

THE RANDOLPH REVIEW

February, 2010

Town of Randolph, Maine

121 Kinderhook Street

04346

207/582-5808

e-mail: townofrandolph@roadrunner.com

www.randolphmaine.gov

Selectmen:

Peter Hanley

Ed Gorham

Al Seymour

Editor:

Peter M. Coughlan

Vote on Tuesday, March 2

The polls at the Town Office will be open from 9 AM to 8 PM. Only local elections will occur this day. There is one position for Selectman, one MSAD #11 School Board position, and 2 positions for Budget Committee. Absentee ballots are available now so come to the Town Office if this is more convenient. A sample ballot is on the website.

For the Budget Committee, 2 positions are currently held by Ruth Botkin and Marge Gilman. Unfortunately, only **Marge Gilman** took out nomination papers and her name is officially printed on this ballot. The one remaining position must be filled with write-in votes. **Ruth Botkin** is willing to serve another four year term and would like to be considered as a write-in candidate. **Paul Hallee** and **Mark Turek** are other residents who have expressed interest in filling this position.

For School Board, only one person took out nomination papers for this one position and that was the incumbent **Tyler Trott**. He is willing to serve another four year term and would like to continue his work on the Board.

For Selectman, four candidates returned their nomination papers for this one position --- **Jeremy MacArthur** from Barber Road, **Michael Chase** from Kinderhook St., **Gloria Mansir-Fitzherbert** from Maple St. and incumbent **Peter Hanley** from Barber Rd. The job of Selectman requires time and a knowledge of municipal government, including accounting, roads, budgeting, assisting the poor, handling all types of town business, sewer issues, municipal law, and many other issues.

In order to vote for a write-in candidate, one must write that person's name on the blank line AND put a checkmark in the adjacent box. Otherwise, the vote will not count.



Michael Chase is a native of this area and has been a resident of Randolph for 11 years. He is currently unemployed and he and his wife have 2 young kids. He used to work for Riverside Disposal but left there and now he hopes to go back to the DOT Traffic Striping crew in the Spring.

Gloria Mansir-Fitzherbert is a lifelong resident of Randolph and was a Selectman for about 21 years before she decided not to run again in 2006.

Peter Hanley was born in Gardiner and moved into Randolph 51 years ago and has been a Selectman for many years and is currently Chairman.

Jeremy MacArthur is 19 years old and a senior at Gardiner Area High School (GAHS) and has been a resident of Randolph for 17 years. This is his second straight attempt at running for a Selectman's position. He works at Ruby Tuesdays in Augusta.

Phone calls were made to each candidate for Selectman and the responses to each of the subjects are as follows in their words:

Municipal Experience

Michael: none other than being on the School Board for a little bit in early 2007.

Gloria: was a selectman for 21 years, familiar with accounting, General Assistance administrator for 25 years, serve now on Planning Board, helped support sewer system upgrades

Peter: been a selectman off-and-on for 14 years; was Deputy Sheriff in the 50's

Jeremy: none

Why Are You Running?

Michael: like to see some changes with a different view

Gloria: care about the future of our town, ease financial hardships of residents, future decisions need the voice of experience; have attended most Selectmen meetings

Peter: I've got a lot more to offer and there's a lot more to be done in these hard times.

Jeremy: would like to be part of my town and be more active

There are 4 candidates for this position. What are your specific qualities that would make you a better Selectman?

Michael: need to explore some regionalization on recycling, plowing and road work, maybe shop around for dispatch

Gloria: my past experience being a Selectman and being involved in decisions on many important projects

Peter: my accomplishments like the War Memorial; got the Town back into one Voting District.

Jeremy: hard worker and dedicated and devoted and take responsibility, do the best I can

What are some important issues in town right now?

Michael: keep taxes as low as possible

Gloria: people are going through financial hardships and we need to keep their taxes as low as possible

Peter: taxes

Jeremy: sewer system needs a lot of work; cannot think of any other issues

In these economic times, how do we assure keeping local property taxes as low as possible?

Michael: maybe do away with the Public Works Dept and contract it out; maybe set up a Fire District with other area towns for 1 Department

Gloria: see where we can cut expenses and be better stewards of our tax dollars.

Peter: find ways to cut costs; tough to improve service; need to have someone with guts go after sewer system violators

Jeremy: I really don't know and will learn on the job

What ideas do you have for attracting more business to this town?

Michael: explore community development committee,

Gloria: I'd have to think about where we could put a business.....

Peter: we don't have much to offer as a bedroom town at less than a square mile; maybe offer some land or tax breaks

Jeremy: lower taxes to attract them

How could this town attract more businesses or residents?

Michael: spruce up the gateway and add more signs, fix up the Park N Ride, get some grants to improve storefronts

Gloria: clean up the blight places; encourage citizens to take advantage of the Town's low interest Revolving Loan Fund to do home improvements.

Peter: good question other than our location; we're pretty central and close to Togus.

Jeremy: I don't really know but I can try to work on that

What do you think of the results of last November's vote on TABOR and reducing vehicle excise tax?

Michael: I liked the way it turned out

Gloria: the vote turned out the way I wanted

Peter: no comment and your vote in the booth is no one else's business

Jeremy: I agreed with the vote

Do you think it's time for Randolph to have a full or part time Town Manager?

Michael: not an Administrator but maybe an Assistant to work a few hours a week

Gloria: at this time, it's not a good idea and we could not afford it

Peter: we're too small to consider one; we'd be a stepping stone for young people who are trying to move up.

Jeremy: I'm not sure on that but probably no....I'd have to look into that.

How have you been involved in our community over the last few years relative to town business or volunteer work?

Michael: was on Fire Dept for 8 years, kids are involved in sports.

Gloria: I really have not been involved

Peter: Shirley and I and a dedicated group of citizens are responsible for our beautiful War Memorial ; been involved with church activities and Food Banks in Gardiner and Randolph

Jeremy: not very active in Randolph but helped at Gardiner Food Bank; T-giving food baskets through Boy Scouts

What do you think of the proposed convenience store at the corner of Water and Windsor Streets?

Michael: good to have a business but they'll be more accidents if drivers stop quick; need better intersection control.

Gloria: it's not a good spot and traffic will be backed up badly; would be better to have elderly housing

Peter: if they want to take the gamble, that's their business

Jeremy: great idea and creates competition

How many Town Meetings attended in last 5 years?

Michael: maybe 3 or four

Gloria: all of them

Peter: all of them

Jeremy: none

What is your SHORT Term Goal?

Michael: have Department heads meet and try to get more grants

Gloria: continue town's plans that are in progress; get updated on unfinished business

Peter: develop the access to the waterfront, and take over state land at

end of bridge for cemetery plus have a resting place for people walking by.

Jeremy: no specific projects now but would look into Fire Dep't; I think they need a bigger budget but I'd have to check that out further; we need to keep TC Hamlin open too.

What is your LONG Term Goal?

Michael: attract more businesses to town

Gloria: ensure that taxpayer \$\$ are spent wisely and do not soar, that young homeowners maintain their homes and senior citizens keep their homes; form feasible plans for maintaining town assets, have Selectmen and Budget Committee work together, pursue grant funds

Peter: nothing specific

Jeremy: I really don't know but, if elected, I'm sure there would be some subjects

What are your hobbies?

Michael: helping son with wrestling and playing with kids; maybe some fishing

Gloria: work

Peter: horse racing; family man and a church man

Jeremy: fishing, hiking, outdoors

PLEASE VOTE ON MARCH 2

What will happen when the ice jam breaks?

Only Mother Nature knows the real answer but it would be very prudent to prepare if you live along Water Street. Our website will also keep you informed. As of February 17, 2010 there have been no changes on the ice dam in Farmingdale . Maine Emergency Management, Kennebec Emergency Management and local Fire Departments continue to monitor the situation. Long term weather forecast seems to be in our favor right now because warm days and refreezing at night is good. River ice monitoring equipment should be in place within a week according to K.E.M.A.

US Coast Guard ice breakers are do to return the second and third week of March to try and clear out the river in and below Randolph. Anyone with ice shacks on the river should be aware of the ice breakers arriving starting on the 8th of March.

If you live in a flood prone area of Randolph, you need to be concerned about possible Spring flooding. The Fire Department will try to provide residents on the river with as much notice of flood warnings from the state. Any resident or business that would like to be notified by phone, please email a phone number to the Fire Chief, Ron Cunningham, at rfdchief500@roadrunner.com or call the Town Office with it. That number should be where he can contact you at any time of the day or night. If you can get on the Internet, you can also get real time video and a graph of river heights in Augusta at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?01049320>

March 10 is Tax Day

If it slipped your mind, please remember that the second half of your tax bill is due on this date. After this date, an interest rate of 9% will be applied.

Town Email Updates

If you have signed up to receive town email notices through our website and have not seen any lately, it would be wise to sign up again. We've found that many people who signed up in the past and then changed their email addresses (ie "Adelphia") are not getting these important notices. Simply go to the town website front page and sign up again under your newer email address.....thanks.



Town Office E-mails

Town Office : townofrandolph@roadrunner.com

Town Treasurer (Janet Richards): randolphtreasurer@roadrunner.com

Town Clerk (Lynn Mealey): townofrandolph@roadrunner.com

The ideas and statements presented in this newsletter are those of the Editor (Peter Coughlan) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Selectmen who have reviewed the material before it was printed.

The "Randolph Review" is a periodic newsletter for the people of Randolph. It is approved and funded annually by the citizens of Randolph at the Town Meeting. Any questions or comments should be directed to the Town Office at 582-5808, or e-mail at townofrandolph@roadrunner.com or Peter Coughlan at 582-2293 or wilbah99@aol.com. We would be interested in your feedback. Thank you.