

## SMALL TOWN GOVERNMENT

Eric Tenney

This article is being written in response to several comments I have heard about the lack of candidates in the local election. Another comment you often hear is, “How come it’s always the same names that do show up on the ballot?” The response to this is in reality nothing has changed. This is a recurring problem.

There are many reasons why people will not run for office. It’s easy to find a reason not to run, but harder to find a reason to run. One of the best reasons to run is that you learn how local government works and why things happen.

You also learn that committees and boards have an odd number of members so in theory there are no tied votes: you win some, lose some, and some “got rained out.” It’s important to have different opinions on boards because nobody knows everything. Remember, there also boards that are appointed if you make yourself available.

The reason some people keep running is that nobody runs against them. They believe that in a small community you should participate in something, whether it’s government, civic organizations, churches or charities. That’s what makes small towns function. Small towns will suffer if you do not have community involvement and citizens will have no one to blame but themselves. ☐

## LIVING STRONG AT THE GRAPEVINE

Melissa Gallagher

One of the things I love about the Grapevine is how it seems to touch people in every phase of life. While you may associate the Grapevine with childhood and parenting support, we offer many other programs and resources. One of them is the Strong Living Exercise Program for Seniors, which meets Tuesdays and Fridays at the Grapevine from 1:30-2:30.

I recently sat down with this lively group before they began their exercise routine. My workspace is just down the hall from the room where they gather, and I couldn’t help but be drawn in by the roars of laughter that often erupt between their rhythmic chanting of exercise cadences! I was curi-

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*Whitewater Canoeing on Gregg Lake*

## JIM BURNHAM, QUILTER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Joan Gorga

Quilts, dramatically filling blank wall spaces and hanging from mantels, made delightful additions to the 2015 Festival of Trees. They were brought to us by the Monadnock Quilters Guild. Incoming Guild President Jim Burnham pieced, quilted and donated the stunning “One-Block Wonder” Raffle Quilt. To try to find out where his inspiration came from, I met up with Jim as he set up coffee at the Antrim Area Senior Center one morning.

Jim was originally from Littleton, New Hampshire. He moved to Boston to attend the Mass Radio and TV School, and spent six years repairing radios and TVs in a Radio Shack basement before deciding that he just wasn’t seeing enough of the sun. A truck-driving neigh-

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**✕ VOTE • MARCH 8 ✕**  
**Town Hall 8:00 am–7:00 pm**

**TOWN MEETING • MARCH 10**  
**Town Gym 7:00 pm**