

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Barrows, Chair

Katharin K. Pratt, Vice-Chair

C. Donald Stritch, Clerk

Rockingham County continues to flourish both in population and employment opportunities. As County Commissioners, it is our duty to provide essential mandated services to the taxpayers of Rockingham County in the most efficient, cost effective manner.

We are deeply saddened with the loss of Bill Sturtevant, Long Term Care Services Director. He was a capable man with great dedication to the facility and took time to know residents and staff. We anticipate filling the Director position in 2006. Meanwhile Long Term Care Programs are running smoothly under the capable tutelage of Ray Bower and Susan Denopoulos.

The nursing home and assisted living facility have again received excellent reviews. The additional assisted living beds will be available in early 2006 with the completion of renovations to the Fernald Building.

We continue to seek ways to reduce the pre-trial population at the jail and with the addition of the Supervised Community Release from Incarceration Program (SCRIP) and an adult diversion program. Both initiatives are making positive progress.

Finances are in order and Moody's rating service has once again awarded Rockingham County the highest short term rating available.

Discussions are ongoing with the State of New Hampshire regarding unfunded mandates. We are vehemently opposed to the trickle down effect of balancing the State budget by passing costs to local government.

We look forward to preparing and planning for 2006.