

Reasons given by Moody's for the high rating included: the continued strong financial position of the County's operations, favorable cash flow projections; a growing tax base; and the county's low debt burden.

Theresa Young of the Finance Office and her staff deserve credit for putting these complicated financial matters together. The entire finance staff worked hard to achieve great fiscal health for the County.

During the year, the Treasurer's Office collected \$35,993,492 in taxes from the thirty-seven cities and towns of Rockingham County. We currently are not involved with any legal proceedings regarding taxes.

UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Rollie Barnaby, Office Administrator

Mission Statement

The University of New Hampshire 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 your local link to the University of New Hampshire, Cooperative Extension in Rockingham County provides practical education to people of all ages. The cooperative part of our name refers to a funding combination of federal, state, and local allocations and this partnership has been in existence for 89 years. Outreach efforts include monitoring water quality in our lakes and rivers, collaborative efforts to sustain the marine fishery, aquaculture, reducing the use of pesticides, parenting programs, 4-H clubs, land use management, food safety, forest stewardship, family finances, meeting the needs of low-income families, and strengthening our communities.

Strengthening New Hampshire communities is a major statewide initiative that has impacted Rockingham County. A primary focus of this initiative is the Community Profile which helps communities take stock of where they are today and develop an action plan for the future. It provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, to meet challenges creatively through collaboration, and to manage change. Follow-up support is available from Extension staff.

Nancy Adams retired this year after 20 years. She was a respected and valuable Agriculture Resources Extension Educator. We will be assessing the needs and future staffing to support the growing agriculture sector of our county economy.

Our Advisory Council is at full strength and involved in needs assessment, program development, and evaluation. The Advisory Council is made up of 15 Rockingham County citizens including a youth member, County Commissioner Kate Pratt, and NH State Representative Jane Kelly.

The statewide UNH Cooperative Extension Info Line (1-877-398-4769) provides information on: gardens, lawns, and landscapes, fruits and vegetables, household food safety and preservation, pest problems, integrated pest management, backyard wildlife, tree planting and care, houseplants, home water systems and backyard livestock (pigs, sheep, poultry, rabbits).

The educators and staff thank the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.