

CARROLL COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Editorials, while unsigned, represent a consensus of the views of the editorial board of the Granite State News and Carroll County Independent.

Words of wisdom from our Founding Fathers

As we wind down ('recover' might be a more appropriate word in some cases) from the parades, parties, and backyard barbecues that have become the hallmarks of Independence Day celebrations in our little corner of the world, our thoughts turn — as they always do when we see the Stars & Stripes waiving proudly in the morning sun on July 4th — to our Founding Fathers.

From a distance of 241 years, it is sometimes easy to look upon the men who gathered on another hot July afternoon to sign their newborn nation's Declaration of Independence from the British Empire as men of marble or portraits in a high school history book — inhabitants of a bygone time and place whose lives and thoughts have lost their relevance in our modern world. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. America's founders were human beings of flesh and blood who loved, laughed, fought, cried, and sometimes crawled their way through the life just as we do today, and along the way, they left us with some profound, and surprisingly enduring, words of wisdom to guide the generations that followed them through their own journey.

Take, for example, Thomas Jefferson, the author of the very Declaration Americans just spent the past holiday weekend celebrating. A deep thinker by nature, Jefferson was every bit as passionate and eloquent when philosophizing about the keys to a happy life as when advocating liberty, as evidenced by the "Dozen Canons of Conduct in Life" he once set down in a letter to his granddaughter Cornelia:

Never put off to tomorrow what you can do to-day.
Never trouble another with what you can do yourself.

Never spend your money before you have it.
Never buy a thing you do not want, because it is cheap; it will not be dear to you.

Take care of your cents. Dollars will take care of themselves!

Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
We never repent of having eaten too little.
Nothing is troublesome that one does willingly.

How much pain have cost us the evils which have never happened!

Take things always by their smooth handle.
Think as you please, and so let others, and you will have no disputes.

When angry, count to ten before you speak; if very angry, 100.

Then there is John Adams, who advises us to preserve our humility from the pages of a letter to his wife, Abigail.

"The longer I live, the more I read, the more patiently I think, and the more anxiously I inquire, the less I seem to know," he wrote. "Do justly. Love mercy. Walk humbly. This is enough."

Abigail reveals herself to be every bit her husband's intellectual and philosophical equal in her own letters to him, offering words of encouragement to him such as "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind, whom should we serve?"

She also seems to have developed an all too prescient unease about the competition for power she witnessed among the great political figures of her era, once writing to her husband, "I am more and more convinced that man is a dangerous creature, and that power, whether vested in many or a few, is ever grasping, and, like the grave, cries, 'give, give.'"

George Washington was more direct and to the point when dispensing the wisdom he felt he had acquired, but that does not make his observations that "It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one," or that it is advisable to "Let your heart feel the afflictions and distress of everyone, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse" any less truthful.

Lastly, but by no means least, we come to Benjamin Franklin, with whom it is difficult to know where to even begin, as his famous publication Poor Richard's Almanac provided us with a seemingly endless library of quotable words of wisdom, from "Well done is better than well said" to "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail" to "Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late."

Of all the wise words shared by Franklin, however, there are two quotes touting the importance of education that will always remain with us — "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn" and "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning."

As we reflect on Tuesday's Independence Day festivities, we felt it fitting to give the last word as we sign off for this week to John's firebrand cousin Samuel Adams, who left us with a reminder, and a warning, that it is up to us to safeguard the freedoms he and his contemporaries secured for us.

"Our union is now complete; our constitution composed, established, and approved," he wrote following the ratification of the Constitution in 1789. "You are now the guardians of your own liberties."



MELISSA SEAMANS

Who ya gonna call?

The Ghostbusters' iconic ride, the Ecto-1, made a guest appearance in Tamworth during the town's Fourth of July parade on Tuesday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is a gas station/convenience store truly in the best interests of the community?

To the Editor:

In recent weeks, there have been two issues in West Ossipee which have been of concern to this community, as well as the greater area. One has to do with a gas station and convenience store which is proposed for the parcel just north of Routes 41 and 16. This fragile piece of land, which lies over a large aquifer supplying water to the entire area, has been severely abused in the past to the point of being designated a 'clean up site.' A portion of it was cleansed, while a part of it migrated under the road (Route 41) that evidently will be left. While it was determined that, in the future, this would not be a proper site for a gas station, the Zoning Board was persuaded by a particular company to install gas tanks, scrubbers, and other 'safety measures' so that a variance could be granted. Plans have been submitted and approved by the Planning Board to now go ahead with the project, with close supervision by the compliance officer of the town.

While this sounds 'well and good,' the increase in traffic congestion, the possibility of a gas spill, and the threat to area businesses remains. Anyone who travels that intersection on weekends, especially in the summer, is aware of the 'wait' and hazards of that corner. Even with a promised traffic light, it will present a challeng-

ing flow of vehicles with two additional driveways around this new business. Most of the environmental questions have been answered; however, there is always the human factor of unplanned spills and accidents. Who will pay the costs of cleaning those up? What dangers will that pose to our emergency personnel as well as victims? Finally, the economic costs are not as attractive as it might appear. Increased tax income may well be wiped out by the loss of one or two surrounding gas stations, 'mom and pop' convenience stores, and coffee shops — proprietors who have faithfully served our community for a number of years.

In conclusion, are we serving the interests of our community and area by approving this project? Is this fragile piece of land being sacrificed for a false sense of progress? Can modern technology really protect our natural resources from disaster? What might be the collateral damage to area businesses, and neighbors around this project? Is there a better use for this site — one safer, causing less congestion, and serving our community in a more needed way? We'll save our thoughts on the other issue- Westward Shores- for another time, but we hope others will express themselves regarding these matters.

Larry and Nancy Wogman
West Ossipee

Please protect the integrity of NH's elections

To the Editor:

I wrote this on the Fourth of July to express my concern about voter data requests from "The Presidential Commission on Voter Integrity." The Governor's office can be reached at 271-2121, or you can email at nh.gov. The deadline for submitting the voter information documents is July 14. I hope the Governor can be convinced to change his mind.

Dear Gov. Sununu,

I'm writing to object to your decision to make available the NH voter data and records to the White House "Commission on Voter Integrity." I'm horrified that not only do they want voting records, but also personal information including felony convictions, birth dates, and Social Security numbers. These will be made public. It's clear to me that they are looking to confirm their fabricated assertion that there is widespread voter fraud in the states. There is not. It is also clear that they're looking for an excuse to somehow interfere with the state's authority over its own voting processes. (I say "they" meaning the Trump administration).

We have a tradition of fair voting rules and

regulations in New Hampshire to which I can attest, having voted in Freedom for 31 years in all elections, local and federal. I can assure you that our system is a model of integrity and accuracy in making sure that the voter rolls are updated and accurate, and that now voters even have to present an ID in order to vote. This is true of all states which monitor their voter lists and election places in a like manner.

So, why are states being asked to do this? What will the administration do with the data? It would be a good way to use the information to remove people from the voting rolls, make it difficult and complicated to vote, and ultimately, to disenfranchise many voters. Voter suppression is an effective technique by governments to gain control and power. We have seen it happen over and over again in history, and I believe it is starting to happen here in America.

It's not too late to change your mind, Governor, and on this 4th of July, I urge you to help protect the privacy and hard won voting rights of New Hampshire voters.

Sincerely,
Peg Scully
Freedom

Re-visit images from July 4th celebrations gone by with Bruce Bedford's archives

To the Editor:

As the saying goes, "everyone loves a parade!" I don't actually remember much about the parades of my childhood, but since I moved to New Hampshire in my 20's, I've seen quite a few, and may have been in more than I have seen. Here in Carroll County, they are a big deal.

Having experienced 4th of July parades in Tamworth and then Wolfeboro since the '70's, much about them has not changed. How do I know this? I recently looked over a collection of pictures taken by Carroll County's own legendary news photographer, Bruce Bedford, from 1975.

Would you like to see these pictures? You can! They are online at <http://YourArchivist.com/bbedford>. Go to "New Branches" and open the July 10, 1975 series. There, you will see folders for North Conway, Wolfeboro, and Tamworth 4th of July parades from that year. Maybe you will even recognize someone.

As you will notice when on the site, these are

part of a larger archive of pictures by Bruce. Many will remember seeing him out and about whenever there was something newsworthy. Some may remember his "This is Carroll County" weekly feature in the Carroll County Independent - often well worth the price of the paper!

Bruce's negatives were donated to the Conway Historical Society, and have been made available to me to share as part of our county history. It is estimated that there are over half a million negatives. I have volunteered to go through the collection and publish many online. This could obviously go on for years.

If you enjoy looking through Bruce's work, you can register yourself with the archive and get emails whenever a new group of photographs are added. As a registered member, you can also add comments and help document the archive. So check it out! Long time Carroll County folks are sure to love this.

Keith Simpson
Wolfeboro