



The Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow About

December 2017

Notes from the Selectmen

Property Tax Rate Set – Taxes Due December 20

The 2017 property tax rate has been set at \$27.01 per \$1,000, allocated as follows:

Local Education, \$14.79; State Education, \$2.25; County tax, \$3.45; Municipal tax, \$6.52. This is a decrease of \$1.18 from last year's rate of \$28.19. The impact of the tax rate decrease on this year's tax bill as compared to last year's bill will vary for each landowner, depending on the new assessed value of his or her property resulting from this year's town-wide re-assessment.

Please pay on or before the due date of December 20. There is a hefty penalty on late payments. Interest starts at 12% and rapidly rises to 18% once the lien process begins.

Comparison with 2016

	Municipal	County	Local Educ.	State Educ.	Total
2017	\$6.52	3.45	14.79	2.25	27.01
2016	\$7.52	3.63	14.67	2.37	28.19

As shown in the chart, the largest component of our tax bill, local school tax, increased by \$.12, and state education tax decreased by the same amount. The county tax decreased by \$.18 and the largest decrease was in the town tax, for a total decrease of \$1.18.

The town tax decrease of \$1.00 is mostly because

we were able this year to apply a significant amount of cash from our reserves (called 'unrestricted fund balance') to reduce the amount of our town appropriations that had to be collected through taxes (called 'buying down the tax rate'). We had larger reserves this year due to several factors. For example, we had considerable revenue this year from logging town-owned land, and the sale of the red house next to the Vet's Hall allowed us to pay-down the note used to buy the property.

We will be going into 2018 with a much healthier fund balance than in prior years – \$296,410 as compared to \$56,350 last year. The fund balance is what the town will have available to fund revenue shortfalls or unanticipated expenses, and we are now within the fund balance amounts recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Town Clerk's Office

Annette Tokunaga

Mon, Dec. 25, 2017 CLOSD for Christmas

Mon, Jan. 1, 2018 CLOSD for New Years Day

Please note the above scheduled closings to avoid registering your vehicle(s) late. I will be closed the last Monday of December and the first Monday of January.

Please welcome our new deputy town clerk, Judith Tague. She began working the first week in October and is working hard to learn the scope and details of the responsibilities of the town clerk's office.

The
Richmond Rooster
Coming Soon
to Your Mailbox

Preview to the 2018 Town Election

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Election will be held on March 13, 2018. The following officers will be elected at that time:

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

If you would like to run for any of these offices, please come to the town clerk's office during the filing period and during regular office hours. The filing period begins January 24, 2018 (Wednesday) and ends February 2, 2018 (Friday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm only). You must be a Richmond resident and a registered voter in order to run for a town office.

Please call 239-6202 or stop by the office if you have any questions. For accurate information about office hours, closures, and town clerk-related information, visit the official Town of Richmond website at <http://www.richmond.nh.gov>.

Richmond Recipe Book

Jeani Eismont

The Richmond Recipe Book is moving slowly along, but I have not gotten recipes from **EVERYONE** in Richmond. These recipes should reflect **ALL** of our efforts, not just a few.

If each cook has at least one favorite, please send it to me at 70 Whipple Hill Road, Richmond, NH 03470 or jeani@eismont.com.

We would like to use this as a fundraiser for the 4-Corners development. I have received several desert recipes. How about special salads or soups and stews, meat, chicken, fish, or an appetizer? Let's make this something we ALL participate in and can be proud of.

Richmond Library

Wendy O'Brien

Calendar for December

Sat. Dec. 2, 10:30-11:30, Community Coffee Hour, Knitting Circle

Wed. Dec. 6, 10:00, Storytime: Holiday Stories

Sat. Dec. 9, 10:30, Knitting Circle

Wed. Dec. 13, 10:00, Storytime: Hanukkah

Thurs. Dec. 14, 5:00, Teen Pizza Night

Sat. Dec. 16, 10:30, Knitting Circle

Wed. Dec. 20, 10:00, Storytime: Dream Snow

Sat. Dec. 23, 10:30, Knitting Circle

Wed. Dec. 27, 10:00, Storytime: New Year's Party! Vacation Get Together

Sat. Dec. 30, 10:30, Knitting Circle

New Adult Fiction

Rooster Bar, John Grisham

Two Kinds of Truth, Michael Connelly

Lilac Lane, Sherryl Woods

In the Midst of Winter, Isabel Allende

Deep Freeze, John Sandford

Origin, Dan Brown



November Update

Jim McConnell – State Representative

Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanzy

House activity this month has centered on finalizing the language of and finding co-sponsors for Legislative Service Requests (LSRs). That has now been completed and the Legislative Service Requests are being assigned bill or resolution numbers and assigned to committees to consider once the session begins in January. The LSRs I have submitted are being assigned bill or resolution numbers as this is written and, once done, the text of each bill or resolution will be available at http://gencourt.state.nh.us/lsr_search/. This listing also includes bills I have co-sponsored.

With the exception of the LSR which I submitted to enable medics and corpsmen to receive credit for their training in the armed forces to meet the state's

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) licensing requirements, I approved all of the LSRs I submitted. They will be considered beginning in January. The LSR regarding EMT licensing was submitted very late in the schedule without the time to have it researched as I normally would and, once researched, it became clear that a federal effort similar to my proposal is already moving forward in cooperation with the state. As my LSR was therefore redundant, I withdrew it.

In addition to preparing my bills for submission, I have been occupied with the race for Speaker of the House. As this contest is decided exclusively by Representatives, most of the discussion is via email with only two public forums announced at this point – one already held. Assuming the Executive Council promptly approves the current Speaker as Commissioner of Agriculture, the vote will take place on November 30.

Finally, I am attempting to have every federal candidate, here in New Hampshire and across the country, publicly state their position on the Real Reform Amendment, which is my effort to change our campaign finance rules. My article in *The American Conservative* (http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/want-to-drain-the-swamp-start-with-the-lobbyists/?mc_cid=3eaca49f43&mc_eid=64e4be3f13) makes my case and provides a link to the Resolution passed by the New Hampshire House and a page of Frequently Asked Questions. Share the article and link with anyone you think would be supportive of this effort.

I can be reached at 903-3878, which is my cell phone. My personal email is 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.

From My Perspective

Barry Faulkner

State Representative

Cheshire 12 (Swanzey/Richmond)

The last few months have been relatively quiet in the legislature. The time for submitting bills for consideration in 2018 has passed in most cases, and it looks like we will be dealing with more than one thousand bills once the 2018 session gets underway. A number of commissions, committees or subcommittees have been

meeting to work on bills that were deferred during the spring – these bills will be voted on by the end of the 2018 legislative session – or to work on particular issues that may require future legislation. There are a couple of things I'd like to report on.

First, the House met on November 2 to vote on whether to override the Governor's veto of House Bill 86. This bill set up a uniform procedure for Zoning Boards of Adjustment (ZBAs) when taking votes on variance applications. For example, when a builder or homeowner cannot meet all of the zoning requirements concerning setbacks, or area, or wants to set up a business or other use that is not permitted in that district, the ZBA can grant a variance if five criteria are met. The bill requires a separate vote on each of the criteria, instead of a single yes or no on the entire application. The problem with the yes or no vote is that often there is no explanation of how the interests of the abutters have been preserved or why the application failed. The bill received unanimous, bipartisan support from the House Committee on Municipal and County Government, and passed on a voice vote in the House and Senate.

The Governor vetoed the bill, citing a desire to support local control and to "streamline" the process for developers (apparently, by allowing them to more easily bypass the zoning ordinance that was passed by the town voters or city council). To override the veto, the House and Senate would each need to vote to override by a 2/3 majority. When it came to the floor of the House, a large number of representatives switched their positions on this bill to give the Governor a political victory, and the override failed by a substantial margin.

This was a good bill, and the failure of the override was a victory of partisanship over good governance. Disappointing, to say the least.

Second, you may have heard that the other Representative from our district (Cheshire 12) has thrown his hat in the ring to be elected as Speaker of the House. The position is expected to be vacant because Shawn Jasper, the current Speaker, is planning to leave to become Agriculture Commissioner. Traditionally, the Speaker is chosen by the majority party (currently, the Republicans), who meet in caucus to select one of their own to present to the full House for a vote. The Republicans will be meeting on November 28, and there are several candidates who have come forward. If they are successful in getting behind a single candidate, they

will have enough votes to elect him or her Speaker on November 30 when the full House meets. By tradition, once the Speaker is selected, all members join to affirm the election by acclamation.

It is possible that the majority party is divided, and no single candidate gets a majority of the vote when first taken by the full House; if so, additional votes are taken until someone emerges with a majority. This happened three years ago. So, stay tuned.

The Public Works and Highways Committee (of which I am a member) will be dealing with the highway program after the first of the year, and the House will be voting in February and March on bills originating in the House. If you have any questions or comments on particular issues or on how the legislative process works, please let me know. Email works best for me fbfaulkner@outlook.com or call 352-2729

Firewood For Sale

Neil Moriarty

We have several well seasoned firewood cords – more than we can use. Come, look, pick a pile(s), and make an offer. You must take the entire pile and carry away. 782 Old Homestead Hwy, Richmond NH 603 239 4031

Holiday Pet Family Photo Sessions At Mhs

Carol Laughner

Start the holidays with a fun photo session, and a keepsake photo that captures the love you feel for your pet!

Monadnock Humane Society will once again offer Holiday Pet Family Photo sessions to the community. On Saturday, December 2 at the MHS Guinane Training Center from 10 am – 3 pm, professional local photographers, Beth Pelton of Eight Cattails Imagery, and Chloe Giarraputo will be available to take a holiday portrait of your family or just your pet(s). On Sunday, December 3, a smaller session will be held at the MHS facility at the Offices in Depot Square for those who live in the Peterborough area, or who can't make it to the Swanzey photoshoot.

For a \$10 suggested donation you will receive the professional photo shoot, a 4x6 in. glossy, matted print out of your favorite photo (at least eight photos will be taken during your photo session), and access to electronic downloadable versions that you can use for your holiday cards or reprints, to imprint on a gift item such as a coffee mug or a tee shirt, or to post on social media! Beautiful holiday-themed design sets will be the perfect



Left to right: Lizzy, Daisy the dog, Isabel, and Kerri Cuevas.
Photography: Heather Samperisi

backdrop for your family's portrait. Volunteers who are experienced in handling pets will spend time with you and your family to capture the best moment. And, 100% of the proceeds go to the animals being cared for by MHS.

This year, waiting will be indoors in our spacious, comfortable Training Center (or in the lobby area of our Depot Square facility). Refreshments will be provided, and we'll have a "Pet Gift Table" for gifts and stocking stuffers! 2018 MHS "Home at Last" calendars will also be available.

Sat., December 2

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

MHS Training Center in Swanzey

Sun., December 3

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

MHS at the Offices in Depot Square Peterborough

*Please make sure dogs are leashed, and cats, rabbits, and other small pets are secured in carriers.

Library Exhibit Featuring David Frampton

Did you know that David Frampton, a famous woodcut illustrator, once lived here in Richmond? He gave many



The Bird of Happiness

of his gorgeous books to the Library, and they will be on display on our “Town History Tales” wall throughout the winter months. He has illustrated books for both children and adults, and his distinctive style is present both in color and black and white. Come and see one of the most complete collections of his work right here in Richmond! 19 Winchester Rd, 603-239-6164

Monadnock Losses Close One

Neil Moriarty

The Monadnock football team fell to Campbell, 12-8, in the NHIAA Division III Championship today at UNH in Durham. After going 8 and 0 in the regular season, we lost the championship game. Anyway, congratulations on a fine season to first-year coach Ryan Avery, and Richmond students on the team, Dylan Cashman and Nate Doyle!

Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty

Disclaimer: This document represents input from Neil Moriarty – and may not represent the opinions of the SAU 93 School Board.

Do you have an issue or problem and need some help – try calling 211. This will connect you with a variety of help services.

1. As of *The Rooster* input deadline, no Union contracts have been presented to the full school board.

2. Cross Country-Girls: I think we can still claim her, Delaney Swanson, as she is originally from Richmond. She is only a freshman and came in 2nd (6 minutes and 28.8 seconds) in the entire state in cross country for girls at the State meet. Keep it up, Delaney!

3. The annual budget setting process has started. The administration presented a flat budget for fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019 at the annual joint meeting of School Board and Budget Committee held on November 4, 2017. The vote of the school board will set the construction Warrant Article at \$1,400,000.

4. You may have read that I was almost thrown out of the school board meeting on November 7, 2017. Our Chairperson Ms. Steadman would not stop members from going off my motion to postpone the School Board from placing a recalculation of the way towns pay for education. My motion was to postpone the vote until January 10, 2018, effectively killing the original motion because all warrants have to be in by January 9, 2018. My postponement motion carried, and we will not be having the school board changing the tax formula. That does not preclude a partition warrant article on this topic.

Thanks to all for the encouragement I received on this incident. Follow up: I volunteered to see if Keene State College would analyze the various tax formulas and see if they could provide a view on what would be the fairest tax system. As of *The Rooster* due date I have not made even minor progress.

5. H.L. Turner Building Appraisals: We have had the school buildings inspected to see what work needs to be done (with the exception of Mt Caesar, which has just had major work) by engineering firm of H L Turner. These studies, including an estimate of costs, break the required work down into stages. The reports are available to the public at www.mrsd.org/page/69. As I was writing this, two building reports were posted on the site. The firm has completed three write-ups. Two are not yet available from the vendor.

Thanks for reading my article. Any comments, suggestions, or questions about the district are welcome; cmoriarty@ne.rr.com; 603-239-4031; 782 Old Homestead Hwy, Richmond NH 03470.

Richmond's Middle/High School Honors

Neil Moriarty

The following is the middle and high school honor roll for the first semester 2017. If your child should be listed

here and is not, you have set a “do not release name,” which you need to remove before the school will release the name to me (or anyone else). Remember, the elementary schools work on a trimester system. Therefore, they are not in this list.

Congratulations to our students

Hayden Budlike - Honors

Francisco Camuso - Honors

Janaina Camuso - Honors

Dylan Cashman - Honors

Izaac Cooke - Honors

Aderyn Daugherty - High Honors

Heather Doyle - Honors

Nathan Doyle - Honors

Ian Gauthier - High Honors

Daniel Heise - Honors

Kylee Hillock - Honors

Laci LeBlanc - Honors

Ivy Love - Honors

Peter Margand - High Honors

Michele Miller - Honors

Madison Pearsall - Honors

Gabrielle Schmidt - Honors

Alicia Thayer - High Honors

Dominick Thornton - Honors

Anthony Tomer - Honors

Bridget Van Valzah - High Honors

Getting to Know Your Advertisers

Bonnie McCarthy

Advertisers have always been the life blood of *The Richmond Rooster*; the nourishment which over the past twenty-seven years permeated our many volunteers and animated them to produce, publish, mail, and most recently, email our vital town newspaper. Next month, as we become both a printed publication and an on online publication, we will again thank the vast majority of our online advertisers who have stood up to



Happy to have the Rooster back in print!
From a Friend on Athol Rd.

become print advertisers. To you we offer our deepest appreciation for your past, present and future loyalty, together with our volunteers, you, R *The Richmond Rooster*. Next month readers will start meeting new advertisers who support our vision of informing and entertaining local families and businesses. In coming months, I will introduce and reintroduce you to the honored advertisers who keep the *RR* alive.

Richmond Chairs for Sale

Pam Bielunis

The old maple chairs that consist of a pair of seats are being sold to anyone who would like a “Piece of Richmond History” and are being used as a fundraiser to benefit the town. Each chair with 2 seats is being sold



as is for \$25 each. There is a limited number available. If anyone is interested, contact Al or Pam Bielunis at 239-6498 to schedule a time to get them. Thank you.

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Neil Moriarty

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Danny Wahl

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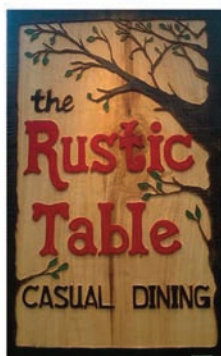
Growing up at the 4-Corners in Richmond, that our parents owned, gave us the life long pleasure of knowing what a small town is all about. We have very fond memories of riding our bikes up and down Rte. 32 & 119, summers at the town beach, skating on the water hole, checking a book out at our little library and looking forward to the annual BBQ. It's a joy to share those special memories when we market your home and welcome someone new to town. Fred Blais, Broker & Ruth Blais Thompson, Licensed Agent

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Pamela Goodell

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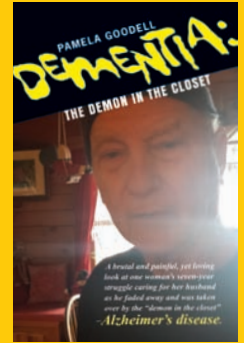
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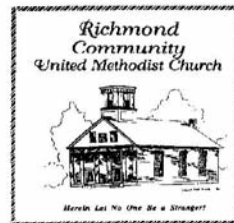
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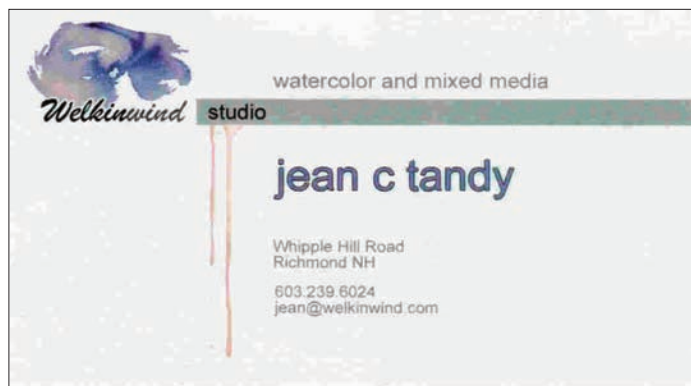
The Constitution of the United States of America

The structure has been erected by architects of consummate skill and fidelity; its foundations are solid, its compartments are beautiful, as well as useful; its arrangements are full of wisdom and order and its defenses are impregnable from without. It has been reared for immortality, if the work of man may greatly aspire to such a title.

It may, nevertheless, perish in an hour by the folly, and corruption or negligence of its only keepers, the people. Republics are created by the virtue, public spirit and intelligence of the citizens. They fall when the wise are banished from the public councils, because they dare to be honest and the profligates are rewarded because they flatter the people in order to betray them.

George Washington

Well neighbors, it's up to us! We're the Keepers!
This Country is OUR Country...
Let's keep it that way!
Your Neighbor, Citizen, jean tandy



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The RICHMOND ROOSTER

180 Fay Martin Road, Richmond, NH 03470



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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>

Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

Board of Selectmen:

Chris Daugherty, Carol Jameson, William Daniels

Mon. 9 AM – 12 PM, 3 – 7 PM, 5:30 – 7 PM for business
7 PM – ? for public concerns)

Tues. 9-12 (Selectmen meet first Tuesday ONLY)

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 1 PM (unless posted)

Town Administrator: Heidi Wood

Assistant Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Judith Tague

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.

1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 3rd 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: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 239-6164.

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, 392-2027

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>