

## Goodall ousts Pearson

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### **Newcomer earns spot as selectman; town clerk gets most write-ins for 2 seats**

RICHMOND — A newcomer defeated a veteran selectman by a wide margin in one of two competitive municipal races Tuesday.

Seth Goodall won a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen by a 415-69 vote margin over incumbent Selectman James Pearson.

Goodall ran an aggressive campaign for the seat on the five-person board. His campaign signs appeared in spots throughout town and he was at the polls Tuesday to greet voters.

Pearson said that he put up signs once in his campaigning. He has served for a total of 10 years as selectman in town since the 1980s. He also has served in a variety of other local offices.

Goodall was working the polls Tuesday while Pearson was working at his job as a special education tutor in Dresden. Pearson introduced Goodall to residents at a special town meeting in May while Goodall was passing out campaign literature.

"To me, it wasn't about competing. Seth was a great candidate," he said.

Pearson served on the board for a year and a half, completing the term of Donna Loring, who vacated the seat after moving out of Richmond. He helped with the sale of the town-owned Richmond Business and Manufacturing Center, the search to hire new Town Manager Thomas Fortier and the revision of land use ordinances. Pearson also acted as substitute town manager when former Town Manager David Peppard was recovering from back surgery last fall.

Seth Goodall said he is not related to Selectman Richard Goodall, but other relatives are well-known in town. His mother, Joan

Goodall, works as librarian at Marcia Buker School; his father, Clifford Goodall, is the town attorney; and his brother, Ben Goodall, runs Goodall Landscaping of Topsham.

Seth Goodall grew up in Richmond and moved back to town in 2005. He is a lawyer who works as legal counsel to Senate President Beth Edmonds.

He hopes to work on developing businesses along the Main Street corridor, holding the line on spending, reviewing the comprehensive plan and land use ordinances to make sure the town is growing in the right direction as well as being involved in any proposed statewide school consolidation initiative as it affects Richmond. Goodall, a Richmond High School graduate, believes the entire town must be involved in the conversation about consolidation of school districts.

While campaigning, he heard concerns from residents about sprawl, holding onto green spaces and economic development.

"We need to work on restoring Richmond — the downtown — while preserving the rural character of the town," he said.

The other competitive race in Richmond was for a two-year term as trustee of trust funds. Incumbent Don MacKenzie, who garnered 279 votes, bested Geraldine Skinner, who received 146.

Election Day was not a total loss for the Pearson family. Jim's brother, Mark Pearson, ran unopposed for a three-year term on the School Committee, winning 335 votes.

Clarence Cummins ran unopposed for a three-year term on the budget committee and picked up 300 votes. Two three-year terms without announced candidates were decided by write-in votes. Town Clerk Judy Savage was written in as a candidate on nine ballots. Jim Goodall received four votes and Andy Alexander's name was written on three ballots.

A one-year term on the budget committee had no candidates listed, but Savage received 11 votes as a write-in candidate.

Savage said that she will decline both of the offices that she won as a write-in candidate.

A three-year term as a trustee for the Richmond Utilities District

had no candidates. John Vear received 15 votes as a write-in candidate.

Pauline Beasley ran unopposed for a three-year term as trustee of trust funds. She received 191 votes.

Barbara Barter ran for a one-year term as trustee of trust funds and picked up 314 votes.

On Question 1 of the state ballot, residents cast 320 votes in support of the transportation bond; 138 voters were opposed.

On Question 2 on the state ballot, 268 voted yes and 157 voted no to bond for water quality program upgrades.

A total of 494 registered voters participated in the referendum and election out of roughly 2,300 registered voters for a participation rate of 21 percent.

**Correction: 06/15/2007** — A story in Wednesday's Times Record contained incorrect information. Selectman James Pearson was elected in 2005 to serve out the remaining term of former Selectwoman Linda Dow. Dow resigned from her position earlier in the year.