



Happy New Year

Something to Crow About RICHMOND ROOSTER

January 2019

“There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogs.” — Hal Borland

January, for most of us, provides an opportunity for wiping the slate clean and beginning again. Many of us make resolutions in order to better ourselves, hoping that we improve our lives. Gardeners begin the new year by making plans for the next growing season, taking into account the successes and failures of the past season. Our holidays are now over, and we begin the task of plotting and figuring out just how many new plants we can fit into our gardens.

In the past, though, January still meant additional festivities, increasing the amount of time for merriment and frivolity before time came for returning to work. The harvest was over, all that could be done had been done, so why not enjoy some measure of fun? Today, most of these Anglican feasts are a mere memory – though in some areas, vestiges of these days are still celebrated.

Twelfth Night was an important day in the New Year. An integral component of this January 6 holiday was wassailing. Now we think of wassail as a spicy cider-spiked drink, but it was actually an elaborate ceremony of the New Year. To wassail was to drink to one's health and prosperity. 'Was-hail' meant be whole or be of good health – and it was important that someone drank to your health. In some areas, wassailers carried boxes decorated with Advent

figures and greenery. If you contributed to the wassailer (a coin or two) you would be offered a leaf, berry or flower, which was considered to be a good luck charm.

The Wassail Bowl from these times was a complicated drink of brandy, cider, beaten eggs, roasted apples and cream – not for those today watching their weight or cholesterol! It was an ancient belief that apples were a cure-all (an apple a day keeps the doctor away) so it is not surprising that they were included in a potion for one's health.

Not only people were wassailed, however. It was important to wassail the trees to ensure that they would be fruitful in the coming year, and to protect them from evil. Bonfires were often set in the woods, and wassailers drank to the trees, using the following refrain:

*Wassail the trees that they may bear
Full many an apple and many a pear,
Wassail, wassail all over the town
Our toast it is white, and our ale is brown.
Our bowl it is made of the white maple tree
With the wassailing bowl we will drink.*

Twelfth Night, or the Epiphany, may be familiar to some of us, if only the date until which we keep up our Christmas Tree. But there were two other holidays directly following Twelfth Night that were celebrated by rural people in the British Isles. Plough Monday, the first Monday after Twelfth Night, was a special day for farmers. Ploughs were decorated and paraded through the streets, and often the ploughs were blessed. Some participants blackened their faces to disguise themselves and sought donations from each house. If a household did not contribute to the ploughman, they might find their front yard or even their front step plowed up! In some areas, Morris Dancers performed a play on this day, with an elaborate sword dance in which a “fool” is killed and then brought back to life. One interpretation to this ritual could be that the old year is ending and giving way to the new – with spring coming up out of winter. Food for this day included salt meat, cheese, bread, and hard cider or beer. Some claim that this is the ancestor of the Ploughman’s Lunch so popular today in English Pubs. This was certainly a day when the hard work of the farmer was appreciated and celebrated.

Plough Monday was a mostly male event, given that farmers were almost exclusively men. Women’s hard work had to be given equal time, and it was on St. Distaff’s Day. The noted herbalist Adelma Simmons claims this holiday was the Tuesday after Ploughman’s Day. However, every other source I have found puts St. Distaff’s Day as the day after Twelfth Night, or January 7. St. Distaff was not a real saint, but distaff refers to

the spinning device that women might use in their creation of yarn from sheep’s wool or linen from flax. So women and their labors were noted on this day – the spinning of flax and the weaving of wool. Apparently, dousing each other with water and burning flax were the way the ladies of those days got their kicks! The following is from Herrick in his *Hesperides*:

*Partly work, and partly play,
Ye must on St. Distaff’s day:
From the plough soone free your teame,
Them come home and fother them.
If the maides a spinning goe,
Burne the flax, and fire the tow;
Bring in pailles of water then,
Let the maides bewash the men:
Give St. Distaffe all the right,
Then bid Christmas sport good-night.
And next morrow, every one
To his own vocation.*

Ancient customs and rituals are often a comfort to people, a connection to the past and a hope for the future. Traditions such as these brought people together, especially important during the long winter season. They also were a celebration of their lives, and a reminder of the community to which they were all connected. Perhaps they were able to return to their work with a renewed vigor and sense of purpose, and enter the new year on a positive note.

Here’s to 2019 and a season of renewal –

Karen O’Brien, Whipple Hill Road, Richmond

“The Green Woman’s Garden” www.greenwomansgarden.com is located in Richmond, NH. She has unusual herb plants, including medicinals and native herbs, for sale, runs workshops on various herbal adventures, and occasionally participates at farmers markets and fairs. Karen lectures and presents workshops on all aspects of herbs and gardening.

News From the Selectboard

Carol Jameson, Doug Bersaw, William Daniels

Public Forum Review Alternatives for Police Services

The Selectmen have been investigating ways to reduce our police budget while still maintaining good police services. The budget for our current dedicated town police force is very high – about \$150,000 in operating costs for 2018 as requested by the department plus about \$30,000 in capital costs (cruisers and equipment).

The expense is high because of the costs of trained and skilled police and support personnel, ongoing training, purchasing and maintaining cruisers, an ATV and other police equipment, and maintaining a police building.

Richmond may be able to save money while maintaining equal or more comprehensive coverage by contracting for police services from the county Sheriff’s department or from a neighboring town.

The Selectboard is asking for public input on this

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:
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name: Richmond Public.
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idea. We will hold a public forum on Thursday, January 10 at 6 pm at the Vets Hall at which time we will present the information we have so far and we very much want to know what residents think about the proposals. ATTEND THE PUBLIC FORUM ON JANUARY 10 AT 6 PM SO YOUR THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS CAN BE HEARD AND CONSIDERED.

2018 Property Tax Update

We were not able to set the tax rate until December 7 this year, which is about one month later than usual. The delay was caused by the delay of the Monadnock School District in setting its rate. The towns cannot calculate the tax rate until the school tax rate is known.

2018 Property Tax Rate has been set at \$27.77 per \$1,000. You will have received your tax bill by the time you read this. We ask everyone to pay on time. Under state law, delinquent taxes are subject to interest and penalties – the interest charge begins at 12% and increases to 18% shortly thereafter when the lien process starts.

2018 Tax Rate

The 2018 tax rate of \$27.77 is an increase of 76cents over last year's rate of \$27.01, the largest portion of which is due to an increase in our local school tax rate from \$14.79 to \$16.19, an increase of \$1.40. The state education tax rate decreased 10 cents, from \$2.25 to \$2.15. County taxes increased from \$3.45 in 2017, to

\$3.69, an increase of 24 cents. The municipal tax rate decreased from \$6.52 to \$5.78, a decrease of 74 cents. We were able to decrease the municipal rate this year in part due to the revenues from logging the land next to the South cemetery.

Looking for Administrative Assistant for the Board of Selectmen

We began our search for an Administrative Assistant some months ago but then the office got very busy with annual budgeting and other things and we did not have time to complete the search. Applicants who submitted resumes were informed that the search was on hold and that resumes had not even been reviewed yet.

We are now resuming the search and will be reviewing resumes and applications in late January or February. If you have submitted a resume or application, there is no need to resubmit. If you are interested but did not previously apply, there is still time to do so now. We will expect to respond to applications by mid-February. We apologize to applicants for the delay.

Job Description

The Administrative Assistant provides administrative support to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen, 10-15 hours per week. Experience with basic office equipment and technology is required. Experience with *QuickBooks* or accounts payable or payroll procedures and software is a plus but not a requirement.

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

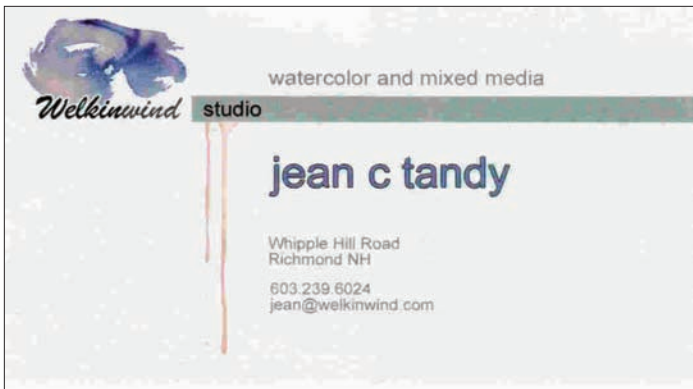
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Applicant must be comfortable interacting with the public, town employees, volunteers, vendors, etc., and must be able to keep a cool head, and to keep confidential information strictly confidential. The position is supervised by the Town Administrator.

Once trained, the position includes payroll and accounts payable, familiarity with municipal reporting (including the software used by the NH Department of Financial Administration (DRA), knowledge of town departments and procedures, and training to back-up the Town Administrator in critical functions. Contact Susan Harrington at our office if you are interested at susan.harrington.richmond@gmail.com or 239-4232.

Lowering Vet's Hall Rental Fees

We have lowered the fees for renting the Vets Hall for private functions. It is a beautiful big space, our tax dollars maintain it, and we would like residents to be able to use it. To rent the main hall with the kitchen will be \$50 for four hours or \$60 for 8 hours (down from \$125 and \$200, respectively). Renting the hall without the kitchen will be \$25 for 4 hours and \$35 for 8 hours (down from \$75 and \$125). There is an additional charge of \$35 for heating costs during the cold months, from October through April. We require a \$100 deposit for cleaning or repairing damage – this is fully refunded if you clean up after your use of the space and there is no damage. We also require that you provide a Certifi-

cate of Insurance for liability coverage, which is so far been easy for residents to obtain under their Home Owners policy.

Only residents may rent the hall – but please ask the Office if it is a function related to a resident. Depending on circumstances, a nonresident may be able to rent it if, for example, it is for the funeral or honoring of a resident or former resident.

The Hall is available free of charge for activities that are open without charge to all Richmond residents, such as Scout meetings, exercise classes, etc.

Please ask Susan if you have questions or want to inquire into a rental, at 239-4232. We thank Pam and Al Bielunis for their work as Town Custodians in maintaining the hall and for suggesting that we decrease the cost of renting the hall.

Our thanks also to Chris and Maureen Daugherty for the evergreen decorations on the doors of the Town buildings. They are beautiful.

Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Following is the holiday schedule for the town clerk's office for the year 2019:

New Year's Eve

Mon, Dec 31 abbreviated. hours:

Open 9-noon; 1-4; Closed 6-8 pm

***Richmond Community
United Methodist Church***

PASTOR DAVID PIERCE

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am

All are welcome to join our church family!



From a Friend On Athol Road

New Year's Day, Tue. Jan 1 (Normally Closed)
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Mon, Jan 21
 Presidents' Day Mon, Feb 18
 Memorial Day Mon, May 27
 Independence Day Thu, Jul 4
 Labor Day Mon, Sept 2
 Columbus Day Mon, Oct 14
 Veterans' Day Mon, Nov 11
 Thanksgiving Break Wed/Thu, Nov 27 & 28
 Christmas Day Wed, Dec 25

The Town Election March 2019

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The Town Election will be held on March 12, 2019.

The following officers will be elected at that time:

- One Cemetery Trustee: 3-year term
- One Library Trustee: 3-year term
- One Library Trustee: 2-year term
- Two Planning Board members: 3-year term each
- One Selectman: 3-year term
- One Selectman: 2-year term
- One Trustee of the Trust Funds: 3-year term

If you would like to run for any of the above offices, 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 23, 2019 and ends February 1, 2019. The office will be open on Friday, February 1, 2019 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 Decla-

ration of Candidacy forms that are mailed or that are delivered by someone other than the candidate must be received between January 23 and January 31.

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 "18-" 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's Own

Terri O'Rorke

After eating our way through all the end of year holidays, we're probably all ready for some lighter (but tasty) fare! Here's an easy salmon recipe which can be served with a salad and roasted green beans!

Baked Salmon With Coconut Crust

4 – 4 oz. salmon fillets, skin removed
 1 Tblsp. lime or lemon juice
 1/2 c. panko (Japanese bread crumbs) or dry bread crumbs
 1/4 c. flaked sweetened coconut
 salt and pepper to taste
 cooking spray
 Place salmon fillets on a non-stick baking pan. Brush with juice. In a shallow dish, combine crumbs, coconut, salt and pepper. Dredge each fillet in the mixture and

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return to pan. Spread leftover crumbs on top of each fillet. Coat with cooking spray. Place in a pre-heated 425° oven for 12-15 minutes. Place under broiler for a golden crust if desired. 272 calories per serving.

Roasted Green Beans With Thyme

2 lbs. green beans

2 Tblsps. olive oil

1/2 tsp. dried thyme or 1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme

salt and pepper to taste

Wash beans, cut off ends. Place in shallow baking pan which holds them in a single layer. Drizzle with oil, tossing lightly to coat. Sprinkle with thyme, salt and pepper. Place in pre-heated 425° oven for about 15 minutes or until tender. 75 calories per serving.

Library News

Wendy O'Brien

Every Saturday, 10:30, Knitting Circle

Every Wednesday, 10:00, Story Hour

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tues. Jan. 1, Closed for New Year's Day

Sat. Jan. 5, 10:30-11:30, Community Coffee Hour

Tues. Jan. 8, 6:00, Book Club: *Julie and Julia*

Thurs. Jan. 10, 5:00, Teen Pizza Night

Traveling Art Exhibit: The Peace in the World

For the month of January, we will be hosting an exhibit of children's art from the Pärnu Sütevaka Humanitaargümnaasium, a school in Pärnu, Estonia, on the shore of the Baltic Sea. This exhibition has traveled around various New England libraries and is sponsored by the Fermata Arts Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting peace through arts and culture. We will be having several events throughout the month for adults and kids focusing both on the exhibit and the culture of the area. Contact the Library for an event schedule.

Book Club

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5 at 6:00 pm and we will be reading *Julie and Julia* by Julie Powell. "Julie Powell is 30-years-old, living in a rundown apartment in Queens, and working at a soul-sucking secretarial job that's going nowhere. She needs something to break the monotony of her life, and she invents a deranged assignment. She will take her mother's dog-eared copy of Julia Child's 1961 classic *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, and she will cook all 524 recipes. In the span of one year."—Good Reads. Books are still available at the Library—come join us!

Richmond Artists' Showcase

In spring 2019, the RPL will be hosting a celebration

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Sunday 7AM-8PM

of local artists' work. So far, we will be featuring eight Richmond artists. If you would like to participate, please let us know! We want to be as inclusive as possible and include many mediums in our exhibit. Watch *The Rooster* for the date and time of our opening reception.

New Titles

Quick and Easy Ketogenic Cooking, Maria Emmerich
Kingdom of the Blind, Louise Penny
Tony's Wife, Adriana Trigiani
Look Alive Twenty-Five, Janet Evanovich
West, Carys Davies

Civil War Service, 1861-1865, Richmond, NH: A three-ring binder with genealogical and other information on all the soldiers from Richmond who served in the Civil War.

- 13 Civil War History Reference Books.
- Copies of the Richmond Rooster from the early 1990s.
- A donation of photographs, correspondence, documents, books, and objects related to Richmond, both historical and current.

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

Civil War Memorial Update

Bonnie McCarthy

IT'S HERE!! The bronze plaque commemorating the names of the 76 Richmond Civil War combatants has arrived and will be safely housed in the Richmond Public Library until springtime when it will be mounted on a granite stone. The Richmond Heritage Commission and the Richmond Historical Society plan to jointly host a dedication of the monument in May 2019. More on the gala celebration to follow as plans are gelled. In



the meantime, please stop by the Library to view this beautiful tribute to our Civil War heroes.

To set the stage for the springtime dedication of the Civil War Memorial, our Town Librarian/Archivist, Wendy O'Brien, found and transcribed (as closely as possible) photocopies of two letters (below) written by Alden F. Ballou to his father. I hope they give you as moving a picture of Alden's life, time, and circumstances as they gave me.

Feb, 14 Thu, 1863

Dear Father,

I now take my pen to inform you that I am enjoying perfect health and hope this will find you all the same.

We are here at Carralton yet and don't but we shall stay here all the time that we stay here. It is pretty[?] hot here now as hot as if it is there in July we don't have much to do now have to drill three hours in a day and have to go on guard once a week.

There is a good many sick none from Richmond though. There has six died since the come out here one Leuit one Surgeon and four privates there [?] the of



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them out of our Co., There is a great many soldiers going up the river to Vicksburg. There will be some hard fighting there soon and if they take Vicksburg the Rebellion is done, and they are very confident that they can take it. After that is taken it makes a pathway for the Western states, it opens the Mississippi from the Gulf of Mexico to the West. Business is good in New Orleans there is a great many hands to work there for the government. We are in the first Brigade in Gen. Emery's division of reserved troops.

The Mississippi river is very high now, it is likely to overflow the country. If it does it will cover the whole state of La and Texas, for the ground is perfectly level here and is a number of feet below the level of the water. I think the war will be short now, the rebels have got about sick of it and if they loose Vicksburg which they are very likely to it will be north a day on of Richmond, and I think they will loose Richmond soon. There has be some dispute about when our time commenced but I believe it is decided now that it is out of the 15 of June. The quarter master don't draw only one Months rations after the first of June and we have got to get home before the first of July or else go without anything to eat. I don't think of much more to write now, please write as soon as you get this.

Yours truly,
A.F. Ballou

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New Orleans June 2, 186_

Dear Father, It has been a long time since I have had a chance to write you a letter. I am at New Orleans unable to do duty, there is only about 200 fit for duty them have gone to Port Hudson the rest of us are left here to recruit up a little. I have been on board of a gun boat ever since the first of May have been a good many hundred miles and had some fighting.

I had the measles and bilious fever when I was on the gunboat but am getting pretty[?] smart again we have got a good place to stay here have more a plenty to eat and good water to drink.

I think I shall start for within two or three weeks. Our me is out the 2[?] of July but they are going to send us home as quick as possible. The weather is pretty[?] warm here in the day and cool nights. Elisha Harkness is dead I expect the last time I heard from him they didn't expect he would live the day out, he was left at Brashear City. We came from there the day before yesterday.

I heard that you had moved some time ago want you should keep the colt where there is good feed and try and kill the lice if there is any on her. I ain't had a letter from you this two months.

I shant get home so to do any haying this year. I don't expect there is only one Captain in the Regt able to do duty that is Capt. Buffum he is chuck full of fight-

ing he has gone to Port Hudson they are having hot work I guess as near as I can find out but she must [?]ock under prety[?] quick to. You musn't worry yourselves any about me I am getting along first rate got over the measles in good shape and plenty to eat and a good cool place to stay can go round over the City and everything nice, don't think of anything more to write this time and shant stay in this climate long enough to write many more letters.

Yours truly,
Alden F. Ballou
Camp Marshfield

Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty

Happy New Year to All

- i. If you have a problem that you can't seem to solve – **Try calling 211**, which will put you in touch with a host of resources that provide assistance.
- ii. This document represents the opinion of Neil Moriarty, and may not represent the opinions of the Monadnock Regional School District school board.

1. Monadnock High Football Team Wins Division III State Title Remaining Undefeated. Finished @ 12 Wins and 0 Losses.

The title game was on Nov. 12. About 11 members of the team were recognized for their performance at the state level – it amazes me that almost a 1/3 of the team consisting of 35 players got this recognition. CONGRATULATIONS

2. FY* 2019 – 2020 Budget Process Is Under Way.

The joint meeting of the School Board and Budget Committee was delayed so those that wanted to could go to the championship game. All dollar numbers are only tentative as the Budget Committee owns the real numbers and they will not set them (Operating Budget and Default Budget) until January 10, 2019. The number proposed by the administration is down approxi-

mately \$250,000 – remembering that the two major labor contracts will be on separate and individual Warrant Articles. The school board has proposed the hiring of a Human Resource Person, and the administration has proposed a person to help the kids with drug or alcohol problems. I have to ask: “Why is the school district always being asked to solve community issues?” There is an organization called MAPS (office in Keene) that supplies these types of services throughout the district Elementary Schools. The Board has asked for \$75,000 for professional support to look at alternatives at the Elementary School Level – with \$12 million in maintenance tasks** looking at us, we need to review our alternatives. I believe we can develop some cost-saving alternatives; nor, do I think we will spend the entire \$75,000 on services. **Fiscal Year **The Maintenance administration (SAU 93) had a study performed on our elementary schools (excluding Mt Caesar – which is under current maintenance contracts) to determine the maintenance required on these buildings*

3. Thoughts On Changing Towns Payment Formulas To the School District There was an article in the *Sentinel* recently about proposals to change the formula for how towns pay for the school; i.e., more for property values and less for the number of kids. The article mentioned that the Richmond school budget would increase. ***Rest assured that the increase for Richmond would be less than 1/10 of a percent. The taxes for the school are very high; however, as far as which formula matters little to Richmond. We are sort of in the middle on the number of students vs. property values. ****This is based on the latest available data from the Dept. of Education*

4. The district will apologize for its part in the late property tax bills throughout Monadnock Regional School District; and will improve the efforts in the future on tax efforts for District 93.

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Thanks for reading my article. If you have suggestions, comments, or news you wish me to include, contact me at: cmoriarty@ne.rr.com, 603-239-4031, or 782 Old Homestead Hwy, Richmond NH 03470.

Elementary School Awards for November

Neil Moriarty

These are the elementary awards for November 2018. If you think your child's name should be here – you must release the child's name at the school

Name	Grade	Award	School
Catrina Joslyn	5	Reading & Writing	Cutler
Mason Harrington	3	Innovator	Cutler
Rowan Sheffield		November Award	Cutler
Christopher Taillon		November Award	Emerson

MRS District Budget Committee





Doug Bersaw

The Monadnock School district underwent some changes this year.

1. Last March, with the recommendation of the Budget Committee, the voters approved substantial improvements to Mount Caesar Elementary school and minor repairs to other buildings in the district.
2. The district's Business Administrator, Jane Fortson, is no longer with the district and has been replaced by Janel Swanson, who grew up in Richmond.
3. This past year the school administration underspent the approved budget by \$2.2 million. That money will be returned to the towns in the form of lower than anticipated assessments for the coming year.
4. The budget committee is trying very hard to keep the proposed budget for the upcoming 2019-20 fiscal year as low as possible and in line with recent years' actual

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expenditures, since student numbers are essentially unchanged from last year's.

5. A local independent citizens committee has done a lot of work this past year researching what sort of an apportionment ratio would be reasonable and workable for the members of all six towns in the district. Composed largely of concerned volunteers from Troy and Fitzwillam, the two towns most dramatically affected by any change in the apportionment ratios, the committee will be making their recommendations known to all of each town's selectmen and the school board, so that a new rate change Warrant Article may appear on the School Warrant in March.

I would like to encourage as many people as possi-

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ble who are voters and taxpayers in the district to **PLEASE ATTEND THE SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE SESSION on Saturday February 2nd at 9:00 am at the High School.** This is a very important meeting since close to 70% of every taxpayer's bill is directly related to the school costs. This is where your presence and your vote have the most impact. Feel free to email me at doug@ihmmmedia.net with questions or suggestions regarding the Monadnock district budget.

Prepay Property Taxes

Neil Moriarty

Paying Property Taxes without a Tax Bill – Yes You Can! While the issue of the school district being late with the tax information to the state; thus delaying the state from issuing the information for our property tax bill, and what will amount to a late December tax bill from the Town of Richmond – you don't need a tax bill to pay your taxes! You can pay an estimated amount of your taxes. In 1999 our town adapted an RSA 80:52-A that allowed us to pay property taxes without receiving a tax bill. Many of us will remember that the Town of Richmond also had problems setting our own tax amount – thus delaying our property tax bill. You can simply write a check to the town for the amount of what you feel is your Estimated Property Tax amount. Be careful here – your check can be for any amount; how-

ever, you can only claim the property tax you really owe on your USA income taxes – claim too much and you will have to amend your income taxes to the USA. Given you do overpay your property taxes, the town will reimburse overpayments, as well as billing you for underpayments. While not ideal, this is a solution for making a property tax payment without receiving a property tax bill – thus claiming it on your USA Income Tax. Notes: 1. Thanks to Susan Harrington for finding the year Richmond adapted the RSA. 2. The RSA calls for the individual towns to adopt the prepayment RSA – other towns reading this must ensure their town has adapted the RSA 80:52-A as a town on their town's warrant.

Newest Selectman Chooses to Run in March

Doug Bersaw

Douglas Bersaw Richmond's newest Selectman was chosen by the Selectboard in October to fill the seat vacated by Chris Daugherty when he retired. Someone must be chosen by the voters in March to fill the remaining two years of Mr. Daugherty's unexpired term. Meanwhile, Carol Jameson, whose three-year term expires in March is not running again. Douglas Bersaw has announced that he will run for Selectman to fill Carol Jameson's seat that will be open in March.

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A Walk With The Devil

Jon Hill and Carol Jameson

This is a moderate-to-easy walk of about 3 miles with ups and downs but no really steep spots, through beautiful woodlands and streams, with a waterfall that cascades into a rock formation called the Devil's Washbowl. The water was rushing when we hiked there on December 7, but can be a trickle during the dry season.

This trail is in the Arthur Iverson Preserve in Warwick MA, one of the large conservation tracts managed by the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. The trail



meanders through a predominantly mature hemlock and hardwood forest – with some oak, beech, a few birch, and some spruce. It skirts a scenic ravine with the Hodge Brook flowing at the bottom. Although there are glimpses of the falls and the Devil's Washbowl from both sides of the ravine, the real treat is to walk

down to the falls from the east side of the ravine.

Even without the falls and the Washbowl, this is a beautiful walk. This part of the Iverson Preserve on the

west side of Gale Road was donated with a “forever wild” restriction. The forest is not managed, the trees are not harvested, and the trail is not groomed. There is little sign of a human presence. The canopy is high and the ground is not rocky like it is in Richmond. You walk through the woods as if you were the first humans there, except for the trail markers – which are plentiful. A blue diamond or old blue blazes, and white markers in places. There are water crossings without bridges – three or so – all possible to cross on stones and sticks, although one is tricky when the water is this high.



The website for the trail at mountgrace.org says the walk is in and out on the same trail, one and a half miles each way. Jon knew of a trail that makes it a loop hike, which is what we did.

The trail begins off the Gale Road, a little used road in Warwick. We drove down Whipple Hill Road into Massachusetts to the crossroads in Warwick, turned right there onto Athol Road and took the first left onto Gale Road which runs south. Drive down about one quarter mile or a tad less. Pass a guardrail on your right



This is porcupine heaven. We saw two, and a third one disappearing into a crevice in the rock near the brook. There are many signs of porcupine – trails and broken twigs.



Back to the main trail at the top of the ravine, the trail continues uphill until it drops down to a second water crossing. This is where we had to scout the brook to the right until we found a place to cross the now forked brook, then backtrack along the brook back to the trail. The trail then leads uphill to the top of the ravine and circles around on top to the west side of the ravine with the stream and later the falls now visible below from the opposite side.

The land on this side changes a little. There are more boulders and rock formations, although not like our woods. The trail drops down again into the lost valley and, after a while, widens to an old woods road. It crosses the brook and a wetland on top of the remains of an old stone wall and a beaver dam. The old woods

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road continues for quite a way up a long incline to the end of the trail on the southern terminus on Gale Road where the kiosk and trail map are located. Although the forest is still hemlock and hardwood, there is some underbrush and mountain laurel growing on the sides of the woods road, a sight you will not see on the east side of the ravine.

Back onto Gale Road, turn left to return to your car, about a mile or so.



BURN

Blues sax blow —
like wind
brushes manzanita bush

Play hot waves —
as sun burns
on Arizona sands

Beat syncopation —
like bones knock
on hollow Creole walls

Suck the smell of thyme
from Green Mountain slopes —
tongue your reed in catalytic rhythm

Fake snake hisses
trapped in Colorado eddies —
scratches, scratches from chameleon claws

Wail through Detroit factory smoke —
moan down a road of Dallas smog —
wrap us — make us dream.

J. C. Tandy Richmond, NH 1/26/01

January Update

Representative Jennie Gomarlo

Cheshire 12 – Richmond and Swanzey

It's been a month of learning since I was elected to represent Richmond and Swanzey in the NH House of Representatives. The most impressive revelation is the amazing staff we have in Concord.

From the house clerk, who is a fountain of information (and very dapper as well – wearing a morning suit on the day of the swearing in of all representatives) to the researchers in legislative services to the IT people in the basement of the state house making sure we all can sign into our legislative email accounts. They are kind and smile all the while answering my questions.

I learned about children issues, the family and medical leave act that was put into interim study by the senate last year, and energy issues. I picked up the sponsorship of Jim McConnell's legislative request from Swanzey regarding the upkeep of properties taken by foreclosure. Based on a statute from NY, it seems to be straight forward and should have bipartisan support.

I've not received my committee assignment yet, but there are meetings and forums every day on a variety of subjects if one chooses to travel to attend them.

Newly elected democratic Speaker Steve Shurtleff has promised to change the rule allowing weapons in the state house. This will hopefully encourage our school district to once again send fourth graders on their civics tour of the incredible building.

Part of being a legislator is also being on the Cheshire County delegation. I attended an orientation on county government last week. Department heads were introduced and spoke briefly on their duties and challenges.

In particular, Maplewood nursing home is having a very difficult time hiring and retaining LNAs to the extent that they cannot take new residents at times. It is also budget season for the county and we received the preliminary packet that will be examined by the delegation's executive committee over the next two months.

We officially start our year on January 2. I'm sure that Barry and I will have much to share next month.

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The RICHMOND ROOSTER

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Bonnie McCarthy, Neil Moriarty,
Karen O'Brien, Wendy O'Brien, Terri O'Rourke,
Jean Tandy, Annette Tokunaga,
and *The Rooster Staff*

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and article contributions.

Deadline is the 10th of each month.

Email – therichmondrooster@yahoo.com

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Town Business Hours

105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

Board of Selectmen:

Carol Jameson, William Daniels, Doug Bersaw

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

Wed. 9 AM – NOON, 1 – 4 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – 12 PM (unless posted)

Public is welcome to attend. Please call for an
appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

Town Administrator: Susan Harrington

Administrative Assistant: Vacant

Town Clerk: Annette Tokunaga

Deputy Town Clerk: Katie Delaney

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

Wed. 9 – 12 noon, 1 – 4 PM, Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Joanne Cote

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – 12 NOON

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

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