



The **Something to Crow About** RICHMOND ROOSTER

March 2019

Dates to Remember

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Mar. 11 OPEN from 4-5 PM to accept absentee ballots

Mar. 12 Town Election

Polls open 11 AM-7 PM, Veteran's Hall

Mar. 15 OPEN 3-5 PM to accept applications for recounts of votes cast at Town Election for officers

Mar. 16 2nd Session of Town Meeting starts at 9:00 AM, Veteran's Hall

The Town Meeting

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

The first session of the Town Meeting, known as the Town Election, will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall on March 12. The polls will open at 11:00 AM and close at 7:00 PM. The Monadnock Regional School District Election will be held at the same time.

If you are not yet a registered Richmond voter, you may register to vote at the Supervisors of the Checklist session to be held on Saturday, March 2, from 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM at the Veterans Hall. You may also register to vote on March 12, Election Day.

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

- Will be absent from the town where the voter is registered to vote;
- Cannot appear in public due to religious reasons;
- Is unable to come to the polls due to a physical disability;
- Or is unable to come to the polls during polling hours because the voter is at work or is in transit to or from work. This includes the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

In order to obtain an absentee ballot, you must first complete the Application for Official Town and School Absentee Ballots. It is available at the town clerk's office and on the Town of Richmond website,

www.richmond.nh.gov. If you return the completed Application via email to richmondtownclerk@yahoo.com, please remember that you need to email a scanned copy of the SIGNED and completed Application.

A bill was passed in 2018 and became effective January 1, 2019. This law applies to the upcoming Town and School Election. In the event that the National Weather Service issues "a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning for election day... a person who is elderly or infirm or who has a physical disability..." or "a person who cares for children or infirm adults who reasonably anticipates that school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, who otherwise would have voted in person... may vote absentee on the Monday immediately prior to the election."

Once you have received and marked your absentee ballot, you may return it by mail or in person. If you, the voter, returns the absentee ballot, you must return the ballot to the town clerk no later than 5:00 PM on the day before Election Day.

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

Whether you are the voter or the person returning the absentee ballot for the voter, you must always hand the absentee ballot directly to the town clerk. Do not leave the ballot in any receptacle, on a counter (even the town clerk's counter) or with someone other than the town clerk.

The business session of the Town Meeting will commence at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 16, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. All registered voters attending this meeting will have the opportunity to discuss,

amend and vote on the town budget and other business on the warrant. If you are not a registered voter and you would like to vote at the business session, please register no later than Election Day, March 12. No voter registration activity will occur on March 16.

As always, please call 239-6202 if you have any questions or concerns.

Selectmen Report

Carol Jameson

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TOWN MEETING

Candidates Night on

Thursday, February 28, 7 pm at the Vet's Hall.

There are multiple candidates running for two open positions on the Selectboard:

Selectmen, 3-year term:

"Marcus" Mark Beauregard

Douglas Bersaw

Selectmen, 2-year term:

Donald Merwin

Daniel Pratt

Andrew Wallace

The Selectmen will hold a Candidates Night on Thursday, February 28, 7 pm at the Vet's Hall. This is an opportunity for the public to meet the candidates – each will give a short introduction and the public is encouraged to ask questions. Some of the candidates may be relative newcomers to town, this is your opportunity to meet them if you have not already.

We are also inviting two residents who have volunteered to be write-ins for two positions for which there were no candidates. John Lewis has agreed to serve as Library Trustee for a two-year term, if residents wish to write his name in on the ballot. Carol Jameson has volunteered to be a write-in for the position of Trustee of the Trust Funds, three-year term. Light refreshments will be served.

Town elections are held on Tuesday March 12, at the polls set up in the Vet's Hall. Town Meeting for approval of the budget and other matters will be held on Saturday, March 16 at 9 am. Please attend. Democracy requires public participation.

Library News

Wendy O'Brien

Every Saturday, 10:30, Knitting Circle

Every Wednesday, 10:00, Story Hour

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat. March 2, 10:30-11:30, Community Coffee Hour

Sat. March 9, 10:30, Pavilion, Seed Starting Workshop (bad weather date March 23)

Tues. March 12, 6:00, Book Club: *The Burgess Boys*

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

Looking ahead:

Tues. April 2, 6:00, Richmond Artists' Reception

Book Club

Our March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 12 at 6:00 pm and we will be reading *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout. "Haunted by the freak accident that killed their father when they were children, Jim and Bob Burgess escaped from their Maine hometown of Shirley Falls for New York City as soon as they possibly could. Jim, a sleek, successful corporate lawyer, has belittled his bighearted brother their whole lives, and Bob, a Legal Aid attorney who idolizes Jim, has always taken it in stride. But their long-standing dynamic is upended when their sister, Susan—the Burgess sibling who stayed behind—urgently calls them home. Her lonely teenage son, Zach, has gotten himself into a world of trouble, and Susan desperately needs their help. And so the Burgess brothers return to the landscape of their childhood, where the long-buried tensions that have shaped and shadowed their relationship begin to surface in unexpected ways that will change them forever." —Good Reads. Books are still available at the Library—come join us!

Seed Starting Workshop with Expert Gardeners

Ready for spring? The RPL is pleased to offer a seed starting workshop on Saturday, March 9 (bad weather date March 23) at 10:30 at the Pavilion behind the Library. Join accomplished gardeners Carol Jameson, Susan Marsden, and Karen O'Brien in learning about starting plants from seeds. You will each go home with a flat of planted seeds, along with packets of seeds that are best planted straight into the ground. Have questions or specific problems in an existing garden? There will also be a question and answer session with Carol, Susan, and Karen, who are very familiar with the specific gardening conditions here in Richmond. We will also be discussing the possibility of establishing a seed library exchange at the RPL. Are some of your plants ready to be divided? Stay tuned for a plant exchange in May!

In order to have enough materials for everyone, pre-registration is requested. You are welcome to sign up

Richmond Public Library

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library@richmondnh.us Tel. 239-6164

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-7pm
Wednesdays 9-noon
Saturdays 10am-2pm

Catalog:
opac.libraryworld.com/
opac/home.php. Library
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in the Library, call us at 239-6164, or drop us an email at library@richmondnh.us to register.

Richmond Artists' Showcase

During the month of April we are pleased to feature the works of 9 Richmond artists at the RPL: Douglass Bartlett, Cay Dilello, Jeani Eismont, Rosti Eismont, Becky Haskins, Ronna Rajaniemi, Jean Tandy, Walden Whitham and Susan Opal Wyatt. Join us for an opening reception on Tuesday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. to meet the artists and view their works. We wish to thank Jean Tandy and Becky Haskins for their assistance in the installation of the pieces.

New Titles

Rule of Law, John Lescoart

The Fifth Risk, Michael Lewis

Judgment, Joseph Finder

New Iberia Blues, James Lee Burke

Orphan of the Salt Winds, Elizabeth Brooks

Report from the Monadnock Budget Committee

Doug Bersaw

On Saturday February 2nd, twenty Richmond voters came to the Monadnock High School for the District Town Meeting. I would like to personally thank those twenty stalwart citizens. This was a golden opportunity to keep the next year's operating budget to a number that I think is reasonable. I introduced a motion to

amend the proposed operating budget. The amount that I proposed was about \$800,000 more than was actually spent last year (due to contractual obligations) and roughly more than \$1,000,000 less than the Administration has proposed to be on the ballot this year. On a secret written ballot the amendment lost by 13 votes. So, the taxpayers of Richmond, and all other towns in the district can expect another tax hike in December. IF WE ONLY HAD 15 MORE VOTERS!

I have one more year to my term as Budget Committee Member from Richmond, and I will continue to do the job as well as I am able to. We have a responsible and hardworking Budget Committee, but remember, we need the voters to show up and ratify our hard work. Please, do not vote to abolish the Budget Committee on March 12, and I prefer the funding formula to remain at 75/25 until a fairer apportionment rate can be established. A vote for the 50/50 will alienate Roxbury and Fitzwilliam taxpayers, and in my opinion, it is not uniformly equitable to all towns.

Selectman – Two-Year Term

Andrew Wallace

My name is Andrew Wallace and I am announcing my candidacy for the two-year vacancy on the Board of Selectmen. I grew up in this area, and like most in our town, I chose to live and raise my family in Richmond because I appreciate the quiet rural atmosphere our

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

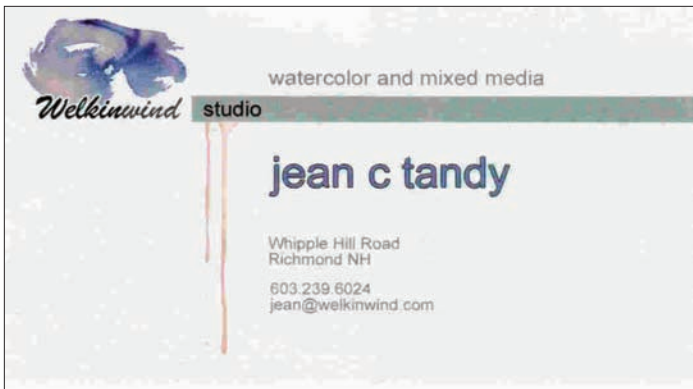
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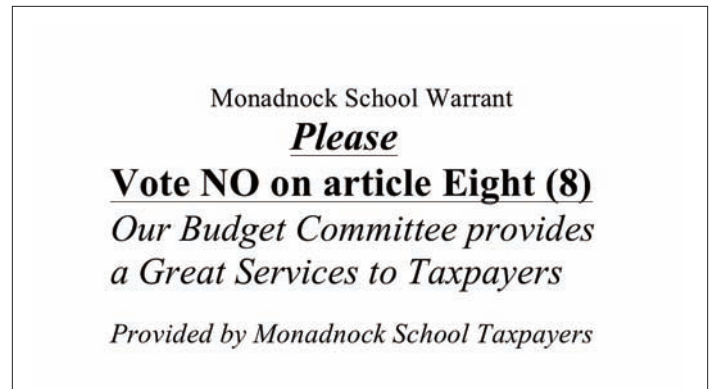


community provides. Unfortunately, like many towns in southwestern New Hampshire, Richmond residents struggle with the issue of high property taxes. I have talked to some of our neighbors who also love our town but are considering selling their homes in hopes of finding a more affordable place to live. As a husband and father trying to provide for my family, I am concerned about how every one of my hard-earned dollars are spent, including the amount I pay in property taxes. I appreciate that the Board of Selectmen have worked hard for the last couple of years to reduce the municipal portion of our tax rate, and my goal is to continue to help them in that effort. Like all of us, I am a concerned tax payer who wants to make sure we are doing the best we can to balance our town's needs with sensible taxation. I believe my 12 years of experience in a Fortune 500 company, in positions that range from customer service to financial analysis, will also be an asset in helping me achieve that goal. I am asking for your vote at the Veterans Hall on March 12, 2019.

Write-in Candidates for Trustee of the Trust Funds

Deb Coll

No one has filed as a candidate for a Trustee of the Trust Funds 3-year term. Carol Jameson is volunteering to run as a write-in candidate and will serve if elected. Carol has served as a Selectmen for six years and is a



retired lawyer. Her legal background and prior experience as a Selectman will be helpful. Please consider writing in Carol Jameson for a 3-year term as Trustee of the Trust Funds at the polls on Tuesday, March 12.

Write-in Candidates for a Trustee of the Library

Wendy O'Brien

John Lewis would like to run for the office of Trustee of the Library. John has been coming to Richmond with his family since he was a child, living part of the year on Athol Rd. in the old Amidon House. The family spent much time in Richmond and John went to Camp Takodah for ten years. Old timers will remember John's father Dr. Lewis. John became a full-time Richmond resident this year. He has been a member of the Richmond Historical Society for many years and is currently its Secretary. He is also a Civil War scholar with a particular interest in the Battle of Gettysburg. John had a career as a research scientist working on developing vaccines. He has two grown sons.

The current Trustees support John Lewis's candidacy for the two-year term of Trustee of the Library.

Support 50/50

Ben Drugg

Vote YES on Article 9 of the Monadnock Regional School District ballot Tuesday, March 12th.



Why Richmond should support this much needed change.

1) The current funding formula is not legal. Six years ago, 75/25 passed illegally because the laws were not understood. By the time everyone realized that the formula was illegal, it was too late for a judge to intervene.

The law surrounding the funding formula is well understood today and being enforced accordingly. In fact, the District Moderator, with the support of the School's Attorney, ruled any attempt to amend the 50/50 Article at this year's Deliberative Session as out of order.

2) It only costs taxpayers in Richmond seven cents on the local school tax rate to help right this wrong. On a home assessed at \$200,000, that's only \$14.00.

3) 50/50 helps equalize the local school tax rates across the district. Currently, the disparity between the highest and lowest local school tax rate is \$6.28. 50/50 reduces that disparity by more than half to \$3.02. It's not perfect, but it's as close as we can get under current law.

4) Don't be fooled by the myth of "Equal Cost-Per-Student." For some towns in the district, equalizing the cost per student on a town-by-town basis will lower their tax rate significantly. Therefore, those towns prefer equal cost-per-student over equal local school tax rates.

What most people don't realize is that equal cost-per-student for each town is not even achievable. If the School Board was to create a formula that resulted in each town paying the same cost-per-student, the local school tax rate disparity mentioned above would grow to \$14.03. That's a local school tax rate of \$24.60 for one town and \$10.58 for another in the same district. That's two and a half times the disparity that we currently have under 75/25 and nearly five times greater than what the disparity would be under 50/50. Even those that advocate for equal cost-per-student agree that this is woefully unfair.

So why do they make this argument? The reason is simple. They want to pay the lowest tax rate possible. We all agree that lower taxes are certainly something to shoot for, but we can also agree that the intent of a Cooperative School District is not for certain towns in the district to negotiate their way to the lowest tax rate.

Every tax payer should pay the same rate, whether they have kids in school or not and regardless of what town they come from.

ARTICLE NINE: To see if the Monadnock Regional School District will vote to change the formula for apportionment of operational costs from 25% based on equalized valuation and 75% based on average daily membership to 50% based on equalized valuation and 50% based on average daily membership with no change being made in the present formula for apportioning capital expenses. RSAs 197:6. 195:7. 195:8. By petition. The School Board has taken no position on this article. The Budget Committee has taken no position on this article.

Current 75/25 (2018 Figures)

Town	Assess Tax Rate	Gross Contribution
FITZWILLIAM	\$13.24	\$5,061,621
GILSUM	\$14.80	\$1,465,185
RICHMOND	\$16.19	\$2,592,584
ROXBURY	\$14.72	\$446,781
SWANZEY	\$17.08	\$15,605,060
TROY	\$19.52	\$4,830,937

Proposed 50/50 (2018 Figures)

Town	Assessed Tax Rate	Gross Contribution
FITZWILLIAM	\$15.06	\$5,587,664
GILSUM	\$15.75	\$1,523,821
RICHMOND	\$16.26	\$2,599,102
ROXBURY	\$18.07	\$523,596
SWANZEY	\$16.84	\$15,470,147
TROY	\$15.43	\$4,297,837

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Officer in Charge - Rebuttal

Andrew Wood

When I prepared the budget for 2018, I presented a proposal to the Board of Selectmen to add a full-time officer to the staff at the Police Department. In that proposal, I stated that the Town of Richmond has pondered the possibility of hiring a full-time police officer for almost 18 years. Over the years, we have had an increasingly difficult time hiring and sustaining qualified part time officers. It has been very difficult to cover the daytime hours because our officers have full time positions in other communities. It is important to have an officer on during the day. We have seen many major events happen here including a kidnapping suspect being apprehended, multi-state burglars captured, one of the largest downloaders of child porn in New England being apprehended, a heroin drug ring operation taken down along with a recent drug and money laundering investigation by the Massachusetts State Police with arrests being made here.

We have come to a juncture in Richmond where we need to transition to having a full-time officer. Since the middle of 2017, we have had an officer working part time, 40 hours a week, with no benefits. Fortunately, we have a full-time certified experienced officer that was able to fill this role. The strategy was to have this officer work primarily Monday through Friday during the day. We realize that the majority of our residents

work during the day and are out of town during this time. This is the most vulnerable time for criminal activity targeting our homes and the safety of our families. It is our hope that by having a police presence during the day, it will minimize criminal activity and educate motorists to change driving behaviors. We have noticed a significant reduction in motor vehicle crashes since implementing this strategy which leads to safer travel on our roads.

We also have a campground and two YMCA camps in town where many of the town's visitors would be during the day. Ideally, the town should have an officer for at least 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. Seeing how that was not possible to begin with, I suggested that we have an officer for approximately 8 hours each day. Officer Cameron Prior had been working 40 hours a week since July 2017 as a part-time officer with no benefits. I have been covering the weekend shifts, as well as an evening shift in the middle of the week. We were covering at least 8 hours a day, 7 days a week. We were also fortunate enough to have Lynn Davis working in the office 18 hours a week. We were seeing a significant decrease in traffic-related incidents, as well as a reduction in property crimes having the days covered.

The Selectmen agreed to add funding for the full-time officer position as a separate warrant article to let the democratic process take place and let the residents decide. At the 2018 March Town Meeting, after much

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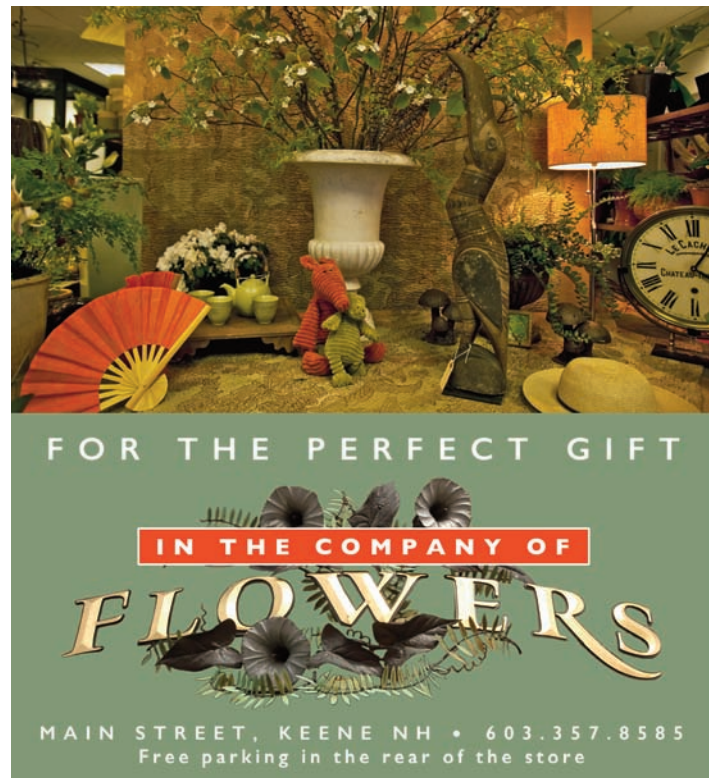
discussion, the position was created, and the funding passed. On April 1, 2018, Officer Prior was hired as the town's first full-time officer.

Shortly after town meeting on April 10, 2018, I attended a NH Chief of Police annual meeting and was approached by Sheriff Rivara where he told me that Selectmen Daniels had contacted him about taking over the Richmond Police Department.

During the later part of the month of April into May, I began to hear that the Board of Selectmen were going to contract with Municipal Resources Inc. (MRI) for over \$5000 to conduct a search for the Police Chief's position. This contradicted what I was told when I retook command of the department in early 2017. I met with the Board and told them that the department was running very smoothly at this time and suggested they rethink the decision, but they refused. I believed that this was in retaliation for the full-time position passing in March. This put the staff of the department, including Officer Prior, on edge. There was conversation from members of the Selectboard about having a retired police officer take over as Chief. Information was being released that members of the Board wanted to hire the current Chief of the neighboring town that was going to be retiring. Officer Prior began to search for other employment and applied to several departments. He told me that the uncertainty of who would be running the department was his motivation for his search.

On May 7, 2018, Officer Prior applied for a part-time position with the Hancock Police Department of which I am the full-time Police Chief. As he was going through the hiring process for a part-time position, for which he is highly qualified, a full-time officer in the department gave notice on June 1st that he would be resigning to go to a neighboring agency on June 15th. Officer Prior approached me, as the Hancock Police Chief, and asked if he could be considered for the full-time position. He told me that he had applied to other agencies. I told him that I needed to keep my roles in each department separate. Officer Prior expressed his concern in Richmond about the possible turmoil that was being created by the Selectmen and he was concerned for his job security.

After reviewing his qualifications, he was offered and accepted the position with the Hancock Police Department. He was offered a beginning salary that was more than \$12,000 higher than his current salary with Richmond, as well as a significant benefit package and



a take home cruiser. His commute time from his residence was reduced by 25 miles each way. Officer Prior agreed to remain with the Richmond Police Department as a part time officer if I was leading the department. He was hired by the Town of Hancock with a start date of June 18, 2018. I met with the Richmond Board of Selectmen and notified them of Officer Priors resignation of full-time status and that he was going to stay on part-time. I was told by Chairman Jameson that I should begin to look for a replacement. I began to search for qualified candidates, but felt that it was not my place to hire anyone until the "Chief" search was completed.

The Selectboard continued to conduct a search to fill the police chief's position with Municipal Resource Inc. (MRI). I applied for the position, completed the required essay questions and phone interview. I was invited for an oral interview with MRI and the Board of Selectmen on August 8th. I received a call after the interview had concluded, about an hour later, from Chairman Jameson advising me that I was highly qualified and told me that the Board voted to offer me the position. She advised that they would be presenting a contract for the position but did not have one available or drawn up. I was not given any indication of when this contract would be presented to me and if negotiation was needed before being finalized.

On August 27, 2018 I met with the Board of Selectmen and advised that I had completed the search for a

candidate to fill the full-time position within the department. I was told that there was a group that may be presenting an article at town meeting to disband the police department and contract with either the Sheriff's Office or another town. I told them that was 7 months away and felt that they needed to give this position, that was voted by the majority, a chance. I told them it was obvious by the skid marks around town that word was getting out that we did not have anyone here during the day. I was seeing an uptick in speeds of motorists and I had been receiving more and more reports of reckless, speeding drivers. I was also receiving complaints of possible drug activity at the 4 Corners lot. Chairman Jameson said that "this isn't the right time." I again told her that there was still 7 months until the 2019 Town Meeting, and it could be changed then. Chairman Jameson continued to tell me that the position only passed at Town Meeting by 1 vote. I expressed that the "MAJORITY" voted for the position and it did not matter if it was 1 vote or 100 votes. The Board told me that they would not allow me to hire a full-time officer.

On October 10th Chairman Jameson sent me a proposed Chief's contract, 2 months after offering me the job and 5 months after beginning the search with MRI. Verbiage in that document informed me that now the Board would be looking into another agency to provide police services. I rejected the contract. There was no protection in the contract for my position or the stability of the department. This led me to believe, moreover, that there were personal agenda's being forced on the police department by members of the Selectboard.

On October 29th Secretary Davis and I went to the Town Hall to present the Police Department budget. When we walked in, the doors to the Selectmen's Office were closed. We waited for quite some time before the door opened and the Officer in Charge of the Winchester Police Department, along with a member of the Winchester Board of Selectmen came out of the

"closed door" meeting with the Richmond Board. I went into the office after it was opened and presented the budget to the board. Upon completion of the presentation, I questioned the Board on their intentions and their personal agendas. I told them that I did not believe that they were doing what they were elected to do. I told them that I believed that they were undermining the Police Department and not supporting the department.

On January 2, 2019, I went into the Selectmen's Office to pick up paychecks and other items when I first learned of the forum that had been scheduled for January 10th. I spoke with the Town Administrator and the Town Clerk and advised them that I would not be in the state on that date. I asked the Town Administrator to contact the Selectboard to request that they reschedule the meeting for the following week so that I would be able to attend. I found out on January 7th that the Board denied my request. Again, this was consistent with their attempt to not provide citizens with proper information.

On January 10th, the meeting was held where information was provided to the attendees. I received a copy of these documents after sending a request to the Town Administrator.

After reviewing the documents, I found that the numbers that were presented did not reflect accurate information. The numbers presented for Option 1 and 1A simply multiplied the number of hours by the Sheriff's rate of \$46 per hour.

In a disclaimer above the chart listed on page 2, there is a paragraph that reads...

"In addition to patrol for the specified patrol hours, all options include customary ancillary police services such as criminal investigations, prosecution, special events, and associated administrative services"

This statement alone, shows that these numbers are misleading. The budgeted figures in Option 1 and Option 1A indicate 30 or 40 hours of "PATROL HOURS," but they don't account for the "Customary Ancillary

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Police Services” as stated in their statement.

The 2019 request for personnel is as follows:

\$41,500 Full-Time officer (40 hours per week for 52 weeks)
\$37,440 Part-Time Chief (24 hours per week for 52 weeks)
\$ 6,240 Part-Time Officer (6 hours per week for 52 weeks)
\$15,912 Part-Time Administrative Assistant (18 hours a week for 52 weeks)
\$ 3,200 Part-Time Police Prosecutor (3 Hours a week for 52 weeks)
\$104,292 This figure represents 91 hours of personnel time

It encompasses 70 hours of “On Duty” police officers
18 hours of Administrative support
3 hours of Prosecution support

Current total hours for Police Department: 91 hours

This is a direct misrepresentation by the Selectboard on the figures that they are projecting as put out in their documents on January 10th.

	OPT 1	Opt 1A	Opt 2	Opt 3
Cost	\$71760	\$95680	\$177230	\$112334
Patrol hours				
week	30	40	40	12
Cost/hour	\$46	\$46	\$85.20	\$180.02
Total hours				
for Existing				
Dept			91 hours	51 hours
Actual Cost/hr	\$46	\$46	\$37.45	\$42.35

At the forum meeting, the Sheriff told everyone that when the money is gone, it is gone. What that means is if the Sheriff’s Office uses up all the money in August, there will be no further coverage from their Department for the remainder of the year.

The paperwork that was handed out about police options on January 10th continued to mislead people stating that “in the last quarter of 2018, we only had 10 hours of coverage per week.” This is a totally false statement. Throughout the entire year, I worked an average of 20-25 hours a week or more including the last quarter. I worked primarily on the weekend as well as Wednesday evenings during the week. Officer Cam Prior continued to work about 6 hours on average per week until he was injured in a car crash in November 2018. Officer Mandi Swanson worked sporadically throughout the year because she was on probationary status with her full-time police job, but continued to be available as needed. Administrative Assistant Lynn Davis continued to work 18 hours a week throughout the year to be available during the week for customer service. She would contact me with any non-emergency issues that came up. I also would make time at night, if needed, to handle issues that were more pressing.

Had the Board of Selectmen allowed the hiring of the vacant Full-time position, there would have been no coverage issues. They have indicated that we were having difficulty hiring part-time officers, but that was not true. We had received several applications, some from certified officers in other towns. It was obvious that the course of events that members of the Board have put in place, along with comments made, were a direct retaliation for the full-time position being passed in March.

The Town went through this same event back in 1996 when they shut down the Police Department. I was hired in 1998 to re-establish the Department. This took many years of work to regain the necessary equipment and personnel. The Department has a direct structure and is functioning in a professional manner. It becomes extremely difficult to succeed when members of the Select Board refuse to allow proper staffing of the department as voted by the Legislative body.

On January 31, 2019, I met with the Selectmen at



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their request. When I went into the meeting, members voted to go into Non-Public session to discuss compensation. When the doors were closed, the Board questioned me on a bill that I submitted (which is not an exemption of RSA 91-A). They continued to talk about case property return (which is not an exemption of RSA 91-A) and went on to discuss the meeting that was held on January 10th (which is not an exemption of RSA 91-A). I questioned them on the Non-Public sessions. I told them that they should be familiar with RSA:91-A. I told them that they had many meetings that violated this law, and pointed out their October 29th meeting with Winchester. I told them that they were not being transparent and not following the law. I told them that they were

misrepresenting the numbers in their handout along with the information that they were presenting to people. I told them that the numbers of hours that they were representing to the public were inaccurate. The police budget represents 91 hours of time not 40. They told me that the Sheriffs Office figures are 40 hours of “Patrol” time and a Deputy would be in the cruiser patrolling in Richmond the whole time. I disagreed with these figures. I told them there was no way the Sheriffs Office was going to be using all the money presented on patrol. I told them that there were going to be administrative costs, Court appearances, Prosecution costs. I was told that the Sheriffs Office was going to absorb these costs for Richmond. I again, questioned that as a matter of common sense, disagreeing with them again.

I told the Board if the citizens of Richmond chose to utilize other law enforcement services, through the legislative process, that is their choice. The citizens should be given accurate and complete information. The Board should not mislead and misrepresent facts to suit their personal agendas. This process should be transparent, as should the Office of the Selectmen.

Things and Thoughts from the District

Neil Moriarty

Saturday, Feb 2, 2019 10:00 am

PLEASE VOTE March 12, 2019; Vets Hall, 11 AM to 7 PM on the School Warrant Articles

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.

1. The Judge Rules In Favor of District / Taxpayers On Insurance Pool Money – on Feb 7th the JUDGE DENIES RECONSIDERATION

The Teachers have asked the judge to reconsider. That means that besides an increase in pay, they are still looking to share your property taxes, of about \$390,000, between about 105 people!

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2. Call for Removing the Default Budget from the Budget Committee FAILS.

A special meeting was called for by either the Board Chair (Lisa Steadman) or the superintendent Lisa Witte, to have the voters remove the Default Budget from the Budget committee.* The vote failed by 100% of the school board voting (the chair, abstained).

* The default budget was moved to the Budget Committee by you the voters in 2005 with a partitioned warrant article

PLEASE VOTE NO On the School Warrant Article Eight which calls for rescinding the powers of the Budget committee – that means eliminate budget committee. This is yet another attempt to get rid of the budget committee or reduce its power. The budget committee is a valuable asset to the voters/taxpayers.

As always, thank you for reading my article. If you have a suggestion, comments, or items you wish me to cover; you can contact me at 603 239 4031 or cmoriarty@ne.rr.com, or 782 Old Homestead Hwy, Richmond NH 03470

Elementary School Awards for December

Neil Moriarty

Note: If your child's name is not here and should be, release the child's name at the school.

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Eli Dirth	4	Innovator	Cutler
Abigail Daugherty	4	December	Emerson
Erin Harrington	6	Citizenship	Cutler
Connor Macdonald	4	Citizenship	Cutler

Congratulations

MacKenzie Rokes made the Dean's List at Colby-Sawyer for the 2018 Fall Semester.

Legislative Update

Cheshire 12 – Jennie Gomarilo

It's been quite a busy month in the Ways and Means committee. I'll highlight a couple of bills that came our way that have generated public interest.

HB 254 wants to cap, to \$100 monthly, the commission allowed businesses collecting meals and rooms tax. We deemed this inexpedient to legislate as the 3% commission barely covers processing fees on credit card sales. It would become a tax on the business if capped. This is on the consent calendar to be voted on.

HB 632 wants to cut back and then abolish the Education Tax Credit. There were many people at the public hearing which will be continued in early March as we ran out of time to hear all the testimony. The credit is for businesses who donate to a scholarship founda-

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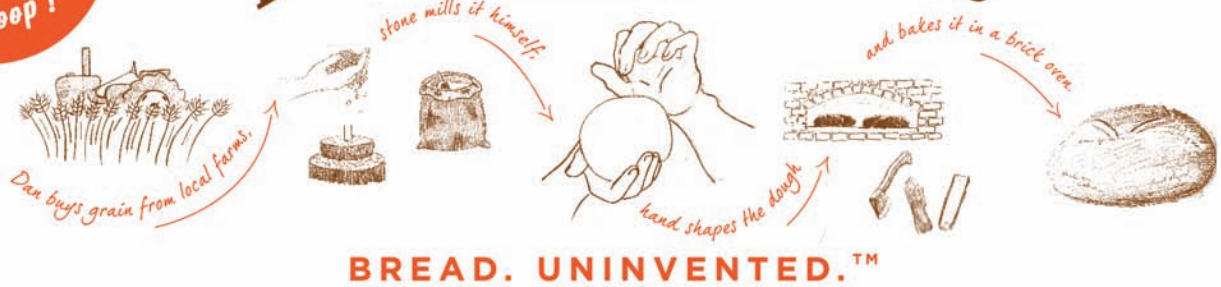
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tion, which in turn gives scholarship to students for private school. The two sides are: 1. these scholarships help children who do not fit well in public schools and have thrived in smaller private settings versus: 2. those who think this diminishes public schools by taking away students from an already dwindling population. The other piece is that the majority of schools taking these children are religious schools and some feel that is contrary to the constitution. This is a tough one. We shall see by April which way the wind blows.

HB 686 is a bill to generate more revenue for education but at the same time relieve burden on the property tax. It was just introduced this week by Rep. Dick Ames of Jaffrey. I think at first look it is quite clever in generating dollars by extending the interest and dividends tax to capital gains and increasing the exemption amounts while increasing adequacy aid and reducing the state-wide property tax. It's a complex bill that will also involve approval from the finance committee should it pass in ways and means committee. It would take a couple of years to go into effect.

I'd also like to make a plug for the petition article to change our school district funding formula to 50/50. Richmond stays close to neutral and Swanzey benefits a bit if approved. The perennial problem will still be if Fitzwilliam loses, Troy wins and vice versa. I'm dis-

mayed that the school board, which has the power to set a rate other than 100/0 or 50/50, chose to not take any action on the work done by the Monadnock Funding committee of which my husband was a part all spring and summer. The general consensus is that a formula somewhere around 56/44 would get tax rates the closest for all six towns. And please realize that per pupil figures do not belong in the discussion, nor average income. One of the original intents when the district formed was to lighten the burden when special education costs created a hardship on one town alone. We must stand together and try to keep our tax rates similar.

Contact me at: 100 Cram Hill Rd, Swanzey 03446; 352-9282; or jennie.gomarlo@leg.state.nh.us.

Be a Neighbor, Help a Neighbor.

Jazmin Belcoure

There is a senior in your neighborhood who is wondering how they are going to get their groceries for the week. There is a person living with a disability in your community who has spent the winter looking at the same four walls in need of a friendly conversation and a cup of coffee. Loneliness, social isolation, and anxiety over what used to be simple tasks, is permeating the homes of seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans and military family members throughout the Monad-



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nock Region. The good news? You can help.

With one-to-two hours a week you can provide a life line to an individual who is trying to remain living independently. The Monadnock RSVP Volunteer Center's Neighbors-In-Deed program is looking for volunteers to provide assistance and companionship to those in our community who are struggling to stay in their homes. If a regular ongoing assignment doesn't work for you but you still want to help, you can talk to us about becoming a handyman or a driver.

To learn more about our program, and to see the profiles of some of those looking for help you can visit our website at www.MonadnockVolunteerCenter.com For further information and to talk with the program coordinator, please call or email Jazmin Belcours at jbelcours@mfs.org or by calling us 603-357-6893.

Council Meeting - January 23, 2019

Debora Pignatelli

Executive Councilor, New Hampshire District 5
I hope you will enjoy reading my reports after each Council meeting. Below are items which would have particular interest to district 5. Sign up to this mailing list at <https://deb.pignatelli.us18.list-manage.com>.

Concerning the liquor commission items, there was a discussion about the Commissioners receiving a substantial raise. Since profits have not made their targets the last two out of three years and expenses are going up considerably, we tabled the item to give the Commissioners a chance to speak with us about this.

The next Governor and Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 10:00 am in the Council Chamber at the State House in Concord, NH. Our meetings are open to the public. Comments are not taken, but the public may observe our discussions on items and our votes.

Department of Environmental Services

#76: Authorized to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Education, Concord, NH, for lead removal in drinking water at NH's schools, in the amount of \$1,600,000. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2020. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund.

#84 Authorized a loan agreement with Pennichuck Water Works Inc., Merrimack, NH, in the amount not to exceed \$3,375,000 to finance water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval. 100% Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. A portion of these funds will be spent in Nashua and Merrimack.

#115 Authorized the Division of Public Works, Design and Construction to enter into a contract with Turnstone Corporation, Milford, NH, for the demolition and construction of the Hooksett Turnpike Administration Building, Hooksett, NH, for a total price not to exceed \$3,075,900. (2) Further Authorized the amount of \$115,000 for payment to the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Public Works Design and Construction, for engineering services provided, bringing the total to \$3,190,900. Effective upon G&C approval through March 2, 2020. 100% Turnpike Funds.

New Hampshire Liquor Commission

#62 TABLED Authorized an annual salary step increase for Joseph W. Mollica, Chairman, in the amount of \$5,871.84 from Grade II, Step 6 \$118,707.68 to Grade II, Step 7 \$124,579.52. Effective January 18, 2019. 100% Liquor Funds.

#63 TABLED Authorized an annual salary step increase for Mark C. Armaganian, Director, Division of Enforcement and Licensing, from grade GG, step 6 \$103,059.32 to grade GG, step 7 \$108,149.08. Effective January 18, 2019. 100% Liquor Funds.

#64 TABLED Authorized an annual salary step increase for Michael R. Milligan, Deputy Commissioner, in the



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amount of \$5,549.96 from Grade HH, Step 6 \$112,255.52 to Grade HH, Step 7 \$117,805.48. Effective January 18, 2019. 100% Liquor Funds.

#65 TABLED Authorized an annual salary step increase for Nicole Brassard-Jordan, Director, Division of Marketing, Merchandising and Warehousing, from grade GG, step 6 \$103,059.32 to grade GG, step 7 \$108,149.08. Effective January 18, 2019. 100% Liquor Funds.

The following individuals from District Five were nominated by Governor Sununu to State of New Hampshire Boards and Commissions:

Alexandra H. Hamel, Weare, NH to Board of Licensing for Alcohol and Other Drug Use Professionals.

Colin O'Brien to the Medical Review Subcommittee

These communities are in District 5:

Amherst, Antrim, Bennington, Brookline, Deering, Dunbarton, Fitzwilliam, Francestown, Greenfield, Greenville, Hillsborough, Hollis, Hudson, Jaffrey, Litchfield, Lyndeborough, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Boston, New Ipswich, Peterborough, Richmond, Rindge, Sharon, Swanzey, Temple, Troy, Weare, Wilton, Windsor and the City of Nashua

MY TWO CENTS WORTH

Richard Drew of Tully Brook Road

I was dismayed to see that there is still so much bad feeling toward the Saint Benedict Center that someone could not refrain from publishing the letter from the Diocese of Manchester to them. Is it so important to that person that the Center have its problems reprinted (this and other information was included in stories in the *Manchester Union Leader* and *The Keene Sentinel*) in our local paper? If so, than he or she could at least have the conviction to attach their name to the printing.

My understanding of the letter is that the Diocese has prohibited the Saint Benedict Center from acting as a Catholic organization. Also, as a legal matter, that they cannot use the Catholic Church to legitimize any tax benefits of the Roman Catholic Church. There are many points in the letter along these lines as well as a date to cease from the activities. There is no accompanying explanation in the *Rooster* as there is in the newspaper articles. It appears that this will be bad news for the Center.

My concern is not with the problems of the Saint Benedict Center so much as the willingness of some-

one(s) to make sure that no one misses them. Perhaps this person thinks it would be a good idea to publish and draw attention to other information of people living in Richmond. How about court convictions, tax liens, and names and addresses of people convicted of sex crimes. These are all readily available to the public. But do we really want to have our families, neighbors, or ourselves embarrassed by having attention drawn to these things. I believe publishing this information, especially with no explanation, is that someone is trying to anonymously dredge up feelings that are best left to heal with time and understanding. I think Richmond is better than this.

MY TWO CENTS WORTH

Editors Response – John Boccalini

Now, this is how I see it.

I became aware of the letter from the Diocese of Manchester prior to seeing the article that appeared in the *Manchester Union Leader* and *The Keene Sentinel*. Realizing the cultural and financial impact that it may have on the Town of Richmond I felt compelled to print the letter in the *Richmond Rooster*. It is one of the services the *Rooster* provides as a newsletter to keep up the awareness of Richmond residents.

Having been involved myself in some past experiences with The Saint Benedicts Center, I also felt compelled that the printing of the letter should be a decision of the editorial staff and Board of Directors as well. There was a unanimous decision to print it because of the impact it may have on Richmond's residents. After seeing the articles in the previously mentioned newspapers, it was also decided that only the letter would be placed without commenting or editorializing. There was no name-calling, no accusations or any conjecture of what impact or what it could mean for the Town.

The letter was printed as written by the Diocese of Manchester, and there was no need for any accompanying explanation that could distort the meaning of the letter. It was not printed to victimize any people or families only to notify members of the community because of the repercussions it may have on Richmond. The Saint Benedict Center is a large enough corporation that it can have a meaningful impact on the town.

This letter is news directly from the source. It was written by the Diocese of Manchester, Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Affairs and titled "LET IT BE KNOWN" and that is just what we did without anonymously

“dredging up feelings that are best left to heal with time and understanding.” “Richmond is better than this.”

Town Meeting 2019 and the Proposed 2019 Budget

Bill Daniels, Carol Jameson, Douglas Bersaw

Town Elections Tuesday March 12 and Town Meeting Saturday March 16.

Town elections are held on Tuesday March 12, at the polls set up in the Vet’s Hall., 11 AM – 7 PM. Town Meeting for approval of the budget and other matters will be held on Saturday, March 16 at 9 AM at the Vet’s Hall. Please attend. Democracy requires public participation.

Summary Highlights of the Proposed 2019 Budget

The complete Highlights of the Proposed Budget is available on the Town website and at the Selectmen’s office. It is also handed out at Town Meeting and at Pre-warrant Budget Hearings. This is a summary.

Summary Highlights

Total Appropriations - 2019 Total Decrease = \$70,146
2019 appropriations = \$1,113,822
2018 appropriations = \$1,183,968

Breakdown between Operating Budget and non-Operating Appropriations:

Operating Budget Appropriations - 2019 Operating Budget Decrease = \$87,446
2019 Operating Budget = \$820,022
2018 Operating Budget= \$907,468

Non-operating Appropriations - 2019 Non-Operating Budget Increase = \$17,300

2019 Non-Operating Budget= \$293,800
2018 Non-Operating Budget= \$276,500

Operating Budget

The recommended 2019 operating budget of \$820,822 is a decrease of \$87,446 from last year. Allocations for two areas declined significantly and account for most of this decrease. Debt Service decreased by \$49,990 with the final payments on the note for the Faye Martin Road improvements having been made in 2018. Public Safety decreased by \$42,254 with the recommended change in policing, to contract with the Sheriff’s Department rather than maintain a Richmond town police force. The proposed 2019 budget assumes that this

change will be approved by the Town and can be implemented by summer of 2019. Town Administration increased by \$2,083 primarily due to an increase in the legal budget (from \$30,000 to \$40,000) and to an increase in the Executive budget. The Selectmen are requesting an increase in the annual stipend paid to each Selectman, from \$2,500 to \$3,500. The last raise given the Selectmen was in 2015, in the amount of \$1,000. This increase now will bring the stipend within the range of stipends paid to Selectmen by other nearby and similar sized towns. The allocation for Government Buildings decreased by \$10,000, due in part to the many improvements and maintenance done on our town buildings over the last several years. Other departments were able to keep their budgets flat or very close to that which was approved last year.

Non-operating Budget/Special Warrant Articles

The proposed 2019 non-operating budget of \$293,800 increased by \$17,300 from last year, principally because of a significant increase in the amount requested for major road projects - \$170,000 in 2019 as compared to \$123,000 in 2016. This will fund road paving and repair of the portion of Fish Hatchery Road that was not completed in 2018, with a final skim coat over the paved portion of the road planned for 2020 or thereabouts. Other 2019 non-operating costs are lower than 2018, offsetting most of the increase in the road project request.

We are able to save \$18,000 in appropriations to police trust funds because of the plan to contract with the Sheriff’s department. We expect that we will no longer have to put aside money for the police vehicle fund (\$10,000 last year), the Police Safety Equipment Fund (\$3,000 last year), and we will be able to reduce the amount requested for the Public Safety Radio Fund by \$5,000 (representing the police department portion of the trust fund contribution). Money in the Police Vehicle Fund and the Police Safety Equipment Fund can be returned to the town in a future year.

We are requesting \$10,000 to add to a municipal building trust fund (Municipal Building Maintenance and Repairs), the same as we requested last year. We are able to limit appropriations for building funds again this year because we had been saving aggressively for these funds in past years while still accomplishing numerous repairs and improvements such as new roofs, painting, insulation, new furnaces and installing stand-

by generators. The buildings are in good shape now, and there are sufficient reserves in these funds for emergency repairs and other work.

We are requesting the same appropriation into the Road Reconstruction and Maintenance trust fund as last year, \$20,000 and into the Bridge Improvement Fund, \$50,000.

Important Note on 2019 Proposed Police Budget

The Selectmen have made the proposed 2019 appropriation for police into a separate warrant article, because it includes an important change in the provision of police services by mid-year 2019 at a considerable cost savings. The recommended change in police services is to transition from a dedicated Richmond Police Department with full-time and part-time police personnel, to obtaining police services under contract from the Sheriff's department.

The full cost of the 2019 Police Budget under the proposal requested by Lt. Wood (with full-time and part-time personnel) is \$177,230 (\$159,230 in operating costs and \$18,000 in annual trust fund additions for police cruisers and equipment). The total annual cost of using the Sheriff's department at the level recommended by the Selectmen is \$71,760, a savings of over \$100,000 per year. The option we recommend with the Sheriff's department is for 30 police duty hours per week. Prosecution and administrative services are also provided at no extra cost and without reducing the police duty hours.

We expect a lot of discussion about this issue and urge everyone to attend to vote their choice.

Confusion about Coverage and Cost under Police Proposal Options/Response to Incorrect Information provided by Lt. Wood

At the discussion at the Prewarrant Budget Hearing on February 7, there was considerable confusion over the categorization of hours, and whether administrative and ancillary police services were included at the stated total cost for the option of using the Sheriff's department.

- Hours for administrative and ancillary services under the Sheriff Department options do not cost anything additional and are provided on top of (in addition to) the hours designated as police duty hours. Lt. Wood is incorrect when he states that these services will cost extra, or the provision of these services will 'come out

of' or somehow diminish the number of police duty hours, under the Sheriff proposal.

- Lt. Wood states that common sense dictates that the Sheriff will not provide these services for free, he is not recognizing that overhead and ancillary service costs can be bundled into various pricing options – they do not have to be billed separately.

Lt Wood has made errors in his calculations of the total police duty hours under his requested 2019 police budget.

- In analyzing the hours provided by a full-time police officer, Lt. Wood is counting training, vacation, sickdays and holidays as part of "On Duty" police time when a full-time officer is hired for a 40-hour work week. Under Lt. Wood's own description in a memo from him to the Selectboard provided last year (undated), a full-time officer hired for a 40-hour week can be expected to work approximately 36 hours per week. Lt Wood states in this memo that "This means that if we wanted to fill an 8-hour shift, 40 hours a week for 52 weeks, it would take 1.6 officers full-time in this position."

Under the Sheriff's proposal, we do not pay for hours used for training, vacation or sickdays, nor do they reduce the number of police duty hours the Sheriff will provide.

- We count Lt Wood's budgeted 24 hours per week for his time as including 15 administrative hours and 9 police duty hours. In Lt. Wood's Proposed Budget, and in every budget he has proposed for the past many years, he states that "The Chief will cover the assigned 15 hours of admin a week and 5-8 hours of patrol" [typo in Lt. Wood's budget] Further down on the same page, Lt Wood states that there will be administrative support from an "Admin – 18 hours per week" (page 3 of the proposed "Police Budget 2019, Lt. Andrew M. Wood"). We count this as 33 total administrative hours.

We stated an error in the calculation of total police duty hours under Lt. Wood's requested budget:

- Total police hours should have been counted as 51, not 40. The total 51 hours are comprised of:
36 hours from a full-time Police Officer
6 hours from part-time police officers
9 hours from Lt. Wood
51 hours total police duty/week

The handout on the police services (distributed at the January 10 Public Policing Forum, the February 7 Prewarrant hearing and on the town website) stated that Lt. Wood's requested budget provided 40 police duty hours weekly – it should have been 51 police duty hours/weekly. This would bring the cost of the RPD police duty hours to \$66.82/hour, not \$85.20 as stated in error in the January 11 handout, as compared to the cost of \$46 per police duty hour under the Sheriff's proposal.

The handout has been revised to correct and clarify these two items. The new document is dated February 13, 2019. It will be available on the town website, at the selectmen's office, and at the February 14 Prewarrant Budget Hearing and at Town Meeting. We apologize for the error and confusion.

Another area of contention raised by Lt. Wood at the February 7 prewarrant meeting involved the amount of support the Town has been receiving from part-time police officers other than Lt. Wood:

- According to our personnel records, we received an aggregate total of 17 hours of part-time police duty other than Lt. Wood (from Officers Prior and Swanson) in the last quarter of 2018 (October, November and December). We have not had any hours at all from part-time officers other than Lt. Wood (including officers Swanson and Prior) in 2019. This formed the basis of our statement that the town has not been able to obtain services of part-time police officers in an adequate amount over the last many months. Also, Lt Wood has not presented any candidates for part-time police officer positions since he proposed Officer Swanson in 2018 or 2017, which we approved.

Lt Wood suggests that we scheduled the public forum on policing in an attempt to provide citizens with the wrong information. Lt. Wood had not informed us of his vacation plans as we would normally have expected, we did not know he would be away when it was scheduled.

Heirloom Plants – What are They and Why Should I care?

Now that large seed companies have jumped on the heirloom bandwagon, and are offering many "Heirloom" varieties, many wonder just what makes a plant an heirloom. Are they old plants, how are they different from other plants you can purchase, and why should you consider them at all? Are they worth the extra cost?

The definition of an heirloom seed or plant has been widely debated in horticultural circles. It was apparently first used by Kent Whealy of Seed Savers Exchange in 1981. He borrowed the term from John Withee, who had used it on a catalog cover, and in turn had taken it from William Hepler at UNH to describe beans given to him in 1940. The term has generally been used to describe older, open-pollinated plants, that have a long history of cultivation. It is also important to know what heirlooms are not – which means they are not hybrids or GMOs (genetically modified organisms).

At the end of World War II, hybrids began to be an important commodity in agriculture. In order to increase production, ensure standardization, and cater to large scale farming, seed companies turned to the hybridization of seeds. In a hybrid, two plants are cross-bred, resulting in a seed that combines the desired traits of each. This could be larger fruit, resistance to disease, a new color, or a host of other qualities. In many cases, these traits are necessary for the higher yields and uniformity that commercial growers need. Grocery store tomatoes are a prime example. These tomatoes can be mechanically harvested and transported, holding their shape and being subjected to rough handling. They arrive at the store looking fine, and taste like – well, you know what they taste like. Using hybrid seed also ensures the profitability of the seed company, since most hybrids produce seed that will not be true to its parent. Growing the seed of hybrids will not result in the same plant, forcing growers to purchase their seed each year.

Some people prefer hybrids, and in some cases, they are desirable. There are tomato viruses and wilts that can devastate a crop, and resistance to some of these diseases are important in some growing conditions. But home gardeners do not always have to worry about this, especially in the more diversified gardens usually grown by "amateurs."

Heirlooms are considered to be the result of saving seed of a particular plant, and growing it year after year, collecting the seed each time. Each year the plant is grown, it becomes more and more conditioned to its environment. The soil, the zone, the weather – all of these combine to create a plant uniquely adapted to a specific area – a type of natural selection, as you would save the best and hardiest of the plants for the next year. These are what true heirlooms are. They would have been handed down from generation to generation. It made sense to continue using a plant that performed well.



Seed companies have figured out that there is a demand for these “heirlooms.” Though their seeds may not have been handed down through generations, these are varieties that are open-pollinated and have been around since 1940 or so. Open-pollination means that if you save the seed, you will be able to plant it and get the same plant next year. Of course, this is only true if you keep the seed pure by only growing one of each type of plant. Cross-pollination of different varieties of the same plant may result in seed that combines qualities, good or bad, from any of the plants. That’s how new varieties are discovered.

An heirloom has a unique genetic make-up, and is the result of many years of evolution. Many also have a colorful history as to how and why they were saved. Those travelling from Europe to settle the new world brought seeds to grow here. The settlers’ very survival was dependent on their ability to grow crops in the new world, and these seeds represented to them a reliable food source. These same people were also introduced to the native plants here. Because they sensed a profit, merchants began to bring these seeds and plants back to Europe. And so it has been ever since, as many diverse people have immigrated to other lands, bringing their best-loved seeds with them. A little bit of home in a new place can make the transition easier to bear.

Several years ago at the International Herb Conference in Huntsville, Alabama, I had breakfast at a small diner run by a Korean family. While chatting about herbs, she revealed a condiment that she kept on hand for those who might like to try it. The herbs she used were brought by her mother to this country as seeds years before. She continues to grow them at her home in a small plot. What a treasure to honor her heritage in this way, and to connect with her ancestral roots.

The main reason people turn to heirlooms is for their superior taste (remember the tomatoes?) In the quest for product stability and standardization, many hybrids have lost their flavor. One of the most widely grown heirloom plants is the tomato. When you grow heirlooms, you may not get disease resistance, and the fruits may not last long. They may bruise easily, and they may look oddly shaped. But you will get incredible flavor, and a variety of color and form.

I started growing my own tomatoes from seed about 30 years ago. I would read about a particular variety in a gardening magazine, and could not find the plant at any nursery. The only way to have these plants, which sounded amazing, was to grow them myself. I haven’t been back to a nursery for vegetable plants since, and I have expanded to lesser known flowers and herbs.

Now you can buy heirloom plants at many nurseries and garden centers. If you want to investigate the true heirlooms, many of which can be purchased nowhere else, contact www.seedsavers.org, the Seed Savers Exchange. There are over 650 heirloom varieties in their catalog, and members offer thousands more on an exchange basis. Many seed houses now carry heirloom seeds and plants. And yes, I think they are superior to many of the old standard hybrids. Just my opinion.



Start small. Try an heirloom tomato or two, or maybe a runner bean. Enjoy your discovery, and feel good about becoming a part of a movement to create the sustainability that heirloom gardening allows. Begin your own tradition, and increase the genetic diversity of plants. If we don’t save the seeds, who will?

Karen O’Brien’s herbal business “The Green Woman’s Garden” www.greenwomansgarden.com.



Parks and Recreation

Karen Daugherty

In January we hosted the Winter Event which included open fires to roast hot dogs and marshmallows, a hot chocolate bar, and a scavenger hunt with prizes. Also in February, we gathered for movie time at Takodah, featuring “Beauty and the Beast.” We hope everyone enjoyed the fellowship and movie! Come join us for “Ladies Game Night.” It will be hosted every third Friday of the month at 6 PM at the Veteran’s Hall (except for March and April because of events/holidays). Remember to mark your calendars for:

March 22: Ladies Game Night 6 PM at the Vet’s Hall

April 13: Annual Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM sharp at the Pavilion

April 26: Ladies Game Night at 6 PM at the Vet’s Hall

May 4: Roadside Clean-up. Gloves and trash bags will be provided at the library.

May 17: Ladies Game Night 6 PM at the Vet’s Hall

June: The Annual Summer Picnic & Tie Dye party

July: The Annual Beach Party

August: “Back to School” Party



Our Richmond Town Boards Need You Vote! 2019

Jean Tandy

Richmond is experiencing the same “Silver Tsunami” other Monadnock region Towns are facing in 2019. As older residents retire from our own Town Boards, some work on board seats for years, but it’s time for younger generations – new blood, to start thinking of, and standing up, to become involved in 21st century issues that New Hampshire towns face:

To keep “Our Little Piece of New Hampshire” alive and working for all who live here, and love this old town...built on hills...on granite ledges...near brooks and ponds...great forests.

To benefit the lives of all residents, New Hampshire’s system of “small towns” works best when residents learn how they benefit when they become involved.

To serve town government requires one to stand up – to offer your time on Town Boards, or support other Town functions.

New Hampshire ratified our State Constitution in 1788, as the ninth State in a new Union. Richmond became a Town in 1752. Town history is long, always in the making.

All of us are needed to keep Richmond’s town alive and well. For All Residents, now and in Richmond’s future.

“New Hampshire towns are living, breathing bodies of local government.

Each Town Board Member is essential, to keep ‘each Board body,’ alive, and functioning, for all town residents.”

So, Neighbors, I hope to see you at Richmond Town Meetings, Town Elections, and other Town Functions ... created to make our lives “richer.”

“Richmond” (French translation) “Rich World”

Energy Hub

Susan Wyatt

Richmond, along with all the towns in the Monadnock Region, have formed an “Energy Hub.” Our hope is that we will have 100% renewable energy for all the Region, but for now we have passed a 100% for Keene as of 1/18/19. We are starting with a “button-up effort” and LEDs for all. Four towns have been active for years and

are having a “solarize effort.” These towns have a group deal with an installer and are getting help with the plan. We hope we will be able to join in next year.

But first, we need to get started with 3 volunteers or more in Richmond. If you are interested in joining the group, please let me know. We, in Richmond, have an opportunity to replace three windows in the original “Schoolhouse.” We have a Richmond Energy Volunteer Group which we would like to restart now.

If you would like to see some of the work that has started already, visit these websites:

<https://greenmonadnock.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/MonadnockEnergyHub/>

<https://greenmonadnock.org/monadnock-energy-hub/about/>

Richmond 2nd Quarter Honor Roll Middle and High School

Neil Moriarty

As you may remember, the High and Middle schools have four honor rolls and the elementary schools have three (although the elementary schools usually have monthly recognitions throughout the year).

Here are the 2nd quarter honors for the middle and high school. As always, if your child’s name is not here and or should be, release his/her name at the school.

RICHMOND HONOR ROLL FOR Q2

Student	Grade	Award
Cheyenne Burt	9	High Honors
Francisco Camuso	12	Honors
Dylan Cashman	10	Honors
Aderyn Daugherty	9	High Honors
Ian Gauthier	9	High Honors
Sebastian LaPlume	9	High Honors
Peter Margand	12	Honors
Madison Pearsall	12	Honors
Caelan Purrington	9	Honors
Gabrielle Schmidt	9	Honors
Delaney Swanson	10	High Honors
Anthony Tomer	10	Honors
Bridget VanValzah	9	Honors
Izaak Cooke	8	Honors
Oliver Fougere	8	Honors
Laci LeBlanc	8	Honors
Sarina Stengle	7	Honors

2019

Town Government – Town of Richmond, New Hampshire

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

50% + 1 = MAJORITY!

Richmond needs your VOTE

March 12, 2019 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Richmond Veterans Hall

Selectman 3 yr.

Marcus (Mark) Beauregard

Selectman 2 yr.

Donald Merwin

Planning Board (2)

Doug Smith (write-in 3yr.)

Jason Macdonald (write-in 3yr.)

Trustee of Trust Funds

Carol Jameson (write-in)

Library Trustee 3 yr.

Douglas Bartlett

Library Trustee 2 yr.

John Lewis (write-in)

Cemetery Trustee

William Coll Jr.

Annual Town Meeting: March 16, 2019 9:00 AM – ?

Richmond Veterans Hall.

ARTICLE 5 PUBLIC SAFETY

Please be sure that you are clear on ARTICLE 5.

**This will eliminate our Richmond Police Department
and once voted on**

we will not have another “local” Police Department again.

**Please join us for our annual town meeting
and support the committees, commissions, and boards
that make Richmond what we are.**

THANK YOU

**to all our Richmond neighbors who volunteer to serve
in our town helping to strengthen our community.**

Your work for Town government is a Gift to all of us.

Paid for by K. Mattson, T. O’Rourke, and J. Tandy

SAMPLE BALLOT

To vote for a person, make an (X) in the box to the right of name

FOR SELECTMAN

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

"MARCUS" MARK BEAUREGARD _____ ☐

DOUGLAS BERSAW _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR SELECTMAN

For 2 Years

Vote for not more than 1

DONALD MERWIN _____ ☐

DANIEL PRATT _____ ☐

ANDREW WALLACE _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR CEMETERY TRUSTEE

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

WILLIAM COLL JR _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR PLANNING BOARD

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 2

_____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

DOUGLAS BARTLETT _____ ☐

_____ ☐

FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

For 2 Years

Vote for not more than 1

_____ ☐

FOR TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

For 3 Years

Vote for not more than 1

_____ ☐

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

The RICHMOND ROOSTER

180 Fay Martin Road, Richmond, NH 03470



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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:

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

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





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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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12 DEPOT SQUARE, PETERBOROUGH, NH 924-3543 M-F 10-6, SAT 10-5 SUN 10-4	12 EMERALD ST. KEENE, NH 352-8815 M- SAT 10am-9pm, Sun 11am-6pm	LORDEN PLAZA RT, 101A, MILFORD, NH 673-1738 M- SAT 9-9, Sun 11-5
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