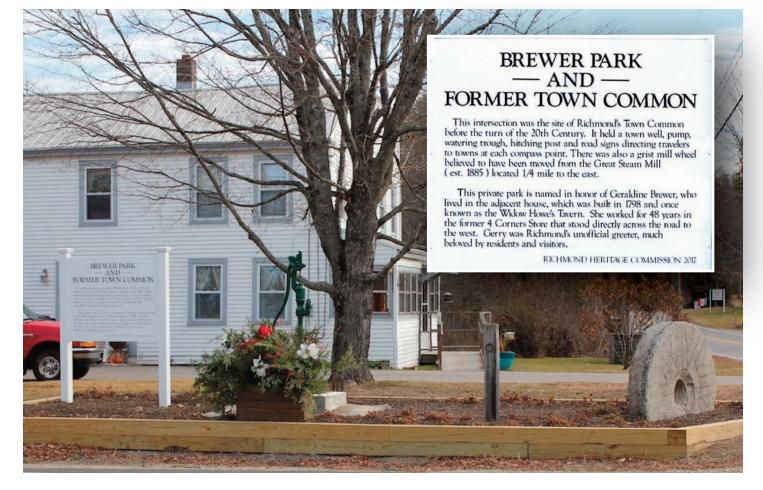
Something to Crow About ICHMOND ROOSTC



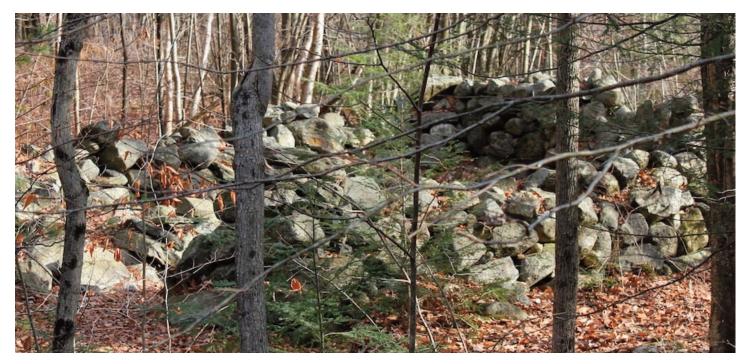
# Richmond Heritage Commission Bonnie McCarthy

Winter may be a fallow time for the RHC, but we accomplished much during 2017 and have even bigger plans for 2018.

The sign at Brewer Park is up and ready to tell its story to all who drive by. Feel free to park across the street and read about Gerry Brewer and the history behind this strategic plot of land. Our thanks to the many members of the Brewer family who contributed time and funds for this project. We have promised them that the landscaping will be rejuvenated next spring.

The renovation of the historic Telephone Building has been completed except for the painting of the trim, which is another spring project.





Warmer weather will see the RHC working with the Richmond Historical Society to continue reconstructing the Town Pound and making it more accessible.

Our biggest project for 2018 and beyond is again being undertaken in conjunction with the Richmond Historical Society. We will be presenting a program honoring those brave Richmond souls who left home to serve our country in the Civil War. This program will be the catalyst to set off our project to erect a second stone marker in the Veteran's Memorial Park thereby honoring hometown veterans of both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. As part of this endeavor, we plan to refurbish the surrounding stone wall

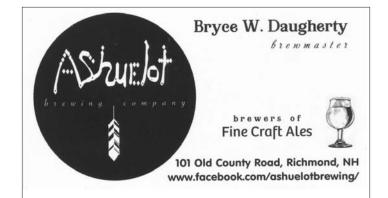
We have big plans to beautify Richmond for our residents and to attract both new residents and visitors to Historic Richmond. We invite any and all to join us in the totally volunteer efforts you will be reading about in the Richmond Rooster throughout the years.

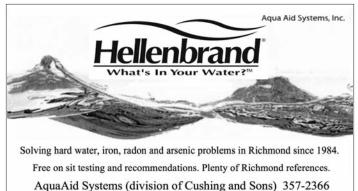


# Getting to Know Your Advertisers Bonnie McCarthy

*The Richmond Rooster* is back in print (hallelujah) after flirting with the idea of switching to an online-only presence, which seems likes ages ago to me. Some things are just not meant to be flirted with despite only the best of intentions. Enough said.

Advertisers are what have kept The Rooster alive





#### Richmond Public Library 19 Winchester Road, Richmond, NH 03470 library@richmondnh.us Tel. 239-6164 Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-7pm Wednesdays 9-noon Saturdays 10am-2pm Catalog: opac.libraryworld.com/ opac/home.php. Library name: Richmond Public.

No password required.

and crowing since its inception twenty-seven short years ago in 1991. We offer our deepest, throatiest *cock-a-doodle-doo* of gratitude to the vast majority of those loyal people and businesses who have supported our paper throughout the years and have stayed with us in our current iteration as both a print and online publication. Although *The Rooster* is entirely staffed by volunteers, without your financial support there would be no funds with which to print and mail this bird.

As the world spins, so do the cycles of print and mail increase. Even so, we have not increased our print advertising rates over the 2015 prices. We offer a warm welcome to new advertisers, whom you will be meeting monthly in this column. I will also reacquaint you with long-time advertisers who may need no introduction, but to whom we owe our very existence.

As a reminder to both readers and advertisers, in the online edition of *The Rooster*, the website address in each ad includes a "clickable" hot link to take the reader directly to their website. So, now there are a variety of ways to make supporting our advertisers a win-win combination.

## If These Walls Could Talk

(as told to Bob Weekes)

Some folks don't recognize me as one of Richmond's oldest and most historic buildings, now the Richmond



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Public Library. But I began my life 168 years ago as School House #6 in 1850. I replaced an even earlier brick school house on the site in 1815 which had burned the year I was built. Situated near the center of town, I was one of sixteen one-room schools scattered throughout early Richmond. Today, most of our children travel to centralized regional schools located outside of town. But in early days before modern roads and public transportation came to Richmond, one-room schools "traveled" to our children. Why? Because many of them lived in small neighborhoods on hill farms straddling ancient dirt roads, many long since "thrown up," which spread throughout the town's almost 38 square miles.

In my one-room configuration a teacher simultaneously taught as many different grades as there were ages of pupils in each daily classroom session. Here the



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teacher would arrive early, light the fire in my potbellied stove at the west end (if weather warranted and it usually did), and toll the bell in my cupola to summon the neighborhood children to class. A favorite student was given the honor of raising the American flag on the dead tree that stood out front before class began. In those years I was the major district school in town, serving as many as 50 children at one time, and also the longest to serve this noble purpose in Richmond. But in the late 1940s, declining population and the advent of the school bus put me and all of my fifteen one-room cousins out to pasture. Lying empty, I was used only for church services during the early 1950s until I was given a new life as a public library.

I should mention that there had been a public library located in Richmond's Town Hall since 1892! Seventy years later it was crammed into a "pie-shaped corner" with books piled on the old stage. Pinched for space, the town fathers decided to repurpose me into the public library and began renovations to do so. In 1962, my school desks were replaced with book shelves, and chairs and tables added for reading. Then volunteers, many of them teenagers, loaded crate after crate of books and periodicals into Eddie Martin's pickup truck and moved them here into old #6, giving me a new life.

In 1974, I again changed my appearance. An empty town-owned cottage on Cass Pond was disassembled and grafted by volunteers onto my west side. Designated the Edith Atkins Room, honoring a former Richmond resident who served as town librarian for 34 years, I now had a comfortable reading room. A small area in my basement was utilized to store the town archives. During this reconstructive surgery, my stove and chimney, belfry and bell, and wooden window shutters disappeared. (The bell ultimately found its way into my basement, and the shutters the attic, where they lay hidden for the next forty-four years.) Yet to my delight I was accorded the great honor of being admitted into

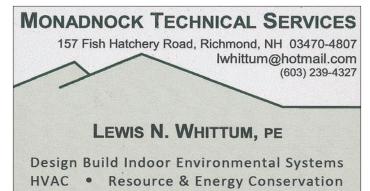




the prestigious National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Later I underwent still more surgical procedures. A Children's Room and bathroom (!) were added in 1989-90, financed totally by private donations, and a few years later, a town volunteer installed the first carrels in my Edith Atkins wing, welcoming a new era of personal computer use. In spite of these cosmetic improvements, a century-and-a-half of aging had exacted a toll on my old frame. By 2010 a string of ailments, ones that could no longer go unaddressed, were threatening to shorten my life. My cellar was rodent infested and certainly unsuited, climate and health wise, for occupancy or storing the town's archives. My heating system was failing, the floor of the Children's Room needed replacing, my walls were stained and in need of fresh paint, book shelves were sagging, lighting was poor and new furniture was needed to replace what had been scavenged in prior years. Even the interior layout of the library needed updating to improve library programming.

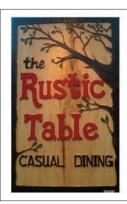
But worse yet, I was truly showing my age! My front yard was totally overgrown, strewn with large and unsightly dead trees and half-buried stumps and rocks. The ancient stone wall bisecting this area was collaps-



ing. Residents will remember that in winter it was town practice to clear the snow, dirt, and gravel from in front of the fire department and plow it directly into a large pile in front of the library, reducing my few parking spots and often partially obscuring the building itself. When the pile melted, or a heavy rainstorm occurred, the runoff from the fire department apron ran onto the library lawn and into the basement. This not only hurt my pride, it was hardly the way that a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places should look.

School House #6 now needed intensive care! As happens in small towns hampered by limited financial resources, positive change can be jump-started if a town can marshal the generosity and hard work of volunteers...people willing to contribute the time, energy, and resources needed for a good cause. Volunteerism had been a driver of the library's progress for many years. It is worth noting that starting about 2010, a unique collaboration of library staff and trustees, members of the Richmond Heritage Commission, friends of the library, and the town's Select Board swung into action. Not just because so much happened, but because it happened largely behind the scenes.

The layout of the inside of the library was redesigned to create more space for reading, research, library craft programs, and meetings; the walls were painted; storage areas cleaned out; the furnace replaced. Adjustable book shelves replaced sagging boards; a new floor was installed in the Children's Room; the old and poorly lit computer carrels in the center of the Edith Atkins Room were replaced by new brightly illuminated computer work tables. Staff and volunteers began digitizing archival photos and records to improve user access and to reduce degradation of original materials through excess handling. The Richmond Town Archives were re-catalogued and moved to the secure and climate-controlled City of Keene Records Center where they can be accessed through the Richmond



320 Keene Rd. Winchester, NH 03470 (603) 392-0296

A Family Style Restaurant

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librarian/archivist. A "History Wall" and glass front cabinet were built into the main room to display both town artifacts and library presentations on Richmond's history (examples have since included Richmond's Stinson Hill Washout, the story behind the town's early taverns, the restoration of the Richmond Tramp House, and currently, the Edith Atkins photograph collection). New tables and chairs replaced the mismatched and tired ones in all three rooms. And a handsome 4 x 5 foot digitally-reproduced photo of me, as I looked a century ago, was installed on the wall behind our wonderful librarian, Wendy O'Brien, now in her eleventh year as director of Richmond Public Library operations.

Outside the building, a similar and much needed transformation also began. Unsightly trees, stumps, and brush were removed and the area backfilled with loam and mulch to create a new fertile garden area, since landscaped with flowers and shrubs, planted and maintained by our landscaping committee. A split-rail fence was installed to frame this new garden area with a new flagpole placed in its center. The stone wall and drainage system were repaired and the adjacent lawn area reseeded. Finally, a new sign identifying the library (that's me) as historic School House #6 was installed in front, the first of a new series of similar signs iden-





tifying Richmond's historic sites.

And still later, the original window shutters were found, restored, and rehung; a replica of my original cupola was built and installed on the roof; and my original school bell returned to its former perch. (Note: the bell was rung again for the first time in many years at the Firemen's Barbecue in 2016). And bean counters please note: a great deal of this work was again accomplished through private donations of money and volunteer labor.

Finally, to top this all off, I have a new weathervane.



The Richmond Heritage Commission ... proudly supports the Richmond Rooster and its staff,

each of whom shares our mission of year round volunteerism in order to help preserve, for the benefit of <u>all</u> town residents, the history of Richmond.



105 Old Homestead Hwy www.richmond.nh.gov



Not able to identify the shape of the original weathervane from early photographs, a donor-volunteer chose a rooster in recognition of our town newspaper, itself an extraordinary symbol of Richmond volunteerism for so many years.

Yes, after 168 years, time still wears on me (as the saying goes, old buildings "never let you alone"). But due to the efforts of many charitable people working together, the town should be proud that it not only has a first class public library, but that School House #6 again looks...and sounds (just ring my bell)...as it began life a century-and-a-half ago. Congratulations Richmond, that's history...well preserved!

# The Lost Art Of Driving On New Hampshire Dirt Roads

Hank Hallas

Who cares about the lost art of driving on New Hampshire dirt roads? Here is why you should!

Louise and I had decided to take a drive one January in 2003 up to the farm to breathe in the winter beauty of the forest after a snowfall. It had snowed a quarter-inch of powder on the frozen dirt road. As we passed our friend's farm down the road from ours, I noticed a truck with a rear cab barreling around a curve in the distance. I quickly estimated that his speed was too much for the conditions and the terrain he was driving into. His light gray, older truck seemed to levitate towards us. We were driving our brand new Jeep Grand Cherokee, candy apple red, my pride and joy.

My immediate mental calculation was to get as far off the road as I could, as I suspected the oncoming vehicle would soon be completely out of control given his speed and the new snow on frozen dirt. It was just as I suspected! The problem was that the road was thirteen-feet wide with enormous snow banks on each side!



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Doug Edwards 585 6547 153 Old Troy Rd. Fitzwilliam NH



I quickly turned the steering wheel, gunned the Jeep into the three-foot frozen snow bank as far as the engine would propel it, and then waited for impact from the approaching gray ghost.

It seemed like forever as he skidded toward us, but there was not enough room for his width and mine to share the thirteen-foot, snow-covered runway. His left front corner headlight creased my left front side panel near the headlight. He came to rest window to window, having crushed each of my three left panels...not good. I had yelled to Louise to hang on, and said a quick prayer. The prayer was answered as the offender sideswiped us, but had not hit us head-on. Thank, God. If the snow bank had been smaller, or had not been there at all, he could have avoided me totally, but that was not to be.

To add insult to injury, the offending driver was not insured, apparently not required by New Hampshire motor vehicle laws. I knew the damage was substantial, and insisted that we remain in place until the police were called. A state policeman eventually arrived and looked at his New Hampshire license plate and my Connecticut license plate and determined instantly that I had not properly shared the road, all thirteen feet of it. Apparently, speed and road conditions did not matter. The art of driving on dirt roads in New Hampshire had been lost on this officer of the law! (I would love to send this to him.) Net, net...the repair bill came to over \$5,000, and our insurance had to cover it with an increase in our insurance rates. The irresponsible offender got off scot-free!

So, how did I come by the now lost art of driving on dirt roads in New Hampshire? Believe it or not, my father made sure that my brother and I were clued in during the early 1940s on these very same dirt roads. It would be years before we acquired our licenses. My earliest recall happened just up the hill from our farm where a spring ran (under and next to the road) leaving the shoulders quite treacherous. My mother had pulled over too far one Spring when approached by an oncoming vehicle and the right wheels sunk to above the hubcaps! So, the first rule is never assume a friendly shoulder! Instead, slow down and begin the lost art of negotiated passing.

The second rule is that you and the oncoming vehicle share the road, all thirteen feet! So passing without slowing down is not smart or readily possible, as is the case with paved roads and other towns, which may have wider dirt roads. A quick visual of the dirt roads in our neck of the woods shows only two worn tire lines and a center dirt path. This second rule reinforces the necessity to moderate your speed and reinforces the benefit of visual intelligence concerning conditions and environment.







The interesting result of the first two rules is that you quickly realize that we are all in this together once one is on a dirt road of modest proportions. Much is to be gained by empathy and compassion for one's fellow traveler. On the other hand, much is lost if either chooses to ignore the mutual impacts (pun intended). This mutually beneficial conduct then leads to a new level of respect and rapport with one's fellow travelers you meet on some lonely stretch of back road; you each slow down and take measure of the prevailing conditions before deciding what further path to take. Interestingly, some folk, well-experienced in this lost art, will attempt to anticipate a solution early by pulling over at a wide point or perhaps backing up to a wide point. It doesn't happen often anymore, but it is delightful when it does.

There is also a tip of the hat or a friendly wave rather than current day road rage over a lost advantage. On a warm summer day even a pleasant hello is exchanged. Oh, how times have changed!

## Notes from the Selectboard

#### The 2018 Proposed Budget

November and December are busy months for the Selectmen. We meet with all the Town departments at our regular Monday night meetings to review their proposed 2018 operating budgets and capital needs, and



then hold working sessions to put together a proposed budget for the Town. We present the proposed budget in granular detail at a Pre-warrant Budget Hearing – the date for this has not yet been scheduled, but it is typically held on a Thursday evening in early February.

Please come to the Pre-Warrant Budget Hearing. You will have an opportunity to review the 2018 proposed budget in detail, to ask questions and to provide feed-back. If there are substantial changes as a result of this hearing or for any other reason, we hold a second Pre-Warrant Budget Hearing to review the revised proposed budget. Then the budget is voted upon at Town Meeting in March. This year, Town Meeting will be on Saint Patrick's Day, Saturday March 17 at 9 am at the Veteran's Hall.

#### **Town Buildings**

The last few months have seen several improvements to Town buildings. As approved at last year's Town Meeting, we now have emergency stand-by generators installed at both the Veteran's Hall and Town Hall. The gas stove at the Vet's Hall has been replaced with an electric stove, for safety reasons. The furnace supplying heat to the Emergency Operations center (located within the firehouse) has been replaced. Our town buildings are Town Hall, the Veteran's Hall, the Library, Police Station, and the Firehouse. We also have a storage shed at Amidon Park, a restored Tramp House, and the newly restored Telephone Building on Route 32 just south of the Vet's Hal (recently restored by the Heritage Commission, more on this in a later issue of *The Rooster*).

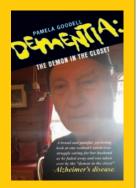
#### **Town Clerk's Office Hours Effective 1/3/18**

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Monday	9-Noon, 1-4, 6-8
Wednesday	9-Noon, 1-4
Thursday	9-Noon

Author Share my uniquely honest journey with my husband's Alzheimer's. May you find it helpful. Know you are not alone. Available at 603-239-4790 goodellpr@yahoo.com www.amazon.com www.createspace.com

Pamela Goodell



#### The Fitzwilliam Inn



Chelley & David Tighe

Innkeepers

The Fitzwilliam Inn 62 NH Route 119 W Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

# 603-585-9000 www.fitzwilliaminn.com

CLOSED-New Year's Day	Mon, Jan. 1
Dog Licenses Available	Wed, Jan. 3
CLOSED-MLK Day	Mon, Jan. 15
1st Day of Filing Period	
for Town Offices	Wed, Jan. 24
Last Day of Filing Period	
for Town Offices (3-5 pm)	Fri, Feb 2
CLOSED-Presidents' Day	Mon, Feb. 19
Last Day for Voter	
Registration with Town Clerk	Thur, Mar. 1
Town Election	Tue, Mar. 13
Dog Licenses Expire	Mon, Apr. 30
CLOSED-Memorial Day	Mon, May 28
CLOSED-Independence Day	Wed, Jul. 4
CLOSED-Labor Day	Mon, Sept. 3
Transfer Station Stickers Exp	Sat, Sept. 30
CLOSED-Columbus Day	Mon, Oct. 8
CLOSED-Vet's Day	Mon, Nov.12
CLOSED-Thanksgiving	Wed/Thu,
	Nov 21 & 22
CLOSED-Christmas Eve	Mon, Dec 24
CLOSED-Christmas Day	Mon, Dec 25

## **Running for Town Office**

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk The following officers will be elected at the Town Election on March 13, 2018: One Cemetery Trustee, 3-year term



#### HOLMAN CONTRACTING



**Three New Services** 

- Tree Trimming
- Wood Chipping
- Stump Grinding

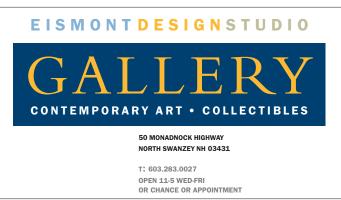
JOHN HOLMAN www.HolmanLandscapeMaterials.com

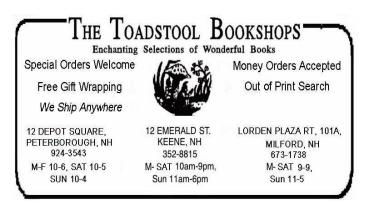
> 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE Roads, Driveways, Site Prep, Septic Installation, Site Excavations, **Trucking, Material Processing & Sales**

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

If you would like to run for any of the above, please come to the Town Clerk's office during the filing period to fill out the Declaration for Candidacy form. The filing period begins January 24, 2018 and ends February 2, 2018. The office will be open on Friday, February 2, 2018 from 3-5 pm for declarations of candidacy purposes only. You must be a Richmond resident and a registered voter in order to run for a town office.

If it is difficult for you to come to the office to pick up and/or complete the Declaration of Candidacy, someone may pick up the form for you. I would also be happy to mail/email it to you. Once you have completed the Declaration of Candidacy, you may personally bring it back to the Town Clerk's office, have someone return it for you, or you may mail it. Any filings for candidacy must be done IN PERSON on the last day. Any Declaration of Candidacy forms that are mailed or that are delivered by someone other than the candidate, must be received between January 24 and February 1.





Please call 239-6202 or stop by the office if you have any questions.

# **Renew Your Dog License Online**

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

You can renew online the license for your dog if you licensed it last year with the Town of Richmond. Go to the Town website, www.richmond.nh.gov, and then go to the Town Clerk's page. You will see a link that will enable you to request the dog license renewal. To locate your dog information, enter "17-" followed by the number on the metal dog tag that was issued to you in 2017.

If you previously provided an email address to the town clerk's, you should receive an email notification in January reminding you to license your dog.

# **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 email me at 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.

# **Library News**

Wendy O'Brien

#### **New Weathervane**

On behalf of the Library Trustees and myself, I would like to thank Bob and Jan Weekes for the wonderful donation of a copper rooster weathervane for the



restored cupola of the Library. Along with the Richmond Heritage Commission, the Weekes' hard work and donations over the past few years have returned the Library to the appearance of Old Schoolhouse #6. Students from years ago would recognize the old school with the addition of shutters, flagpole, cupola, and the original bell. The new weathervane adds a crowning touch to years of renovations and volunteer work. Thank you!

## **Archives-New Accessions for 2017**

The Board of Trustees is pleased to acknowledge the following new items donated to the Richmond Town Archives in 2017:

*Bowen: Broken Branches, Windswept Leaves*, a genealogy of the Bowen Family

Copies of the 1980's *Richmond Community Newsletter* Materials related to the 1992 and 2011 Richmond Dessert Theater

Copies of the 2012 *Richmond Phone Directory* 9 Maps of Richmond Copies of William Bassett's *History of Richmond* 

Copies of the 1990's *Richmond Rooster* 

If you have materials you are interested in donating to the Town Archives, let us know! We would be happy to hear from you.

## Library calendar for January:

Wed. Jan. 3, 10:00, Storytime: The Snowy Day
Sat. Jan. 6, 10:30-11:30, Community Coffee Hour, Knitting Circle
Wed. Jan. 10, 10:00, Storytime: Martin Luther King, Jr.
Thurs. Jan. 11, 5:00, Teen Pizza Night
Sat. Jan. 13, 10:30, Knitting Circle
Wed. Jan. 17, 10:00, Storytime: Ice Skating
Sat. Jan. 20, 10:30, Knitting Circle Wed. Jan. 24, 10:00, Storytime: Polar Bears Sat. Jan. 27, 10:30, Knitting Circle Wed. Jan. 31, 10:00, Storytime: Groundhog Day

#### **New Adult Fiction**

The Whispering Room, Dean Koontz End Game, David Baldacci Hardcore Twenty-four, Janet Evanovich Future Home of the Living God, Louise Erdrich Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders Typhoon Fury, Clive Cussler Mind Game, Iris Johansen

#### **DVDs**

Guardians of the Galaxy, Volumes 1 and 2

## **Back To Paper**

## John Boccalini

The September 2015 issue of *The Richmond Rooster* was the last time our town paper was printed. Since then, our publication appeared only as an online copy which did not reach, nor was it read by every household in town.

Our hopes are now to revitalize the monthly paper edition so that every household in town has access to the information it has to offer. Information includes regular articles from the Selectmen's office, the Town Clerk's office, the library, Monadnock Regional School District, our state representatives, and local events. We also have offerings of historical significance and stories of not-so-historical significance, letters to the editor, and pictures of people, events, buildings, and scenery.

We extend an invitation to all our residents to send in pictures, stories, questions, and the like to help each of us learn about our town and the people who live or who have lived here.

This tradition of *The Richmond Rooster* has been around since June of 1991, supported by volunteers and advertisers, and has remained free to all our residents with no impact on your tax dollars since then. If you feel you would like to participate please let us know at therichmondrooster@yahoo.com.

If you would like to get important news stories, reminders of upcoming events, as well as news that occurs between issues, please send an email so we can put you on our mailing list.

# Things and Thoughts from the District

#### Neil Moriarty

**Deliberative Session February 5, 2018**, usually starts at 10:00 am. PLEASE make this meeting – you could have saved the taxpayers a million dollars with the right votes at the 2017 meeting!

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

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

**iii.** *The Rooster* article submission deadline is now the 10th of the month – some information may be outdated or incomplete. I will refer to this at press time

1. SAU 93 Business Manger Suspended – Reason Is Not Disclosed. Superintendent Ms. Witte, suspended indefinitely Business Manager Jane Fortson. My assumption is that it happened Friday, December 1, 2017. The reason for the suspension was not provided to the School Board or the public; however, it was stated that



it was not a financial item. I received a phone call from Ms. Witte early Monday, December 4, informing me of the suspension; it is more likely than not, that this call went to each and every school board member. The suspension was reiterated in a non-public meeting on Tuesday December 5, again no reason was provided. The SAU 93 staff was informed some time before Tuesday's School Board meeting. You now know what I know.

2. Monadnock Had Two Great Sports Accomplishments. In 2017, the football team, with only twenty-two players, and rookie Head Coach Ryan Avery, went 10 wins, one loss; most important (to me, anyway), they won the Thanksgiving Game against Keene. I don't know about you, but when I was growing up, winning the Thanksgiving Game wiped out a lot of sins. Not to be outdone, the girls won their fifth straight Division III Track title. Both are great accomplishments and deserve recognition for great achievements in 2017.

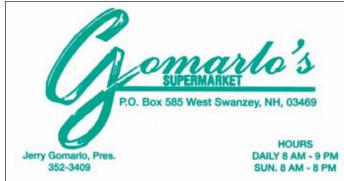
**3.** At least Two Labor Contracts will be available for your approval at the 2018 March Warrant meeting. Two of three labor unions, the Teachers and Specialists, have been approved by both the union membership and the School Board. The Support Staff union was not ready by the deadline, but the negotiation team feels it will be ready for the School Board meeting on December 19, 2017. Most likely, all three labor contracts will be on the 2018 warrant in March.

I am very disappointed that the teachers contract does not resolve the \$345,000 (approximate value) Insurance Benefit Pool. As it stands now, we could be compelled to pay the teachers an additional \$345,000 if the court rules in their favor on the Health Insurance Pool (pool). This should have been resolved within the negotiations. This explosion in insurance pool for the teachers was caused by neglect to reduce the size of the



pool when the teaching staff was reduced, but the pool dollars were not reduced when staff was laid off. It's funny, but the contract called for the pool to be expanded if the staff was increased – but not lowered if the staff was reduced. You decide how you feel about this.

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





# Elementary Schools Awards and Honor Rolls

Neil Moriarty

If your child is not mentioned and should be, contact the school and remove the do no release lock.

Name	Grade if supplied	Honor	School
Kamden Duffy	4	Innovator	Cutler
Casey Jette		November	
		Award	Emerson
Austen Kadlik		November	
		Award	Emerson
Natalie LeBland	2 3	Reading	Cutler
Isabelle Schmid	lt	Honor Roll	Emerson
Zacaria Wallis	4	Innovator	Cutler

# **Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events**

Karen Daugherty

Let's get out of the house and enjoy the season with neighbors and friends. Please join us Saturday, January 27, 10 am-12 pm at Amidon Park for our FREE Winter Event. Bring your hats and mittens and come on out snow or shine! Warm yourselves near the fire pit with hot chocolate and s'mores. Build a snowman, or have a snowball fight (if there is snow). We will have food and games. Also join us:

**Saturday, February 10** at 1pm at Camp Takodah for "Balto," a family movie, and snacks.

**Saturday, March 17** at 10am sharp at Amidon Park for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Young and old, come on out to enjoy donuts and hot chocolate. Bring your own basket for the Egg Hunt, or we will provide bags.

Keep an eye out in the spring for Roadside Cleanup, and in June for the annual Summer Reading Kickoff and Tie-Dye BBQ.



Please refer to the Parks and Recreation webpage listed on the town website for past and upcoming events. If you can't make the events because of the date or time, but are interested in another event of the same sort, please let us know. So that we can continue to plan events that residents are interested in, email us at richmond.recreation.commission@gmail.com.

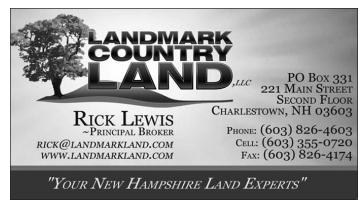
# **Out and About in Richmond**

Carol Jameson

The view from the Richmond Lookout just off of Parker Hill Road, a discontinued road in Richmond, looking northeast from the state line between Warwick, Massachusetts and Richmond, New Hampshire. Mount Monadnock is in the background; Little Monadnock directly in front of it; Gap Mountain to the right of Little Monadnock. The long ridge in front of Little Monadnock is Grassy Hill in Richmond, and you can just see what we think is St. Benedict's Center on Fay Martin Road as the clearing in front of and to the right of Gap Mtn.

Below, stands a granite state line marker in the woods between Warwick and Richmond on Toad Hollow Road, also discontinued. Cellar holes and stone walls abound along these long discontinued roads that crisscross Richmond, like ghosts from long ago.







Richmond (ommunity Newsletter

# **STONES IN THE WOODS**

A road was here one time. Right and left, the gray stone walls run straight and true and mark the meeting place of "yours" and "mine." The walls marked boundaries set by law, but law could not require the workmanship and pride of setting half-ton stones together plumb and true, with room for not a hand between. Any line of piled-up stones would do as well – for some. Not them. This was a stern and lovely, unforgiving land and bred a race of stern and lovely, unforgiving men. They tamed the land –a little– and a little of its wildness entered them. But the world slipped out from under them and later sons did not return from taste of shorter day and lesser task.

And then the old folks died and none were there to notice when the shingle lifted in the storm and down below the tunneled, foot-square beams felt wind and sifting snow until, at last, all that remained was stone. The trees let down their seeds and each spring's growth awaited steel that never came.

The walls are here, still straight and true and mindfull of their trust, two hundred winters old; softened, some and settled to the land, resigned to watch and wait. I walked upon the road (or where it once had been) following the old gray wall with now and then a reassuring touch of hand.

The cemetery gate was gone; hand-hammered hinge pins set in stone attesting that it once hung true (it likely was a work of art, spanning as it had the break in wall that fronts two roads, its face exposed to many level eyes). Here and there the roots of oak and pine have pushed up stone and all around the graves the trees themselves stand thick and tall. The pines are green with life but this bright fall has lain a blanket of brave color on the ground to accentuate the dignity of stone.

A marker here and there of marble, but most of early slate and some still older of the simple country stone; these last rough-hewn, the letters wrought with care by father or by son, too scarce of cash to hire it done. The chisel and the hammer often stopped, I know, for granite dust is hard to blow – when dampened with those bitter drops, too strong to hold from this …last touch... of love. -N. Tandy

Happy New Year – 2018

# **EMERGENCY: POLICE/FIRE/RESCUE 9-1-1** The RICHMOND ROOSTER

180 Fay Martin Road, Richmond, NH 03470



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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. 1 - 4 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



# **Come Now With Me**

Come we'll rearrange the weeds of this torn & mangled place

O Gloriosa Domina

Let the cat escape beyond the kitchen door to prowl his local trails for mice through tangled wires of memory & ecstasies of killings

- friend of death -

O Misére Miserere

Come walk these garden stones

barefoot

through rain and thyme

Dear friends we'll sing of cats and death

O Mors Mores — O Vita Vera — Mors

j c tandy 5/03/01

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