



# The *Something to Crow About* RICHMOND ROOSTER

May 2020

## MERRIMENT IN MAY

Karen O'Brien

Nice cheerful Dill – so easy to grow  
Is a household friend but did you know  
That long ago he played a part  
As assistant to the enchanter's art?  
Well – times have changed -  
Fortune is fickle -  
Now he provides  
The soul of the pickle.  
—Young Correthers

Due to the current state of affairs, you may be contemplating adding some herbs and vegetables to your garden this year. Growing your own produce helps provide a sense of well-being and self-sufficiency that we so desperately need in this time of uncertainty. There are many plants that are easy to grow, and many herbs that add immensely to our palate. It's great to walk out your door and harvest something to add to your table.

Herbs add a lot of flavor and have health benefits, as well. Some herbs need to be started ahead or bought as started plants, like basil, oregano, sage, and others. However, many do better by sowing them directly in the ground – summer savory, sweet marjoram, cilantro, are annuals that do best this way.

One of my favorite annual herbs is dill (*Anethum graveolens*), an herb that more people should know and grow. It really is an easy herb to start with, as it sows readily right in the garden. Just broadcast the seed in a prepared bed, or grow it in rows, if you prefer. I think it looks better in clumps, and if it gets too tall, you can always tie it up if it is growing closely together. Once you sow dill, it will readily self-sow the following year, unless you ruthlessly cut off all the seed heads. So, you will have it for years to come.

Dill was designated the 2010 *Herb of the Year*™ by the International Herb Association. This lovely, ferny plant has been in use for thousands of years. It was purportedly one of the herbs used by Egyptian doctors 5000 years ago. It has been used by many to calm in-

fants, and as a cure for whooping cough. Dill has also been used as a digestive aid, from the ancient Greeks and Romans to traditional Chinese medicine. Dill tea relaxes the muscles of the digestive tract, helping to ease flatulence and infant colic. The word “dill” comes from the Norse word “dilla”, meaning to lull. It was also believed to be an effective protector against evil spirits and witchcraft. An old English adage was:

*Trefoil, Vervain, Johns Wort, Dill  
Hinder witches of their will*

During the middle ages, it was often hung over windows and doors to keep out evil, and wreaths of dill were used around the necks of farm animals to keep them safe from the evil eye. An herb of the sun, it was purported to be an aphrodisiac aid, since its prolific self-seeding symbolizes abundance and fertility. It also signifies good omens, and English country brides often wore a sprig of dill.

There are many varieties of dill to choose from, some tall, some short, and some lacier. Dill can grow anywhere from 2 to 5 feet, depending on the type. Fernleaf is supposed to be a shorter form of the plant, about 20 inches. However, for me, it grew to the same height as Bouquet, and they were both between 24 to 36 inches. Some varieties, such as Dukat and Goldkone Tetraploid, are slower to go to seed if the green leaves are what you desire. Many grow dill for its seed, and it is used extensively today in the pickle industry. It is a

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very flavorful herb. I love the leaves chopped up in salads, and as an ingredient in dips, potato salad, omelettes, etc. Once dill sets its seed heads, leaf production stops. The flowers themselves are beautiful in arrangements, and also are great for pressing. Frequent cutting will delay the set of seed heads, but eventually the plant will set seeds and stop growing. Keep some of the seeds for use in pickling, and as an addition to cabbage dishes.

A favorite vinegar of mine is dill weed. I use a splash of it when I make cucumbers in sour cream to add a little zest to the mixture. Simply fill a jar with dill weed, then pour a white balsamic or white wine vinegar over the leaves. Let it sit for two to three weeks, then strain out the leaves. This can be used for any salad dressing, as well, or stirred into soups or sauces.

Here's a recipe called **Fool's Boursin** – a creamy rich spread best made with fresh herbs (you can use dried, just decrease the amount of herbs by two thirds).

2 – 8 oz. packages cream cheese  
1/2 lb. unsalted butter  
1 tbsp. chopped fresh dill  
2 finely minced garlic cloves  
1 tbsp. chopped fresh basil  
1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme  
1/4 tsp. black pepper  
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

Soften butter and cream cheese and combine well. Mix in herbs and Worcestershire. Serve with crackers or small rounds of bread.

Dill also attracts the Tiger and Black Swallowtail caterpillars – between dill and fennel, it's caterpillar heaven! Other pollinators, such as bees, also flock to this member of the Apiaceae family. Be sure to plant extra dill so you can share with these colorful critters. Stay warm, enjoy the increasing sunlight, and get ready for spring!



## Past, Present and Future

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

I write this article, not knowing what the future, your present as you read the May issue of *The Richmond Rooster*, will look like. As I write on this day, April 9, 2020, we are told that the next several weeks could be the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Hampshire. And that by the end of April or early May, we may have a sense of where we stand.

So, where do we stand as *The Richmond Rooster* arrives in our mailboxes? Where do we stand?

We probably stand with social distancing still in place. But we also stand in the sunlight. We stand on lawns full and green. We stand and look skyward, where the clouds know no boundaries. We stand gazing down at our gardens, where flowers blossom with a promise of life and rebirth. We stand having suffered events that we never imagined. We stand together. In our mutual humanity. In our shared mortality. In our infinite capacity to love one another. This is where we stand.

## Town Clerk's Calendar

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

MON, May 4, 2020 Dog Raffle Drawing  
MON, May 25, 2020 CLOSED for Memorial Day  
THU, May 28, 2020 Deadline to license dogs to avoid late penalty fee.

## Property Tax Relief

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

If you are single and earn \$20,000 or less or are married and earn \$40,000 or less, you may qualify for tax relief from the State of NH. The form (DP-8) can be found on the State website, [www.revenue.nh.gov](http://www.revenue.nh.gov). They are also available at the Town Hall for anyone wishing to pick one up. The claim must be postmarked no later than June 30. Please call the clerk's office at 239-6202 for more information.

## Library News

Wendy O'Brien

Hopefully we are reopening for business at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, May 5th! But if not, please follow us on Facebook at @libraryrichmondnh or if you would like to be added to our email newsletter, please send us an email at [library@richmondnh.us](mailto:library@richmondnh.us) (603) 239-6164

**Tentative: Tuesday, May 12 @ 6:00 pm, Book Group: Reader's Choice**

This month we will discuss what everyone has been reading over the past few months. I have been reading lots of "cozy" books, including rereading the Harry Potter series. It's amazing how reading can take stress away, especially when you are lost in the epic fight between Harry and Lord Voldemort. It puts things in perspective! Everyone is welcome to join us. If the Library is still closed, please contact Wendy for the online meeting room link and password – we are meeting virtually!

## New Titles

*The Curse of the Boyfriend Sweater: Essays on Crafting*, Alanna Okun

*Making Books by Hand*, Mary McCarthy

*Quilling: the Art of Paper Filigree*, Philippa Reid

*Clementine: the Wife of Winston Churchill*, Sonia Purnell

*American Dirt*, Jeannine Cummins

*Journey of the Pharaohs*, Clive Cussler

*The Red Lotus*, Chris Bohjalian

*Sea Glass Cottage*, RaeAnne Thayne

## To the Editor of *The Keene Sentinel*

Lewis Whittum

Mankind has been given an opportunity. Due to the CoVid-19 pandemic, we have been isolating, driving less, flying less, factories are shut down, etc. CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and other pollutants and greenhouse gas generation have been reduced dramatically. Reduced enough that people

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in India can see the Himalayan mountains for the first time in decades. At night, the stars are brighter and satellite imaging shows cities that are usually very smoggy are clear!

This should show us the impact of fossil fuels on the biosphere. This has happened very quickly.

If we do nothing about "Climate Change" when the pandemic is declared over, our activities will return to normal and the air quality will return to "normal" which is actually abnormal.

Generation IV Nuclear Power generation is safe, efficient, creates much less radioactive waste than previous designs and does not create these pollutants. If we cut the red tape and get going with this reliable (NOT A BOMB) energy source and create an electric economy, we may have a chance to stop and even reverse the effects of these pollutants. Solar and wind power take up too much land area to provide for a solution to the problem. To replace the output of VT Yankee would require a solar array 6.5 miles x 6.5 miles.

Unfortunately, petroleum prices have tanked so electric vehicles will be less cost effective than they were 3 months ago. Nonetheless we must stop using fossil fuels now.

If we do not do this, the impending climate crisis will be way beyond the hurt caused by this pandemic.

Lewis Whittum  
621 West Street  
Keene, NH 03431

### **New Expanded Unemployment Assistance Program**

Debora Pignatelli

Executive Councilor, New Hampshire District 5  
New Hampshire has new expanded unemployment benefits available to help with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details are in this [document from our Department of Employment Security](#). Please share it as needed.

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### **Governor and Executive Council Meeting**

I hope you are keeping safe. These are difficult days.

Next week on March 25, our regular meeting of the Governor and Executive Council will take place via telephone at 10 am. There will be some discussion with State officials about the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may call in to listen to the discussion if you would like: Dial 1-800-356-8278

Enter the conference code 125563#

When prompted, please state your first and last name. Also, if you are a town official, please mention your town, department, or agency. If you are an elected official, please state your position.

Several of you have contacted me with suggestions or worries about the pandemic.

We need to work together. As your Executive Councilor, I can help as a liaison between you and State Government. I can pass information from you to the appropriate State agency, and help you get assistance that you may be entitled to.

Contact me if I can be of help to you. Debora,  
Executive Councilor, New Hampshire District 5.

[www.debpignatelli.com](http://www.debpignatelli.com)

### **March 25, 2020 Council Meeting**

Our last Governor and Council meeting was March 25. Below are meeting notes I think of interest to Council District 5. Since it is unsafe for all of the Councilors, Agency Heads, and members of the public to gather in one place, our meeting was call-in and all of our votes were roll call votes.

At the beginning of the meeting, I asked the Governor to immediately issue a Shelter-in-Place order to save lives and protect our citizens. He refused, saying we were not nearly ready for that. You may have seen that he issued a Stay-at-Home order the next day. I am glad to have pushed the Governor in this direction and believe it will save lives and protect some of our citi-

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zens from spreading and getting infected with coronavirus.

I also asked if New Hampshire Business and other taxes could be pushed back to July 15, which matches the federal extension for filing income taxes amid the pandemic. He and his staff will be looking into this.

Also, I requested that, at our next Council meeting on April 8, Secretary of State William Gardner attend and be prepared to discuss his plans for voting in the elections this year. I suggested he think about No-Excuse Absentee Ballots, having the election over two days to avoid crowding at polling sites, and any other issues he and we need to think about.

Our next meetings may be phone-in as well. Please know that you are all welcome to phone in and listen to our discussions. I will have call in numbers several days before the meeting and will communicate that information to you.

I hope you are all feeling well and staying safe. As always, please feel free to contact me with your thoughts, questions, and suggestions.

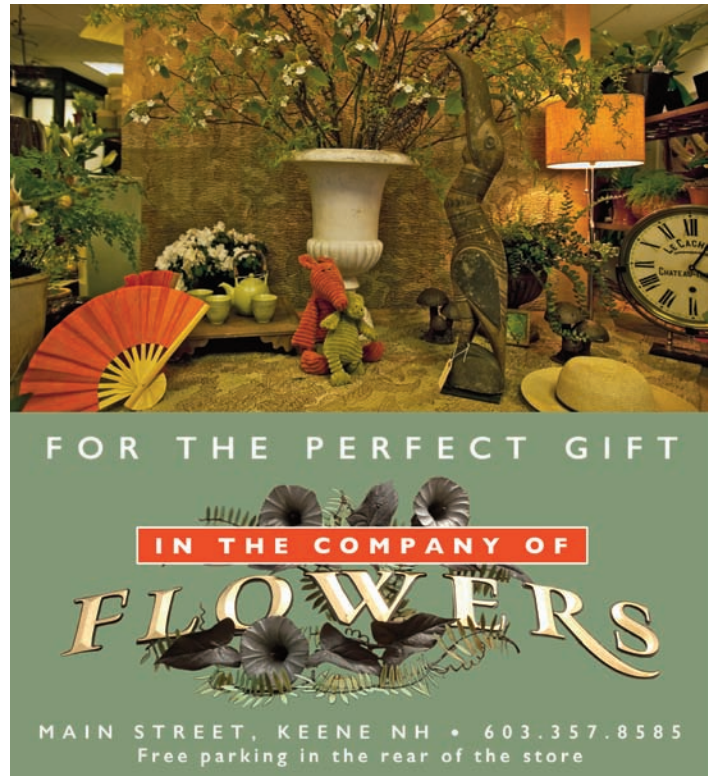
### March 25, 2020 Meeting

Authorized the Bureau of Transportation Systems Management and Operations to enter into an agreement with WSP USA Inc., Merrimack, NH, for on-call engineering and support services for Intelligent Transportation Systems initiatives statewide, for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000. Effective upon G&C approval through March 31, 2023. **VOTE: 5-0**

Authorized to award a grant to the Merrimack Village District, Merrimack, NH, in the amount of \$1,450,000 for water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval through September 1, 2023. (2) Further Authorized to award a grant to Merrimack Village District, Merrimack, NH, in the amount not to exceed \$6,264,500 to finance water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval. 100% Drinking

## RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. (3) Further Authorized a loan agreement with Merrimack Village District, Merrimack, NH, in the amount not to exceed \$6,500,000 to finance water system improvements. Effective upon G&C approval. 79% Federal, 21% Capital (General) Funds. **VOTE: 5-0**

Authorized to enter into grant agreements with the Town of Tuftonboro and the Contoocook Lake Area Preservation Association, Jaffrey, NH, totaling \$13,842 to fund exotic aquatic plant control activities. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2020. 100% Lake Restoration Funds. **VOTE: 5-0**

**WITHDRAWN BY AGENCY** the Division of Public Works Design and Construction to enter into a contract with Project Resource Group LLC, Franconia, NH, for the Addition and Renovation of Manchester 527

Kevin R. Marcotte

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Patrol Shed, Manchester, NH, for a total price not to exceed \$2,669,747. (2) Further Authorized the amount of \$60,000 for payment to the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Public Works Design and Construction, for engineering services provided, bringing the total to \$2,729,747. Effective upon G&C approval through October 30, 2020. 100% Turnpike Funds.

## **Parks and Recreation**

Karen Daugherty

It was wonderful to see some families come and pick up eggs for their home Easter Egg Hunts. I hope you all enjoyed them! If you want some fresh air, remember that the park behind the fire station is always open for exercise. Come down to shoot some hoops, or use the field for baseball or kickball. The soccer net is ready to use. A port-o-potty is available for your convenience.

The beach will be equipped with buoys and a porta-potty by mid-May so that you can take advantage of exercising there as well. And remember, “A merry heart does good, like medicine.”

Are you looking for ways to help out in the community at this time? Richmond Roadside clean-up is on Saturday, May 2nd this year. Parks and Rec will be at the Pavilion on Saturday, May 2nd at 10 am with trash bags that you can bring home and use to clean up the roads around town. You are always welcome to use your own trash bags from home if you prefer. If everyone cleans up along their property up to their neighbors’, this town should be free from Roadside clutter. Please leave the filled trash bags along Route 119 and Rte.32 so that the Road Agent can pick them up on May 2nd by 4:30 pm. Thank you!

We hope to get back to our regularly scheduled events soon. For now, we have events scheduled in June, but we will keep you posted if things change.

**May 2, 2020** Roadside Clean-up, pick up trash bags at the pavilion at 10 am

**June 2020** Ladies Game Night

**June 2020** Annual Summer Picnic and Tie Dye party

**July 2020** Ladies Game Night

**August 2020** Ladies Game Night

**September 2020** Harvest Festival and Potluck

**September 2020** Ladies Game Night

**October 2020** Ladies Game Night

**November 2020** Ladies Game Night

**December 2020** Movie Time at Takodah

## **HERBED SALMON FILLET**

Terri O’Rorke

1 salmon fillet (about 2 1/2 lbs.)

1 Tblsp. mustard-mayo blend (Hellman’s Dijonnaise)

3/4 to 1 C. fine bread crumbs

1/2 C. chopped fresh herbs; ex. dill, parsley, chives

1 Tblsp. lemon-pepper seasoning

Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil, placing salmon in the center. Spread the mustard-mayonnaise blend on salmon. Combine breadcrumbs in a small bowl with herbs and seasoning. Sprinkle mixture evenly over salmon and bake for about 20 mins. or until fish flakes easily with a fork. If desired, garnish with lemon slices and fresh herbs.

## **Indian Cave Hike**

Carol Jameson and Jon Hill

Deep in the woods, near Stephen’s Swamp on the Warwick/Northfield line, is a fascinating granite rock formation known as Indian Cave.

It is massive. There is a 30-foot cave in the middle of the rock formation and a massive overhang on one side where porcupines den.

The trailhead is reached from Bass Road in Warwick. Bass Road is a dirt road off of the Northfield Road with only a few houses on it – most of the road takes you through state and town forest. Drive down Bass Road almost to the end, past one or more trails and old logging roads for about 1.2 miles. You will see a telephone pole on your right that has a double red blaze on it, and the beginnings of a rough old road that is not blocked by a chain or gate. Park here. This rough road is the old long-discontinued Stratton Mountain Road in Warwick. Stratton Mountain Road heads west to the power lines in Northfield and to the web of Northfield hiking trails around Alexander Hill Road, including the old M & M trails that are now known as the New England Trail (the NET). There is a lot of excellent hiking in Warwick and in Northfield that can be accessed from here.

The walk to Indian Cave begins on Stratton Mountain Road. Walk a short distance on the old road until you see another logging road on your left. This sandy logging road, once known as Flagg Road, heads south to Stephen’s Swamp. Continue down Flagg Road for perhaps a quarter mile until you see a large rock on your right. Turn right just past the large rock onto a trail that



is not clearly marked until you walk in a short distance. This is the trail to Indian Cave and is marked with light blue blazes. Continue straight on this trail. (There is one spot early on – maybe 5 minutes into the trail – where the trail forks and, if you happen to notice the fork (it isn't obvious), you can choose to turn right at about a 90 degree turn onto another trail that has the same light blue blaze. Do not take this right turn but continue straight – both trails have the light blue blaze, and you want to be on the one that continues straight.)

Continue on this straight blue-blazed trail for about 20 minutes. The swamp is always on your left as you walk, and after about 10 minutes on this trail, you will be able to see the swamp close by. When you see that you are coming to the end of the swamp, look for a conspicuous vein of granite outcroppings on your right. Look for the massive granite outcropping up a slight slope – this is Indian Cave.

The rock formation is striking and covered with an edible black lichen. Walk around the rock formation after you explore the cave, so you do not miss the overhang where the porcupine's den is. There is also a geo-













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cache hidden on the back side of the rock formation, about 180 degrees from the cave entrance, tucked under a shallow small overhang to keep it dry. It is a plastic box containing souvenirs left by visitors to the cave. We found the paper and token we had left back in 2017!

After visiting the cave, continue back to the main trail around Stephen's Swamp. If it is dry enough to be passable, or if the ground is frozen, the trail heads com-

pletely around the swamp and back to Flagg Road. Turn left on Flagg Road to head back to Stratton Mountain Road, past the turn off for the Indian Cave Trail that we took earlier. A right on Stratton Road will take you back to Bass Road where we parked the car. One caveat – the trail is seldom dry enough to be passable and, if the ground is not frozen, expect to have to back-track when the footing gets too wet.

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## The Aberration Continues...



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Terri O'Rorke



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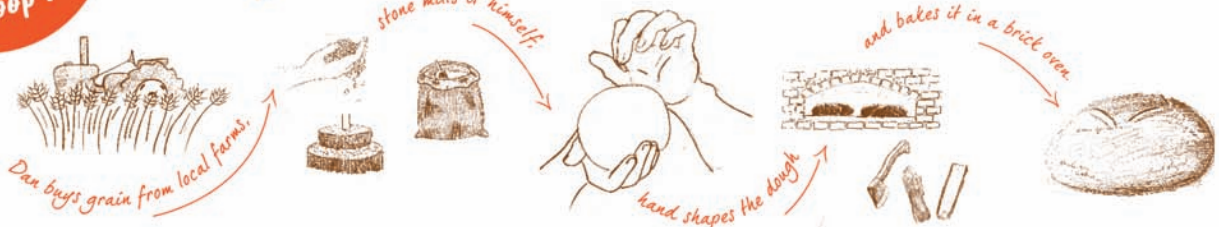
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A Friend  
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From  
Another Friend  
on Athol Road



# Social distancing leads to new coping behaviors

After several weeks of coronavirus-inspired social distancing, we all have had to adapt our behaviors and learn to cope in different ways amid this “new normal,” even if the disease hasn’t yet directly hit home for us. Here’s a look at some of the societal shifts and trends — from the silly to the sorrowful — we’re seeing thus far:

**Coronavirus choreography:** That avoidance dance we do to stay at least 6 feet apart while taking a walk and another person comes along from the opposite direction.

**Coronavirus Chromebook:** The low-cost laptop parents with the means are scrambling to buy their kids for online learning as schools go virtual.

**Coronavirus classrooms:** Anywhere a creative guardian can find: the kitchen (culinary arts), laundromat (home economics.), yard (landscape design), dining table (worksheet work zone/laptop library), etc.

**Coronavirus close crop:** The long-lasting buzz cut and brush cut parents are now giving boys when their hair needs a trim and the barbershops are closed.

**Coronavirus colleagues:** Everyone else in our homes while we’re trying to telework, including: children, spouses, significant others, roommates, pets.

**COVID-19 (the other one):** The pounds we’re all likely to put on from stress snacking (worse than the freshman 15).

**COVID conference call:** The group work meeting we now conduct in our nightclothes or while walking the dog.

**COVID confusion:** The feeling we get when seasonal allergies kick in, but we’re worried it’s really the virus, finally coming for us.

**COVID craving:** The overwhelming desire for anything and everything we can’t get during this pandemic — from a meal at our favorite restaurant to our preferred brand of toilet paper.

**Pandemic pajamas:** The comfiest lounge-wear we’ve got, worn two to five days per week. Washing optional.

**Pandemic panic:** The fear we feel when we realize we’re out of something we consider essential and might have to venture out to replace it.

**Pandemic party:** Playing a game or sharing a drink with friends or extended family using a video calling or conferencing

app.

**Pandemic pet:** The animals we’re fostering (and falling for) because the shelters have had to shut down.

**Pandemic pity party:** The significant sorrow still healthy people feel over our lost opportunities and canceled experiences — proms, trips, job changes, anniversary dinners, weddings, and so on — even as we’re grateful for our lives.

**Pandemic play date:** Our youngest children talking too loudly to other kids on FaceTime/Zoom/Facebook Messenger, etc.; possibly singing/dancing/screeching.

**Pandemic ponytail:** Women are turning to this universal style after too much time away from the hairdresser.

**Pandemic postcards:** An attempt to keep kids connected with one another and writing while they’re out of school.

**Pandemic puzzle:** The partially done jigsaw we’ve had for years (there’s a shortage of new ones) spread out wherever we can find the space, along with the guilt of still not finishing it.

**Social distancing date night:** Dressing for dinner and eating in the dining room with our significant others. “Dressing” could mean a suit and tie, or anything other than sweatpants.

**Social distancing depression:** The malaise none of us can quite shake as we face an uncertain future.

**Social distancing diet:** Breakfast; morning snack; lunch; early afternoon snack; late afternoon snack; dinner; dessert; late-night snack.

**Social distancing dye job:** The inexplicable pull many are feeling to dye their own hair, or their family member’s, bright colors for something to do.

**Social distancing salutation:** The urge we have to greet every person we pass while walking to acknowledge that, though apart, we’re all in this together.

**Virus vacation:** When we still take off from work the dates of a planned, and since canceled, vacation and use the time to organize our homes and do other chores.

**Virus video conference:** The meeting we now conduct in a work shirt (in view of the camera) and yoga/sweat pants (not), while trying to avoid looking at our own image. Possible proof of the former: Walmart says people are buying more shirts now, but not pants.

Baltimore Sun March 31, 2020



“Social Distancing” by Jordan Eismont 2020



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

## The RICHMOND ROOSTER

70 Whipple Hill Road, Richmond, NH 03470



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tributions.

**Deadline is the 10th of each month.**

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### **Town Business Hours**

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

William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

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

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 9 AM – 12 NOON (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:** Jennifer Thompson

**Town Clerk:** Annette Tokunaga

**Deputy Town Clerk:** Martine Imon

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:** Ann Dea Whippen

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): 355-2000**

**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:** Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

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





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