

# Opinion

A4 Thursday, December 27, 2012

WINNISQUAM ECHO

## FROM THE CAPITOL STEP

BY JEANIE FORRESTER  
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 2

I am pleased to have the opportunity to represent District 2 in the 2013-2014 session. As in the past, the hallmark of my service to the citizens of District 2 will be active communication and constituent service. I will continue to write a monthly news column about activities in Concord and the District and provide e-newsletter updates as well. (If you are interested in subscribing to the e-newsletter, visit my Web site at [www.jeanieforrester.com](http://www.jeanieforrester.com) and complete the form in the lower right-hand corner.) Beyond the written word, I will continue to meet with various constituency groups, attend meetings and events upon request, and advocate for you in Concord.

So, what's been happening since the election? In Concord, we've begun preparation for the new term. This election saw a shift in party affiliation in the Executive Council, House, and Senate. The Executive Council has three Democrats and two Republicans. In the House, there are 221 Democrats and 179 Republicans. In the Senate, 13 Republicans and 11 Democrats.

Dec. 5 was Organization Day for both the New Hampshire Senate and House. I, along with 23 other Senators-elect, was officially sworn in by Gov. Lynch and the Executive Council. Next, we unanimously voted for Sen. Peter Bragdon (R-Milford) as our Senate President, followed by a unanimous vote for Tammy Wright as the Senate Clerk. Finally, the Senators had the opportunity to introduce their guests. I was pleased to have constituents from Tilton, Meredith, Campton, and Orford join me that day. After our swearing in, we joined with the House of Representatives to elect Secretary of State Bill Gardner and State Treasurer Catherine Provencher.

Committee assignments have been designated, and I will be serving as Vice Chair of Senate Finance and Vice Chair of Public & Municipal Affairs (I served on both these committees in the 2011-2012 Session). This new session, I will also be serving on the Fiscal Committee. This committee consults with, assists, advises, and supervises the work of the legislative budget assistant, and may at its discretion investigate and consider any matter relative to the appropriations, expenditures, finances, revenues or any of the fiscal matters of the state.

Another item of interest is legislation. The deadline to file bills for Senators is Dec. 20, and if you go to the New Hampshire General Court Web site, [www.genocourt.state.nh.us](http://www.genocourt.state.nh.us), you can see there are already over 700 bills introduced for the 2013 session. To see a list of the bills, click on the State Legislative Dash Board, 2013 Bill Requests, then "Click Here to See Bill Requests."

For the 2013 legislative session, the Senate Republicans have set an agenda that will guide us in creating a responsible budget while considering competing needs and wants. We will once again be faced with challenges in building a budget with limited resources.

We will encourage job growth and improve our economy by working with citizens, employers, and state agencies to encourage government to act as a partner with our state's job creators so that together we may foster an environment that encourages investment and the creation of good paying Granite State jobs.

We will responsibly manage state government & taxpayer dollars. Once again, we will produce a balanced budget without new or increased taxes, fees, or accounting gimmicks. We will promote a streamlined, efficient, and responsive state government that cost-effectively meets the needs of our citizens, rewards performance and combats waste.

We will work to lower health care costs and increase access through free market reforms by advocating for market-based health care reforms that will lower costs and increase access while giving patients more information, control, and responsibility for their health care decisions. We will closely monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act to ensure patients and taxpayers are protected.

We will work to expand opportunity and improve results in education by advocating for access to top quality education for students of all income levels and geographic locations. We will work to ensure equitable education funding and seek to target aid to communities that need it most.

With redistricting, Senate District 2 has changed, and now serves 27 communities in the counties of Merrimack, Belknap, and Grafton. While I was disappointed to lose communities I had developed relationships with, I was very pleased to add the five towns of Tilton, Wilton, Danbury, Grafton, and Hill. During the campaign, I visited these communities often—to learn about the issues that are important to them. I am pleased to say that since the election, I've already been back to Tilton and Danbury and plan to visit with all the remaining communities in the coming months.

As we did in our campaign, the next two years will be a grassroots effort—focusing on outreach and active communication with you. I look forward to keeping you informed and encourage you to call, write, or email me (279-1459 (h), 271-9009 (o); 78 Tracy Way, Meredith, NH 03253; or [jeanie@jeanieforrester.com](mailto:jeanie@jeanieforrester.com) respectively).

## PET OF THE WEEK

## MARLEY



Yes, that is indeed a tall you see in the image of this handsome Boxer. Marley avoided tail docking (in spite of his breed) as a pup, but he did not avoid other injuries...

Marley's rear leg was shut in a car door as a puppy, and may not have received adequate vet care to assist the healing process; hence his limp. But he's still true to his nature - hates the cold, doesn't like to be left outside, not much interested in swimming, and he'll hog the bed if you let him.

Boxers are very active, very strong dogs. They are natural sentinels over hearth and home - all true character traits of this five-year-old boy.

In Marley's case, he will chase cats and being such a powerful boy, small children could find themselves on the floor in the excitement.

He's been passed around lately before finding his way to New Hampshire Humane Society, but through it all, still hopes someone will recognize he is a good boy and give him a home for Christmas.

If you are familiar with the Boxer breed, can give him the care he deserves, promise he will be the only pet in your home then you will find a constant companion to share your life with.

Call 524-3252 or check [www.nhhumane.org](http://www.nhhumane.org).

## Winter Cheer

By Andre S. Wilkin  
Age 13  
Sanbornton

As the blanket starts to vanish, it is once again time to re-make it.

The sparkling, shimmering, glittering, fluffy, freshly fallen snow sits upon the frost covered ground like a freshly laid blanket.

With the new, freshly laid sheet of frost, the next fluffy, freshly fallen layer of snow must be caught, by the shimmering, sparkling, glittering frost.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks to all who supported Penstock Park project

To the Editor:

This is a belated letter of thanks to the many organizations and people who donated their time and efforts in making Penstock Park a reality. This project typifies how much can be accomplished, for very little money, when people are willing to work together to bring an idea to fruition.

A very special "thank you" goes to Woody Fogg, who worked with me in the planning stages, as well as worked faithfully beside me throughout the entire project.

The location of the park was formerly an area of mowed grass at the edge of a steep brushy bank and overgrown woods. The remaining section of penstock pipe, once used to carry water that powered the Mill, was barely visible, even during the winter months. Few people knew what historic significance it represented or that it was even there.

To begin with, the Park project would not have been viable without the enthusiastic approval of the Belmont Selectmen, who expressed their support of the project when it was first proposed during the NH Design Charrette by Pian NH in June, 2010. Also, the construction of the Park would not have been possible without generous donations of time, effort, and materials from the following:

The United Way "Day of Caring" volunteers kicked off the project by clearing the overgrown brush and small trees on the bank.

Ginger Wells-Kay - Garden Artists of Belmont - donated, planted, and continue to maintain a beautiful flower and shrub garden.

Belmont Rotary donated and installed a park bench and recently decorated the Park for Christmas.

Charles Kilborn American Legion Post #58 donated and installed a memorial granite bench.

Tilton Home Depot discounted and delivered the split-rail fence now located along the top of the bank.

Bill Fence & Guardrail Inc. of Belmont provided helpful advice during the fence installation by Woody Chris-

tine Fogg and me.

Taylor Rental of Belmont provided a post-hole drill for fence installation at a reduced rate.

The Belmont Fire Department installed a temporary water tank and also watered the newly planted garden during an extended dry spell the first summer.

Belmont Public Works later installed underground irrigation and provides lawn mowing/trimming in the Park. They also assisted a number of volunteers brushing out and thinning the woods to create visibility of the penstock pipe and Tioga River from the Park and the street.

Belmont High School students donated time to the project as a way to compensate for snow days from a previous winter.

The Restorative Justice Program/ Brian Loanes provided a number of hours work throughout the project.

In addition many other individuals took part in this project in one way or another; too many to cite and we

gratefully appreciate their many contributions.

There are a few things still left to do before Penstock Park is completed. Through the Belmont Revitalization Project, signage will be installed for the park, with historic photos and information provided by Wallace Rhodes and the Belmont Historical Society. The concrete and stone piers supporting the penstock pipe need to be repaired, and Ron Mitchell of Belmont has generously offered his support, time, and expertise to assist with these improvements.

Penstock Park represents the beginning of the revitalization efforts currently taking place in Belmont, and it is only one of many changes that will be taking place in the Village District. The numerous compliments that I have received regarding Penstock Park indicate that it is a total success, thanks to all the efforts of so many.

Merry Christmas stop in and enjoy the Park.

Ken Knowlton  
Belmont

### Coat drive a great success

To the Editor:

Thank you! Thank you! The third year of our Tilton, Northfield, Sanbornton, Franklin Coat Drive was a great success! Because of your kindness, many will be warm this winter. With the help of the One Warm Coat nonprofit, the sites that allowed us to place collection boxes, the news media including 94.1 FM, and the generosity of the greater community Trinity Episcopal Church in Tilton was able to deliver 281 coats and 235 other winter items, including hand knitted mittens, scarves, and hats to our area Community Action Program. The folks at CAP were very happy to get these items and will be moving them out into the community to keep many warm this winter.

We want to especially thank the places that sacrificed valuable space, welcomed our collection boxes, and without whom our drive would have been severely limited. They were Grand Ma Judy's, Hannaford's, Market Basket, Franklin City Hall, Tilton Town Hall, Pines Community Center, The New Hampshire Veterans Home, and Hall Memorial Library. We would also like to thank the many knitters that contributed their talents & many balls of yarn as well as the Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC and Mountain View Estates (Franklin) residents.

We wish you all a Healthy and Happy Christmas and New Year!

Milly Church  
Tilton

## Send your letters!

Winnisquam Echo  
P.O. Box 729  
Meredith, NH, 03253

Our fax number is 279-3331.

Or, you can e-mail us at [echo@salmonpress.com](mailto:echo@salmonpress.com).

Please include your name, address and phone number.

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Brendan Herbe, Editor  
Donna Rhodes, Reporter  
Josh Spaulding, Sports Editor  
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Jim Hickey, Distribution Manager  
Ryan Cornean, Information Manager  
Email: [echo@salmonpress.com](mailto:echo@salmonpress.com)  
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