been suspended until AmeriCorps members return or other arrangements can be made.
- Len Campbell, from NH Catholic Charities, coordinated student groups from Laconia Christian School and Laconia’s Alternative High School to assist with invasive plant management and preparing the Community Gardens for winter.

**AGRICULTURE:** Swain Farm in Sanbornton was visited by NHDES and US EPA to view the new installations for reducing nutrients from manure washing down into Hunkins pond, their grant and NH Mooseplate assisted with the projects. The farm is the demonstration site for BCCD’s two Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) from NRCS. The newest matching grant will start the process of mitigating the cyanobacteria and algae problems that causes the pond to turn green July – Sept. Windmills will pump air to dissipaters in 6 locations around the pond to add oxygen to the ecosystem to help nutrients stay bonded to bottom sediments unavailable to cause blooms. As part of this, an island base made of recycled plastic will have strawberries, tomatoes and native plants planted in peat moss to help draw some of the nutrients out of the water. A household size turbine will be installed to help supply power to their barn and shop. BCCD’s Rixen and Solar-Stream will be heading



up the project, and matching funds are needed. The prior CIG developed a portable solar pump to water cows for the farm and a solar pump for BCCD's Community Gardens at the Opechee Tract. Lake water for the upper gardens was available by hose, soaker-hoses, and the first set of drip irrigation was installed. Refugees had great gardens on the prime agricultural soil providing inspiration for our other gardeners. A special thanks to Bobby Smyth and Lou Kahn for donating gardening equipment and a small tractor to help the refugees and others work at the gardens. The Annual Meeting was held at Heritage Farm in Sanbornton featuring a complete country breakfast for dinner, frozen custard sundaes for dessert, and a chance to visit the farm animal petting zoo & playground.

Thanks to additional federal funds this year, USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) had many contracts with County farmers amounting to \$242,245. Lynch and his assistant Bill Hoey worked with farmers to assist them in developing their Conservation Plans for the Food Security Act program with farmers. Soil Potential Index (SPI) ratings for use in determining values of open land in Current Use for tax de-terminations and information about them were provided to landowners. We provided a speaker on conservation easements for the Belknap County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting. Hooper met with representatives of the county jail planning for re-establishing food production on their prime farmland. Rixen represented Conservation Districts at the Northern Beginner and Small Farmers' Annual Meeting.

**WILDLIFE:** NRCS staff worked with landusers and allocated \$23,530 in contracts through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). For more information contact the office or visit [http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Farm\\_Bill/wildlife.html](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/Farm_Bill/wildlife.html). WHIP is one of several USDA programs that does not require agriculture on the property. BCCD held its 9th trout sale for stocking private ponds at Longridge Farm in Meredith on the same day they hosted the NH Antique Tractor plowing demonstration. Several BCCD staff attended training for the new state wildlife programs and materials.

**DISTRICT OPERATIONS:** The sixteenth Annual Tree and Shrub Sale was held offering evergreen, fruit trees, shoreland and wildlife shrub seedlings at Longridge Farm's new stand. A planting workshop at the delivery site was conducted by BCCD Assoc. Supervisor Paul Rushlow.

The eleventh fall bulb sale, seventh composter sale, and fourth rainbarrel sale were held. Board of Supervisors' member Marge Muehlke sadly was not present at these events since she passed away in March. Her great insights, guidance, and calm demeanor will be greatly missed. Programs on BCCD's services and volunteer opportunities were provided to community groups. John Hodsdon, BCCD chairman, serves on the NHACD Executive Committee as a past President of NHACD. He attended the NACD New England Leadership Meeting and the NACD annual meeting. The Conservation Districts Employees Association of NH provided training on Conservation Districts, their partners and operations which was attended by most staff and several supervisors. This training, along with much in house training of part-timers over the year, helped with the transitioning of Hooper (Coordinator of nearly 18 years) to a very part time position, as the new Coordinator, Lisa Morin of Laconia started taking over the responsibilities in December. Welch represented BCCD at the NRCS Cultural Awareness Day which focused on nondiscrimination. Our newest Senior Community Service Employment Program Office Assistant is Mary Baker from Belmont. She and Erva Marsh of Laconia provide invaluable help to our office while they receive training.

**VOLUNTEERS:** BCCD's Volunteer of the Year was Everett McLaughlin for his land protection efforts in Gilford. He has been enormously important to the success of the Ramblin' Vewe Farm, Saltmarsh Pond, Weeks Forest, and placed an easement on his own property. In addition to these, in the past he assisted with student days and pond reviews. Volunteers helped in every aspect of our program: indoors, outdoors, computers, mailings, trails, plants, streambank and shoreland restoration, booth staffing at fairs, at the Wetlands Walk, etc. Our third BBQ for Volunteers and Partners was held at Ramblin' Vewe Farm, thanks to food donations from Hannaford's in Gilford, Shaw's in Belmont and EM Heath's in Center Harbor. Farm Manager, Jeff Keyser gave the attendees a hayride tour of the property and treated them to a magnificent sunset behind the Belknap Mts. Range. *Thanks! We couldn't do it without you!!*

**The BCCD Board of Supervisors feels that the accomplishments of this past year were made possible through the generous support of many individuals, businesses, Belknap County, the USDA Natural**

**Resources Conservation Service, and other natural resource partners, and grants from the Pardoe Foundation, Samuel Hunt Foundation, NH Dept. of Environmental Services/EPA, USDA NRCS, Lakes Region Charitable Foundation and NH Mooseplate Program.**

**2/5/08**

All programs & services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political belief, marital/ familial status.

Respectfully Submitted,  
BCCD Board of Supervisors

John Hodsdon, Chairman, Meredith  
Nancy Rendall, Treasurer, Gilmanton  
Ken Kettenring, Supervisor, New Hampton  
Earle Chase, Supervisor, Barnstead  
Jon Martin, Supervisor, Laconia  
Francesca Latawiec, Assoc. Sup., Barnstead  
Paul Rushlow, Assoc. Supervisor, Tilton  
Melanie Benton, Assoc. Sup., New Hampton



February 1, 2008

To the Residents of Belknap County:

**Thank you!!!**

The appropriation that we received from the Belknap County's 2007 budget has helped us to cover the costs of providing mental health services to residents of your community who are unable to pay the full cost of their services.

During Calendar Year 2007 (ending December 31, 2007), a total of 2,162 Belknap County residents came to Genesis seeking help for their mental health problems. Their ages break down as follows:

<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>
Ages 1 – 17	715
Ages 18 – 59	1,162
Age 60 and over	285
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,162</i>

Of that total, county funding directly supported 70 adults between the ages of 18 and 59. These individuals were chosen based on proof of residency and financial and medical need. In an effort to link Belknap County residents to community resources, Genesis refers everyone without health insurance to Healthlink. We use the Healthlink plan as a form of discount for the client. We do not ask Belknap County to support services for clients who have other means to pay, such as insurance or sufficient funds to cover services.

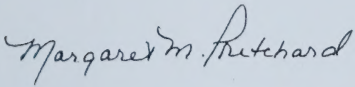
At Genesis we strive to enhance the quality of life in our communities by providing services that promote recovery from mental illness and emotional distress, in collaboration with clients, families and our community partners. Our staff is accountable for placing individuals on the path to recovery from mental illness and aiding them in their daily lives throughout the process.

We specialize in individual and group counseling and psychiatric services. We work with our most persistently ill patients on basic life skills such as public interaction and stable employment. We help parents and children to foster strong family relationships. Working with local police and fire departments, we provide emergency services 24 hours a day 7 days a week to residents of any age who are going through a mental health crisis.

Your financial support has helped to strengthen our work with children, families and adults.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret M. Pritchard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Margaret M. Pritchard  
Executive Director





