



# **The** Something to Crow About **RICHMOND ROOSTER** February 2016

## Notes from the Selectmen

### Budget Season/Town Meeting Cycle

It's that time of year again. Some important dates:

#### Candidates Night:

##### Thursday March 3, 7 pm at the Vet's Hall

The candidates for election to Town offices introduce themselves and the public has the opportunity to ask questions.

#### First session of Town Meeting Official Ballot:

##### Tuesday March 8, 11-7 at the Vet's Hall

Go to the polls to vote on candidates for Town offices and any other matters (such as zoning amendments) that are acted on by official ballot.

#### Second session of Town Meeting:

##### Saturday March 12, 9 am at the Vet's Hall

Town meeting and vote on the rest of the warrant, including the operating budget and other appropriations.

If you want your voice to be heard and your opinion to matter, attend as many of these events as you can and vote at both sessions of Town Meeting.

In addition to other matters in the town warrant, we expect to include a warrant article asking the Town if they want to appropriate additional funds for opposing the pipeline or minimizing its impact. Some of these funds would likely fund our portion of the legal fees incurred by the NH Municipal Coalition in opposing the pipeline in regulatory and legal proceedings.

Watch the Town website and future editions of *The Rooster* for more information on the Town warrant.

### Other News

We are rescheduling the annual party for Town volunteers to April, instead of February. This will avoid a conflict with the Fire Department schedule.

The emergency replacement of the ceiling and lights in the Library cottage addition was completed in early January. Replacement of the final portion of the Town Hall roof is scheduled for this winter. Painting of portions of the Vet's Hall and the Town Hall is planned for next Spring. Work on the parking lots at the Town Hall and the Fire Department/Police Station used all of the funds appropriated for the work in 2015 – we will be looking to fund and complete the work on the Vet's Hall parking lot in 2016. Other building projects under consideration include emergency generators for Town Hall and eventually the Vet's Hall, and a new furnace and new lights for the Fire Station.

We are considering whether to repair or remove the notice board at the Vet's Hall, or whether to move it to a new location. We have the Town website and the notice board at Town Hall for posting notices, in addition to the Vet's Hall. Do we need a third location and, if so, would the Library be a better place for it? Let us know if you have an opinion. Email the Selectmen at the Town's website or call 239-4232.

Selectmen's meetings are on Mondays at 5:30 – the public is invited to attend. Call our office in advance if you have an item to add to the agenda. Minutes of the meetings of the Selectmen are available on the Town website – reading these will also help keep you informed of what we are doing.

## Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Feb. 9, 2016 Presidential Primary Election

Feb. 15, 2016 CLOSED – President's Day

## Town Meeting

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Election will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Veterans Memorial Hall. Polling hours are from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm. The Monadnock Regional School District Election will also be held at this time.

If you are not yet a registered Richmond voter, you still have time. You may complete the voter registration forms at my office during my regular office hours up through February 25. You may also register to vote at the Supervisors of the Checklist final session before the Town Meeting. This will be on February 27 from 11:00 – 11:30 am at the Veterans Memorial Hall. Finally, it is possible to register to vote on Election Day. Please feel free to contact the Town Clerk's office for more information about registering to vote.

Absentee ballots can be obtained through the Town Clerk's office. In order to receive an absentee ballot, the request must be in writing and signed by the voter. Request forms are available at the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website. For more details about who qualifies to receive an absentee ballot and how to return the ballot, please contact the Town Clerk's office.

The business session of the Town Meeting will be held on March 12, 2016 at the Veterans Memorial Hall. The meeting will commence at 9:00 am. Attending voters will have the opportunity to discuss, amend and vote on the proposed annual budget and other questions on the warrant.

For those not registered to vote, the last opportunity to register will be March 8 at the Veterans Memorial Hall during the polling hours. If you are not registered to vote by March 8, you will not be able to vote at the second session.

Your emails ([richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com)), phone calls (239-6202) and visits are always welcome!

### License Your Dog

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Dog tags are available at the Town Clerk's office. If you licensed your dog in Richmond last year, you can now request the 2016 dog tag online. Go to the Town website at [www.richmond.nh.gov](http://www.richmond.nh.gov) and go to the Town

Clerk's page found under the Town Department tab. Toward the middle of the Town Clerk's page, you will find the link for the online service.

If you licensed your dog last year or have recently acquired a new dog, you need to license your dog with the Town of Richmond. In either case, the rabies vaccination must be current in order for you to license your dog. If you've added a puppy or dog to your family, you are required to vaccinate it for rabies within 30 days after it reaches three months of age or after acquiring an adult dog. Once you've vaccinated the puppy or dog, you can then license it. Please bring the rabies certificate with you when you come to the office to license your puppy or dog. If it is neutered or spayed, please bring documentation to verify that.

Following are the licensing fees. For puppies or dogs that have been altered, the fee is \$6.50. Unaltered dogs cost \$9.00. If you, the owner, are 65 years of age or older, you will pay \$2.00 for your first dog and the regular fees for any additional dogs that you own.

I encourage everyone who has a dog to avoid late fees and/or civil forfeiture fees by licensing your dog on time!

### The Richmond 250 Cane

Sandy Holbrook

Each year at our annual Town Meeting the Richmond 250 Cane is presented to the oldest Richmond resident. This honorable tradition began in 2001, Richmond's Bicentennial year, and signifies the fact that age itself is to be venerated. Our current recipient of the cane was born on June 9, 1919.

If you know anyone living in Richmond with an earlier birth date that may be eligible for this honor, please contact Sandy Holbrook at 239-4628. The deadline for notification is March 5, 2016.

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## The Presidential Primary

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The NH Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Voting will take place at the Veterans Memorial Hall from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm.

On Election Day, you, the voter, will receive a Democratic ballot if you are registered as a Democrat or a Republican ballot if you are registered as a Republican. If registered as "Undeclared," you will be able to announce which ballot you wish to receive when you check in to vote. It is no longer possible for you to change your party affiliation prior to the Presidential Primary. If you are not certain of your party affiliation, please call or come to the town clerk's office. You can look up your party affiliation at <http://app.sos.nh.gov>. If you are not registered to vote, you can register on Election Day.

Absentee ballots can be obtained through the Town Clerk's office. In order to receive an absentee ballot, the request must be in writing and signed by the voter. Request forms are available at the Town Clerk's office, at the Town's website and at the NH Secretary of State's website, <http://sos.nh.gov>.

The completed absentee ballot may be returned by mail or in person. If the voter returns the absentee ballot, the voter must return the ballot to the Town Clerk or to the Deputy Town Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on the day before Election Day.

The voter's spouse, parent, sibling or child may now deliver the absentee ballot for the voter. The ballot must be delivered no later than 5:00 pm on Election Day and the qualified person delivering the ballot must provide proof of identification either with a government-issued photo ID or with verification by the Town Clerk. I recommend, if you are the qualified person returning an absentee ballot for a voter, that you bring a government-issued photo ID. In this way, you are not

relying on the Town Clerk/Deputy to remember who you are. You must always hand the absentee ballot directly to the Town Clerk or the Deputy Town Clerk. Do not leave the ballot in any receptacle, on a counter (even the Town Clerk's counter) or with someone other than the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk.

Please call 239-6202 if you have any questions.

## Library News

Paul Dobbs

I'm very happy to be the new librarian at the Richmond Public Library. I'm enjoying getting to know the library collection and people of Richmond. I think the RPL is a terrific community resource! If we haven't met yet, please drop by anytime during our open hours: Tuesdays 3-7, Wednesdays 9-noon, Thursdays 3-7, and Saturdays 10-2.

### Early Literacy

Parents of young children don't forget about our Early Literacy Program on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11:30. Volunteer Elaine Moriarty leads this wonderful program for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers that includes books, music, finger puppets, crafts, playtime, snacks, learning, and laughs. Reading to kids at an early age improves their vocabulary and increases their interest in reading.

### Renovations

Renovations of the Edith Atkins Room are proceeding apace. We already have new lighting and new table and counter space. More enhancements will follow! We're on our way to having a great space for working with computers and books and holding small meetings and classes. Come in to check it out!


### Downloading Books, Magazines, Audio Books, and Videos for Free

Do you listen to audio books, watch DVDs, or read books and magazines on your computer, tablet, or

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## Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty

***The Deliberative session is Saturday, February 6, 2016, 10:00 am at the High School (most likely in the Auditorium) – see you all there, RIGHT?***

### Honor Roll First Tri-Mester revisited

Apologies to Ms. Aderyn Daugherty – her name was misspelled in the January 2016 Honor Roll write up. Additionally, Ms Bridget VanValzah's name was moved to a separate column without a heading in the same issue. These two kids make the Honor Roll every time. Let's try it again for them:

Aderyn Daugherty Honor Roll Cutler

Bridget VanValzah Honor Roll Cutler

***Great jobs girls – keep up the good work!***

**Summary of Warrant Articles with Funding:** (The full Warrant for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017 will be on the District website)

**Note:** Your school board members support all articles but #1. They have not yet taken any position as they have not seen #1 before *The Rooster* deadline.

#1. Operating budget \$31,820,000, (\$970,000 food program) the default budget will be \$31,945,801 (also \$970,000 for food)

#2. Mt Caesar Building Upgrade \$1.1 million

#3. Asbestos Abatement High School \$50,000

#4. Before and After School Program \$89,500

#5. Given an end of year surplus in Fiscal Year 2016-17, put \$50,000 in to the Fuel Trust. With fuel cost falling to near record lows; it might be prudent to reduce the amount on February 6.

#6. No cost, closes old Capital Reserve and moves money to modern Trust

#7. Teacher Contract cost FY 2016-2017 is \$274,695. Your Budget Committee Recommends a NO Vote Here. Mr. Carnie, your School Board representative is opposed to article #7

#8. Add another Officer part time at Middle/High school \$59,645. Your Budget Committee Recommends a NO Vote Here

Thanks for reading my article. If you have thoughts, ideas, or questions, you can contact me at 239-4031; [cmoriarty@ne.rr.com](mailto:cmoriarty@ne.rr.com); or 782 Old Homestead Hwy Richmond. Jim Carnie will also help with district items at 239-4948. See you Saturday!!!

## Early Literacy

Elaine Moriarty

Early Literacy is a program for Richmond youngsters at the Richmond Library on Wednesdays at 10:00 am.

Our schedule for February:

Feb 3, Things I Can Do

Feb 10, Be My Valentine

Feb 17, Ten Little Rabbits

Feb 24, Olivia's Band\

Please join us for stories, crafts, finger-plays, snacks.

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## January Update

Jim McConnell – State Representative  
Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanzey

There isn't much to report at this point as the legislature is barely into its session and we've had only one of probably four County Executive Committee meetings prior to completing the County budget.

The following are pipeline bills. This list includes my bills and those of other Representatives as well.

### *Pipeline Bills:*

**HB 1101:** Prohibiting charges to New Hampshire residents for the construction of a high pressure gas pipeline – prohibits the imposition of any tariff, tax, or fee on any state resident for the construction of a high pressure gas pipeline

**HB 1140:** Relative to financial responsibility for gas transmission pipelines – requires owners of gas transmission pipelines to procure and maintain insurance or provide a bond against any loss resulting from failure or malfunction of a pipeline

**HB 1146:** Relative to Certificates of Site and Facility – requires a Certificates of Site and Facility to contain certain conditions and to provide for monitoring

**HB 1148:** Relative to pipeline capacity contracts – requires the Public Utility Commission to determine whether any pipeline capacity contract is in the public interest

**HB 1149:** Requiring a royalty on the price of natural gas conveyed by pipeline intended for use in a foreign country – requires utilities and pipeline companies to pay a royalty on certain pipelines intended for or sold for use in a foreign country

**HB 1172:** Relative to the siting of certain new pipelines and storage vessels – requires new construction of certain underground pipelines and storage tanks to be below the frost line

**HB 1533:** Relative to noise level limitations for permanent machinery – enables towns and cities to regulate noise level limitations for permanent machinery

**HB 1109:** Relative to notice of offer for property in eminent domain cases and making the condemning entity liable for reasonable attorney's fees in certain cases – declares if it is determined that a property was undervalued by more than 20 percent, the condemning authority would be liable to the property owner for his or her reasonable attorney's fees and establishes a percent-

age of fair market value for the notice of offers of property proposed to be taken by eminent domain

**HB 1544:** Establishing a tax on revenues from natural gas transmission – establishes a tax on revenues received under contracts for natural gas transmission via in-state pipelines

**HB 1174:** Relative to energy sources for new natural gas transmission compressor stations – requires certain compressor stations for natural gas transmission to obtain power from external electric energy sources

**HB 1660:** Relative to eminent domain for gas pipelines and relative to assessment of the land use change tax for eminent domain takings for energy infrastructure – allows an owner of land to require a pipeline company to take an entire tract of land under eminent domain, allows for pipeline company eminent domain takings to include public lands with consent of the legislative body, and provides for assessment of the land use change tax for certain eminent domain takings of land for energy infrastructure

### *The following are my House Resolution and my other bills:*

**House Resolution 16:** Calling on the United States Senate and House of Representatives to consider a constitutional amendment prohibiting campaign contributions unless the donor is eligible to vote in that election

**HB 1147:** Requiring a report on federal landholdings within the state and establishing a moratorium on federal land acquisitions.

**HB 1181:** Relative to designating an alternate cemetery trustee

**HB 1183:** Relative to election result recounts establishing a procedure to end an election recount

**HB 1254:** Providing an exemption from the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax for certain manufacturing businesses that start up or relocate to Coos, Grafton, Carroll, Sullivan or Cheshire county

**HB 1291:** Eliminating the Land Use Board, establishing an advisory board, and requiring approval of federal land acquisitions by the governor, executive council, and General Court

**HB 1439:** Requiring Regional Planning Commissions to file an annual report and make available to the public an annual report of the terms and conditions of all grants received

**HB 1555:** Relative to the manner in which New Hamp-

shire takes possession of land under eminent domain allowing the condemnee to refuse an offer from the condemnor. Under the bill, the condemnor may make a new offer 180 days after the initial offer.

In addition to these bills, I am also a co-sponsor of a number of additional bills.

Go to <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us> to read and track these bills and go to the top right section, with the pink top border, and enter the bill number in the last line where it says find a 2016 Bill. Put in HB and the bill number and select Find Now.

The General Court recently installed a new computer system and it still has some glitches, one of which is that it deletes sponsors and cosponsors names. If you don't see me on a bill listed above, don't worry about it, you're reading the right bill if you're on the right bill number.

I can be reached at 903-3878, which is my cell phone. I have decided it is much more efficient to use my cell phone as I'm frequently away from my desk and I'd rather take a call than return one. My personal email is [mcc@mindspring.com](mailto:mcc@mindspring.com). Please use my personal email as my legislative email is inundated from both out of state interest groups and individuals and I'd like to make sure that you, my constituents, can reach me when you want to and not get lost in the shuffle.



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## Tramp House Hoedown

Bob Weekes

The restoration of the historic Richmond Tramp House as a mini-museum in its own vest pocket park has now been completed. Together with the Public Library, Richmond's former Schoolhouse #6 across Route 119, the Town now has a new historic center approaching the Four Corners we can all be proud of. That happened because hundreds of Richmond residents and friends from out of town came together and supported the work of the all-volunteer Richmond Heritage Commission that directed this project. As our way of saying thank you, the Heritage Commission has planned an evening of great music to celebrate this town-wide collaboration!

On Saturday, February 27, plow through the snow drifts to the Vet's Hall at 7 pm for an evening of pure fun, what we are calling a **Tramp House Hoedown**. This will be a free bluegrass concert featuring the *Centre Streeters*, a talented bluegrass band from neighboring Dover, Massachusetts. Munch on finger foods while you tap your feet to great picking, fiddling, and singing. And after the concert, enjoy some special dessert while you savor the entertainments of the evening. You'll also learn what historic preservation projects the Heritage Commission has planned for 2016.

Here are the details. Our theme is **Tramp House Hoedown** and we're serious! Dress down!!! We're asking "Tramp Housers" to wear their worst clothes. In fact, we will award prizes to the people who dress the most disreputably (judged by Harry the Hobo himself)! Bring your own beverages (any kind) to enjoy during the music. We'd also like you to bring appropriate containers to drink them out of, preferably tin cans or cups, or Mason jars (in keeping with the Tramp House theme). You can even sample some of our delicious non-alcoholic Tramp House Punch if you like. Ice will be provided for your drinks.

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The cost to you: again, absolutely nothing, which is what a night in the Tramp House cost its guests a century ago. (This evening is entirely paid for by private donations). The only thing you have to do (*and this is important*) is call one of our Richmond Heritage Commission members, either Bonnie McCarthy (239-4088), Susie Roney (239-4613) or Bob Weekes (239-6533) no later than Feb. 25 to let us know if you are coming and how many people you'll bring with you. That will give us a head count for planning food and chairs.

Let's have an historic gathering at the Vets Hall on February 27.

## NED Pipeline is NOT needed here now

Jim McConnell – State Representative

Cheshire 12 – Richmond & Swanzy

*Reprint of Article from Keene Sentinel Posted:*

*Sunday, January 17, 2016*

One of the largest proposed energy projects in this region's history, the Northeast Energy Direct pipeline would transmit 1.2 dekatherms per day of natural gas from shale gas fields in northern Pennsylvania to Dracut, MA. Of the project's 419 miles, 72 would traverse nineteen New Hampshire communities, among them Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Rindge, Troy and Winchester.

Some of the opposition to the pipeline is ideological. Environmentalists oppose the use of fossil fuels generally, and/or the process of fracking, by which the shale gas is obtained. Some also question the potential use of eminent domain to pry land from reluctant property owners along the path, a measure allowed under federal law in siting pipelines. And some say a community should have the power to deny such a large-scale project.

There are issues any large pipeline would raise, regarding wetlands, water and air quality, emergency response, noise and health issues, construction and dis-

ruption. There are property issues – not only how much property owners along the path would be paid under eminent domain, but also the effect having a 30-inch gas pipeline running through town would have on nearby property values. There is the very real prospect that some area residents could see the investment they've made in their homes and land ruined by this project, with no recourse.

There is also opposition to the company involved. The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company is a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan, a Texas energy giant. There are critics of Kinder Morgan who point to the company's safety record and question whether this pipeline would pose a danger. There is also a question of Kinder Morgan's financial health. [The Motley Fool](#), an investors' website, counted it among the ten worst-performing S&P 500 stocks of 2015 and in early December, Moody's downgraded Kinder Morgan's risk, forcing the company to reduce a planned dividend by 75 percent.

And there are questions specific to this plan, such as efforts to make New England Electric ratepayers foot the bill for the \$5 billion project. The company has lobbied each of the states within the ISO-New England power grid to argue that ratepayers will benefit and, therefore, should ensure construction. According to the Conservation Law Foundation, which has filed to

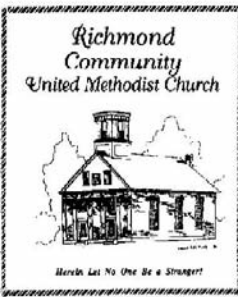


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intervene in the regulatory process in opposition to the project, this is key to gaining approval, because Kinder Morgan so far hasn't found enough takers to demonstrate demand for this large a project. Instead, it aims to have the New England states guarantee the risk with the hope of lowering prices, something the CLF argues is illegal under the Federal Power Act.

As the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which will approve or deny the pipeline, settles in to consider it, it will balance all of those negatives – certain or potential – against the need for more energy in the region.

That's the entire equation. Picture a balancing scale with many stones weighing down one pan, and one big rock – the demand for gas – sitting in the other. Thus, the big question is solely this: How much is this gas needed in New England? The answer, at this time, appears to be not enough to counter the negative effects of the project. Kinder Morgan and business interests have made the case that gas is needed here for energy reliability, particularly during those winter periods when heating homes and power-grid needs collide.

In early 2013, there was a spike in energy prices when electricity providers were caught short of power during a cold snap. Essentially, home heating companies have first dibs on the region's natural gas supply. When there's a cold snap, that demand rises, and the gas available for power generation drops. In 2013, power companies didn't have adequate backup plans in place to deal with this, and briefly had to buy energy on the spot market, causing the price spike.

According to a recent study commissioned by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, rules are now in place that will force providers to the regional grid to have backup sources of energy in such cases, so they won't be at the mercy of the spot market. Further, the report says, energy-efficiency gains in recent years have stabilized the region's energy demands, so the situation

won't worsen. Overall, the report finds, there should be no need for Kinder Morgan's gas in the region over the next fifteen years.

We agree that having more energy available is a good thing, and that the region can't keep saying "no" to projects based on "not-in-my-backyard" arguments as smell or unsightliness if the case for energy need is compelling.

However, there are several other projects underway or proposed that would bring power to the region. Further, during the next 15 years technological advances may make the need for such huge infrastructure projects obsolete. In the meantime, either there is an urgent need for this gas or there is not, and those for and against the pipeline disagree on this most-important point.

We find less reason to question the Bay State's principal legal agency than anyone else weighing in on the project so far. That office has nothing to gain from either knocking or advancing the project. If the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office report is accurate, the overriding need for more power is far smaller than its proponents are claiming. Based on arguments made by the parties thus far, the disruptions and downsides far outweigh the benefits.

## Richmond Community UMC

Pastor Arnie Johnson

Well, the Holy Days of Christmas are finished for 2015 and the opening of gifts has been completed. We hope that all your received gifts were as meaningful and joyously received as the gift we have all received from the birth of The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

We have received many requests to have Dan Schall and the Kempter Family back at the Church, so we are once again developing plans to have them return to minister through word and song. We will keep you informed as to the dates and times.

Some events to look forward to in the next several



months are Ash Wednesday, February 10, service at 7 pm; Boy Scout Sunday, February 14, 9 am which is also the First Sunday in Lent; Girl Scout Sunday, March 6, 9 am; Palm Sunday, March 20, 9 am; Maundy Thursday, March 24, service at 7 pm; and Easter Sunday, March 27, 9 am. All are welcome at any service.

Come join us at our regularly scheduled Sunday services at 9 am in the Old Brick Church located at 11 Fitzwilliam Road in Richmond, just east of the junction of Routes 32 and 119. Come and be blessed!

Shalom, Pastor Arnie Johnson

## **A Lament Inspired by a Visit to the Local Landfill**

Bob Weekes

*This article is reprinted in its entirety from the Winter/Spring 2016 issue of Appalachia, America's longest running Journal of Mountaineering and Conservation, published by the Appalachian Mountain Club.*

One afternoon last winter, I decided to get rid of some of the stuff that has been in storage here at my farm, awaiting a day that will never come when it might find use again. I'm not talking about the material things we live with by choice because they furnish our present lifestyle. I'm talking about things that fit an earlier lifestyle, back when I was doing things I no longer do.

I drove to our town's landfill with a lifetime assemblage of mountaineering equipment dumped at random into a large open carton where it had lain for years. It wasn't pretty. Much of it was mouse infested and in bad shape (backpacks, headlamps, ropes, gaiters, balaclavas). And most of it was obsolete by today's standards. (Might that be a metaphor that runs through this lament?) I'll start with my still serviceable 12-point steel crampons. Their only design flaw is that one needs bare hands to work the small clips and straps that affix

them tightly to climbing boots. Bare hands can be a problem in sub-zero temperatures on winter climbs. That's why today, we have high-tech step-in crampons. (By the way, the heavy winter hiking boots, and I mean heavy, were discarded years ago)

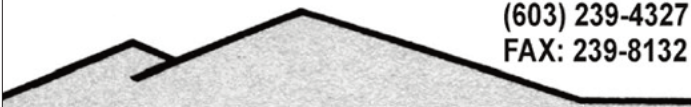
This spur-of-the-moment load of stuff, now trash, truly shook me up. Each article conjured up vivid memories of when and where it had served me well, when it (and I guess I) was not approaching obsolescence.

The trash compactor is now home to my beloved Eureka Backpacker aluminum-frame 2-person tent. That's where my dearly departed first wife and I bedded down up in Baxter State Park when I first climbed Katahdin a half century ago. While I was summiting, Carol met her first moose on a hike to Sandy Pond. After a brief staring contest, she beat a hasty retreat back to the relative safety of our tent. That same tent later kept a million hungry blackflies at bay on an overnight canoe trip on the Saco River, sheltered me from monsoon rains when I was exploring New Jersey's Pine Barrens, and it was my recovery room when I injured my ankle during a remote climb out in Wyoming's Wind River Range.

I tossed out the Coleman stove that boiled water for countless freeze-dried meals on climbs from Maine all the way to California. I remembered how hikers and climbers will wolf down anything they can mix with boiling water as their reward for a day of self-reliance in the wilds.

Parting with those steel crampons I already mentioned really made me pause. They allowed purchase on rock hard ice and in hurricane force winds on annual winter climbs across the Alpine Garden on Mt. Washington, over a period of 25 years. Why would mountaineers gather each year on Washington's Birthday to climb through what is acknowledged to be the "World's Worst Weather?" Because it's there, I guess.

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I let go of headlamps that pierced the darkness when I needed to see at night but still have my hands free. They lit the trail when I began a solo climb of Longs Peak in the front range of the Colorado Rockies at 3 am in total blackout. They helped me find a pack of Tums in the recesses of my backpack after consuming an entire bag of freeze-dried Chili Mac With Beef. And they certainly came in handy when I had to exit my sleeping bag at midnight on chilly nights to find an appropriate backcountry spot for...

And what further use would I have for my glacier glasses today, even though they were a must to filter out UV rays in high thin air during climbs on the Grand Teton, Mt. Rainier and Mt. Whitney. Just “stuff” taking up space, stuff I would never need again.

I saved a few things, like heavy mountaineering gloves and mittens in good shape (not nourishing enough for the mice, I guess). Maybe I can use them when I shovel my New Hampshire roof. I also saved my best backpacks and sleeping bags, ones that accompanied my wife, Jan, and me on last summer’s hike over the Continental Divide to the Granite Park Chalet in Glacier National Park.

And I’ll never part with my ancient and well scarred ice axe. Today’s high-tech versions are made of chromoly steel with aluminum alloy shafts. You’ll only find one with a wooden shaft like mine in an antique shop. Mine also has a tight fitting leather cover, the envy of climbers who wanted to buy it. It was hand crafted by an old friend, Windy Reed, of Gageville, Vermont. Windy has been gone for more than 30 years, but that trusty ice axe with its custom leather cover has a stubborn history. It won’t leave until I do.

It was a bit depressing that parts of life’s journey wind up at the landfill. But my long-term memory is amazing. I fixed on one item at a time, and up popped a dozen memories. Driving away, I spotted the landfill

attendant in the rear view mirror. He scrutinized the contents of my large carton, perhaps looking for something of value. “Just worthless old stuff,” I imagined him saying. He’ll never know that to me it was much more than that.

## Christmas Party

Karen Daugherty

The Richmond Christmas party was a blast! “The Grinch” was shown at the Veteran’s Hall. In the kitchen area kids made wreaths, designed Christmas cards, colored Christmas pages, made a Count Down to Christmas chain, and read a selection of Christmas stories.



Refreshments were available and enjoyed by all. To end the evening there was a contest for dressing up for the party. Prizes went to the following individuals: **Best Accessories:** Ginger Coffin, **Most Festive:** Aderyn Daugherty, **Most Red:** Abigail Daugherty, **Most Unique:** Mason Harrington, and **Most Green:** Bridget

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VanValzah. Over forty townspeople attended, and we hope they all had a great time!



## Out and About

John Boccalini

**AREA MUSIC See Calendar – ONLINE**

**Sat. Feb. 6, 10 am – Monadnock District Deliberative Session.** Monadnock Regional High School.

**Sat. Feb. 6, 10 am – 4 pm Keene Ice & Snow Festival.** Downtown Keene.

**Sun. Feb. 7, 1 pm – *Coriolanus* by William Shakespeare.** Arts on Screen at Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Rd. Peterborough. \$20/students \$15.

**Sun. Feb. 14, 3 pm – *The Faces of Love: A Valentine's Concert*,** Virginia Eskin, Jose Lezcano, and Jazimina MacNeil. Bass Hall, The Monadnock Center for History and Culture, 19 Grove St. P'borough. Tickets \$18/\$15 members, seniors, students.

**Tues. Feb. 9, 8 am –7 pm – Presidential Primary.** Veterans' Hall, 150 Old Homestead Hwy., Richmond.

**Sat. Feb. 27, 7 pm – Tramphouse Hoedown.** Free bluegrass concert by the Centre Steeters. Vet's Hall, Richmond, NH. See article pp6 – 7.

**Sat. Feb. 27, 8 pm – 10,000 Maniacs.** Colonial Theater, Keene. \$29-\$42.

**Sun. Feb. 28, 1 pm – *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare.** Arts on Screen at Peterborough Players, 55 Hadley Rd. P'borough. \$20/students \$15.

## Library

**Weds. 10 am:** Stories, finger-plays, snacks, and crafts.

Feb 3, Things I Can Do

Feb 10, Be My Valentine

Feb 17, Ten Little Rabbits

Feb 24, Olivia's Band

## Fitzwilliam Inn

Fall Hours: Open Wednesday – Saturday at 4 pm.

Wednesday is Pub Menu and Open Mic night.

Open Sundays for Brunch 10:30 am – 2 pm.

Feb. 6, 8 – 10:30 pm – Crazy Love Danceable Rock Favorites. No cover.

Feb. 12, 6:30 – 8:30 – Dinner Music. No cover. Lefty Blue Music Duo Eclectic Standards

Feb. 13, Favorites 6:30 – 9, Valentine Dinner: Ryan Hood Playing Romantic. Call for details.

Feb. 20, TBA – Relic Review Classic Rock, \$6 cover

## Sunflowers Restaurant, 21B Main St. Jaffrey

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

Dinner (D): Friday beginning at 6 pm

Fri. Feb. 5 (D): Wendy Keith, guitar and vocals

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Sun. Feb. 7 (B): Steve Thurber, guitar  
 Fri. Feb. 12 (D): Walden Whitham, guitar, harp, flute and vocals  
 Sat. Feb. 13 (D): Diane Stolar and John Sepe  
 Sun. Feb. 14 (B): Judy Blake and Ken Hamshaw, guitar and vocals  
 Sun. Feb. 14 (D): Diane Ammons, piano and vocals  
 Fri. Feb. 19 (D): Mike Wakefield, sax  
 Sun. Feb. 21 (B): Walden Whitham, guitar, harp, flute and vocals  
 Fri. Feb. 26 (D): The Grumbling Rustics, banjo/guitar  
 Sun. Feb. 28 (B): John Cucchi, guitar and vocals  
*No cover charge ~ Tips appreciated ~ Reservations recommended!*

### Ongoing:

Tues. 7:30 pm. Celtic Music. Harlow's Pub, P'borough  
 Wed. 7 – 9 pm. Open-Mic Night at the Fitzwilliam Inn.  
 Wed. 9:30 pm. Open Mic Night. Harlow's, P'borough  
 Thurs. 8 pm. Bluegrass Jam, Harlow's Pub, P'borough

## Alice Thrives in a Ballet Wonderland

Frank Behrens

In 2011, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, saw the world premiere of a full length ballet called "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," with music by Joby Talbot and choreography by Christopher Wheel-



don. I am delighted it was recorded and is now available on an OpusArte DVD. In the first 15 minutes, we are introduced to Alice (danced as a teenager by Lauren Cuthbertson), her parents, sisters, and party guests. After she falls down the rabbit hole, there is much doubling of roles. In this way, her mean mother becomes the Red Queen (Zenaida Yanowsky); the ineffectual father the Red King (Christopher Saunders); Lewis Carroll the White Rabbit (Edward Watson); a party magician the Mad Hatter (Steven McRae); and so on.

I feel that the introduction of Jack (Sergei Polunin), an employee of Alice's parents who is fired when they learn that he and Alice are in love, and his doubling as the Knave of Hearts, are unnecessary additions to Carroll's original. It does provide an excuse for a pas de deux, but that is all.

Other than the expected computer-generated projections, there are many delightful surprises. The Mad Hatter tap dances. The Duchess is given to Shakespearean actor Simon Russell Beale. The Cheshire Cat dominates the stage and comes in separable parts.

As for the CGI showing Alice's fall into and rise out of the rabbit hole, I cannot tell what the audience saw at that time. I do feel that a video of a "live" performance should not include visuals that were not shown to the audience in the theater at the time.

Tcusic, while not lingering in the memory, has just the right amount of "magic" needed for the many fantastic sequences. It becomes a little less than original during the pas de deux with Alice and the Knave. Also,



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given stage limitations, everything seems to come to Alice rather than her wandering to the next adventure. But that is a quibble.

And the funniest moment is the “Sleeping Beauty” spoof when the music turns Tchaikovskian and the Red Queen does a turn that brings down the house with laughter and applause.

The running time is 121 minutes and OpusArte, as always, provides no tracking list in the program notes.

## Quotable Quote

Terri O’Rorke

“We are most alive when we are in love.”

– John Updike, March, 1932 – January, 2009

## Happy Valentines Day Richmond!

### A Night to Remember, Honor, Celebrate

Kimberly Diomond

The 6th Annual Snow Ball Cancer Benefit will be held March 5, 2016 at The Marlborough House in Marlborough, NH.

A fun and inspiring event to remember, honor and celebrate all who have been affected by cancer. All proceeds benefit cancer patients and their families in the Monadnock Region. Dinner catered by Free Range Chick and Charcoal Charlie. Music by CJ the DJ, photography by Scott Hussey Photography, flowers by Embellish Floral Studio, light show by Robert Stark Lighting. Cash bar, raffles, and valet parking available. \$60 per person or book a table of 8 for \$450. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.joysnetwork.org](http://www.joysnetwork.org).

Joy’s Network, a volunteer organization incorporated on January 20, 2010 honors the life and work of longtime Keene resident Joy Diomond Herrick by providing care packages and financial assistance to cancer

patients who are undergoing treatment, recovering from treatments, or receiving hospice care. We are 100% funded by the generous donations of local individuals and businesses. Contact Kimberly at 603-762-1800.

## 2016 Calendar for Town Clerk’s Office

Tue. Feb. 9	Presidential Primary
Mon. Feb. 15	President’s Day CLOSED
Thu. Feb. 25	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk for Town election
Tue. Mar. 8	Town Meeting, 1st Session (election) Town Clerk’s Office CLOSED
Sat. Mar. 12	Town Meeting, 2nd Session (business)
Sat. Apr. 30	Dog licenses expire CLOSED
Mon. May 30	Memorial Day CLOSED
Tue. May 31	Deadline for late dog licenses CLOSED
Mon. July 4	Independence Day CLOSED
Thu. Sep. 1	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk for State Primary Election
Mon. Sep. 5	Labor Day CLOSED
Tue. Sep. 13	State Primary Election Day
Fri. Sep. 30	Transfer Station stickers expire CLOSED
Mon. Oct. 10	Columbus Day CLOSED
Thu. Oct. 27	Last day to register to vote with Town Clerk for General Election
Tue. Nov. 8	General Election Day
Fri. Nov. 11	Veterans Day CLOSED
Wed./Thu. Nov. 23, 24	Thanksgiving break CLOSED

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180 Fay Martin Road, Richmond, NH 03470

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### **Town Business Hours**

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

#### **Board of Selectmen:**

Chris Daugherty, 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

**Assistant Town Administrator:** Susan Harrington

**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. 9 AM – 12 NOON

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

#### **Planning Board:**

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. Paul Dobbs, Librarian

Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Thurs. 3 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>

# Happy Valentine's Day