



MARCH 2015

## A Gas Pipeline in Richmond? What's the Big Deal?

Curt Douglas

Since the middle of December, I have repeatedly been struck by just how little most people know about the proposed routing of a 30-36 inch. diameter, high-pressure, natural gas pipeline through southern New Hampshire. And, I'm somewhat ashamed to admit, until the letter from Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) and its parent company Kinder Morgan (KM) showed up in the mailbox just before the holidays, I, too, was largely uninformed. Since then, I've spent quite a bit of time working to understand the implications of such a pipeline being routed through our community, and more specifically, through our own property. Using the proposed siting maps, and what I've been able to learn about interstate gas pipeline placement when routed adjacent to high-voltage power transmission lines, the potential impact to our property is enormous. The potential impact to the communities that lie in the path of the pipeline is equally enormous – only on a much, much larger scale. For those interested in fact-checking, much of what follows is based upon information contained in a guideline developed by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America entitled *“Building Interstate Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines: A Primer.”* This eye-opening, 150- page document carries a publication date of January, 2013, with our potential new neighbor Kinder Morgan cited as a “significant contributor”.

It is readily available on the internet: [www.ingaa.org/Foundation/Foundation-Reports/ConstructionPrimer.aspx](http://www.ingaa.org/Foundation/Foundation-Reports/ConstructionPrimer.aspx).

Written into this document are OSHA guidelines for how far away from 345kV power transmission lines one must move in order to safely build an interstate gas transmission pipeline. Sadly, and perhaps predictably, there are no such guidelines for how far the pipeline must be from private residences – where you are likely to find people instead of the really important stuff like poles, wires, and cables. The document was also used to develop the following definitions that should prove helpful as you read the information in the bullet points that follow:

**Operating and Maintenance Easement:** In the case of a pipeline greater than 24 inches in diameter, this is a strip of ground 50 feet wide that is permanently kept clear of pretty much anything larger than a blade of grass in your average suburban lawn. This is accomplished through mowing and regular use of herbicides.

**Construction Right-of-Way:** A strip of ground 100-120 feet wide that is “temporarily” cleared of pretty much anything larger than a blade of grass in your average suburban lawn. This is to allow room for all of the equipment and workers needed

to build a 30-36 inch diameter pipeline.

Of particular note related to the construction process is a machine called a Sideboom Pipelayer, which can range in size up to 120,000 lbs., with a footprint as big as the family room in many houses and a boom height slightly taller than a 3-story building. And they don't roll in with just one of these bad boys. When combined with all of the other construction equipment that will be brought in, you'll think there's a Panzer Tank Battalion rolling through Richmond when these things show up – to say nothing of the blasting that will undoubtedly be necessary here in our corner of the Granite State. All of which should only add to the sense that we're under some kind of an attack... which we will be, if you really think about it.

And here's what the proposed routing means for our family. The information below is derived from Drawing Number STD-INGAA-5, “Mainline Construction Parallel to Power Lines Right-of-Way” in the appendix to the INGAA document referenced above, coupled with actual site measurements made both in the existing PSNH right-of-way adjacent to our property as

well as measurements made on our property.

- The pipeline itself will be less than 40 feet from the back of our house.

- The permanent Operating and Maintenance Easement will be less than 20 feet from the back of our house.

- The Construction Right-of-Way will encompass approximately 50% of our entire home. Not just the ground, but fully one-half of the house will lie within the work area and directly in the path of the previously mentioned Sideboom Pipelayers.

- Assuming it's still standing at the completion of construction, approximately 25% of the garage attached to our home will lie within the permanent Operating and Maintenance right-of-way.

- The potable water well for our home will lie entirely within the Construction Right-of-Way, within 40 feet of the permanent Operating and Maintenance Easement where they'll be using those previously mentioned herbicides on our extremely permeable soil, and within 70 feet of the actual pipeline and the 2.2 billion cubic feet of highly pressurized natural gas it will be conveying to eastern Massachusetts every day of the year. That's billion cubic feet – with a “b” – at 1,400 psi of pressure. For reference, average residential gas line pressure is approximately 15 psi.

- The “temporary” Construction Right-of-Way will require removal of roughly 1/3 of all trees and other vegetation on our 4 acre, heavily-wooded lot, none of which will grow back within the lifetimes of most people reading this article. Which begs the question, exactly what is “temporary” about it?

- Existing overhead electric lines providing power to our home will lie 100% within the Construction Right-of-Way. While encouraged to provide advance notice, the contractor will nonetheless have full authority to completely cut our power for as long and as often as it deems necessary in order to carry out construction.

- Lastly, the contractor will have the right to deny us access to our home during periods considered “essential for laying the new pipeline” and have full legal access to that portion of our home lying within the right-of-way.

In summary, pipeline construction and on-going maintenance carries a high likelihood of destroying most or all of our home, decimating our finances, rendering useless our only source of potable water, negatively affecting our physical well-being and comfort, and completely eliminating our privacy. So,

is a high-pressure gas pipeline in Richmond a big deal to us? You might say that, yeah .

But I suppose it could be worse. I mean, it's not like what they're planning to do has the potential to kill us or anything, right? Well, maybe...but then again, maybe not. Earlier, I indicated that currently there are no setback guidelines for locating high pressure gas transmission pipelines relative to private residences. I suspect that if such guidelines actually existed and were adhered to, pipeline companies would find it nearly impossible to safely locate their interstate gas pipelines anywhere. As evidence for this, I'll turn to an October 2000 report written for the Gas Research Institute (an organization founded by the Natural Gas Industry) by C-FER Technologies (an Energy Industry consulting and testing organization). Data from that report provides some insight into why the industry likely has little or no interest in setback regulations related to the safety of a private residence and its occupants. The C-FER Technologies estimate of the radius of the hazard (burn) area for an explosion of a gas pipeline of the same specifications (36 inch diameter; 1,400 psi) as the one proposed for Richmond is 990 feet. As we all know, the radius of a circle is equal to ½ its diameter and a little basic math reveals that the total explosion and burn area, thus has a diameter of 1,980 feet...or a total area of just over 70 acres. Keep in mind here, I didn't conjure this data up out of thin air...these are the findings in the C-FER Technologies report, a report written for the industry and referenced and entered into the Federal Register on August 6, 2002. I do, however, find one possible fault with the report.

Data collected from actual high-pressure gas pipeline explosions over the last 15 years suggests that the theoretical explosion and burn areas in the report may be understated by up to 75%. But, let's be conservative here and assume just a 50% understatement. This, then, results in an explosion and burn radius of 1,485 feet and a total explosion and burn area with a diameter of 2,970 linear feet...or a total area slightly under 160 acres. What's more, experiential data has shown the explosion and burn area is rarely symmetrical, with impacted areas on one side or the other of the pipeline rupture frequently extending well beyond a radius of even 1,485 feet.

However, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the gas industry have a rather simple solution to the danger associated with high-pressure pipelines in residential areas. *They ignore it.* The benefit to the industry in this

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**If you think that  
the Pipeline will be good for anything  
other than Kinder-Morgan corporate  
profit, then I've got some bread for you  
that will never go stale.**

**Say No to the Pipeline**

dan@dansbread.com



***Something So **Bad** to our Health  
and for our Childrens' Welfare,  
Can't be good for our economy  
A Pipeline that supports High  
Volume Fracking is only good for  
the Corporate economy and should  
be stopped dead in its tracks***

approach is a shift of the risk associated with living in proximity to these pipelines onto a general public that is frequently powerless to stop it in the face of Eminent Domain authority. And what's the benefit to FERC in this approach? Why on earth would a federal commission responsible for regulating the construction of high-pressure pipelines allow such a glaring oversight to continue unaddressed? Here's a clue, taken directly from the FERC website: *"The Commission is funded through costs recovered by the fees and annual charges from the industries it regulates."* Did you catch that last part? *The entire Commission is paid for by the very industries the organization is charged with regulating.* So in who's best interests do you think FERC acts – the general public's or the Energy Industry's? Asked another way, how likely do you think FERC is to bite the hand that feeds it with regard to increased regulation designed to protect private residences and landowners?

But perhaps the real question you should be asking is the one my family already knows the answer to as it relates to our situation: "Hey, wait a minute...as the crow flies, how close is MY house to the proposed route for that pipeline?" If you're within ½ a mile, maybe this whole pipeline thing should be a big deal to you too. As for my family, we not only know how close our house is, we also know the outcome for us in the event of a pipeline explosion and fire within 300 feet of us. Almost without exception, structures and living creatures in such close proximity are completely obliterated, like somebody dropped a bomb on them from an airplane. And it could happen at any moment – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### Notes from the Selectmen's Office

As I write this in early February, looking out on the four feet of snow on my deck and twelve-foot-high plowed piles, it's hard to imagine spring and Town Meeting are just 38 days away.

The Selectmen want to share the rationale for a couple of the warrant articles you will be asked to approve on March 14, at Town Meeting in the Veterans Hall at 9am. [Donations for beverages and snacks will benefit the Richmond Community Church food pantry.]

Two pre-warrant public hearings vetted the operating budget, reserve funds appropriations, and several special articles. We discussed two bond articles, which are first on the warrant, and the lease agreement to purchase a new town truck. After four years of service, the used truck, which the town had purchased, is now out of service and costing too much to repair. With your approval, the Town can purchase a new truck in four manageable installments, with the first payment offset by the sale of the current truck.

Last summer, Ransom Engineering Consultants conducted a Phase II assessment of the Four Corners property prior to the removal of 965 tons of contaminated soil. The assessment and clean-up were funded by a generous grant from the SWRPC Brownfields Program. To redevelop the property and put it back on the tax rolls, hazardous materials identified in the assessment must be removed from the store prior to demolishing it and removing contaminated soil beneath it. The Town applied for a

\$100,000 grant from the Capital Region Development Council for this project. The property cannot be developed or sold until the clean-up is complete. A 20% match is required from the Town, which can come from Town expenditures for labor, materials and administrative work done by the Town.

To this end, the Selectmen created two warrant articles: 1) to create a new Matching Grants Fund to accept appropriations for the match, which will come from unreserved fund balance; and 2) to raise and appropriate \$100,000 with funds to come from the grant. Should the grant not be awarded to the Town, the funds will come from taxation. The project must be funded and we expect the grant will be awarded. The Town was found eligible for the grant.

You may recall that the Town applied for a Transportation Alternatives Grant based on input from Community Forums and survey, to create walking paths connecting the municipal buildings, library, and recreation fields that would provide safe pedestrian access to the Town center. The Town's proposal was approved, but not funded in this round of funding. The Town can apply again for this grant in 2016, and with input gleaned from the first round, our application will be stronger and 'shovel ready' for the next round. The Matching Grants Fund will accept funds for the next three years to provide the estimated match the Town will need to secure the grant. This year the Selectmen propose to appropriate \$44,000 for the Tap grant match, with funds to come from unreserved fund balance.

Please vote on Tuesday, March 10th for elected officials and land use articles. We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting on Saturday, March 14 to approve the annual operating budget and savings plan for future needs which are based on the capital improvement plans developed by Town departments.

As always, if you want to talk with the Selectmen, please call the Town Administrator, Heidi Wood, at 239-4232 for an appointment. For municipal information visit the Town website at [www.richmond.nh.gov](http://www.richmond.nh.gov).

### Town Clerk's Calendar

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

- March 9 OPEN from 4-5 pm to accept absentee ballots.
- March 10 Town Election. Polls open 11 am-7 pm, Veteran's Hall.
- March 13 OPEN 3-5 pm to accept applications for recounts of votes cast at Town Election for officers.
- March 14 2nd Session of Town Meeting starts at 9:00 am, Veteran's Hall.
- March 17 OPEN 3-5 pm to accept applications for recounts on any question at Town Election.

### Town Meeting

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

***As per RSA 669:1, "All towns shall hold an election annually for the election of town officers on the second Tuesday in March..." This year, the Town Election will be held on March 10 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. The polls will open at 11:00 am and close at 7:00 pm. The Monadnock Regional***



***School District election will be held at the same time.***

The business session of the Town Meeting will commence at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 14, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. All registered voters attending this meeting will have the opportunity to discuss, amend, and vote on the town budget and other business on the warrant. If you are not a registered voter and you would like to vote at the business session, please register no later than Election Day, March 10. No voter registration activity will occur on March 14.

If you are unable to come to the polls on March 10 to vote, you can request an absentee ballot. You must meet one of the following conditions in order to receive an absentee ballot:

- Will be absent from the town where the voter is registered to vote;
- Cannot appear in public due to religious reasons;
- Is unable to come to the polls due to a physical disability;
- Or is unable to come to the polls during polling hours because the voter is at work or is in transit to or from work.

The Application for Official Town and School Absentee Ballots is available at the town clerk's office and on the Town of Richmond website, [www.richmond.nh.gov](http://www.richmond.nh.gov). Please remember that you need to email a scanned copy of the SIGNED and completed Application. Return the completed Application via email to [richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com).

You may either mail or personally deliver your completed absentee ballots to the town clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be HAND-DELIVERED ONLY BY THE VOTER no later than Monday, March 9.

As of the submission of this article, I do not have a sample ballot for you to view in the March issue of *The Richmond Rooster*. It will be available on the Town website. Following is a list of candidates running for office:

- For Selectman, 3-yr. term: Christin R. Daugherty
- For Moderator, 1-yr. term: Walden G. Witham
- For Town Clerk, 3-yr. term: Annette N. Tokunaga
- For Trustee of Trust Funds, 3-yr. term: Ann M. Connor
- For Library Trustee, 3-yr. term: Jerry Mills and Jonathan M. Bloom
- For Planning Board: Edward S. Reece
- For Cemetery Trustee: None

I would like to clarify several things. There are two people running for the one available position of Library Trustee, making

this the only contested race. There are two positions available on the Planning Board. Thus, when voting for Planning Board, you will have the opportunity to vote for two people. And since no one filed for candidacy for Cemetery Trustee, the person who receives the most votes as a write-in will be elected to that office. As always, please call 239-6202 if you have any questions or concerns.

**Candidate for Selectman**

**Chris Daugherty**

My name is Chris Daugherty and I am running for the open seat on the Board of Selectmen.

My wife Maureen and I moved to New Hampshire in 1977 from Long Island after graduating from the State University of NY at Stony Brook to start my career in the computer industry. We started our family at that time and bought our first house in Milford, NH in 1980. Twenty-five years later, my first son's family had outgrown their first house in Greenfield, NH and it was time to look seriously at co-locating with my parents who had retired to Winchester, NH in the 80s. I was fortunate to be able to work from a home office allowing us to move further from the Nashua/Rt.128 areas.

So we started our search for a suitable place to build that could accommodate our family's need for homes and our family's desire to live in a rural area. We looked for an area that would provide a healthy environment for raising children, that had retained its natural resources, that had an abundance of trails, streams, woods, and wildlife. In 2006, this search led us to 91 acres on Old County Rd in Richmond. My son's family built their home in 2008. My wife, my father, and I built our home in 2010 and moved in on Jan1, 2011. Today, we have four generations of Daugherty's living on Old County Rd. We still pinch ourselves every morning when we get up and look out the window and see the beauty of the area. As my wife often says, "We are truly blessed to be able to live here".

I readily admit I am a novice when it comes to town government. My introduction to the complexities of municipal government came when we signed a contract to purchase the property on Old County Rd and set out to build our homes. We got a rather quick education in "land use," including wetlands, scenic roads, class VI roads, subdivisions. We learned about Planning Boards, Zoning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Road Agents, and Selectmen. It was quite the learning curve

**2 Seats for Planning Board  
Vote for Ed Reece  
Write in Harry Brake**

**Tues. March 10, 11am-7 pm  
Vet's Hall**

paid for by T. ORourke and J. Boccalini

**Write - In  
Paul Morris**

**For Cemetery Trustee  
Town Meeting Part 1- Vets Hall  
Tues. March 10, 2015 11 am - 7 pm**

paid for by Paul Morris



for someone who had never dealt with any kind of local government. It was a lengthy process, but in the end we were treated fairly by all of the boards and town officials.

I have recently had an opportunity to get a little bit of a closer look at the workings of our town's government, this time sitting on the other side of the table. After retiring from Hewlett Packard last spring, I was "recruited" to take a position with the Zoning Board of Adjustments. This has been a very educational and interesting experience. The members of the ZBA are great people, always supportive and always happy to "discuss" their points of view. The application of the law to cases submitted to the ZBA can be a challenging task, even to members with significant experience. None of this is easy. And every time someone walks in with their application for a variance or special exception, I remember of what it was like for us in 2006.

The two things I've come away with from my experience with the ZBA are that we have a serious obligation be consistent in the application of the laws, rules, processes, etc. We also can't forget what it's like to sit on the other side of the table.

With the opening on the Board of Selectmen, I was encouraged by some of my friends on the ZBA to pursue the position. Initially, I had my doubts. This is an important position, not to be taken lightly. I've done some research into the demands of the position, the Selectmen have been kind enough to share their time, their experience, and relevant material and have invited me to observe their meetings. I believe that with their support and the application of my time and energy, I am up to taking on this challenge. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Why I am Running to be Library Trustee (Again)**

#### **Jonathan Bloom**

As many of you may know, I have been a resident of Richmond since 1987 and a trustee of the Richmond Public Library for three terms until about ten years ago. I am running again because I think that the Library is one of the most important assets of our town, where people of all different backgrounds can come together in the pursuit of books, learning, and entertainment. My proudest achievement in my previous terms was to steer the computerization of the collection and connect the library to the Internet, thanks to a generous bequest from Edith Aktins, former Richmond resident and librarian. In my next term I would like to see library offerings and facilities expanded to all users, from early learners to seniors who can't get out in the snow or use the Internet. I would also like to see how we can reconfigure our historic building to meet the needs of twenty-first-century learners and readers.

## **Library News**

Wendy O'Brien

### **Community Coffee Hour at the Library**

Drop by for coffee, tea, and goodies on Saturday, March 7th anytime between 10:30 and 11:30 am. Chat with your neighbors and see what your local library has to offer! Thanks to Elaine Moriarty for hosting our February coffee hour.

**New! Early Literacy Welcoming Wednesdays** for infants, tod-

dlers, and preschoolers begins March 18 at 10:00 am. Join us for books, music, finger-plays, crafts, play-time, snacks, learning and laughs! The following themes will be offered:

March 18: The March Wind is Blowing into the Library!

March 25: Weather and Seasons

April 1: April Showers

### **Reading with Keeta and Kallie, Therapy Dogs**

Keeta, Kallie, and Kate will be here on Saturday March 21 at 10:30 am. 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. Come by for a story or just a pat. No reservations needed. New this month: write your own story to read to Kallie or Keeta and receive a stuffed animal!

### **Selected new additions to the collection:**

Adult Fiction

*Agenda 21: Into the Shadows*, Glenn Beck

*Boston Girl*, Anita Diamant

*Tom Clancy Full Force and Effect*, Mark Greaney

**DVD**

*Downton Abbey, Season 5*

*The Hobbit: The Unexpected Journey & The Desolation of Smaug*

*Dolphin Tale*

*Dolphin Tale 2*

## **Things and Thoughts from the District**

Neil Moriarty

**A Petition Article** (on the Town Warrant) To Investigate Richmond Withdrawal from Monadnock

I instigated a petition warrant article for Richmond to investigate leaving MRSD to save tax dollars. You will vote on this March 2015. I want to thank those who did the ground work in obtaining the required signatures. As I reported in February, we had started to turn the corner in Cost Per Pupil. However, given all the articles (or even many) pass in 2015 we will give back all the savings progress we made. I believe we can educate our students at less cost – with just as good an education. Given you the voters accept the petition article, a study committee will be formed. The committee consists of a selectperson and a school board member from each MRSD town to study the question and come back with a recommendation to be voted by you in March 2016. *Mr. Carney, your school board representative is not in favor of this article.*

I hope you support my request for this study. Lets find the answers to education and tax dollars!

### **2015 District Warrant Articles (Art)**

Art #1 the budget is set at \$31,539,000 with the default budget at \$31,564,030. As the difference is less than 1%, I am not going to vote either way in protest. It is odd that 130 employees will not receive a raise within the operating budget – yet we could not reduce or standard costs. Art #2 Maintenance of Mt Caesar \$1.1 million all from your property tax. Mt. Caesar needs the work but it could be spread over two years – vote your conscience. Art #2. Art #3 \$100,000 for maintenance. to the high school; including asbestos removal (when you can tile

right over it) – but, I am tired of this fight – vote your conscience. Art #4 \$63,000 for before-and-after school programs; a good program with tax cost decreasing – I will support #4. Art #5 Creates a fuel expendable trust, and put \$5,000 in it from surplus in the fiscal year (FY). I don't believe this is necessary; however – I will support. Art #6 \$0 dollars to be put in capital reserve. This was changed to zero at the deliberative session – for many reasons. This tactic does deserve more attention in future articles. Art #7 \$52,208 dollars for the first year of a contract for nine employees. The budget committee does not support this article; One, we had hardly any time to review this contract; two, its a union of less than ten employees (the state mandated state employees union is ten). I recommend you vote no on article #7. Art #8 \$186,287 dollars for the first year of a contract the MESSA or support staff union. Your budget committee does not support this article – mainly for our lack of time to review it. Each employee would receive paid lunch, that would cost \$191,000 for year one; that's enough to pay 11 employees at there average pay in this union; I recommend you vote no on article #8. Art 9 and 10 no comment. Art 11 and 12. #11 says close Gilsum School –saves about \$650,000 annually. While #12 says keep it open for five years – or commit about \$3,250,000 to run a school for less than 40 kids. Pick one for yes and one for no; I am voting yes for 11. This is an area where it's up to the voter. Art 13 States that all Monadnock schools are important – it was submitted in reaction to NESDEC report recommending the closing of all outlining elementary schools and building a single elementary school on Mt Caesar or the High School campus. Keeping your decision on articles 11 and 12 separate, I am supporting article 13– I hope you do too.

**New Superintendent Hiring** Things are moving forward.  
**STEM and/or STEAM** Things are moving forward.

Thanks for reading my article, if you have any comments or thoughts, I can be reached at: 239 4031; cmoriarty@ne.rr.com; or 782 Old Homestead Hwy Richmond. Jim Carney will also help with district items at 239 4948.

## February Update

Jim McConnell, NH Representative, Cheshire 12  
The legislative business in Concord, thus far, has been largely in Committee hearings. The House has, as of this writing, voted on bills coming out of committee only once, and none of the

bills in question were particularly controversial or widely discussed. That pace will shortly quicken as all non-budget bills not going to a second committee need to have cleared their respective committees by March 5th. Budget bills have a reporting deadline of March 26.

One exception has been a Senate bill, SB 116, the so-called Constitutional Carry Bill which liberalizes our firearms regulations to more closely resemble Vermont's. I strongly support this bill and look forward to its consideration in the House.

The County Delegation's Maplewood Nursing Home Committee has met a number of times and is, in my view, at least a couple of months from reaching a consensus. I continue to believe that repair of the existing structure is both the County's and the patients' best option.

Abandoning Maplewood and building a complex of fifteen individual homes (the so called Green House Model) with ten patient rooms in each building is, perhaps, a better approach for a patient population capable of performing what are described as Activities of Daily Living (ADL), which includes basic personal activities, such as bathing, eating, dressing, moving around, transferring from bed to chair, and using the toilet. This does not describe the current or projected Maplewood population.

The Profile of the Maplewood Nursing Home Patient, December 13, 2012, which was included in the First Compendium Report Regarding Maplewood Nursing Home, January 1, 2013 is as follows:

- Ninety-four percent (94%) of residents have an altered mental status. This means they have a diagnosis of mental retardation, a documented psychiatric disorder, dementia or other behavioral symptoms.
- Ninety percent (90%) are unable to bathe themselves independently and require assistance by either one or two staff members.
- Eighty-five percent (85%) of residents do not have the physical or mental ability to dress themselves and require staff to dress them.
- Seventy-five percent (75%) are unable to go to the toilet themselves without staff assistance.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) are unable to physically move from bed to chair and back without assistance from staff to prevent falling or injury.



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- Sixty percent (60%) of residents are receiving psychoactive medications due to dementia or severe behavior issues. This is twice the national average and reflects the fact that Maplewood admits residents who have severe dementia or behavioral disorders. Most non-government homes have a psychoactive medication rate of approximately 25 to 30%.
- Thirty-three percent (33%) of residents are unable to feed themselves without assistance.
- Six percent (6%) are expected to recover sufficiently to be discharged home in a few months after restorative/rehabilitative care.

This profile, and the likely increase in demand from similar patients as the population ages, makes it difficult for me to understand the thinking behind the "Green House" proposal. Building a facility that cannot efficiently care for our patient population is something the county shouldn't be doing even if we could afford it.

The patients at Maplewood are the County's legal responsibility and, if we build a facility that cannot care for them, we are required to pay someone else who can. By all accounts, Maplewood does an excellent job of caring for the County's neediest patients. Part of the reason is the hospital-like design of the current facility.

By mid-February the County Executive Committee should finish its 2015 Budget Review. My bills to reduce the allowable limit of MTBE in drinking water and to conduct a study of the long term effects of exposure to and consumption of MTBE, are scheduled to be heard February 10th in the House and, if passed, will be considered by the Senate in April. The various orientations I have been attending should also be ending in February. Once my schedule opens up, I intend to concentrate my efforts on sending the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline back to either Massachusetts or the drawing board. I can be reached at 357-7150 or [mcc@mindspring.com](mailto:mcc@mindspring.com).

## Floodplain Management Ordinance.

Proposed Richmond Zoning Change

Part of the Richmond Ballot March 2015 will include Amendment #2, asking the voters to adopt a Floodplain Management Ordinance. The Planning Board worked hard gathering information and reviewing maps showing areas in Richmond that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared as possible flood hazard areas. Jennifer Gilbert the

Floodplain Coordinator for the State of NH working from the NH Office of Energy Planning located in Concord, NH has been very helpful. After much review, it appeared that a very small amount of Richmond would be affected by instituting this program, but there would be benefits to those residents and the town as a whole. There is no cost to join in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for the Town of Richmond. The only cost to our community would be to comply and enforce the NFIP regulations.

Instituting this Ordinance will allow residents in declared areas to purchase insurance in case of flood damage. Residents located in the declared areas can't purchase flood insurance if the Town has not adopted and joined in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).


Many federal grants or loans for development will not be available in identified flood hazard areas if our Town is not a member. Agencies, such as Department of Housing and Urban Development, Environmental Protection Agency and Small Business Administration. Other institutions are Federal Housing Administration and the Department of Veteran Affairs. Federally insured or regulated lending institutions, such as banks and credit unions, are allowed to make loans for insurable buildings in flood hazard areas of non-participating communities. The lender must notify applicants that the property is in a flood hazard area and is not eligible for Federal disaster assistance. Some of these lenders choose not to make these loans. Some residences in town could not be sold as the buyers loan was denied due to the Town not being a participant in this program.

The outlines of the Ordinance will aid in guiding construction practices in Town assuring flood plains are properly handled during the site plan stage. Not only for preservation of our flood plains, but to assure buildings are properly constructed to handle a possible disaster.

Joining the NFIP also allows the Town as a whole to receive a percent of monies from FEMA in the case of a disaster. Richmond with its hilly terrain and dirt roads could be a candidate for such a flood disaster. Who would have thought that Alstead would have flooded because of a plugged culvert?

If you would like to read the Ordinance, it can be seen on the Town website, or hard copies are located at the Town Hall. Floodplain maps can be viewed by contacting the Richmond Land Use Assistant, Kim Mattson at 239-4232 or you can view them at NH Granit View II <http://granitviewwii.unh.edu/> or

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FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer at <https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cbe088e7c8704464aa0fc34eb99e7f30>. Thank you and see you at the polls.

## Reader's Opinion

Sandy Holbrook

With the annual Town Meeting fast approaching, taxpayers will be asked to vote on the proposed 2015 budget as well as warrant articles. In addition, we will be asked to vote on three bond articles: one, concerning the completion of the Fay Martin Road; the second, to acquire the property adjacent to the Veterans Hall; and the third, to secure funding to create walking trails connecting the municipal buildings on Rte. 32 and Rte. 119.

As a citizen and taxpayer of Richmond, I have concerns about the bond articles for acquiring the building next to the Veterans Hall and the bond article concerning walking trails connecting the municipal buildings. I am speaking for myself and not on behalf of any committee or organization in Town.

Let me address my first concern. The article to purchase the lot adjacent to the Vets Hall was on the warrant for 2014 and was defeated. The cost at that time was \$113,000 for the property. Once again it is on the warrant, and this year the price is \$114,000 plus additional expenses. The "idea" is to purchase the property, retain 3+ acres, and to sell the house with one (1) acre. Richmond's zone ordinances specifically state that a house lot must have a minimum of three acres (except for those grandfathered in prior to the passage of the minimum three-acre requirement). It is my understanding that the Town wants to build another building behind the Veterans Hall, which is why it needs the acreage next door. The Town already owns quite a bit of land and specifically land on which the 4-Corners Store sits. Why buy more land? Why not demolish the 4-Corners store, finish cleaning up the pollution underneath it, and build the municipal building on that site? It will be in a well-lit area next to the Police Station. Except for a couple of handicapped parking spots, parking could be planned logistically behind the Fire Station. This is just a possibility, as the probability of securing an owner for the store site is questionable.

Recently, the Richmond Historical Society was offered a gift of land of 2.9 acres. The lot size was 1/10th of an acre short of the minimum requirement. The parties involved went to the ZBA (Zoning Board of Adjustments) with an application for a variance in order to accept the gift. The variance was denied!

Five (5) criteria had to be met and the variance was denied on the 5th criteria regarding hardship even though there was no adversity to the neighborhood or Town. The ZBA followed the letter of the law. My question is, "Why is the Town not held to the same requirements as its taxpaying citizens?" The Planning Board spends countless hours creating zoning ordinances in order to protect the Town, but the Town government can arbitrarily ignore those zoning ordinances! Apparently, municipalities can do this. Should a double standard be allowed? This is not the first time the Town government has been involved in action that is not in compliance with zoning ordinances. I ask fellow taxpayers, "Should Town zoning ordinances apply to everyone?" Please make your voice heard by voting!

The third bond article concerns grant funding for walking trails connecting municipal buildings. If a grant is not secured, this bond article will be removed. My question concerns the location of these pathways? Are they to be built along the state highways? If so, who will be responsible for keeping these cleared in the winter? What expenses can the taxpayers expect once these pathways or sidewalks are built? What is the anticipated usage of such walk-ways?

Be prepared to vote wisely at the annual Town Meeting. Your opinion matters and your vote counts!

## Property Proposal

Municipal Building Committee

The Richmond Municipal Building Committee (MBC) has advised the Selectboard to present to the voters at Town Meeting 2015, a warrant article to purchase property, located at 132 Old Homestead Highway, adjacent to the Veterans Hall, Map 408, Lot 049, (for the total of \$114,900.00 which is the total amount to purchase the property and all the closing costs), to preserve

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This is similar to an article placed on the warrant at our 2013 meeting, which was voted down because voters felt it was premature and there was insufficient information. This time the committee has tried to answer the questions that remained from that meeting.

The 2012 MBC has made many recommendations to help relieve the “growing pains” of Richmond. The space problem that our town has been feeling didn’t just happen overnight, it has been creeping up over the years. After much research on municipal buildings, a survey of town employees, committee chairmen and municipal volunteers was taken of their space needs over the next ten years. As a result of the survey and interviews, the MBC came up with Phase I of a ten-year plan and advised the selectmen to put a plan into action.

The result of that plan ended with an upgrade of the Vets Hall and Emergency Management moved back into the Fire Department. The Police Department moved to the CD building. The Planning and Zoning Boards moved to the Veteran’s Hall and used a small closet in the entranceway to store their records. The Agricultural Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Richmond Conservation Commission, Voluntary Energy Committee, Archives, Richmond Heritage Committee, and other Town Boards, Committees and Commissions use the kitchen of the Veterans Hall for their meetings.

This plan was designed to be a temporary fix to the problem because it did not address the need for safe and secure storage of municipal files and records and the availability of those records. We are presently renting space in Keene for storage of the Town’s retention records and Archive materials. We are in need of space for the election and health officer records and files and also need room for the storage of tables and chairs that are now taking up space in the entranceways and main room in the Veterans Hall.

It also did not address the limited parking space at the Town Hall and Vets Hall as well as the Fire/Police/Library complex. Recently *Keene Sentinel* has done some articles on the dilemma that the Town of Swanzey has been going through with their deferred growth plans. They have no room to expand their town hall or Swanzey Center Fire Department on their present site.

Phase II of our plan is to purchase the property abutting the Vets’ Hall, which will allow us an immediate remedy for our limited parking problem at the Vets’ Hall, as well as room for

expansion when we need it. All this can be attained at very little cost to the Town. There is marketable timber on the property (estimated to be between 5-7 thousand dollars), which can be taken when the logging is done on the Allen Lot later this year. This would allow for the needed expansion of the parking lot, while still leaving land for future development of the property. (Years ago, property adjacent the Town Hall was passed over by the Selectmen which could have solved the parking problem there.)

The cost of the property with the house and closing fees will be \$114,900. A comparative market analysis estimated that the property with the house to be \$120-125,000.

The lot can be subdivided leaving land for the town and the house with some property (which could be sold for an estimated \$110,000-115,000.) An inspection was done by Edmunds Homespect. No major problems were found, the sills are in good shape and the structural integrity of the building is sound. There were some minor problems noted that should be looked into (small plumbing leaks, need for weather stripping and putty, need for a slab under the fuel tank, minor electrical repairs, update safety issues, and some rot on the garage door.) With a sale of the timber this a good deal for the town.

We can’t continue to make the mistake of avoiding acquiring land adjacent to our town buildings especially when there is such limited room for any expansion around them.

## Richmond Community United Methodist Church

Pastor Arnie Johnson

The winds and snows that have plagued New England remind me of a Bible scripture that we need to follow: “I would quickly take cover from the driving storm and from the violent wind.” Psalms 55:8 (BBE) The snow levels in many locations in NH have surpassed previous records! We have been very fortunate to have been able to continue most of our Sunday services, even though many of the congregation were not able to attend through these extreme weather conditions.

But Spring is coming, which leads us to preparing the soil for planting our Summer gardens just as we at Richmond Community UMC are preparing for the Lenten Season – the time leading up to the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, the Passover meal in the Upper Room, the trial before the Sanhedrin, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which began this year on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and will end on Holy Saturday (April 4). Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

We will be celebrating Palm Sunday on March 29 at 9 am. During the "Palm" portion of the service, we remember Jesus' joyous entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches are handed out by children, and festive hymns are sung which remind us of this triumphant story. We will also celebrate Maundy Thursday April 2, 7 pm, which is also called Holy Thursday. It is a service to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper in the Upper Room and the beginning of our sacrament, Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper. Easter Sunday follows on April 5, 9 am. These special services are open to all.

Also as noteworthy is the preparation for a marriage celebration of Wayne Thompson and Carrie Carlstrom, the daughter of one of our members on July 18. We are always excited to see the Church being used for such celebrations. If members of the community would like to use the Church for weddings or funeral services, please contact the pastor at 603-357-2409.

As always, our Food Pantry, located in the Town Hall, is available for those in need. We also welcome donations from the community to help us in this important endeavor.

No matter what your religious preference, all are always welcome at our Sunday Services which start at 9 am with Sun-

day school for the young commencing after the Children's Message. We are located at 11 Fitzwilliam Rd. (Rt. 119), Richmond, NH just east of the junction of Routes 32 and 119. Come and be blessed!

## Knock, Knock

Sandy Holbrook



Who's there?... The Richmond Welcome Wagon! Yes, Richmond does have a Welcome Wagon and if you have moved to Richmond within the past year, you may have met these community-minded individuals responsible. In 2014, a total of thirteen baskets were distributed. Baskets may include baked goods, home-made preserves, business cards, town information, beach stickers, library

information, children's packet from Title I Center, certificates from Fairfield South. Baskets can vary in contents depending on what's available at time of distribution.

Who is behind this wonderful venture? The answer is Karen Daugherty along with her faithful helpers, Maureen Daugherty and Katie Eliopoulos. When Karen first joined the Parks and Recreation Committee, she noticed attendance for planned activities was not as high as expected. She realized that maybe families were not aware of what is offered in town. When she moved to Richmond, she didn't know. Thus, the Welcome Wagon seed was planted. With the assistance from Heidi Wood in the Selectmen's office, Karen was able to learn who was new in town. It does take time for the information to reach

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Heidi from the Registry of Deeds which is why there is a time lapse between moving in and receiving a visit from the Welcome Wagon. The troops of the Welcome Wagon have received wonderful feedback. If you are interested in contributing to the Welcome Wagon or know of someone moving in next door, please give Karen a call at 239-8236. Everyone loves to feel welcomed. Thank you Karen, Maureen, and Katie for all that you do to make this happen.

## **The Winchester Learning Center**

Roberta L. Royce, Executive Director

### **Grants Awarded To Local Childcare Center**

The Winchester Learning Center, a United Way agency, preschool, childcare and family resource center, recently received a grant of \$5000.00 for the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Monadnock Community Fund. This grant will be used to enhance the Family Resource Program that the Winchester Learning Center offers by adding a parttime family advocate to the staff. Autumn Nall, who has a BA in Sociology and an MS in Human Services, took on the position of family advocate on January 1, 2015. This position allows the Winchester Learning Center to offer parent education, and continue offering assistance for families locating and securing resources for food, fuel, housing, and employment.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation serves communities throughout New Hampshire, southeastern Maine and eastern Vermont. The Foundation manages a growing collection of charitable funds created by individuals, families and corporations. Outside the government, the Foundation is the largest grant maker in the State, making more than 3000 grants to nonprofits and nearly 1600 student aid awards totaling approximately \$30 million annually. The Foundation is nonpartisan, frequently playing the role of convener and catalyst on a broad spectrum of issues. Based in Concord, the Foundation roots itself in the communities through regional advisory boards. Funding for the Winchester Learning Center was provided by the Monadnock Region Community Loan fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

More information is available at [www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org) or by calling 603-225-6441. The Winchester Learning Center is a Monadnock United Way Agency.

## **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Richmond,

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Selectman for five years. They have been the most fascinating, challenging, and rewarding five years I've ever had. Challenging, in that municipal governance is different from every other kind of organization; it is close up and personal every day; it defies what those of us in business or nonprofit management consider the norm; it is a twenty-four/seven job, at least in one's head! Fascinating because every day, every meeting brings a new puzzle to be solved or resolved. Rewarding to have the opportunity to support Richmond's amazing employees and volunteers as they devote their time and energy to building, reinventing and reenergizing the Richmond we all want to continue to live in.

I have stretched and learned, and made my share of mistakes. I have loved (almost) every minute, and I thank you again for this opportunity.

I will continue working with you all and the Richmond Community Development Association, to realize your dreams for the Four Corners redevelopment project, your hopes for a safer way to negotiate our two state roads, your determination to build community, preserve Richmond's historic and rural feel, and to raise your families in a welcoming and friendly town. Thank you! Sandra Gillis

## **A Walk Anyone?**

Sandy Holbrook

I'm not very disciplined when it comes to walking unless it's getting from here to there. However, I'm sure that I'm outnumbered by those who enjoy a good walk with family, friends, and canines. We are blessed with countless trails in Richmond. If you're new in town, here are some areas worth exploring:

- Richmond Town Forest – This incredible gem of nature is located on the Athol Road, just over a mile from the 4-Corners on the right. From the entrance, a brisk walk will take you to a trail on the left which goes to the Rookery, home of blue herons, waterhole for deer, moose and other creatures. When staying on the original path and uphill, a left goes down into Massachusetts and a right ends up on Sprague Road. Along the way are cellar holes, stonewalls, a cemetery, and a variety of native hard and soft wood trees. The symphony of nature's sounds can be beautiful.
- Monument Road and Royalston Falls Road – These two areas are accessed by traveling past the Bennett Town Forest on the

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Athol Road and taking a left onto the Green Woods Road. Toward the end of the Green Woods Road, Monument Road is to the left, up the hill, and the Royalston Fall Road bears to the right. Both directions offer a bit of history within stonewalls and cellar holes. When hiking the Monument Road, climb over the Devil's Staircase and pass by the Garfield Monument. Reading *Richmond Town History* will provide some background for the hike. The Royalston Falls Road is probably the most traveled, due the Royalston Falls which is located on the Massachusetts Land of the Preservation. A walk well worth taking. Be sure to wear good waterproof hiking footwear.

- Sprague Road – (West of the 4-Corners on Rte. 119) There are endless trails to choose include Roaring Brook to Whipple Hill, or bearing left up over Parker Hill and coming back down on Toad Hollow. If one is really ambitious, a longer hike into Massachusetts is possible. Again, Mother Nature has provided so much to see through observing eyes.

- Attleboro Mountain Trail (West of the 4-Corners off of Rte. 119 with a right on Lang Road) There is a beautiful trail going over Attleboro Mountain coming out on Taylor Hill Road. The view toward Massachusetts is breathtaking. Also, in that area is the Quint Preserve Trail.

- Benson Cemetery – (North on Rte. 32 from the 4-Corners) Take a right on either the Mill Road or Fish Hatchery Road to the Benson Cemetery where there are endless trails to explore that can take you to Activity Road or to the Rhododendrons State Park.

- Going East on Rte. 119, there are trails at the end of Old County Road. Morgan Road also has access to some great trails, but I'm not yet familiar with that part of town. At the end of Fay Martin Road, many possibilities for hiking leading to and beyond the Mass border. Tully Brook Road loops on over to

Royalston Falls Road and the Green Woods Road.

No matter where you are in Richmond, there are so many possibilities for walking and enjoying nature at her best with friends and family any time of the year (except maybe blackfly season). And, it's free and available.

## News from Camp Takodah

Linda Dubois

Can we say enough snow is enough? The maintenance guys at camp have been very busy shoveling snow and roofs, plowing and moving snow. We have had a few groups come in this winter and they loved the snow, doing group activities and having all the fun that winter allows for at camp. With the Dining Hall all nice and cozy, the fireplace going, having inside games to play, there is fun for one and all. It has been very interesting keeping the homes at camp warm because of the bitter cold. Lots of firewood is being used. With Spring just around the corner, we look forward to having the Spring groups for Outdoor Education come to camp. Spring means warmer weather and flowers, but when you look outside, it's hard to picture that.

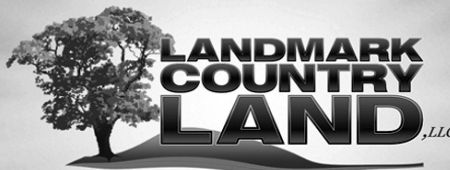
**Remember, spring ahead with your clocks on March 7.**

## Refresh Your Interior with Flowers

Judith M. Graves

Well, hello Spring! It has been a really long winter and one that brought me back to my youth. Snow up to the windows, high piles to dig out a fort, so much snow to move from here to there, and days watching the snow come down. I found myself finding jonquils, tulips, and carnations in the supermarket and thought how do I take them out into the car without them freezing?

Looking at the array of bright colors, I thought, well, carnations are hardy, they're long lasting, howbeit, not my favorite



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flower, they were charming and sturdy as they waited for me to choose them. So I found a bunch with all sorts of colors and it made me smile. In the cart seat they went, and as I finished shopping, they just were there giving me a smile.

I put them in the car fast, laid my sweater over them, and home they came with me. In the house, I got down the summer lemonade pitcher, cut the tips off the stems, and put them in the container. They spread out saying "wow this is going to give a lot of cheer to this house."

I have a shabby chic pedestal in the corner of the hall where I placed this pitcher. It is placed where my 97-year-old mother often passes. She just finds such pleasure in them. It's right where I see them as I descend the stairs. So many chances to make us smile. This same day, I picked up a bouquet of jonquils which went into a smaller pitcher. It delighted us on the kitchen counter. Why pitchers? Well, I haven't unpacked the vases yet!!

Always flowers! It's food for the soul. It's amazing that in the dead of winter we can still enjoy this natural beauty in our homes. When I was a young mother, it wouldn't have been something I thought I could afford. Now, I tell young homemakers that a bouquet of flowers, no matter what time of year, is refreshing in your home. In every room would not be enough.

Now, I am planning for the flowers that I can grow outside and also bring inside. Here are some simple things you can look forward to as the flowers come into our lives, all year long.

⌚ Sunflowers are one the most welcomed hostess gifts ever. I like to pick three long-stemmed sunflowers, place them in a plastic bag with wet paper towels wrapped around the ends, then lay them on newspaper or brown paper bags and tie with string. A most welcomed gift!

I can hardly wait for the daisies to dance in the breeze and to gather them to make a daisy chain. Last year, I wove a daisy chain and tied it together with long flowing ribbons of many colors. I took it to Olivia, a little doll of a girl, who lived next door, and placed it on her head. She was queen for the day as she danced around as the ribbons flowed around her.

⌚ Someone who isn't having a good day will enjoy and even smile when they receive a bunch of flowers. Make a nosegay by tightly gathering the stems maybe eight-inches long with an elastic. Cut the top of a paper doily with an X and place the stems into the X. Bring the doily up to the flowers. Now, take 1/8 inch ribbon pieces and tie under the doily in a double knot so the streamers flow down. I guarantee whoever receives these, for whatever the reason, will be smiling. I once gave one

of these to the mailperson as she delivered the mail. It made her day she told me.

⌚ Little things can mean so much to folks for very little money. Small pleasures made by hand and nature are a winning combination.

⌚ Pansies in a pot with a little tag that says, "pansy means 'happy thoughts' and is edible." Place one pansy on a dollop of whipped cream on top of gingerbread. A Cinderella folklore explains that the bottom petal is the stepmother's beautiful dress, the next two are the pretty dresses of the stepsisters, and the plain one at the top was Cinderella's dress. Enjoy the pansy for its many values.

Enjoy this time of the year planning for flowers for your home, as well as to share with others to enjoy. Happy Spring!



## Valentine Making Party

Karen Daugherty

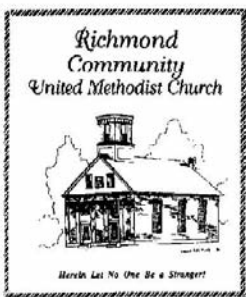
There was a pause in the storm on Sunday February 8, just in time for the Valentine Making Party! The children in attendance participated in a chocolate relay race. They garnished Valentines and romped with their fellow Richmond neighbors. They made decorations for their family, friends, classmates, and sweethearts. Thank you to everyone who participated!

## The Changing face of Richmond

Sandy Perry

On February 12, the Heritage Commission and the Library presented a virtual tour of Richmond, then and now, narrated by Bob Weeks. I learned more about Richmond and its earlier residents in two hours than I've known after being a resident of Richmond for thirty-four years!

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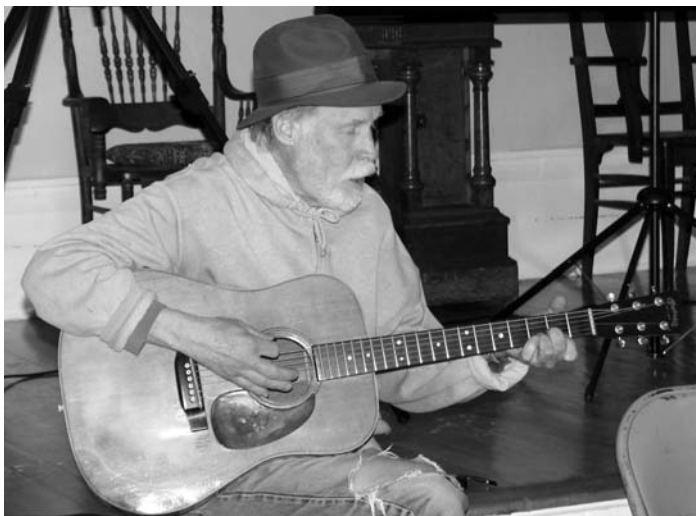
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Sandy Laughner (left) and Bob Weekes (right).

The tour took us north, south, east, and west traversing the one lane dirt road with an open vista, and just a few shade trees. Then to the center with a very small town common right in front of Gerri Brewer's house, once a tavern with a dance barn and a boarding house. The original two-story Four Corners Store, the Quaker Meeting house behind it. South to the former Hines Tavern and Inn, then west to the Harvey house, and on to the tramp house.

The tramp house is one of only four left in New Hampshire. These tramp houses have an important history that needs to be told and was, followed by a visit from a singing, guitar-playing Hobo. We all joined in the chorus with him; he seemed familiar, perhaps Sandy Laughner, an active member of the Heritage Commission.

Pictures of homes that we all pass daily – some displayed with earlier residents posed in front of them. Homes were presented as they were then, and as they are now, and the stories they housed. I'll never pass by the Shaw's house again without a chuckle about the rumored mischief the sisters who owned it might have been up to. I'm sure I will see the residents pictured in some of the other homes as I pass by, and wonder about their lives and times in Richmond.

I was amazed at how many old treasures we have with so little change. Anyone who lived in these homes a hundred years ago could easily pick them out now.

The Library and its many volunteers have worked tirelessly to digitize all these wonderful pictures and history so that we may enjoy and share for years to come. The originals are stored

in Keene in a safe and clean storage facility.

On display were some old road signs and the eye-catching artistry of real craftsmen. The hope would be to change our signs bringing back some of that warmth and welcoming feeling generated by something so simple.

The Heritage Commission reviewed some of their accomplishments and future endeavors. The Town Pound, the tramp house, the old telephone building, and expanded landscaping to highlight our treasures, like the water tower and pump recovered and restored. Thank you Joe Davis for holding on to it these many years!

The slide show of Richmond 4 Corners as it was then, and as it is now, gives pause as to how we can leave Richmond better than we found it? Perhaps we should ask ourselves, "what talent or time do I have to bring these things to fruition?"

## Richmond Egg Hunt

Parks and Recreation Commission

Richmond parents and children, please meet at the Richmond Pavilion, behind the fire station, on Sunday March 29 at 1 pm sharp! We will have an egg hunt, hot chocolate, and donuts. Feel free to bring your own Easter basket or we will provide some shopping bags. Happy Easter!

## Quotable Quote

Terri O'Rorke

*A best friend is like a four leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have.* –Author Unknown

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## Six Ways to Make Your Business a Customer Magnet!

Michelle Connor

- Bring your business closer to customers. Waiting for customers to walk through your door is frustrating. Why not bring your business to them? Send out your flyers, brochures and business cards to help show potential customers what your business is about and how you can help them.
- Make sure that your website is mobile friendly and easy to navigate so your customers can easily find you and find what they are looking for right away. Consumers are using their mobile devices to find local businesses, restaurants and even more.
- Have a Local SEO Program. It is important to have your business information up to date with the correct contact information. Unsuccessful searches often just need a location added to be found.
- Getting involved with community projects and organizations increases your chances of getting noticed by your target market and demonstrates that you care. Being a part of the community can help build your reputation and create relationships with potential customers.
- Offer solutions, not products. Your relationship with your customers doesn't have to end after the transaction. When looking to gain new customers, the goal is to keep them coming. It's key to gaining their trust. This will make them more likely to become loyal customers. Always be on top of the latest trends and give customers useful information that will help them in their daily lives.
- Provide your customers with incentives; something that goes beyond your typical offer, such as discounts, gift cards, etc. to gain their appreciation and improve their experience. Make them feel like they are all VIP customers.

## "Ruddigore" – Cuts Restored

Frank Behrens

When "Ruddigore" premiered in 1887, it suffered from being a let down from the fabulous "Mikado" that appeared before it and from spoofing a genre of melodrama that had fallen out of favor years before. So Gilbert and Sullivan made several cuts and respelled the title to "Ruddigore." When revived by the D'Oyly Carte Company in 1920, even more cuts were made and the overture was changed. The BBC version stars two non-singing male leads and makes even more cuts.

But now, the excellent Seattle Gilbert and Sullivan Society, an amateur group with pretty professional productions, has on DVD a "Ruddigore" from 2011 that not only is a great performance, but has the most complete score to date on video.

Drawing from an opera by August Marschner, "Der Vampyr," and mostly from Gilbert's own earlier work, "Ages Ago," the plot concerns a family curse in which each Lord of Ruddigore must commit a crime a day or "in torture he shall die." I will not dwell upon the scenario (it is easily gotten from several websites). It's the Seattle production I wish to dwell on.

The voices are more than adequate for Sullivan's score. On the other hand, some of Gilbert's dialogue jokes could be

delivered with a bit more speed. Petite Jenny Shotwell makes a properly gold-digging Rose Maybud, John Brooks successfully changes from timid Robin Oakapple to reluctant dastard Ruthven, and Derek Sellers as Dick Dauntless nicely shows how his "heart's dictates" always seem to work in his favor.

The vampire in the Marschner work is named Ruthven.

Highlights are the double chorus to welcome the "bucks and blades," the salute to the four seasons, and of course, the fastest patter song of them all.

Dave Ross is a short but villainous Sir Despard (although he could never pass for Ruthven's younger brother). The price-less contralto Alyce Rogers comes into her own, when as Dame Hannah, she confronts Ruthven with dagger and sword; while Hollis Heron is properly loony as Mad Margaret. William Darkow makes an impressive ghostly Roderic, and Ron Gangnes' (Old Adam) basso nicely supports the ensembles.

Many comic touches, not overdone, are created by Director Christine Goff; and Conductor Bernard Kwiram makes the most of the score. I wonder, however, why he does not use the original overture. Go to [www.pattersong.org](http://www.pattersong.org) for information about ordering this and other DVDs in their catalogue.

Running time is about 150 minutes. I did miss subtitles!

## Richmond Honor Roll February 2015

Neil Moriarty

Congratulations to our young adults in the Monadnock Middle /High school.

One student was left off because of *do not publish*; only these grades receive four honor periods.

First	Last (sort)	Grade	Honor
Melody	Ayotte	7	Honors
Chloe	Buick	12	Honors
Daniel	Heise	9	Honors
Kylee	Hillock	7	Honors
Ethan	Hughes	10	Honors
Molly	Hulett	8	High Honors
Autumn	Love	8	Honors
Whitney	Maynard	7	High Honors
Johnathan	Monson	10	Honors
Marilyn	Monson	12	High Honors
Madison	Pearsall	9	Honors
Cassidy	Purrington	7	High Honors
Eliza	Randall	12	Honors
Lydia	Randall	10	Honors
Breanne	Swanson	9	Honors
Ashlyn	Tomer	10	Honors

## College Honors for Our Young Adults

Neil Moriarty

Congratulations to the following who made the Dean's List at Mount Wachusett Community College: Angela Haynes, Jennifer Haynes, Margaret LaPlume, and Daniel Tague. At the University of New Hampshire, Hannah Bush made the Dean's list.

## Out and About

John Boccalini

**Wed.-Sat. Mar. 4 – 7, 7:30 pm. KSC Theatre and Dance** presents a performance with puppets based on the book by Norton Juster. Keene State Collage Redfern Arts Center. \$10, \$8 senior and youth, \$6 KSC students.

**Fri. Mar. 6, 9 pm. Congo Sanchez** (array of sounds, rhythms, paying homage to the roots of music). Harlow's Pub, P'borough. \$8.

**Sat. Mar. 7, 8 pm. Rennie Harris/RHAW** (hip-hop dance). Colonial Theater, Keene. \$39 adult, \$29 student.

**Sun. March 8, 2 am. Set your clocks ahead one hour.**

**Sun March 8, 7 pm. Lucy Kaplansky and Richard Shindell (Pin Hill Project – Folk music).** Peterborough Players Theater 55 Hadley Rd. P'borough. Presented by the Peterborough Folk Music Society. Advance tickets \$28, Door \$35.

**Sun. Mar. 8, 1 pm. Romeo and Juliet in HD** (Bolshoi Ballet). Peterborough Players Theater 55 Hadley Rd. P'borough. \$20 adult, \$15 students, \$10 children (10 and younger).

**Tues. March 10, 11 am. – 7 pm. Polls open for Town Election (2nd session of Town Meeting.) Veteran's Hall.**

**Fri Mar. 13, – 8 pm. The Machine** (Rolling Stone America's Pink Floyd show). Colonial Theater, Keene. \$39, \$35, \$25.

**Fri. Mar. 13, 9:30 pm. – Ghosts of Jupiter Live.** Harlow's Pub, P'borough. \$8.

**Sat. March 14, 9 am. – 2nd session of Town Meeting, Veteran's Hall.**

**Sat. Mar. 14, 8 pm. – Frank Santos (comedy hypnotist).** Colonial Theater, Keene. 25.50

**Sat. Mar. 14, 1 pm. – La Donna del Lago** (The Met: Live in HD. Rossini opera.) Peterborough Players Theater 55 Hadley Rd. P'borough. \$25, \$20 students.

**Sat. Mar. 14, 1 pm. – La Donna del Lago** (The Met: Live in HD. Rossini opera.) Colonial Theater, Keene. \$25, \$15 students.

**Fri. Mar. 20, 9 pm. – Rockspring** (high-octane folk/rock/grass). Harlow's Pub, P'borough. \$8.

**Mar. 22, 1 pm. – Of Mice and Men** (John Steinbeck's classic tale broadcast in HD). Peterborough Players Theater 55 Hadley Rd. P'borough. \$20 adult. \$15 students. \$10 children (10 and younger).

**Fri. Mar. 27, 9 pm. – A Fine Connection** (Grateful Dead, Dylan, The Beatles, and Jimmy Cliff). Harlow's Pub, P'borough. \$8.

**Sat. Mar. 28, 8 pm. – Bob Marley (comedy).** Colonial Theater, Keene. \$27.50

**Sun. Mar. 29, 1pm. – Richmond Easter Egg Hunt.** Parents and children meet at Richmond Pavilion, behind fire station.

### **RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**New! Early Literacy Welcoming Wednesdays** for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers begins. Join us for books, music, finger-plays, crafts, play-time, snacks, learning, and laughs! The following themes will be offered:

March 18: The March Wind is Blowing into the Library!

March 25: Weather and Seasons

April 1: April Showers

### **FITZWILLIAM INN**

**Sat. Mar. 7, 8:30 pm. – Legacy:** Great harmonies, covers and originals. \$5 cover.

**Sat. Mar. 28, 6-9 pm. – Banish Misfortune:** Traditional Irish music. \$6 cover, kids half price

### **SUNFLOWERS RESTAURANT, 21B Main St. Jaffrey**

Music at Brunch (B) – Sunday 11:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

Dinner (D) – Friday beginning at 6 pm.

Sun Mar. 1 – Brunch – tbd

Fri Mar. 6 – Dinner: Diane Ammons, piano and vocals

Sun Mar 8 – Brunch: John Cucchi, guitar, vocals

Fri Mar 13 – Dinner: Grumbling Rustics, Steve Jones banjo and Tim Mowry guitar

Sun Mar 15 – Brunch: Judy Blake, Ken Hamshaw, vocals, guitar

Fri, Mar 20 Dinner – Mike Wakefield, sax

Sun, Mar 22 Brunch – Scott Mullett, sax

Fri, Mar 27 Dinner – John Cucchi, guitar, vocals

Sun, Mar 29 Brunch – Mike Wakefield, sax

No cover charge – Tips appreciated – Reservations recommended!

### **COOKING CLASSES:**

**Dorry Richmond, Mar. 10 6 – 9pm, PAELLA!** Paella is widely regarded as Spain's national dish. Dorry's authentic paella consists of rice, saffron, tomatoes, chicken, chorizo, shrimp, topped with mussels. \$57.

**Linda Stavely, Mar. 24 6 – 9pm, An Evening In Bordeaux:** Mussels in Lemon Saffron Sauce, Beef with Bordelaise, Potato Casserole, Apple Tarts with Chantilly Cream. \$57.

**Sherry Belotti, Mar. 31 6 – 8:30 pm. EASTER MACARONS:** Delicate and delectable French meringue-based confections made with egg white, icing sugar, granulated sugar, almond powder with ganache, buttercream or jam fillings. \$50.

### **SPECIALS**

**Wed. Mar. 11, ENTREES & ENCORES.** Dinner 5:45 pm. Readings 7:30 pm. A chance to see the best local theater talent "up-close and personal" while enjoying a special meal! Call 593-3303 for more info and reservations.

**Wed. Mar. 18, LADIES NIGHT.** Happy Apps, Raffles, Prizes, 50/50 to benefit a local charity.

**Wed. Mar. 25, MEXICAN NIGHT.** Chef Chaz cooks up Enchiladas, Chili Rellenos, Sopapillas and more...

### **ONGOING:**

**Sun. Noon to 2 pm. Music with Brunch,** Waterhouse Restaurant, Depot Square, P'borough

**Mon. 8 pm. Contra Dancing,** Nelson Town Hall, Variety of callers and musicians. Donation: \$3. Nelson

**Tues 7:30 pm. Celtic Music.** Harlow's Pub, P'borough

**Wed. 7 – 9 pm. Open-Mic Night.** Fitzwilliam Inn.

**Wed. 3 – 6 pm. Farmers Market.** P'borough Community Group, 25 Elm St. P'borough

**Wed. 9:30 pm. Open Mic Night.** Harlow's Pub, P'borough

**Thurs. 8 pm. Bluegrass Jam.** Harlow's Pub, P'borough

**March 8, 2 am**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour.**



## A PAID AD ALL RICHMOND RESIDENTS SHOULD READ

This ad has been written, placed and paid for by some Richmond residents who wish to recognize the extraordinary work contributed by others, people who live in every corner of our town. They are a special group of folks who volunteer their time, talents, energies and even their personal funds to advance the work of our town boards, commissions, committees and organizations. These volunteers differ widely in their demography and geography, but all have one thing in common. That is their willingness to help their neighbors and all town residents by working behind the scenes, contributing uncompensated but much needed assistance to keep our town functioning at a high level.

This is the first in a continuing series of ads hoping to raise community awareness of the many town-sanctioned organizations that our volunteers regularly serve with. It is often said "it takes a whole town" to do something. Peruse the list below to realize what is happening right here in Richmond. Spend a moment thinking about our unseen volunteers, because theirs is the spirit and the glue that holds our community together. *And then ask yourself this: aren't you starting to believe, as do we, that people are feeling better about living here, about coming together as friends and neighbors, about picking Richmond up by its bootstraps and putting its best foot...and face forward in the Monadnock Region?*

So a bunch of us have bought space in the Richmond Rooster as **our** volunteer effort, our way of saying "thanks" to those who are working hard to make Richmond a better place to live. If you haven't yet volunteered, please think about joining one of the many groups listed below. Or if you can't spare the time, please spare a few dollars for another wonderful *all-volunteer* Richmond organization. How? Send a check for \$10 made out to the Richmond Rooster, earmarking your check, "Thanks, Richmond Volunteers," to help defray the Rooster's costs of printing and mailing each issue to you free of charge every month of the year. You'll be volunteering along with us by helping to sponsor these paid advertisements.

*All of us have something to give. Please help Richmond by volunteering, one way or another, to keep us moving forward.*

Trustees of the Trust Funds  
Richmond Public Library Trustees & Volunteers  
The Richmond Heritage Commission  
Police Commissioner  
Safety Committee  
Health Officer  
Volunteer Energy and Environmental Committee  
Park and Recreation Committee  
Municipal Building Committee  
Perambulators  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Vital Statistics  
Retention Committee  
Inspectors of Elections & Vote Counters  
Treasurer  
MRSD Board



Capital Improvement Program Committee  
Richmond Town Archives  
Fire Department & Rescue Squad  
Emergency Management  
Life Safety Inspector  
Cemetery Committee  
Conservation Commission  
Capital Improvement Committee  
Agricultural Commission  
Planning Board  
Zoning Compliance Officer  
Department of Welfare  
Town Moderator  
Supervisors of the Check list  
MRSD Budget Committee  
SWRPC Representative



## **"Poverty is the best friend of an old house."**

Sandy Laughner

If the old adage is true, the Grindall Thayer Place bears witness to it. Built in 1768, it appears to have had a "re-do" around 1810, and then again in the 1950s. Fortunately, neither one removed very many of the unique features the house possesses. The house has some features more akin to the mid-eighteenth century than to the late eighteenth and earlier nineteenth century. The house has no ridge pole, and has gunstock corner posts. The chimney girts are dovetailed into the plates on the front and rear of the house, and reinforced with iron dogs at the joints. And while the house is post-and-beam, it has few posts. Instead, it is supported by 1.5 inch oak planks attached to the plate and sill by big fat rose-head spikes in a vertical manner.

The basic structure is a low-post cape built around a central chimney, there is a large fireplace in the keeping room with a bake-oven and an ash pit. The old tin oven door was found in the bake oven. The two front chambers have smaller fireplaces which have been boarded over, and were a foot deep in ash and rubble. Closer examination revealed that both pairs of andirons were under the rubble. The crane was still hanging in the parlor. The front step, a beautiful undressed stone had about six inches of concrete poured onto it. Nothing but a little jack hammer wouldn't remedy. Miraculously, the stone revealed itself beautifully and intact.

The sills were replaced in the second "re-do" and the field stone foundation was removed and replaced with cinder blocks. Well, the sills were rotten again and at one point, the house was sitting on cribbing at the corners. Miraculously, the old stone was hauled about fifty yards behind the house and left in an untidy pile. I contacted a mason. We proceeded to rehaul and re-

place the foundation. This happened the week of September 11, 2001. We hardly spoke to each other on the first days. We completed the job by the end of the week.

There were countless other wins and losses, too many to mention, but the last hurrah was the hand-split shake roof. It is what would have been in place in the early years. It looked just right.

According to the town history, Grindall Thayer arrived in Richmond in 1765 in the company of two other Thayers – Jeremiah and Simeon. Their relationship is not clear.

The house was established shortly thereafter. I have hearth brick that are conveniently size 3 x 7.5 inches. I also have 8 x 8 and 12 x 8 inch brick. I even have a brick with two finger impressions in it, to check for...what, I don't know. There is a brick in the keeping room hearth that appears to have a dog paw print in it. The root cellar is all brick. I have got bricks! Many of the brick in Richmond came from the brick yard down the road from my house. The brick for the brick church was donated by John Scott in 1837. He had acquired the property some time after 1820, when Grindall died.

I had good fortune when I went to the Registry of Deeds, asking for everything they had on Grindall Thayer. They had his will written in his own hand in 1817 and an inventory of all his belongings which were listed after his death in 1820.

I have lived in and been around old houses since the late 1950s. I've worked on numerous ones and count my blessings that I ended up in this wonderful old house. The generations of those who were born, lived and died here, speak to me. I'm honored and humbled to be able to be the caretaker of this place which is soon to be 250 years old.



The house when I bought it. Note the flat kitchen roof and the Florida style window treatments.





The house as it stand today after all the renovations. As in the old days, it is very cold in the winter.



Old kitchen hearth surround painted in a color to match that found in the cellar door.



Plumbing and electrical panel under the Northeast chamber. The old floor joists completely rotted out. Wiring was still hot!



# EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE 9-1-1

## ***Richmond Rooster Staff***

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Annette Tokunaga, Bob Weekes, Jan Weekes,  
and *The Rooster Staff*

## **Advertising Rates**

**Contact:** Sean McElhiney @ 239-8109

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.

**Deadline is the 10th of each month.**

**Email** – therichmondrooster@yahoo.com

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

*The Richmond Rooster* is a nonprofit voluntary corporation  
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## **Town Business Hours**

**105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470**

### **Board of Selectmen:**

Sandra Gillis, Carol Jameson, Kathy McWhirk

Mon. 9 AM – 7 PM (Selectmen meet at 5:30 – 7 for business  
7 PM – ? for public concerns) Wed. 9 AM – 5 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON (unless otherwise posted)

**Town Administrator:** Heidi Wood

**Administrative Assistant:** Sarah Dunton

**Town Clerk:** Annette Tokunaga

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Jennifer S. Thompson

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:** Kerry A. Boscarino

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 2 PM – 5 PM

Tues. 2 PM – 5 PM in the week taxes are due

**Planning Board:** Dick Drew, Chairperson

Meetings held at Veterans Hall.

4th Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 2nd Tues. if needed

**Transfer Station and Recycling Facility:** 239-8136

Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM

Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

**Town Library:** 239-6164. 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

**Tax Collector** – 239-6106

**Road Agent:** Mark Beal – 903-2184

**Visit town on-line:** <http://richmond.nh.gov>

*The Richmond Rooster*

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