



JANUARY 2014



Leonard (Joe) R. Davis

Leonard (Joe) R. Davis

John Bocalini

February's issue of *The Richmond Rooster* will be dedicated to the life of Joe Davis. If you have a story to tell, a condolence to give and/or a photo, please send it to therichmondrooster@yahoo.com or Editor, Richmond Rooster, 180 Fay Martin Road, Richmond NH, 03470.

Leonard R. Davis, 88, of Richmond, died in the comfort of his home on November 29, 2013 after a period of declining health. Services were held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at Fletcher Funeral Home, 33 Marlboro St., Keene. Memorial contributions can be made, in Mr. Leonard R Davis's name, to The Richmond Fire and Rescue, c/o Ed Atkins, 17 Winchester Rd., Richmond 03470, or to HCS Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (www.hcsservices.org), P.O. Box 564, 312 Marlboro St., Keene 03431

Joe was born at the Four Corners in Richmond on October 1, 1925, to Adelbert W. and Effie R. (Kimball) Davis, and was a lifelong Richmond resident. He began working in the logging industry with local friends after he completed his schooling. During World War II, he served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Oklahoma City. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Richmond and began working for Lawrence Leathers. After the close of the plant, he started working for the town of Richmond road crew. In time he became the road agent. His retirement from the road crew in 2006 allowed him to pursue another career, selling bait.

He married Valma (Bettie) E. LaBelle on June 10, 1948 in a ceremony in West Swanzey. They celebrated 57 years of marriage before her passing in August 2005.

He was a member of the Winchester VFW, Post #3968, a former member of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department and had attended the United Church of Christ of Keene.

He had a love of fishing, gardening, and tending to his peach trees. He found companionship in the dogs he owned over the years, most recently his dog Iza. His love of dogs extended to his job as road agent. While he worked a trash collection route in town, he always had a stash of dog biscuits to share with the dogs on the way. They came to know his route and would seemingly be waiting for his arrival. Although he had a strong work ethic, formed by years of various jobs, his down time included work around the home, and an enjoyment of watching and cheering on the Red Sox and the Patriots.

Survivors include two daughters: Lynn Adams and her husband, Chip of Richmond; and Wendy Payne and her husband, Dwayne of Lubbock, Texas; two sons, Joseph Davis and his wife, Cathy of Richmond, and Gary Davis of Fairbanks, Alaska; twenty grandchildren, forty great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins, as well as a special friend, Rose Rhoades.

His wife Valma E. Davis, a son Gordon Davis, two grandchildren, Theresa Davis and Michael Davis, a sister Ethel Pasno Morse, and two brothers, Louis Pasno and Albert William Davis died earlier.

Selectmen's Notes

Happy New Year! The Selectmen hope you have a wonderful 2014. We'd like to invite you to participate even more than you do already with the Town. Community, sense of place, how you want your town to grow and develop comes from you and your neighbors. Edward T. McMahon of the Conservation Fund said "Growth is inevitable and desirable, but destruction of community character is not. The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change. The question is how."

This epitomizes the challenges we face as a community. It will change, and only we can effect that change in the direction we want. Next year will be another good year for Richmond, but only with your help.

In 2013, the Town said goodbye to some of our most dedicated volunteers. In December, the Selectmen accepted, with regret, Pam Goodell's resignation as Deputy Town Clerk. We thank you Pam for your years of service to the Town. It's hard to imagine coming into Town Hall and not having Pam in the

Town Clerk's office. We wish her the very best and hope she knows how much she will be missed.

We also said farewell to a man who set the gold standard for dedication and commitment to the Town of Richmond.

Joe Davis, road agent for the Town for many years, died at the end of November. At the funeral, memories were shared, appreciating Joe's amazing work ethic and calm, optimistic approach to life. One story told third-hand, was that Joe said a good hand shovel is all you need in life. We all recall Joe working in all kinds of weather to keep our roads in good order... with his hand shovel. Thank you, Joe.

Selectman Deb Boncal submitted her resignation effective at the end of December. The Selectmen accepted it with a good deal of regret. We will miss her voice cutting through to the heart of the matter at hand, and her experience in taxation and community policing in particular. We wish her the very best and will attempt to carry on her straightforward approach to municipal governance.

During December the Selectmen worked on budgets and capital improvements plans. You will see the results in the budget warrant as we move to reserve funds for future capital improvements. Once again we are focusing on deferred maintenance projects, preservation of our historic buildings and energy conservation projects. We thank all municipal department heads for developing budgets that reflect solid work plans for the year. The Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, January 30, and a second one will be held on Thursday, February 13, if necessary. The last day to submit a petitioned warrant article to the Selectmen is February 4, 2014.

Town meeting will be held on Saturday, March 15 at our beautifully renovated Veteran's Hall starting at 9 AM. We hope you will attend. There will be some significant warrant articles presented, including the Town Operating Budget.

As you know, setting the tax rate was delayed by two events, neither of which was under local control. The Town tax rate was set on Thursday, November 21 at a special meeting called for the purpose. The 2013 Town tax rate of \$5.10 is \$0.12 higher than the 2012 tax rate. The total tax rate is \$1.86 higher than last year because of several factors: the local school tax rate is \$1.83 higher [due in part to the formula change adopted in March 2013 to 75% average daily membership in school and 25% property valuation]; and the State school tax rate is \$0.7 cents higher than in 2012. The Town did a complete revaluation in 2012 (every five years as required by law) to accurately

reflect market value of properties in town. This resulted in a decreased property valuation for the Town of more than \$2 million dollars.

A decrease in our education grant is primarily the result of a decrease in adequacy numbers for Richmond. The grant had remained unchanged at \$988,069 for four years (2009-2013). Adequacy numbers should have been updated every two years by the State Legislature, but weren't. Adequacy is based on many factors, including, but not limited to student population need for special education, free and reduced meals, and English language proficiency. In those four years the adequacy numbers for Richmond changed significantly, resulting in a dramatic \$172,597 drop in our education grant.

To counter the impact on the tax rate of the reduced property valuation, decreased education grant, and the school formula change, the Selectmen used \$65,000 from the unassigned fund balance to "buy down" the Town tax rate from \$5.75 to \$5.10. The Selectmen retained \$110,000 in the unassigned general fund balance, less than the DRA recommended 5%, but at 3.8% it should be sufficient to mitigate risk and ensure a more stable tax rate, which the retention is designed to accomplish.

However, given the delay in setting the tax rate, the Town experienced a delay in tax revenue collection. This had an impact on paying our County taxes of \$320,752 due December 17. There is no grace period for paying these taxes, since the County operates on borrowed money all year, paying notes off in December. A steep penalty and interest rate start accruing on December 18.

To insure payment of the County taxes and that payroll, December school payment, and routine bills are paid with no interruption, the Selectmen decided to obtain a tax anticipation note from the Savings Bank of Walpole with an interest rate of 1.40% per annum payable at maturity calculated on actual over a 360-day basis. The Town votes every year to raise and appropriate \$1,000 for the interest on tax anticipation notes. The Selectmen anticipate that the Town will be able to repay this note within 60 days at most.

Now that the website is up and running well, we will be posting timely items for you, such as announcements, upcoming events, emergency information, and other daily updates. Let us know what you'd like to see on the site. We welcome photos, but space is limited so send only your favorites! Please mark www.richmond.nh.gov as your go-to town website!

We invite you to become even more involved in your

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municipal government. After all, YOU are Richmond. If you are interested in serving on a board, committee or commission, or in volunteering in any way, please call 239-4232 or email us through the website. The first day to file your candidacy for elected office with the Town Clerk is Wednesday, January 22, 2014. The last day to file is Friday, January 31, 2014. Have a terrific new year.

Before Town Meeting

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The following officers will be elected at the Town Election on March 11, 2014:

- One Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term
- One Library Trustee, 3-year term
- One Library Trustee, 2-year term
- One Library Trustee, 1-year term
- One Moderator, 2-year term
- Two Planning Board, 3-year term
- One Selectman, 3-year term
- One Supervisor of the Checklist, 6-year term
- One Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-year term

If you would like to run for any of the above, please come to the town clerk's office during the filing period which begins January 22 and ends January 31. The office will be open on Friday, January 31 from 3 – 5 pm for declarations of candidacy purposes only. You must be a Richmond resident and a registered voter in order to run for a town office.

Absentee ballots will be available after February 1. Requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and signed by the voter. Applications for absentee ballots for both the school and town elections are now available at the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website.

Please call 239-6202 or stop by the office with questions.

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2014 Town Clerk's Office Calendar Dates

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

- WED Jan. 1 CLOSED – New Year's Day
- THU Jan. 2 Dog Licenses Available
- MON Jan. 20 CLOSED – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- WED Jan. 22 First Day of Filing Period for Town Offices
- FRI Jan. 31 Last Day of Filing Period for Town Offices (3-5 pm Only)
- TUE Feb. 4 Warrant Article Deadline
- MON Feb. 17 CLOSED – President's Day
- TUE Feb. 25 Last Day for Selectmen to Post Warrant
- THU Feb. 27 Last Day to Register to Vote with Town Clerk
- TUE Mar. 11 Town Meeting, 1st Session (Election)
Town Clerk's Office CLOSED
- SAT Mar. 15 Town Meeting, 2nd Session (Business)
- WED Apr. 30 Dog Licenses Expire
- MON May 26 CLOSED – Memorial Day
- THU May 29 Deadline for Late Dog Licenses
- FRI July 4 CLOSED – Fourth of July (normally closed)
- MON Sept. 1 CLOSED – Labor Day
- TUE Sept. 30 Transfer Station Stickers Expire
- MON Oct. 13 CLOSED – Columbus Day
- TUE Nov. 11 CLOSED – Veterans Day (normally closed)
- W/TH Nov. 26, 27 CLOSED – Thanksgiving Break
- W/TH Dec. 24, 25 CLOSED – Christmas Break

The End of an Era

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

I've always known this time would come. But now that it has, the knowing makes it no easier.

Pamela Goodell, yours and my deputy town clerk and once long-standing town clerk, has retired. Pam worked for over twenty-four years in the office of town clerk, first serving as deputy under then, town clerk Dot Robbins in Dot's home. I'm sure many of you remember Dot's cozy home where she or Pam typed your vehicle registration while you perhaps munched on a freshly baked Whoopie Pie. Sometime thereafter, the Town Clerk's office was moved to the present Town Hall. In 1991, Pam was elected into office and continued to be honored with your vote of confidence in her re-elections until she stepped down in 2008. She then enjoyed working as my deputy, where she no longer needed to shoulder the responsibilities that come with the office of town clerk while continuing to serve the residents of Richmond.

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Pam may have felt like a fixture to many of us, but she is not and never has been. She is a human being who dedicated many of her years to the Town of Richmond and to the office of town clerk with her knowledge, faithfulness, friendly welcome, and steady hand.

I will miss her, not only as someone I have worked side-by-side with, but as a dear friend whom I have had the privilege to see every week. When you see her, please remember to thank her for her many years of honest and hard work.

Richmond Library

Wendy O'Brien

Save the Date!

The Board of Trustees of the Richmond Public Library is pleased to invite you to the opening of special archival exhibit and software demonstration at the RPL on January 21, 2013 from 6 – 8 PM with a snow date of January 23.

New After-Hours Book Drop

In an effort to keep heating costs down, the Trustees decided to install an exterior book drop (rather than having a drafty and leaky hole in the side of the Library!). Thanks to our very own Road Agent Mark Beal and his crew, the new book drop was installed at the end of the equal access entrance ramp in December. Please feel free to return your items in the grey box whenever the library is closed. We do ask that if you would like to donate materials to the Library, do so during open hours to ensure that there is room for after-hours returns. Thank you!

Story times

Wednesdays with Wendy continues throughout the winter at 10:00 AM. We have tentatively scheduled the following themes:

January 8: Snow!

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 22: Jan Brett's, The Mitten and other winter tales

January 29: Penguins and Friends

Come enjoy stories, a craft, and a small snack. Children of all ages are welcome.

Reading with Keeta and Kallie

We have scheduled a visit on Saturday, January 18 at 11:00 AM for a visit with Kate Simmington, Keeta, and Kallie. Kallie and Keeta continue to offer their gentle listening ears for children just learning to read or who wish to be more confident in their

reading. Thanks to Monadnock Therapy Pets, we're pleased to offer each child that reads, their very own stuffed animal dog. Come by for a story or just a pat – no reservations needed.

Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, February 1 is the day we celebrate children and libraries! Please take a moment to stop by with your family between 10 and 2 PM for a fun scavenger hunt through the RPL. We have a great collection of children's books and movies, as well as Young Adult materials. We also have free high-speed wireless access throughout the library for help with those tricky school projects. Stop by and check us out!

Interested in Local History? Want to Find out More?

Wendy O'Brien

Looking to research your old house? Wondering about where the name of your road came from? The RPL can help you with these and other questions by retrieving materials from the Town Archives. A listing of the Town Archival boxes stored in Keene is available at <http://www.richmond.nh.gov>. Using the form on the site, you can request individual boxes for retrieval by the RPL. In addition, our Librarian would be happy to help with locating materials.

An authorized signature must be obtained from a RPL Trustee (Janice Weekes, Peter Mulhall, or Susan Taylor) prior to submitting a request for materials. A copy of the form will be given to the Librarian for processing.

Please note that there is a ten working-day period from the date of the request for the materials to be retrieved for use at the RPL. The requestor will be notified when the materials are available at the RPL for review.

Materials will remain at the RPL until returned to Keene. There is a box retrieval fee of \$5.50 per box payable to the Richmond Public Library (except for Town of Richmond elected officials or paid staff). The fee is required at the time of the request and will be given to the RPL Treasurer for deposit.

Examination of archival materials will be made under the supervision of Library staff. In addition, review of items in fragile condition will be at the discretion of Library staff.

When research is concluded, the materials will be returned to the Keene storage facility. The RPL Trustees and staff look forward helping you learn about our past!



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Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty – Happy New Year!

While I will be with about 130 fellow Richmond citizens at our own (and quite spiffy Vet's Hall) voting on the Richmond Warrant in March, right up the street in February, they will be spending quite a bit more of your money. Please take an hour and come to the Deliberative Session at the High School on February 8. Your voice (if you wish to speak) and vote may be important to your taxes.

As we get closer to January 2014 and the public meeting that will be held (most likely the second Thursday in January 01/09/2014) – some of this information on contracts and budget is in flux. Adding to the issue was the date I have had to pass this article by – December 10, 2013.

Congratulations to Emerson School's Leadership program

(Copied from The Keene Sentinel) Sixth-graders Joey Drew and Rachel Potson and 5th-graders Lexie Carpenter, Gabriel Doyle, and Justin Joslyn were selected by teachers to attend the 6th Annual Northwest Delta Dental Youth Leadership Summit in Concord based on their leadership potential.

Average Cost Per Pupil (ACPP).

State ACPP – \$13,159 Monadnock ACPP – \$16,211

As you have seen, your tax bill increased mainly because of the district costs. The district cost increased in spite of about \$1.5 million in offsets from the state reimbursement of the High School building project, the surplus from the district for school year 2012 – 2013, and the repayment of premiums (directed by the court) from the Local Government Center(LGC). First glance on the 2014 – 2015 budget was more of the same; however, these numbers are being evaluated, and I am somewhat

optimistic that some reduction of the current proposal will be forthcoming. The school board has a goal to get us down to the state average (see above) but, this goal seems to get lost at budget time.

The Resource Officer is now a School Security Officer (SSO)

The district hired an SSO who works directly for the district and has no ties to the Swanzey Police Dept. He does not carry a weapon, and is not stationed in the middle/high school. His duties vary but cover all schools within Monadnock. Because the position does not match the voter approved March 2013 warrant, the school board has decided to have the position on a separate warrant again in March 2014.

Principals Union has Decertified Itself

The New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board (PLERB) notified the district (12/02/13) that the principals and supervisors (MAPS) union have surrendered their certification and no longer represent these employees. This means these employees will have individual contracts – as they were before the formation of a union in June 2010. It's time to move on with these critical employees.

If you have comments or suggestions, call me at 239-4031 or email cmoriarty@ne.rr.com, or call Jim Carnie at 239-4948 who will also assist you with Monadnock Regional School District concerns.

Fire House News

Melanie Ellis

Winter has arrived to New England! According to the Center for Disease Control, January has the highest number of carbon monoxide poisonings and less than one-third of American

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homes have a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is toxic to humans and animals when encountered in higher concentrations. Because carbon monoxide is odorless and colorless it is not always evident when it has become a problem. Often people who have a mild to moderate problem will find they feel sick while they spend time at home. They might feel a little better outside in the fresh air but will have re-occurring symptoms shortly after returning home. If other members of the family have re-occurring bouts with flu-like symptoms while fuel-burning appliances are being used, it may be time to have the house checked. If you think that you are having a problem with Carbon Monoxide, please call 911 and get out.

We would like to congratulate our member, Courtney Mountford on passing her Hazmat Awareness/Operations. Good job Courtney!!! The Richmond Fire Department hopes everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year.

Meals-On-Wheels in Richmond

Joe and Pat Tonweber

A group of interested local residents is gathering information about starting a Meals-On-Wheels program in conjunction with Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS). Your help is needed to determine how many people might be interested in receiving this service.

Volunteers will also be needed to deliver noontime meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Deliveries will typically take an hour and a half to two hours time, depending on the number of stops. Those interested must use their own vehicle and must attend a short training session to become a volunteer. Volunteers may choose to deliver once a month or more; substitutes are also needed. The group is still exploring the feasibility of the program, so no date has been set for starting the program at this time. For details on volunteering, or if you have friends, relatives or neighbors who might be interested, please contact Joe or Pat Tonweber at 239-4563, or Susan Ashworth at HCS at 352-2253. All inquiries will be confidential.

Thank You

Jean Tandy

Thanks very much for their work and the above article provided/organized by Pat and Joe Tonweber. This is a very special effort hopefully to be initiated for Richmond's folks in need. Thank you Pat and Joe for your very valuable efforts. Peace.

RCUMC News

Pastor Arnie Johnson

Happy New Year! Have you made your New Year's Resolutions yet? As I have been thinking about mine, I placed one at the top of my list – to be more of a help to my fellow man and my community in 2014. I think that should be on the top of everyone's list. I have found over the last year that there are many people in the Richmond community that had that same #1 resolution last year and have lived up to it through the whole year. We are blessed with many caring individuals, not just in the church, but throughout Richmond! Thank you for caring!

December was a wonderful month at the Richmond Community UMC. It started with the Holy Sacrament of Baptism of two adults and one child and the acceptance of membership of three adults into the church. The following Sunday brought a visit from one of the Shepherds from the Bethlehem area to relate what happened that wonderful Christmas night over two thousand years ago. The Shepherd was portrayed by Pastor Arnie Johnson. The following week brought Mary Johnson as Elizabeth explaining what joy there was in her house as she conceived a son in her old age, a son named John. The Sunday before Christmas brought to life a lesser known individual of the Christmas story. The Innkeeper came to explain why Joseph and Mary ended up in a stable rather than inside the inn with many others who had also come to Bethlehem to register as required by Caesar Augustus.

And then, one of the most important days of celebration completed the month. The Christmas Eve service was well attended as always. It is such a wonderful time of the year for families to get together to celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, and to fellowship together. As a pastor, it is a wonderful time of the year to see the joy that this special day brings to the people of this community and beyond. RCUMC is blessed with families who have many talented members who love to participate in the Christmas Eve service. Those individuals are such a blessing and give a personal touch to this miraculous story as they share their talents in honoring our Savior.

And finally, in this edition of *The Richmond Rooster*, please look for an article on the attempt to start home delivery of Meals-on-Wheels in Richmond. I was fortunate to have been invited to the question/answer meeting with Home Health Care who administers the program in Cheshire County. It is a very worthwhile program which will help our community. If you

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Wes Vaughan

would like to get involved or know someone who could use this service, please make contact as indicated in the article. This is a community effort, not any specific organization effort.

All are welcome any Sunday, 9 AM, at 11 Fitzwilliam Rd., Richmond, NH 03470, just east of the Richmond 4-Corner Store at the junction of Routes 32 and 119. If you have any questions, please leave a message at 603-239-7369 or email richmondcommunityumc@gmail.com.

We of the Church wish all of you a very Happy New Year! May it be the best one of your lives, and may God bless you in your endeavors!

A New Look at Old Records

Peter J. Mulhall, Library Trustee

Last month I reported on what the Library is doing to better protect the physical safety of our historic archives. Today, I would like to describe the other side of that story – making those collections available. Our goals are simply to let people know what is in the archives and the different ways researchers can query that information and ultimately gain access to the materials themselves. The Library will be demonstrating one aspect of achieving these goals by presenting some of the features and capabilities of the new archival database project on the evening of January 21 at the Library.

Our librarian, Wendy O'Brien started the project back in early spring by making a high level inventory of the contents of hundreds of boxes, binders and file cabinets of these historical items. After much sifting, cleaning, and reorganizing, she created an Excel list of approximately 300 boxes of archival materials. All these boxes have now been properly stored in the Keene facility. The Excel list is in the process of being posted on the Library page of the town website.

The list is a fascinating glimpse into the activities of the town of Richmond over the last two hundred years. There are tax records, property information, school records, town reports, and town warrants. In addition to town generated items there are genealogies, histories and photographic collections of the families of Richmond. These personal items have been donated to the archives over the years. They have been collected and organized by Norma Thibodeau, Ruth Flanders, and others and give a whole other window into the history of our town.

As the list shows, the amount of material in the Archives is rich and diverse. And it is continually growing. We welcome donations of family histories, other historic documents, photo-

graphic collections of historic interest, and any materials which shed light on the history of the town. As allowed by current privacy laws, we also continue to add to our collection of town records. If you want to inspect any parts of the collection, you will find the procedures and necessary forms on the Library page of the town website. We will be happy to bring them down from Keene upon request.

Clearly the Excel list is not adequate for a researcher to probe the contents of the Archives in search of materials which relate to a particular topic of interest. Suppose you would like to look at all the town warrants from 1920 to 1960 which deal with bridge construction and maintenance. Maybe you are interested in all photos of Sandy Pond and its environs around the turn of the century. Or you are interested in family members of long ago. Do the Archives have any mention of them?

To address this issue of effective access to the Archives, the Library has started the Richmond Archival Database Project. With monies coming from donation accounts, we have purchased a new computer, scanner, and state-of-the-art archival software to begin building the database. The database package is called "PastPerfect" and is used by most small museums, historical societies, colleges, and libraries who want to manage their collections. We went to see the software in action at both the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene and the Peterborough Historical Society. Both organizations have been using PastPerfect for more than eight years.

We selected the historical event of the Great Washout of 1920 for the pilot project. One night in August of that year, a freak rain storm struck our town and collapsed the half mile of road going down Stinson Hill (modern Rt. 32) toward Keene. The storm was not only very violent but completely local. Meteorological records in Keene show no unusual precipitation activity for that night. Ninety-three years later, the sixteen-foot gully running the entire length of Stinson Hill can still be seen today. The event was widely noted in our entire area. People came from surrounding states to see the great ditch and have their picture taken in the gully.

The diversity of materials in this collection was ideal for a pilot project. It contains many photos, newspaper accounts, meteorological records, and the historic jewel of the collection – an eight-page letter written by Mary Brokenshire to her cousin the day after the event describing the damage and town reaction in the immediate aftermath. The Washout collection comprises about 100 records in the database. Each photograph

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has been scanned and is part of its record so the photos can be seen and printed from the computer. Mrs. Brokenshire's letter has also been scanned and attached to the record, but her handwriting is hard to read on the computer screen. We will transcribe the letter into a Word document and attach that to the record as well.

This first project is almost complete and we have plans to move on to a more ambitious undertaking, which is to capture the remarkable photos donated to the Library by Edith Atkins. The photographs cover many areas of Richmond over different time periods.

Building the Archival database will be an unending project, just as building the Archives itself. We are just beginning. The people in Keene and Peterborough both told us they have hundreds if not thousands of photographic records which are not yet scanned into the record. This is just one aspect of building and maintaining the database. All of it is time consuming, detail-oriented work in which there will always be a backlog. If you are interested in getting involved in the project, your help would be most welcome. There is much to do. Contact Wendy at the Library if you would like to be trained in some aspect of working with these historical materials. Fortunately, Wendy is a trained archivist and is the leader of this project.

Finally, I would like to invite you to the Library on the night of January 21 (snow date is January 23), from 6 to 8 pm for a demonstration of the Richmond Archival Database Project. Between the Great Washout and some of Edith Atkins' photographs, we will have much to show you and discuss.

Planet Earth: Solar Energy

Richmond (VEC)

Solar energy is the energy of sunlight collected and used to provide electricity, to heat water, and to heat or cool homes, businesses, or industry. Sunlight is a clean, renewable, source of energy. It is a sustainable resource, meaning it doesn't run out, but can be maintained because the sun shines almost every day. Coal or gas are not sustainable or renewable: once they are gone, there is none left.

More and more people are wanting to use clean renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal steam and others. It is called "GREEN POWER." Photovoltaic (PV) solar cells directly convert sunlight into electricity. The simplest cells are used to operate wristwatches and calculators and more complicated systems are used to light houses. (Sydenham, S and Thomas, R. Solar Energy, www.kidcyber.com.au)

Camp Takodah

Linda DuBois

Camp Takodah has seen its last program for the rest of the year. The maintenance department is hard at work getting camp ready for the winter months. Camp can be a lonely place in the winter for the few people who live on site year round, but also is a beautiful place to enjoy the snow and all the fun that it brings with it and all the heartaches also of plowing and shoveling. May everyone have safe and Happy Holidays!!!!

Community Newsletter Forty Years Ago Solid Waste Disposal

The towns of Southwestern New Hampshire, including Richmond will be at town meeting to adopt a new plan for disposal of solid waste. The plan was developed by the Regional Planning Commission in response to recently passed state laws prohibiting dumps and open burning. Sanitary landfills, (much like dumps, except that each day's trash is compacted and covered with earth) will be utilized and the Commission has tried to identify suitable sites which can be used with minimum costs for operation and refuse transportation.

For Richmond, the plan involves use of the Winchester site currently utilized but at a somewhat increased cost. The higher cost, however, will be far lower than if Richmond were to

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Pastor Arnold Johnson
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 9:00 a.m.

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attempt to operate its own facility. The plan is not perfect.

For instance, the provisions for recycling are inadequate – a central recycling facility in Keene would be used, probably on a voluntary basis. On the other hand, the plan is an important first step for our Regional Planning Commission and, therefore, it deserves your support.

The Monadnock Sierra Club Education Committee takes objection to the above proposal and proposes instead suggestions included in a Planning Manual for Solid Waste Disposal Alternatives prepared by Daniel Ellison, Area Community Resources Development Agent, Cooperative Extension Service, UNH, which will soon be distributed to Selectmen and to Planning Boards and Solid Waste Committeemen.

Out and About

John Boccilini

Wed. Jan. 1, Town Clerk's Office Closed.

Thurs. Jan. 2, Dog Licenses Available.

Thurs. Jan. 16, 7 PM. Monadnock Regional High School Budget and Bond Hearing. MRHS Library

Fri. Jan. 17. – 8 PM. Apple Hill String Quartet, Colonial Theater, Keene. \$37 adult, \$29 student and youth

Sat. Jan. 18 – 8 PM. Best of North Shore Comedy, Colonial Theater, Keene. \$23

Sun. Jan. 19 11:30 AM. – 3p.m. Annual Monadnock Bridal Show: Fifty wedding professionals will help plan every aspect of your wedding! Courtyard by Marriott, 55 Railroad St., Keene

Mon. Jan. 20, Town Clerk's Office Closed

Wed. Jan. 22, First Day of Filing Period for Town Offices

Sun. Jan. 26, 3 PM. John Kordalewski Trio. Concert of jazz. 9 Grove St P'borough. students \$12, adults \$15

Wed. Jan. 29, 7:30 PM. Hair. Colonial Theater, Keene. \$49/\$45/\$35

Sunflowers Restaurant, 21B Main St. Jaffrey

Music at brunch 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dinner Sunday and Friday beginning at 6 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 1, New Years Day – Brunch Michael Blake on guitar

Fri. Jan 3, Dinner Walden Whitham harp, guitar, flute, sax

Sun. Jan 5, Brunch Bob, Arpin guitar

Fri Jan 10, Dinner Mike Wakefield, jazz

Sun Jan 12, Brunch Ted Mann, guitar

Fri Jan 17, Dinner John Cucchi, guitar and vocals

Sun Jan 19, Brunch Bob Pettegrew, piano

Fri Jan 24, Dinner Michael Blake, guitar

Sun Jan 26, Brunch. Walden Whitham, harp, guitar, flute, sax

Fri Jan 31, Dinner The Grumbling Rustics

No cover charge. Tips appreciated. Reservations recommended!

Ongoing:

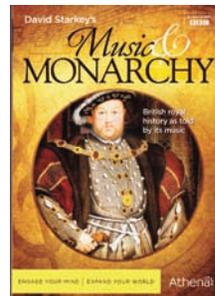
Mondays, 8 PM. Contra Dancing, Nelson Town Hall, Variety of callers and musicians. Donation: \$3. Nelson

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

Thursday, 9 PM. Bluegrass Jam, Harlow's Pub, P'borough.

Music Must Bow to Monarchs

Frank Behrens



Very few Athena Learning DVD sets are less than well done (although the subject matter is usually quite interesting) while others come quite near to excellent. The BBC 4-part "Music & Monarchy" recently released over here is among the best.

Narrated by David Starkey, it tells the story of how the music of the English court and church was changed from the time of Henry V to the

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present reign of Elizabeth II. It is fascinating to see how British music flourished at the time of different monarchs, declined, was replaced by opposite forms, was replaced again by a return of the older forms – and so on, depending on the personality of the monarch and the religious beliefs of the time.

For example, the pleasurable music inspired by the tastes of Henry VIII – both secular and religious – was changed by his young son to very spare orchestration to emphasize the Word of God, because the new monarch was a strict Protestant. Example after example is given, and this is why I can most heartily recommend this set. The music and its performance are simply magnificent.

Some of the composers represented are Handel, Henry V (!), Henry VIII, Tallis, Byrd, Dowland, Purcell, Gibbons, Laws, Lully, Arne, Rossini, Prince Albert, Sullivan, Parry, Elgar, and Vaughan Williams. The booklet lists each of the works in the order of appearance on the disc.

A piece by William Walton was played at the coronation of Elizabeth II, and was criticized as being “film music.” I much admire Walton’s film scores for Olivier’s “Hamlet,” “Henry V” and “Richard III.” But I can’t comment on how some musically conservative Brits felt about its use for the ceremony.

The only flaw is the somber presentation by Starkey and his tendency to ask a guest a question and interrupt with his own way of putting things. Granted that these “interviews” are rehearsed and that each man knows full well what the other is going to say; but Starkey comes out looking simply rude.

Each episode runs just under an hour and there are subtitles not only for the narration but (a rare thing in documentaries) for most of the songs’ lyrics. The usual Athena Learning booklet is a good backup, as are the bonus performances.

Twenty years ago – CROWING PAINS

Sue Laughner

Since the Year of the Rooster has nearly flown past, I have decided to write one final rooster story for the benefit of those who have been misled into believing that all roosters are born with a natural, instinctual ability to crow like the dickens.

My theory, based upon my own observations, is that roosters do not enter this world with the know-how needed to emit the perfect “cock-a-doodle-do.” Crowing is learned behavior, requiring much imitation and practice...and, believe me, I’ve heard enough of it!

We currently have a yard full of roosters who are “coming of age,” and the sounds which they produce in the process, are quite amusing to say the least. It never fails to take me by surprise when I hear the first “practice crow” of the season. Usually, our dog will snap to attention, startled from her habitual nap, and stare at me with a “What on earth was that??” look on her face. It often takes a repeat performance on the rooster’s part before I can correctly identify the sound (which may be likened to the “music” made by a pre-schooler trying out a very poor quality trumpet for the first time). It is painful, for rooster and listener alike.

My own belief is that roosters crow in order to a) show off for the hens, and b) show off for the other roosters. But, if a rooster was denied any contact with other roosters and hens, would he even know that he was supposed to crow?

I have considered conducting an experiment to prove my theory. In this rather familiar procedure, a rooster would be removed from the nest just after hatching and kept in a location where he would have absolutely no exposure to other chickens of either gender. A microphone would be planted in his isolated living quarters to monitor whether or not any crowing noises

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were made once the rooster reached maturity. In effect, he would never hear what a real “cock-a-dooble-do” sounds like, and he would probably never figure it out on his own since there would be literally nobody around to impress.

I think it sounds interesting, and if anyone would like to try it, I’m certain that we’ll have plenty of brand new rooster chicks in the spring.

Meanwhile, we are forced to ponder the timeless question of which came first, the rooster or the crow?

MRHS Budget Hearing

Linda Reinhart

The Monadnock Regional High School Budget and Bond Hearing will be held on January 16 at the MRHS Library at 7 PM followed by the Deliberative Session on February 8 at 10 AM in the MRHS Auditorium.

Quotable Quote

Terri O’Rorke

“I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.” – B. R. Ambedkar, 1891-1956

Buddhist, Indian jurist, politician, philosopher, anthropologist, historian, economist,

Fitzwilliam Inn

Chelley Tighe

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Sandra Gillis, Carol Jameson
Mon. 7:00 PM – ?

Selectmen's Assistant: Heidi Wood

Town Secretary: Beverly Hart

Mon. 9 AM – 11 AM, 6 PM – 8 PM

Tues. 8 AM – 12 noon

Wed. 8 AM – 12 noon, 1:00 PM – 5 PM

Thurs. 8 AM – 12 noon

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Clerk:

Mon. 9 AM – 12 noon, 1 – 4 PM, 6 – 8 PM

Wed. 9 AM – noon, 1 – 5 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 noon

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Denise Nolan

Mon. 7 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 2 PM – 4 PM

Planning Board: Rick Lewis, Chairperson

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

1st and 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 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 noon

Thurs. 4 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

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