



APRIL 2012

## APPRECIATION

Marie Knowlton, Publisher

I wear it on my sleeve, I've written about it many times, and I have extended continuous thanks to the volunteer staff of *The Richmond Rooster*. These residents play a small part in the big production of our monthly newspaper. Each month they make selfless contributions of time that make the *Rooster* a source of pride. I am constantly amazed that it has lived this long, that there are paid subscribers and that our advertisers have stayed with us for 20 plus years.

Over the past 22 years *The Rooster* and Richmond have morphed into its current stature. Many people have passed through town and many residents have authored articles, submitted photos, sent poems, written letters of gratitude or have been members of *The Rooster* staff.

If I were a better record keeper I would list the names of all the people in town who have contributed to the success of *The Richmond Rooster*. It may be easier for me to list those who have not been involved. I personally thank each one of you for the part you played, the time it took you to play it and the nugget that you left to make *The Rooster* a better publication. If you stayed for an issue, a season or for years *The Rooster* flourished because of that contribution.

Have there been flaws or mistakes? Of course and with each error a door of learning opened and growth occurred. As Publisher it is my role to be responsible for the errors, yet all other credit for our success belongs to others.

*The Richmond Rooster* turned 22 this year and within each issue a new breath of life is brought to the Richmond community. The purpose of the paper when it went to press 22 years ago was to expand communications within the town. Prior to that we depended on the Four Corners Store for the scoop. Bud Jacobsen, his brother Paul and their wives, Dianne and Linda along with Gerry Brewer were the go-to people for information. They welcomed *The Rooster* and became our drop off point for articles, advertisements and mail. Email was non existent. Through the many owners since the Jacobsens, the Four Corners Store has continued its drop off point role.

My appreciation doesn't start or stop with *The Richmond Rooster*. It continues to the departments, boards, committees and organizations that contribute to make Richmond a great place to live. When you volunteer or contribute to the well being of the town you create the energy of its existence. If you can, sign up for something that will make the Town a part of your life.

Beginning next month *The Rooster* will highlight a local volunteer group or an individual in a new column authored by Sandra Holbrook. As you may already have heard volunteers are everywhere, especially in our town.

## Your Voice is Your Vote

### Town Meeting Results

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The first session (election) of Richmond's town meeting was held on March 13, 2012. Of the 769 registered voters, 405 voted (52.7%). The offices of selectman and planning board were contested races. Deborah Boncal was voted into the office of selectman with 174 votes. Jonathan Pratt and Rick Lewis were voted into the two positions on the planning board with 202 and 206 votes respectively. All other offices were uncontested and the candidates on the ballot were elected into office. A complete list of results, including write-in votes, is posted at the Town Hall, the Veterans Memorial Hall and the Richmond Four Corners Store.

The Monadnock Regional School District election was also held on March 13, 2012. Of the 769 registered voters, 386, or 50.2%, voted in this election. Bill Hutwelker received 197 votes for moderator. All school articles received more "Yes" than "No" votes, except for Articles 4 and 5. Article 4 specifically dealt with raising and appropriating "\$50,000 to be added to

the 2003 Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.” Article 5 was to “raise and appropriate the amount of \$71,000 for the purpose of funding a School Resource Officer at the High School/Middle School.”

Although the polls were only open from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM (unlike the State elections that are held from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM), it was nonetheless a long and busy day for all election officials and helpers involved. There was a steady flow of voters throughout the day, with the usual concentration of activity in the first hour or two after opening and the final hours before the closing of the polls. By the time the counting of the ballots was complete and the results were announced by Peter Majoy, the moderator, it was almost 11:30 PM. I would like to thank everyone who worked at these elections. And I would especially like to thank everyone who came out and voted – all 405 of you. If ever your vote is significant, it is at the local level.

## Selectmen's Notes

### Selectboard

Thanks to all of you who voted on Election Day and participated in Town Meeting on St. Patrick's Day! The 53% turnout is the highest of the surrounding towns. The Selectmen welcome Debi Boncal, Richmond's newest Selectman, to the Board and wish JC well as he pursues other activities with his new-found freedom. We appreciate JC's service to the Town during his nine years in office, the wisdom and experience he shared with us, the records he preserved for the Town and all the projects he took on as personal assignments that benefited the municipality.

Care to share your expertise? The Select Board is looking for 'a few good people' to advise us on several issues: pursuing high speed broadband internet access for the town; building a team to perambulate the town boundaries; and planning for community development, improvement, and beautification. These will be informal advisory teams who may plan, research and take action on these projects. If you are interested in any of the above opportunities to volunteer for your town, please contact the Selectmen.

Treasurer opening. With our gratitude and thanks, the Selectmen accepted Heather Remick's resignation from the position of Treasurer. Until a new Treasurer is appointed, Janel Swanson, Deputy Treasurer, will perform the duties of Treasurer. The position is being advertised in the Richmond Rooster

and the Keene Sentinel.

As described in RSA 41:29, the Town Treasurer is responsible for the custody, deposit and disbursement of town funds in compliance with detailed statutory standards. The Treasurer performs duties independently in accordance with legally-prescribed responsibilities. Records are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

The successful candidate must have the accounting and personal skills necessary to do this job and have knowledge of 1) town, state and federal laws and ordinances regarding financial practices and procedures which apply to town finances; 2) the principles and procedures of government accounting, budget preparation and audit procedures; 3) the general principles of public fiscal administration, including budgeting, investments, use management and reporting.

**FastRoads Update:** In March, the Selectmen signed a contract with FastRoads to provide the infrastructure for high speed internet access to the municipal anchor institutions, including the municipal buildings and library, at no cost to the town. As you know, FastRoads is a non-profit organization that is using federal grants to provide a fiber optic network to rural underserved towns in NH. Service providers will contract with Fast Roads to access this infrastructure and the proceeds will go to future build-out of the network. Service providers, including wireless providers, using this network will contract with individuals, and the town, to provide service to residential homes and municipal buildings. If you are located far from the roadway, you may or may not be able to use these services. To insure that your needs are acknowledged and your wishes for service known, please complete the broadband survey available online or at town hall, and email or call Carol Monroe, Executive Director at [www.cdmonroe@newhampshirefastroads.net](mailto:www.cdmonroe@newhampshirefastroads.net) or phone 603-283-5129. Send her your address and internet needs and she'll take it from there. You can go to [www.iwantbroadbandnh.org](http://www.iwantbroadbandnh.org) to complete a survey.

## Town Meeting

John Boccalini

The Town of Richmond was incorporated in 1752 and the first town meeting for the election of officers was held on Wednesday, March 27, 1765 in the house of John Cass. Fast forward to 2012.

This year the town meeting was held in two parts.

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### **Town Meeting - Part I**

On March 13, 2012 starting at 11 a.m. the first session of the Town Meeting was held for the express purpose of voting for Town Officers, proposals for changes to our Zoning Ordinances and Monadnock Regional School District Warrant Issues.

### **The Outcome**

Almost 53% of Richmond residents cast votes with the following results:

Deborah Boncal received 174 votes and was elected to the position of selectman. Douglas Bersaw received 139 votes and Wesley Vaughan received 84 votes.

Rick Lewis (206 votes) and Jonathan Pratt (202 votes) were elected to the three-year terms on the planning board. Doug Bersaw received 164 votes.

Elected without opposition were Deborah R. Duffy – planning board for one year; Annette Tokunaga – town clerk for three years; Peter Majoy – moderator for two years; Lewis N. Whittum – supervisor of the checklist for six years; Beverly J. Hart – cemetery trustee for three years; Susan Marsden – library trustee for three years; and Nancy Lescynski – trustee of trust funds for three years.

All seven proposed zoning ordinance amendments were turned down.

The Voters in the Monadnock Regional School District approved the budget, two contracts and more than \$1.5 million for school renovations, but they turned down the article for a the school resource officer for the middle/high school, which failed by only six votes.

### **Town Meeting - Part II**

The town meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM. Opening ceremonies consisted of “The Pledge of Allegiance” led by the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, Michelle Goodell singing “America the Beautiful”, a public prayer by Judy

Graves, the passing of the Elder Cane to Mrs. Eleanor Fassett by Pam Goodell, and an acknowledgment to the many volunteers that participate in the Town’s government with a special recognition to Jeff Taylor.

Before any warrant issues were discussed, a petition was presented that we not use the microphone in the process of the meeting, but allow individuals to address the meeting from where they were seated. The Moderator decided not to recognize the petition, but that a motion to overturn this decision could be made and voted on by the assembly. Dan Connell made that motion which failed by vote of the assembly.

A motion was made to move Article 39 (regarding the funding of the Fay Martin Bridge over Tully Brook) to be considered immediately. The motion passed unanimously. Consideration of Article 39 underwent much discussion and several amendments took 1 1/2 hours before a final vote was taken. It passed pretty much intact but accounted for 30% of the meeting time. Trying to summarize the details of this discussion would indeed be to difficult to accomplish.

Town meeting went relatively smoothly especially after the first article.

After a total of 4 1/2 hours all 49 warrant article issues were voted on, 45 of which passed as is, 2 passed amended (but as budgeted) and 2 failed, one of which was a budget item (Article 38). Article 38 considered changing the purpose of the Buildings Construction/Renovation Capital Reserve Fund so that the purpose would be for designing, engineering, site preparation, construction and furnishing a new municipal building. This warrant included raising and appropriating the sum of \$10,000. A 2/3 majority was needed to pass and it failed by one vote. A revote was requested but it failed by eight votes the second time around.

One of the last things to be discussed was a special thank



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you to J. C. Boudreau for his years of service.

After all was said and done, the town's budget was reduced by \$10,000.

On a personal note: after almost 35 years of attending Town meetings in Richmond, this year's meeting overall was the most organized, most orderly, least confrontational and the easiest to hear each speaker than any I have been to. Kudos to the organizers of the meeting, to the town officers for their information presented, and to all the attendees for showing the respect they each deserved.

Photo: Sandra Holbrook



## Years of service

John Boccalini

J C Boudreau completed nine years of service as Selectman at the Town Meeting on March 17 2012.

Hopefully a more in-depth story will be written in an upcoming interview with JC.

## Judge Dismisses Richmond Case

John Boccalini

Judge Kathleen A. McGuire has dismissed a lawsuit against Selectmen alleging they improperly awarded a contract for snow removal.

Douglas Bersaw, of Richmond, filed a law suit in Cheshire County Superior Court against the Richmond Selectboard in December, 2011, following the Oct. 31 meeting at which it awarded a contract for snow removal to Holman Contracting of Fitzwilliam.

In the lawsuit, Bersaw alleged that the Board awarded the contract improperly because Holman Contracting was not the lowest bidder, and that other bidders met qualifications put in place by the board.

Bersaw also alleged there was misconduct by the Board for entering into nonpublic session to discuss the bids without a legal reason for doing so.

Richmond's attorney, Joseph S. Hoppock of Keene, argued that Bersaw lacked standing to bring the claim, and that his claims were "without merit."

In her February 24, 2012 decision, the judge stated that "the Court agrees with the defendant's arguments, thus grants the motion to dismiss."

Even though the Judge agreed with the town in her deci-

sion, Bersaw has since filed a motion to reconsider. Bersaw stated "the notion that I don't have standing because I was not 'injured' (by the awarding of the contract to a bidder who was not the lowest), well, I'm a taxpayer, so it adds up. This happened last year also, when the Board did not award the contract to the lowest bidder, and it keeps costing the taxpayers money."

Bersaw has represented himself, and his action on motion to reconsider as of this printing, has not been determined. (See the Keene Sentinel, March 1, 2012 for more details.)

## Voting in Richmond

Judith M. Graves

I just came from the polls at the Veteran's Hall and had to smile all the way home. It was like the voting days of years ago where the positive vibes were all around, people gathered in small groups to talk about the weather, and the upcoming spring, gardens, the cover on the Town Report and things that were simple and easy going. It was so refreshing and to see steady streams of voters coming in all day long.

Thank you, Richmond, for showing the happy faces again. Nothing negative, no anger or trying to bend the rules went on, and only friendly hellos and smiles. For the first time in many years it was again the New England spirit of voting your conscience, everyone enjoying the reason for being there...To Vote!!! It made me believe for the first time in a long time that Richmond can and will become the wonderful little town it used to be. Thank you for all the workers that put in so much time in all the big and small things that go into making it easy for us, and to all of you the voters who showed the spirit of your duty to vote and came out in such numbers.

## Richmond Library

Wendy O'Brien

### Storytimes

There will be a brief story hour for younger elementary school-aged children on Tuesday, April 3rd at around 2:00 PM. Pre-school story times known as *Wednesdays with Wendy* continue at 10:00 AM. throughout April. Come enjoy themed stories, a craft, and a small snack.

### Reading with Kallie

We have planned for an April 28 at 11:00 AM. a visit with Kate Simmington and Kallie. Kallie is a certified pet therapy dog through Monadnock Therapy Pets. This visit offers gentle listening ears for children just learning to read or who wish to

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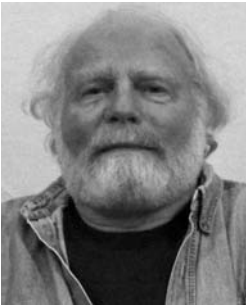


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## Meet Your Newly Elected Town Officers



Left to right: Annette N. Tokunaga – Town Clerk; Beverly J. Hart – Cemetery Trustee; Deborah Boncal – Selectman;  
Deborah R. Duffy – Planning Board; Jonathan Pratt – Planning Board



Left to right: Lewis N. Whittum – Supervisor of the Checklist; Nancy Lescynski – Trustee of the Trust Funds; Peter W. Majoy – Moderator;  
Rick Lewis – Planning Board; Susan Marsden – Library Trustee

be more confident in their reading. Come by for a story or just a pet. No reservations needed.

### Volunteer Celebration

During National Volunteer Week, the RPL will be holding a reception to honor all that our volunteers do for our Library. Join us Saturday, April 21 at 12:00 PM to show support for the dedicated volunteers of the RPL. At this time, the first annual “Elaine Moriarty Volunteer Award” will be given to Abigail and Gabrielle Connell. This mother-daughter team has volunteered their time over many years, ranging from helping at childrens’ events to shelving books. Their unfailing cheerfulness has lightened many a dark winter’s day! But true thanks also go to all our volunteers – those who help at our book and bake sales, shelve books, reorganize collections of materials, and help keep the Library running smoothly. Interested in becoming a volunteer? Drop by the RPL or give us a call – we have projects ranging from shelving books one day a week to ongoing projects that may interest and challenge you!

### Seeking Donations

It’s that time of year for spring cleaning! If you have books, DVDs, or other materials that you are looking to find homes for, please consider donating them to the RPL. Often, we use your donations right here in your library to supplement our collections. We use the remaining materials in our ongoing indoor book sale, with the funds raised going toward the purchase of new materials. Unfortunately, we cannot take encyclopedias, Reader’s Digest Condensed Books, or VHS materials due to space constraints. We can even come to you to pick up materials – give us a call or drop us an email. Thank you for your consideration!

### Dog Licenses

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Dog licenses expire on April 30, 2012. We will begin making phone calls after May 1, 2012 as a friendly reminder to those of you who have not yet licensed your dogs.

Please don’t wait to get a phone call from the town clerk’s

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office! Come on in!!

If you have recently added a dog to your family, you need to license it. Please bring the rabies certificate and any documentation verifying that the dog has been spayed or neutered. If you have any questions, please call 239-6202. We are always happy to help.

## Things from the District April 2012

Neil Moriarty

***Richmond's Molly Hulett and Tim Hart  
Spark Cutler to Round Ball Championships!  
Cutler Elementary Boys and Girls are Both  
Basketball Champions!***

**Molly Hulett from Richmond**, and her Cutler (grades 4 through 6) girl teammates won the Emerald Valley Basketball Tournament over Peterborough. Molly and I go back to MS Frazier's looping class (teaching both 1st and 2nd to the same students in consecutive years) where I spend an hour and half each week with America Reads Program. The Cutler girls are now three time champions – finishing this season undefeated at 16-0; furthermore, they remain undefeated for the third straight year for an amazing total of undefeated record of 51-0. School Board member Michael Blair and his wife Sara, who is a teacher at Cutler, coach the Cutler girls.

With home schooler Tim Hart from Richmond joining in, the Cutler boys won the Silver Valley Basketball Tournament against a very solid cross district rival Emerson/Troy team (Troy/Emerson coming in third). Congratulations kids!

By the time you read this the voting for MRSD will be in the books. More on the ramifications of the voting results in the next report. One article in last month's Rooster could be misinterpreted on the budgets for the school district. The school district has not had a budget cut that was not supported by both your School Board and Budget Committee. In fact, it was raised by \$918,000 by the voters of the deliberative session in 2011.

We have declining student enrollment and our budgets for the district should reflect that fact. Your school board has adopted a goal to get to, or near to, the state average Cost Per Pupil in five years. You will be happy to know (well, let's hope most of you will be happy) that in the 2010-2011 school year, MRSD no longer was the highest Cost Per Pupil (CPP) spender in any single category (source: Dept of Education – categories: Elementary, Middle School, High School, and Total) within the area school districts. In 2009 – 2010, MRSD led in CPP spend-

ing in most all categories within the area school districts. We're getting there with the support of your elected officials throughout the district. Sullivan will be voting on leaving the district at their March 2012 Meeting – given they vote to leave, we can close that elementary school without any decrease in education – “no decrease in education” is a quote from your Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Karen Craig.

**Honor Roll Recognition:** I want to thank the Rooster for giving each student a line in the Honor Roll Recognition. Now you don't have to search for the kids that give that extra effort in school. Congratulations to our Richmond students: HONOR ROLL 2nd Quarter 2011-2012.

If you have comments or suggestions or if I missed anyone call me at 239-4031. Jim Carnie will also answer any district questions at 239-4948.

Legend: The report is sorted by the student's last name. IHM=Immaculate Heart of Mary here in Richmond; MRS = both the middle and high school. How to read this report: Martella Baird –1 IHM, Honorable Mention = Martella is in the 1st grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary and received honorable mention.

Notes: Cutler does not have an honors program, so I used their other two awards. MRSD does not recognize honors below 4th grade; while IHM goes down to 1st grade.:

Martella Baird – 1, IHM, Honorable Mention  
Cameron Barth – 10, MRS, Honors  
Maria Bosonetto – 8, IHM, Honor Roll  
Antonio Bosonetto – 1, IHM, Honorable Mention  
Ruben Bosonetto – 3, IHM, Honorable Mention  
Oliver Budizk, Cutler, Citizenship  
Hannah Bush – 11, MRS, High Honors  
Chloe Busick – 9, MRS, High Honors  
Courtney Casavant – 10, MRS, Honors  
Wyatt Crowell, Cutler, Citizenship  
Madison Daniels – 8, MRS, Honors  
Justin Farnum – 10 MRS, Honors  
Oliver Fougere – 1, IHM, Honor Roll  
Mary Grace Grinstead – 2, IHM, Honorable Mention  
Spencer Heise – 10, MRS, Honors  
Payton Hill – 7, MRS, Honors  
Shannon Jackson – 11, MRS, Honors  
Haley Lancey – 12, MRS, Honors  
Maria Pilar LaPlume – 1, IHM, Honorable Mention  
Tia-Jade Love – 7, MRS, Honors

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Autumn Love, Cutler, Young Author  
 Jacob Mathewson, Emerson, Honor Roll  
 Whitney Maynard, Cutler, Citizenship  
 Joseph McCann – 1, IHM, Honor Roll  
 Tristan McCann – 3, IHM, Honorable Mention  
 Dennis Miller – 10, MRS, Honors  
 Robert Collin Morton – 7, MRS, Honors  
 Olivia Patch – 8, MRS, Honors  
 Cassidy Purrington, Cutler, Citizenship  
 Eliza Randall – 9, MRS, Honors  
 Lydia Randall – 7, MRS, Honors  
 Andy Royce, Emerson, Honor Roll  
 Ryan Spath – 9, MRS, Honors  
 Breanne Swanson, Cutler, Citizenship  
 Daniel Tague – 9, MRS, Honors  
 Emily Tague – 12, MRS, Honors  
 Hailey Thompson – 6, IHM, Honorable Mention  
 Peter Thompson – 1, IHM, Honorable Mention  
 Ashlyn Tomer – 7, MRS, Honors  
 Mary-Kate Vasilak – 3, IHM, Honorable Mention  
 Warker Wilber, Cutler, Young Author

## Thank You

Janet and John Boccalini

A Special “thanks” to the Richmond Rescue Squad members Mike Pearsall, Mike Bailey and Melanie Ellis, as well as Diluzio Ambulance Service for braving the recent snowstorm to aid our mother Mrs. Bettie Thomas (Becky). Also thanks to John Holman Construction for clearing the snow for their safe journey to the hospital. Becky is doing remarkably well and is now in rehab.

Another “thank you” to our road agent, Mark Beal, for the tremendous job he has done keeping the Fay Martin Road as well as our town’s other dirt roads traversable this mud season. Definitely a job “Well Done”!

## The Town’s full of them...

Sandy Holbrook

They are everywhere...in our neighborhoods, right next door. They are on the streets, on our playground and beach area. They are visible in our Library, CD Building, and Police Station. They are found in our Town Hall and Fire Station. They travel our highways and wooded areas. They come in all sizes and shapes and can live a long time!

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Some swim and some fly, but most are found along the grounds from Rte. 32 South to the end of Rte. 32 North. They are seen on Rte. 119 going in both directions. They are found on roads less traveled, too! They are not gender specific as there are as many males as there are females, and they are active both day and night. There is no off season for them as they reside in Richmond all year ‘round!

They don’t bite; are not contagious with anything that requires a vaccine. Believe it or not, they are very beneficial and good for the Town. We do not want to exterminate them as they are as vital to the Town as bees are to zucchinis. Can you guess what they are? [answer found within this issue]

## Eleanor Fassett

Pam Goodell

Congratulations to Mrs. Eleanor Fassett upon being the latest recipient of the Richmond 250 Cane for the third year in a row! Mrs. Fassett has lived in Richmond for 35 years. She was born on May 11, 1913, and is, therefore, 98 years old. In fact “Happy Birthday” wishes are in order as she turns 99 this coming May! This makes her the oldest citizen living in Richmond.

The cane represents the idea that the knowledge, experience, and wisdom that come with age are to be celebrated. Age itself is to be venerated. It is with the utmost honor, respect, and admiration that we again congratulate Mrs. Eleanor Fassett.

## Spring Roadside Cleanup

Russ Provost

Richmond Roadside Cleanup. The Spring roadside cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 5th. Bags will be available at the Pavilion from 7-8 AM. To sign up for a road segment or for more information call Russ Provost at 239-7058.

## Letter to the Editor

Melissa L Pearsall


Sometimes living in Richmond is like being in High School again. The name calling, finger pointing, and clique’s of people are ridiculous. When are “we,” as a town, going to grow up?

## Quotable Quotes

Terry O’Rorke

*“I can promise you that women working together – linked, informed and educated – can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet.”*

— Isabelle Allende

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## Richmond Luthiers Connection

Biff Mahoney

Back in 1962, during a weekend furlough in Philadelphia, I plunked down \$26 for a baritone ukulele at a music store right around the corner from Independence Hall. Strolling along Market Street with my Ft. Dix army buddies, a panhandler spotted my new instrument and asked to play it. I agreed, and after some minor tuning, he strummed out a sweet rendition of *Honeysuckle Rose* to the enjoyment of all, including curious onlookers. I still have that uke and play it nearly every day. I pride it for its rich and deep tone, uncommon for a baritone uke.

At the time of its purchase, the instrument didn't have a nameplate or brand markings and I wondered of its manufacture. Years of inquiries led to no definitive answer. While residing in Richmond, I befriended two *luthiers* [a luthier builds guitars] living in town, both of whom examined my uke, and both who thought it might be a *Martin*, the renowned brand of the time. I would have been thrilled had it been a *Martin*, but I remained skeptical because the heel of the neck is heftier than that of a *Martin* and the top of the headstock is mustached rather than flat as are *Martins*.

Both those luthiers have gone on to national and international prominence for their guitar-building expertise; Google "luthier" and two names repeatedly come up – Michael Gurian and Michael Millard.

Michael Gurian, who started fabricating classical guitars in 1962 in his New York City apartment, moved his business in 1973 to an old wooden factory building in Hinsdale sandwiched between Route 119 and the Ashuelot River. For nearly a year I daily drove past Gurian's shop on my way to work in Brattleboro. One morning early in February 1979, I was startled to see only a foundation and charred timbers where the building had stood. But fire didn't stop Gurian. With his crew and wife, Dixie, production resumed before the end of that year in West

Left: Gurian S3R. Right: Millard Headstock with Froggy Bottoms Logo.



Swanzy; but dogged by bad luck, strained finances and a major recession, the business folded in 1981. Of the fire, Gurian said he didn't lament the destruction of the building and his wood-working equipment, only the loss of all the exotic and ancient woods he had accumulated over the years – they were irreplaceable, he later told me.

Gurian remains an iconic figure in the world of guitars and is considered the Godfather of independent guitar makers and mentor to the many of the current crop of independent luthiers. In 1992 he ventured out to Seattle where he now manufactures and supplies guitar fittings, marquetry, and tools. He also imports wood, and serves as a consultant to the guitar and woodworking industry.

Only a few thousand *Gurians* were built which are now ardently sought as desired playing instruments. Their value is rising. Among performers who play *Gurians* are Jackson Browne, John Sebastian and Paul Simon.

For several years Gurian resided in Richmond, having built and lived in the north end of the town. Dixie still lives there.

The other Richmond luthier was Michael Millard, who had been Gurian's foreman in both New York and New Hampshire. He bought the house, presently owned by Rosti and Jeani Eismont on lower Whipple Hill Road where he set up shop fabricating *Froggy Bottom* guitars. Millard had left *Gurian Guitars* before the fire, but returned for one year to get the Swanzy crew up and running. He still plies his trade as a leading guitar builder.

Millard turned to being a luthier when he found himself at a crossroads when the graduate program he'd been enrolled in was discontinued. As he considered his options, a friend suggested he pursue his interest in building a guitar. A visit to Gurian's workshop led to a job offer. In October of 1970, Michael began his work for the Gurian company and in that same year he built the first *Froggy Bottom* guitar in the kitchen of his apartment on New York's lower east side, bending the guitar's sides around a heat riser running through his kitchen to the floors above.

However, it was while living in Richmond that his business came into its own, for 20 years crafting *Froggy Bottoms* at his Whipple Hill Road home until 1985, when he moved to Vermont. Michael built one *Froggy Bottom* guitar at a time for customers who were almost exclusively working musicians. Orders come via word of mouth.

The name *Froggy Bottom* was derived from Millard's love of the blues. In the early part of the last century, Mississippi Delta sharecroppers – originators of the blues – called their farmland "de froggy bottom" because it attracted mating amphibians when flooded. Each *Froggy Bottom* guitar features a frog logo inlaid on the head stock.

While living in Richmond, Millard once gave a presentation of his luthier skills and knowledge of guitars at a program sponsored by the now defunct Richmond Arts Council. Step-by-step Mike described the process of constructing a quality acoustic guitar, showing wood samples, fittings and strings, and finished by playing one of his newly completed models.





Michael Millard at work.

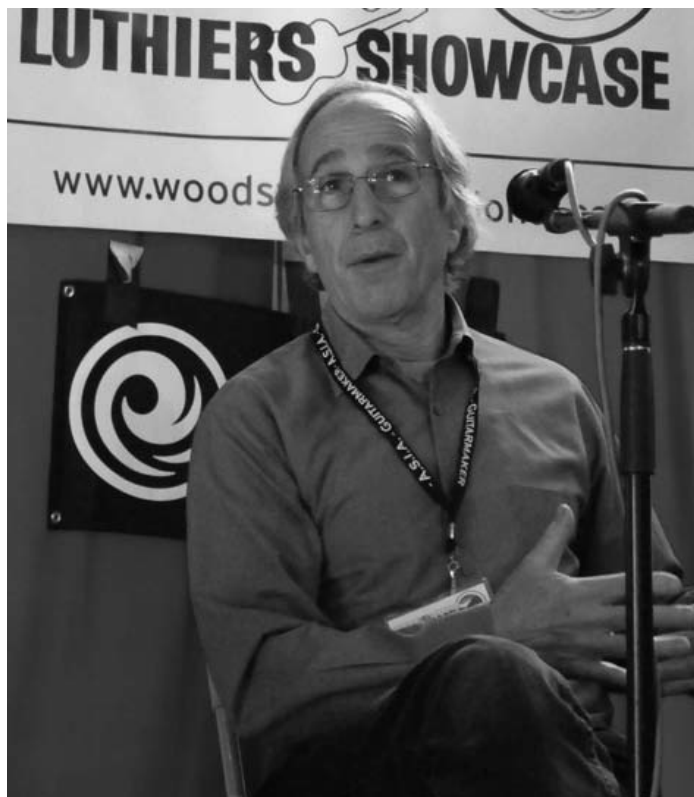
I learned a lot about guitars that day and when Mike started to play I knew from the sound it emanated that he was master at his trade. At the first strum, the tone was rich and deep with a quality of freshness that reverberated throughout the Veterans Hall.

From his earliest days, Millard has focused a close personal interaction with customers, each with distinctive requirements and who exact the optimum from their instrument. He goes to great lengths to make the right guitar for the player, coordinating specific features of design, materials, and construction. He inventories a variety of woods because each produces a unique tonal value.

“Aside from the simple joy of making beautiful instruments, I find it fun and challenging to work with the individual player who has a clear idea about the guitar of his or her dreams. I actually built Paul Simon’s *Gurian*, which he still holds as his favorite guitar,” Michael told me.

Over more than forty years, Millard has built some 5,000 guitars, each crafted for a specific client or player. Given his expertise at tailoring an instrument’s function and sound to a particular player, Michael builds every *Froggy Bottom* guitar body and carves every neck, while purfling, trim and finish are carried out by the rest of the *Froggy* team. Production for individual players or select dealers is limited to approximately 100 guitars per year.

*Froggy* guitars are played by a host of famous musicians, but Michael prefers to keep his client list low-key and does not tout them for promotional purposes. Occasionally one will see a famous musical performer on television strumming a beautifully tailored guitar and catch a glimpse of the unmistakable frog logo on the headstock. That’s a *Froggy*!



Michael Gurian.

Michael and his wife Kristina Stykos live off the grid, at the top of a mountain in Chelsea, Vermont – out where the snowplow turns around.

Millard said in an email to me, “Michael Gurian and I are still the closest of friends. He’s had more impact on my life than just about anyone I can think of.”

As for my ukulele, no, it’s not a *Gurian* or *Froggy Bottom*. Following years of extensive, and often frustrating, research I discovered it to be a *Wabash*, built in the late 50s or early 60s by David Wexler of Chicago.

## Twenty Years Ago – April 1992 RICHMOND RECOLLECTIONS

Cris Dell

When I went to school in Richmond in the 1930s there were a lot of people there who are still living in the general vicinity today, such as Joe Davis, Fred Prescott, Alice and Anita Hooper, Charlie Abbott, Charlotte Tolman, Ruby Hood, Roland Knight, and Dicky Dickerson, to name only a few.

But they were all a lot bigger then, it seemed to me, since I was always one of the smallest of the bunch.

I attended the Richmond Public School from the first grade through the third, and it was a very mysterious and exciting experience. The mysteries were not the academic subjects presented by the teacher, Miss Hawkins, but the secret rules and rituals which everybody seemed to understand except me, such as the location of the Boys’ Room.

I knew all about bathroom-going when I started school, of course, but I didn’t grasp the fact that the different sexes went to different rooms. (It wasn’t that way at our house.) So on my first visit to the “John” (which was an inside-outhouse) I strode

boldly into the Girls' Room and was greeted upon my return by waves of hysterical laughter. Major waves. As I recall, Joe Davis was the most hysterical of them all. And they talked about it a lot afterwards, too. I had become a celebrity at the age of six; also the Town Fool. It was enough to make a reasonable person abandon education altogether.

Another mystery presented by the Richmond Public School was the question of why the bigger boys took such satisfaction in beating up on the smaller ones. It didn't happen to me in the first grade when my big brother was there as my protector, or in the second grade when Buddy Hooper of Whipple Hill took by brother's place and held the scoundrels at bay. But Buddy left school when I entered the third grade and from that point on I was fair game for some of the toughest scullduggers I ever met in my life, especially the seventh and eighth graders. I can still recall the experience of Frank Day sitting on my chest in the schoolyard and refusing to get up.

Exciting events included my many trips from the school to the rooming house up Route 119 where Miss Hawkins lived and where the housekeeper prepared her lunch. Every school day at 11:15 AM one of the older girls was delegated to go get the lunch and to prevent her from getting lonely on the way, she was permitted to choose somebody to join her on the walk, and I was selected frequently. I regarded this as a badge of honor, like riding shotgun with a stagecoach. In retrospect, it was probably more a tribute to the fact that I could talk faster and longer than anybody else around, and the sixth and seventh grade girls liked the kind who chattered along – even a small customer like me.

## 12th Annual Walk-A-Thon

Roberta L. Royce

The Winchester Learning Center, a preschool, childcare, family resource center located in downtown Winchester, will be hosting its 12th Annual Walk-A-Thon. There will be a \$20.00 registration fee per person. The fee may be raised by pledges or paid at registration. Walkers will be given raffle tickets for registering and for every \$10.00 they raise. A raffle will be held at the end of the walk. Raffle Prizes have been donated by area businesses.

The walk will take place May 5, 2012. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and the walk will kick off at 10:00 AM. Registration will be at WLC, 5 Michigan St, where the walk will start. Join us for a WLC board-sponsored cook out after the walk at 109

Keene Rd, the site of our future building. For more information, contact Donna Howland at 239-7347 or email Roberta Royce at roycewlc@gmail.com. THE WINCHESTER LEARNING CENTER IS A MONADNOCK UNITED WAY AGENCY.

## Dessert Theater

Pam Goodell and John Boccalini

We are in the process of putting together plans for the presentation of the Bob VanBrocklin Dessert Theater II sometime in the early fall. We are looking for individuals who can help with the organizational and preparatory plans for this event. If you are interested in helping with this fun project please call 239-6696 or 239-4790.

Don't forget that we will soon be looking for talent, so loosen up those chops, exercise those legs, pull out that instrument or learn those lines for this wonderful event. All ages are included.

## Help Wanted

Russ Provost

We need 10-15 Richmond residents to be walkers on Team Richmond at the annual *Relay For Life*. The *Relay For Life* is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in the area an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer.

This year's event will be start at 6:00 PM on Friday, June 1 and end at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 2. The event is held rain or shine at the track of the Monadnock High School in Swanzey. Teams of people camp out at the event, enjoy activities, entertainment, food, music, honor survivors, remember those we've lost and take turns walking around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all time during the event.

*Relay For Life* is an overnight event. Registration is \$10.00 per member. Walkers, runners, strollers and children are welcome. We ask each member of the team to raise at least \$100 in contributions. We have set a goal of \$2000 for Team Richmond. This event is not associated with the Komen 3-Day-Walk.

All money collected at the *Relay For Life* goes directly to the American Cancer Society. You can either register for Team Richmond on-line at [www.relayforlife.org/KeeneNH](http://www.relayforlife.org/KeeneNH) or to obtain a paper registration form, please call Russ at 239-7058 or Terri at 239-4595. Let us ALL work together to make Team Richmond a team EVERYONE in Richmond can be proud of.

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## Obituaries

### Marilyn (Pelletier) Kozlowski

Marilyn (Pelletier) Kozlowski, 87, died on January 22, 2012 at Water Edge Center in Middletown, CT. after a period of failing health. Marilyn was born in Daigle, ME to parents Arthur and Odile Pelletier. She grew up in Fort Kent, ME with her seven brothers and two sisters.

Marilyn was predeceased by her husband Joseph Kozlowski, sister Louella Dumond and brothers Herman, Roland, Mark, John and Roy Pelletier. Siblings Lourdes and Donald died when they were very young. She is survived by her sister Julie Kozlowski and brothers Alden and Hubert Pelletier.

Marilyn moved from Maine to Connecticut during WWII where she worked at Pratt & Whitney. After the war she met and married Joe. They settled in Cromwell, CT where they raised their three daughters. During that time Marilyn became a LPN and worked for many years in area nursing homes. In 1980, Marilyn and Joe moved to Richmond, NH where they resided for 25 years before returning to Connecticut.

While in New Hampshire, Marilyn continued working as a LPN in nursing homes in the Keene area until her retirement at age 80. In addition to her siblings, Marilyn is survived by her daughters Lynne Brown and husband Robert, Debra Bozzi and husband Al, and Kathleen Lee. She also leaves grandchildren Joseph Brown, Sarah Cathey, Lydia Beardsley, Lisa Palmisano, and Carla Palmer as well as great grandchildren Alexandria and Jacob Palmer and Amanda, Nathan and Evan Palmisano.

### Ethel Margaret O'Mara

Ethel Margaret O'Mara, 86, of Tully Brook Road in Richmond died on March 3, 2012 at her residence.

She was born on January 29, 1926 in Waltham, MA and is the daughter of the late Anthony H. and Margaret (Coady) O'Neill.

She was a 1944 graduate of Waltham High School and worked as a secretary for St. Mary's High School in Waltham. She also worked for several churches and businesses in Waltham. She was married to Paul B. O'Mara, who died August 10, 2006. He was a Veteran of World War II and a Fireman for the City of Waltham.

Upon their retirement they moved to Onset, MA. and lived there until Paul's death. Ethel moved to Richmond, NH to live with her daughter, Kathleen. Ethel was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Survivors include her brother Paul A. O'Neill of Waltham, MA; her two daughters Kathleen M. Bersaw (and husband Douglas) of Richmond, Susan M. Fosdick (and husband William) of Marshfield MA; four granddaughters Siobhan M., Sharon Rose, Katherine M. Bersaw and Barbara L. Bersaw; four great-grandchildren Dominic, Monica, Andrew and Martin Bryan; several nieces and nephews.

## Rev. Bonnie McCarthy Receives Officiant Award

Reprint from Keene Sentinel



For the third consecutive year WeddingWire, the nation's leading wedding Marketplace, announced that Reverend Bonnie McCarthy of the New Hampshire-based *Ceremonies from the Heart*, has been selected to receive the prestigious WeddingWire Bride's Choice Awards 2012 for wedding officiants.

This annual award recognizes and celebrates excellence in quality, service, responsiveness, and professionalism within the wedding industry. While many industry awards are selected by the organization, *Ceremonies from the Heart* was selected based on its stellar reviews from past newlywed couples.

"WeddingWire is thrilled to honor the success of the top-rated wedding professionals within the WeddingWire community," said Timothy Chi, CEO, WeddingWire. "It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Reverend McCarthy and *Ceremonies from the Heart* for her continued professionalism and commitment to enriching the wedding planning experience for engaged couples."

McCarthy was chosen among the best wedding officiants within the WeddingWire Network, which includes leading wedding planning sites WeddingWire, Project Wedding, Brides.com, Martha Stewart Weddings, and Weddingbee.

For more details, visit [www.CeremoniesFromTheHeart.ws](http://www.CeremoniesFromTheHeart.ws).

### Let's Plant Mint

Judith M. Graves

You might ask why mint? We all know that it is invasive and takes over a garden if not carefully planted. Putting that aside, any herb garden is just incomplete without mint, or several mints in fact. Mints in general are very hard to control in a garden and do have an invasive personality, however, a life without mints would

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be missing something very special. If allowed to just roam it will take over your entire garden in no time as the runners go underground and come up in strange places. Don't allow this or you will be forever pulling up mint.

Containers are the place for your mints because you do have to have them in your herb garden. Use a ½ barrel to plant them in, or take a five gallon bucket, cut bottom off and bury it up to the rim and plant. As you find them growing over the edge clip them off so they won't go into the ground and start running.

The most popular mints are peppermint, spearmint, and apple mint. Others like orange mint, pineapple mint, mountain mint, curly mint, and more are all great additions to any garden and foods.

Spearmint is a milder mint than some and is fabulous added to new peas, potatoes, lamb, salads or to make a fabulous cup of tea. If a recipe calls for mint, Spearmint is the mint to use unless otherwise specified. A cup of steaming mint tea is so refreshing and calming. Mint tea is far better for you than a cup of coffee. Coffee is a digestive hindrance and can give one a weakening effect.

Peppermint is the strongest mint used in chewing gums, toothpastes, and consists largely of menthol which is used medicinally. If you place dried peppermint in a muslin bag, move herbs gently with your fingers and hold firmly under your nose, inhale slowly 3-4 times; it clears the brain. If you need to be alert for a test, a meeting or to stay awake while driving, this is the natural way to do so.

Place a few of any of the mint leaves in a salad, sprinkle over pudding, decorate the top of a cupcake with the pretty leaves, and even a pinch in a scrambled egg. Try mint in all your cooking a little at first and then add as your taste buds dictate. Also makes a delicious glass of iced tea. Just brew the tea, add ice and a fresh mint leaf at the top and enjoy.

Mints are aromatic, a stimulant, and strengthen the heart. A cup of mint tea and ten minutes of relaxation may obviate the need for aspirin. Mint tea is also useful to check nausea, vomiting, and even seasickness.

Mints should be collected in dry weather in August and September just as the flowers appear. Hung upside down, then crack the dry leaves off and place in jars or wood boxes to use during the winter.

Makes the nicest gift: place the mint in a small jar, label the mint, and add a small tag with directions on how to make the perfect cup of tea. Place several small jars containing dif-

ferent mints in a basket for a super gift for a tea lover. Add a package of cinnamon sticks, jar of honey, a pottery mug and package of napkins. Add a note that says, "enjoy your tea as you watch the sun go down", or something that is personal to the receiver.

Mint is a most agreeable and harmless herb, so use it liberally in your cooking or make a bowl of potpourri to scent your room. For a wonderful simmering potpourri, mix mint leaves and cinnamon sticks broken together and simmer on the back of the stove to fill a room with wonderful aroma.

Above all plan to grow mints in your garden. Your enjoyment as you tend them will outweigh anything that could be called work. Periwinkle Cottage has mint teas at the studio if you can't wait for a cup of fresh mint tea.

### Recipe

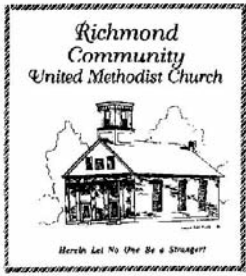
Apple Mint makes the most delightful cup of tea. Place a few crushed leaves in a cup of boiling water and let steep for 5-10 minutes and enjoy. Stirring with a cinnamon stick is a nice way to spoil yourself and to enjoy your tea. You can always add lemon, honey, sugar to your tea to make it the best for you. (I like to stir with a cinnamon stick)

## You know you're from New Hampshire if...

Pete Tandy

1. Your idea of a traffic jam is ten cars waiting to pass a tractor on Route 7.
2. Vacation means going to Concord for the weekend.
3. You measure distance in hours.
4. You know people who have hit a moose more than once.
5. You often switch from heat to A/C in the same day.
6. You use a down comforter in the summer.
7. Your grandparents drive at 65 mph through three feet of snow during a raging blizzard, without flinching.
8. You see people wearing hunting clothes at social events.
9. You install security lights on your house and garage and leave both unlocked.
10. You think of the major food groups as deer meat, beer, fish, and berries.
11. You carry jumper cables in your car and your girlfriend knows how to use them.
12. There are seven empty cars running in the parking lot at the Harrisville store at any given time!
13. You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.

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14. Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
15. You think sexy lingerie is tube socks and flannel pajamas.
16. You know all four seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter and construction.
17. It takes you three hours to go to the store for one item even when you're in a rush because you have to stop and talk to everyone in town.
18. You actually understand these jokes and forward them to all your friends from New Hampshire.

## Out and About

John Boccalini

Sun. April 1, 5 – 7:30 PM, **Caribbean Night**. The Inn at East Hill Farm, Troy. Adult, \$22.95; Child, \$12.95, Reservations required. East-hill-farm.com, 603-242-6495.

Sun. April 1, 6 – 8 PM, **The Grumbling Rustics**, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No Cover.

Wed. 4, April (TBA). **Blueberry Pruning Demonstration**. Call Cheshire County Cooperative Extension for details: 603-352-4550.

Fri. April 6, 5 – 9 PM, **First Friday**. Downtown Peterborough.

Fri. April 6, 8 PM, **Daddy and the Daddy Os**, Harlows Pub, Jaffrey. \$8.

Sat. April 7, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, **Soft Cheesemaking Workshop**. Dancing Dog Farm, Dublin. 603-563-8122. Dancingdog-farm.com,

Sat. April 7, (9 AM – 12 PM), **Beginner Beekeeping Class**. Imagine That HONEY, Swanzey. 603-381-1717.

Sat. April 7, Noon. **The Met-Live In HD Massnet Manon**, 55 Hadley Road. Peterborough, \$25 Adults, \$20 Students.

Sat. April 7, Noon. **The Met-Live In HD Massnet Manon**, Colonial Theater, Keene, \$25 Adults, \$20 Students

Sat. April 7, 8 PM, **Red Molly with special guest Mark Erelli** presented by the Peterborough Folk Music Society, 55 Hadley Road Peterborough, \$23.

Sun. April 8, 6 – 7 AM, **Easter Sunrise Service**, Cathedral of the Pines, Jaffrey.

Sun. April 8, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, **Bob Arpin – Guitar**, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No cover.

Wed. April 11, 7 PM, **NH Grange Movement: Its Rise, Triumphs and Decline (Lecture)**. Fitzwilliam Town Library, Fitzwilliam. 603-585-6503.

Fri. April 13, 8 PM, **Girls Night: The Musical**, Colonial

Theater, Keene.

Fri. April 13, 3 – 8 PM, **Art Display and Auction Opening**. Stonewall Farm, Keene. Gallery open daily 9 AM – 4:30 PM, through April 28. Stonewallfarm.org, 603-357-7278.

Sat. April 14, 9 AM – 3 PM, **4-H Beef Field Day**, Cheshire Fairgrounds, Swanzey. 603-352-4550.

Sat. & Sun. April 14 & 15, 10 – 11:30 AM, **Dairy Delights**. Stonewall Farm, Keene. Stonewallfarm.org. 603-357-7278.

Sat. April 14, 1 PM, **The Met-Live In HD Verdi, La Traviata**, 55 Hadley Road Peterborough, \$25 Adults, \$20 Students.

Sat. April 14, 1 PM, **The Met-Live In HD Verdi, La Traviata**, Colonial Theater, Keene, \$25 Adults, \$20 Students.

Sat. April 14, 1 PM, CSK Presents Bach, **Chamber Singers of Keene Spring Concert**. St James St. James Episcopal Church, West St. Keene, \$10.

Sun. April 15, 6 – 8 PM, **Naming the Twins**, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No cover.

Wed. April, 18 1 – 4 PM, **Soft Cheesemaking Workshop**. Dancing Dog Farm, Dublin. Dancingdogfarm.com. 603-563-8122.

Fri. April 20, 3 – 8 PM, **The Underscore Orchestra**, Harlows. 3 School St. Peterborough

Sat. April 21, (TBA). **Fruit Tree Pruning and Grafting Demonstration**. Call Cheshire County Cooperative Extension for details: 603-352-4550.

Sat. April 21, 8 PM, **Bruce Hornsby**, Colonial Theater, Keene.

Sun. April 22, 9 AM – 4 PM, **Monadnock Earth Day Celebration**, Keene Recreation Center, Keene. 603-757-7548.

Sun. April 22, 10 AM – 4 PM, **Earth Day Log Innoculation**. Wichland Woods, Nelson. Fee: \$45. Wichlandwoods.com, 603-357-2758.

Sun. April 22, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, **Bob Arpin – Guitar**, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No cover.

Sun. April 22, 6 – 8 PM, **Judy, Bob & Danny**, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No cover.

Sun. April 22, 2 PM, **Dreaming Again**, Colonial Theater, Keene.

Mon. April 23, 9 AM – 3 PM, **Spring Family Farm Day**. The Inn at East Hill Farm, Troy.

Mon thru Sat. April, 23 – 28, 11 AM, **Greater Keene Restaurant Week**, 48 Central Square, Keene. Fee: Varies

Wed, April 25, 6 PM, **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**, Vets' Hall, Richmond.

Fri. Apr 27, 8 PM, **Comedian Bob Marley**, Colonial Theater, Keene.

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Fri. Apr 27, 8 PM, **Greg Brown presented by the Peterborough Folk Music Society**, 55 Hadley Road, Peterborough.

Sat, Apr 28, 8 PM, **Ira Glass**, Colonial Theater, Keene.

Sat. April 28, 9:30 AM, **Getting Off to a Good Start with Your Fruit Trees and Shrubs**. Alyson's Orchard, Walpole. 603-756-2988, ext.116.

Sat. April 28, 6 PM, **Annual May Day Celebration**. Tracie's Community Farm, Fitzwilliam. Traciesfarm.com.

Sun. April 29, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, **Bob Arpin – Guitar**, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No cover.

Sun. April 29, 3 PM, **Keene's Pop Choir**, We Hear America Singing, Colonial Theater, Keene.

Sun. April 29, 6 – 8 PM, **JC Donelson & John Matthew**, smooth jazz piano, Sunflowers, Jaffrey. No cover.

#### Ongoing

Every Monday 8 PM, **Contra Dancing**, Nelson Town Hall, Variety of callers and musicians. Donation: \$3. Nelson.

Every Tuesday 8 – 11 PM, **Tuesday Night Pizza & Karaoke with CJ the DJ**. Ed's Crossroads Pizza & Subs, Rtes 12 & 119, Fitzwilliam.

Every Wednesday, 9:30 – 11 PM, **Open Mic Night – Acoustic** only please. Harlow's Pub, Peterborough.

Every Thursday 8 PM – 1 AM, **CJ the DJ Grumpy**, Don's Sports Bar and Restaurant, Hillsboro.

## Van & Schenck Recordings Restored to CD

Frank Behrens

I first heard the team of Van and Schenck (say Shank) on a very old recording of "Mandy." Then I saw them again on a DVD devoted to short films made by vaudeville stars. And now Archeophone Records, those marvelous restorers of vintage recordings to CDs, has hit gold again with "Van and Schenck: Pennant-Winning Battery of Songland, Breakthrough Recordings, 1916-1918."

Among the hundreds of "two-man piano acts" in Vaudeville, this duo was at the top, "not far behind Al Jolson and Eddie Cantor" (as the customary full Archeophone program notes put it). The high tenor voice of Schenck was a good selling point for the act, to which Variety gave high praise. Their full names, by the way, are Gus Van and Joe Schenck. It is, also by the way, Joe at the piano.

Judging from the 28 selections (three of which are longer versions of the piece on the previous track), we can see that the team specialized in comic songs, some of which had nonsense

lyrics, such as "Yaddie kaddie kiddie kaddie koo" and "In the Land o'Yamo Yamo." In fact, the only titles that were familiar to me were Irving Berlin's "Dance and Grow Thin," which I have on another CD, and "For Me and My Gal."

So to name a few of the songs, we have "That's How You Can Tell They're Irish," "Mother, May I Go In To Swim?" "I Don't Think I Need a Job That Bad," "Southern Gals" and "Beans Beans Beans." There is a strong influence of the great Bert Williams in "I Wasn't Skeered But I Thought I'd Better Go," which is sung-spoken by Van in a minstrel show "black" voice.

Many of the songs reflect the times, some (like "Me and My Gal") have universal themes. Many more are parodies, such as "I Miss the Old Folks Now," in which the rosy recollections of Van are contradicted by the not-so-rosy ones of Schenck.

This is all, of course, living history. Having contemporary singers reproduce these songs is of little value when we can hear them sung in the style of the times in which they were written by the very artists who often helped in creating the songs. Add to this the sound of the old acoustic discs, and there is nothing to beat these Archeophone restorations. And please look at their website ([www.archeophone.com](http://www.archeophone.com)) to see their amazing full catalogue of what I call "audio time machine" recordings.

## Take a Walk to End Sexual Violence!

Kasey LaFlam

Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention's (MCVP) 6th Annual Walk-a-Mile in Her Shoes: The International Men's March to End Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence (WAM) in collaboration with Keene State College is set for April 21st. Last year's walk - our most successful to date - with over 400 walkers and more than \$22,000 in funds raised will be hard to step-up, but we plan on toeing that line. Mark your calendars and be prepared for a plethora of stilettos and pumps and flats, OH MY! Solely to raise awareness of sexual violence. Men lead the walk in women's shoes, ALL are welcome! Not feeling like a stroll down Main Street in size 14 Manolo Blahniks? You can also sponsor another walker! To register go to [www.first-giving.com/mcyp](http://www.first-giving.com/mcyp). Super prizes for highest fundraising teams and individuals!!! *Best of Shoe* contest with more great prizes!!!

WAM is a one mile walk for men, women & children to show their support for survivors of sexual assault, which allows our community to come together in a fun & festive way. The reality of sexual violence is anything but. Approximately 23%

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of women in NH have been the victim of a sexual assault. One in twenty NH men reported being a victim of sexual assault with 68% of those assaults

occurring before the victim is 18. These survivors walk among us every day of the year and the impact of their experience stays with them long after the assault is over. They're our friends, neighbors, co-workers, and our loved ones. They need us to take a stand and take steps to end sexual violence. Join us on Saturday, April 21st and show your support.

## Customer Service Is Not a Department

Michelle Connor

"Customer service" is an overused phrase that has little meaning any more, but customers still want their needs met. To accomplish this requires that customer service is the responsibility of every employee, whether they have direct customer contact or not.

Customer service is different from any add-on service you offer for sale. If you charge money for a service, it's part of your product mix. Customer Service is free.

Customer Service enhances your main offer – it's not your main offer – but an unexpected bonus that reinforces the message that you care.

It may include services such as free educational seminars. It may be the offer of free setup or an introductory period of technical assistance or maintenance. It could be the availability of credit or financial services, or simply a routine follow-up call that confirms a customer's satisfaction. Whatever it is, it has to fulfill your customers' deepest needs.

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LORDEN PLAZA, RT.101A, MILFORD, NH  
M-S 9-9, SUN 11-5, 673-1738

Customer Service opportunities are endless. It is a major area that can give you a competitive advantage – especially if you are seen as a commodity with numerous

competitors. So when you start thinking about the customer services you might offer, think beyond the obvious.

Put yourself in your customers' shoes. What attributes of your business lend themselves to better customer service? Don't be afraid to experiment and then elicit feedback from the people who know best – your customers.

## Planning Board seeking Alternate

Kim Mattson

The Richmond Planning Board is seeking a volunteer for an alternate position for a three year term. If interested please call the Town Hall during business hours and leave your name and phone number you will get a return call. 239-4232.

## Park Committee Report Dec. 31, 2011

This year was a good year for the Park. I started out with some needed cleanup and cut down some small trees that were behind and off to the right of the pavilion. The cleanup will continue into this year as well. Peter Majoy, Russ Provost, John Bocalini joined me early on a Saturday morning to apply a double coating of preservative on the pavilion walls. It took 4 ½ gallons and about 16 man hours to complete the job at a cost of \$200.00 +/- for material and supplies. There are now two horse-shoe pits, which I built with the help of Hank Hallas, at a cost of about \$105. He and I will build one more this spring. I also purchased two new basketball hoops which will be installed this spring, at a cost of \$260 for hoops and paint. The poles will be straightened, and the back boards and lines on the court will be painted.

I plan to do some work on the whole field, and some repairs on the baseball dugouts, fence, and base area. I want to add more outlets in the pavilion and better lighting. Didn't keep track of how much time I spent working at the park this past year, but with the help of a few other folks the improvements definitely show. I'm looking forward to volunteering more of my time this coming year. Please pass my budget for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Marcus Beauregard

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Annette Tokunaga, Bob Weekes and The Rooster Staff

## Members Advertising Rates

**Contact:** Peter 239-6058

Business cards (up to 3.5 in. x 2 in.) \$12/month or  
\$132/year: 1/4 page: \$30/month: \$330/year

### Subscription Rates

Yearly: \$15 Town Residents: FREE

Stories printed are presented as fiction and are not intended to be considered as being historically accurate as to their content. Public notices, committee reports, articles, press releases, and letters to the editor are usually printed as received. *The Richmond Rooster* welcomes comments and article contributions.

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**Rooster Online:** <http://therichmondrooster.org>

## Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

### Board of Selectmen:

Deborah Boncal, Sandra Gillis, Lori Scanlan  
Mon. 7:00 PM—?

**Selectmen's Assistant:** Roberta Frasier

**Town Secretary:** Beverly Hart

Mon. 10 AM – noon, 6 PM – 8 PM

Wed. 8 AM – 12 noon, 1:00 PM – 5 PM

Thurs. 8 AM – 12 noon, 1:00 PM – 4 PM

**Town Clerk:** Annette Tokunaga

**Deputy:** Pamela Goodell

Mon. 9 AM – noon, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 AM – noon, 1 – 5 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – noon

**Tax Collector:** Steve Boscarino

**Assistant Collector:** Denise Nolan

Mon. 7 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 2 PM – 4 PM

**Planning Board:** Richard Drew, Chairperson

Meetings held at Civil Defense Building

1st & 3rd Tues of the Month – 7:30 PM

**Transfer Station & Recycling Facility:**

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

**Town Library:** Wendy O'Brien, Librarian

Tues. 4:30 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9:00 AM – 12 PM

Thurs. 4:30 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

**Police (Non Emergency): 239-6007**

**Fire/ Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466**

**Fire Warden:** Ed Atkins, 239-6337

**Selectmen – 239-4232**

**Town Clerk – 239-6202**

**Tax Collector – 239-6106**

**Road Agent:** Mark Beal 903-2184

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