



The

Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow About

March 2021



BE A PATRIOT – VOTE!

The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it. — John Lewis

Taking place at Veterans' Memorial Hall:

Elections & Referendums -

Tuesday, March 9th 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Warrant - Saturday, April 10th (new date!) 9:00 a.m.

Local Election Candidates – 3 Year Term:

Library Trustee – One Position

John A. Lewis

Planning Board – Two Positions

Stacie Maillet

Kathryn D. McWhirk

Select Board – One Position

Carol Jameson

Andrew Wallace

Town Clerk – One Position

Karen A. O'Brien

Trustee of Trust Funds – One Position

Rostislav Eismont

Synopsis of Zoning Referendum Proposals:

- Reduce protective wetland buffer size from 75' to 25' (Articles 2 and 6);
- Alter definition of Ruins (Article 3);
- Base R.V. Permitting on short term versus long term use (Article 3);
- Alter wetland pollution contributor language (Article 6);
- Alter wetland definition to match that of N.H. D.E.S. (Article 17).

Annual Budgets:

- Town of Richmond at Town Meeting;
- Monadnock Regional School District at Town Elections.

Karen O'Brien

Candidate for Town Clerk Position

I would like to introduce myself to you as a candidate for Town Clerk. My name is Karen O'Brien and I have been a resident of Richmond for three years, moving here from Mendon, MA where I resided for 34 years. My involvement in that town was as a Planning Board member for five years, Chair of the Library Trustees for nine years, a Girl Scout Leader and Trainer, and driver for Meals on Wheels. I have always believed in getting involved and giving back to my community.

In my professional life, I worked at Sir Speedy Printing as graphic artist, Garden in the Woods as customer representative, Old Sturbridge Village as a museum educator, and as Client Case Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at the American Red Cross in Worcester, MA. I volunteered at the Red Cross for three years before I was invited to apply for a position on the staff, having first volunteered after 9/11 and working Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. My varied jobs and volunteer positions have made me qualified to problem solve, interface with others, treat people with respect, and make a commitment to follow through and get the job done. A lifelong learner, I embrace taking on new challenges and trying new things. I have been working with the current clerk, Annette Tokunaga, for the past six weeks as well as taking the necessary courses for me to assume the role of your new Town Clerk.



My business, The Green Woman's Garden, has given me new opportunities to grow and challenge myself. I grow native plants, herbs, and vegetables for sale, and lecture and do demonstrations and workshops on various aspects of gardening. My passion for agriculture led to a position on the Richmond Agriculture Commission, where I serve as Secretary. You may also recognize my name, as I have written for *the Richmond Rooster* for the last 2 years, educating others on herbs, their uses and historical background, as well as other areas of interest. I have also been involved in several volunteer leadership positions, serving on the boards of The Herb Society for 12 years and the International Herb Association for 10 years, and as chair of two local organizations.

The position of Town Clerk is a demanding one, but I feel I can serve Richmond well. I promise to be fair, professional, and keep the best interests of the people of Richmond in all deliberations. Please feel free to contact me at karen@greenwomansgarden.com or call me at 413-225-2144 if you want to ask me for more information. Thank you for your consideration for election to Town Clerk.

Carol Jameson **Candidate for Selectman**

I am Carol Jameson and I am running for Selectman. My husband, Peter, and I moved to Richmond in 2009 for our retirement. We had lived in New York City where Peter had been a teacher, and I had been a corporate lawyer. Although we were new to Richmond, we knew and loved the general area.

Once settled in, I looked for ways to use my time and legal background to serve the community. I ran for Selectman in 2013 and served two terms until 2019, serving as Chair for several of those years. Peter was a library trustee for six years. I was also the Town Welfare Administrator for much of that time; I continued in the job as a volunteer without pay until Pam Bielunis took it over in 2020. I also plant and maintain our few town gardens and plantings as a volunteer. I am currently a Trustee of the Trust Funds and I help produce *the Richmond Rooster*, also as a volunteer. Jon Hill and I write up our hikes for the Rooster; you may be familiar with me through those articles.

I was pleased with what we accomplished while I was on the Board. The most visible accomplishment came in our researching and recommending the change in police services: to contract with the County Sheriff for these services instead of maintain-

ing a town police department. Bill Daniels was also on the Board at the time and was instrumental in making this happen. This saved the town tens of thousands of dollars and resulted in better and more visible policing.

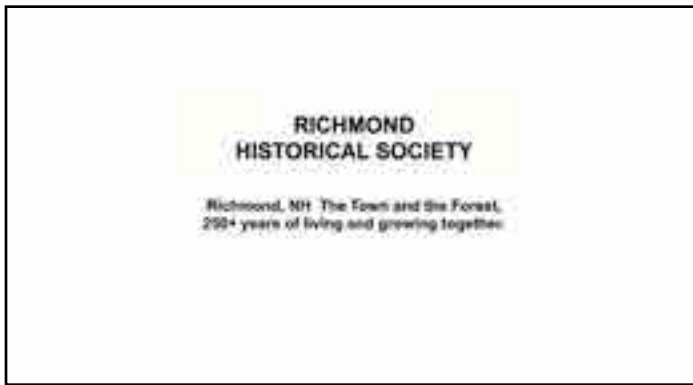
During my first term as Selectmen, I instituted annual reviews of town-owned properties to see what parcels could be put up for sale, a practice that resulted in the sale of several properties that had been on the town books and forgotten for years, generally having been tax deeded to the town many years prior. I wrote a regular column from the Selectboard for *the Rooster*, letting people know what the Selectmen were working on. Less visible accomplishments, but equally important, were changes in procedures to make sure that town government was open, responsive and professionally run, with documentation in place that would make it less likely that the town would be sued.

I am running for Selectman again because I think that my legal skills and work background are needed. I am disappointed in how town government has been conducted over the past year. Encouraging public participation and oversight in government is difficult to achieve in the midst of a pandemic, but our



town can do better. Other towns have had their meetings and hearings available on ZOOM and kept their meetings accessible to all citizens throughout this entire time, while our Selectboard has not. Open discussion and decision-making promote public trust, a premium





that we must keep as a priority and work to maintain.

If you support these ideals, please vote for me for Selectman.

Andrew Wallace Candidate for Selectman

I'd like to thank you for the honor of serving as your Selectman for the last two years and announce that I am running again in hopes of continuing to serve the community. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and helping to bring about what I believe to be positive changes in town. We have worked hard to ensure that these changes were smooth and resulted in improvements for Richmond. My first year on the board I helped oversee a successful transition of police coverage from our former department to the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department. This move saved the town a significant amount of money while increasing our coverage. We also had many changes to our highway department with the resignation of our previous road agent. We transitioned a new agent into the role and have taken a more aggressive approach to road maintenance including bidding out our road plowing contract for the first time in many years.

These are just some of the changes that have proven to be a great return on investment for the town as well as helping us toward our goal of keeping the operating budget in check. I believe in limited government, including on the local level,

and that town officials should serve the citizens with as little interference in their lives as possible.

Looking forward, I remain most concerned with keeping our operating budget in check and getting the most out of our tax revenue in order to keep our municipal tax rate low. I am also spearheading an effort to expand broadband internet in town. With online learning and more people working from home recently this has become more of a necessity. Even though we are still in the early stages, I have met with the company that owns the fiberoptic network in Richmond, and we are working with them and the Southwest Region Planning Commission to explore the options we have available to us.

I believe I bring a much-needed perspective to the board as a father to a young family, raising the next generation of Richmond residents. I love this town and I look forward to continuing my efforts to serve it with your support and your vote on March 9.

Kathryn D. McWhirk Candidate for Planning Board Position

Hello, Richmond Voters!

I am running for the Richmond Planning Board because, at the "11th hour", there seemed to be no interest by any other resident.

I have lived in Richmond since December 1, 1985. During the past 35 years, I have served on the Richmond Recreation Committee, Board of Selectmen (1990), Richmond Zoning Board of Adjustment ("ZBA"), Beach Committee, and the Richmond Board of Selectmen (2014 - 2017). I have no personal agenda, except to show up and serve the entire community for the greater good and to help to support Richmond's Zoning Ordinance in the manner for which it is intended.

Almost everyone can think that they just don't have the time to VOLUNTEER on "some committee", but the fact is, it really doesn't take a lot of time. It's educational, allows you an oppor-



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tunity to meet your neighbors, and gives you satisfaction that you gave your precious time for your family, neighbors, the future, and the greater good. Thank you for your consideration and support!

John A. Lewis **Candidate for Library Trustee**

I have served as a Trustee of the Richmond Public Library for the past two years, most recently under the distinguished Chairmanship of Ms. Dixie Gurian with Douglass Bartlett Treasurer.

It is a special pleasure of the Trustees to support the work of Ms. Wendy O'Brien, under whose librarianship the RPL continues to flourish in even the most difficult of our Covid-19 times. We are, in Richmond, the beneficiaries of a very special person who creates and sustains a very special place. I would very much like to continue to work with the RPL Trustees!

Although I moved to Richmond as a full time resident only recently, in 2019, I have known and loved Richmond since 1953, at which time my father took me to splash in Cass Pond during one of his many visits to his third cousin at 49 Athol Road. The affection has deepened as my father purchased the white sprawling barn and home from his cousin, and I from him 45 years later.

Rostislav Eismont **Candidate for Trustee of Trust Funds**

I have lived in Richmond for 36 years, longer than anywhere else. Born in Austria, I spent the first five years of my life in a British refugee camp. While my first language was Russian, my parents spoke many languages and would often confuse us (the children) by switching from one language to another when they wanted to hide their thoughts from us. As a result, the desire to understand has been a critical part of my psyche.

In my first term as Trustee of the Trust Funds, I have tried to apply myself to understanding how this particular detail of civic life functions. Seemingly sim-

ple, in fact, there are many nuances requiring focus and attention. Now, with my term ending, I invite Richmond residents to give me another three years.



Richmond's Wetlands Ordinance

In Richmond one of the seven members of the Planning Board is always a Selectmen. This is the representative "ex officio" (from the office) of the Board of Selectmen. That person is supposed to represent the enforcement arm of town government so that the two elected Boards can cooperate.

Recently, the Richmond Board of Selectmen proposed several changes to the Planning Board to be considered by them for placement on the Town Warrant to be voted on in March. Except for petitioned articles, only the Planning Board can place zoning laws or changes on the ballot for consideration by the Legislative body (Town Meeting).

Since one of the proposed changes concerns wetlands, the town Conservation Commission was consulted. They considered many issues including the fact that many area towns have setback requirements more in line with the New Hampshire state regulations (no building in wetlands without special permits but no structural setbacks, except 75' for septic systems, are required), and they tried to balance the severity of 75 foot (150 feet)* land use restrictions on homeowners, with the need to protect our wetlands. Even though some members felt that the State requirements were reasonable, in order to be cautious about wetland protection, they voted to recommend the 25 foot buffer.

Both the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board agreed to the proposed change. Now it is up to the voters. All three Selectmen are asking for a YES vote on the proposed zoning changes. We think they are in the best interest of all of the land owners in town.

* For example, a homeowner with a typical 3 acre lot with a small runoff channel or brooklet running through it could easily lose the use of almost half of their property due to the 75' restriction (measured on both sides = 150') now in place.



With a still significant 50' swathe (25' buffer) the restricted land area would be reduced to about 1/2 acre and still give plenty of protection to the wetland.

William Daniels Chairman

Andrew Wallace - Selectman

Douglas Bersaw - Selectman and ex Officio Planning Board member

Editor's Note: Any property owner having an activity proposed for a wetland buffer area has recourse to the Zoning Board of Adjustments under Article 604 of the Zoning Ordinance.

What's a Wetland and Why Does It Matter? Shaun Bennett

(Author's note: In response to several requests, this is a detour from my usual subject, Sandy Pond. The Pond will return in the next issue of the Rooster.) Fully 65 percent of the species on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) list of "Species of Concern" -- species that need monitoring and protection -- are associated with wetlands. Wetlands are critically important for the health of our ecosystem, not only because they are the breeding sites for these species, but also because these same birds, amphibians, mammals, etc. may have an important role to play in the forest and other areas outside the wetland.

Just what is a wetland? The technical definitions can be both hard to follow and sometimes inadequate.

For our purposes, it is easiest to think of wetlands as both the bogs, swamps, marshes, fens, etc. covered by shallow water, as well as areas in our forests of as little as a few square yards that have standing water only part of the year (sometimes called, "vernal pools"). One of these in my woods is an amphibian "cradle" where, every spring, eggs are laid and tadpoles mature in six to 10 inches of water, safe from the fish which would likely eat them in permanent water bodies. All you see there in mid-summer are dry, dead leaves from the surrounding oaks and red maples (and, since it is close to the road, it is also populated by beer cans and bottles; products of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company are the most common species!) We know that most frogs, toads, and salamanders have a strong fidelity to specific breeding sites, and, if this one were lost, the adults that depend on it would likely cease to reproduce at all, and the species could die off in the vicinity.

Thus, wetlands can change over short periods. While some seem to disappear entirely during drier times, standing water wetlands, like bogs, fens, swamps, etc., have boundaries which may grow and shrink depending on how much precipitation there has been recently (making the high water boundaries more meaningful for conservation purposes).

In addition to serving wildlife, wetlands help all of us by retaining snowmelt and heavy rains which might otherwise become a damaging flood, and then, releasing the water slowly, an especially helpful service during dry periods.

The best protection for a wetland is to observe and learn from it, but basically to leave it alone. A vernal pool will likely die if its tree cover is removed. A bog or fen will be harmed if pollutants enter it or if the immediately adjacent area is disturbed. Either one can be devastated by even the single passage of a vehicle. Measures meant specifically to protect wetlands usually establish a protective border around them known as a "buffer" and, to a large extent, the effectiveness of the buffer depends on its width. Some



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studies have shown that a 100-foot buffer can reduce the amount of pollutants entering through ground-water by 75 percent, much more than a narrow buffer. To my way of thinking, a 75 percent reduction is a good thing, but the remaining 25 percent of pollutants which do end up in the wetland may well kill off living things or prevent them from reproducing.

By the mid 1970's, about 40 percent of the nation's wetlands had been lost, mostly drained for agriculture or construction. That was 50 years ago; I don't know what the current figure is, but since our human population has grown by 50 percent since then, I may need to sit down and have a drink before I find out.

Editor's Note: Shaun Bennett's series about Sandy Pond, returning in April, "unleeches" this story shared by Bill Pearsall, Sr.:

Leeches may well be gone from Sandy Pond, but are probably still in the Four Corners Pond. About 20 years ago, we were installing a hydrant there and one of us found one, about two inches long, on his arm! Another guy, who had been in 'Nam, got a little upset. Must have brought back memories!

Enforcement of Zoning Ordinances

Kim Mattson

Richmond has always had a problem with enforcement of Zoning Ordinances and Regulations put in place by the Legislative Body (you and I) to protect our privacy, land use, natural resources and the environment.

At Town Meeting 2009, Article 39, the Legislative Body of Richmond voted to create a position, identified as the "Zoning Compliance Officer." This position was created after five years of researching building permits. The outcome determined that a slight cost increase in town permits pertaining to building would cover the cost of the position paid for by the applicant and assure that our Zoning Ordinances were being followed. The position allowed a source outside of our Selectmen's Office to follow up on zoning complaints from residents. The goal was to make zoning equal, increase zoning compliance and reduce the number of illegal, non-conforming buildings. Having one long-term person working as our Zoning Compliance Officer would result in one interpretation of the zoning for all residents.

Volunteer Boards, Committees and Commissions do their best to be reasonable and fair with every application which comes in front of them. Sometimes we get it right, and sometimes we make mistakes in our interpretations. What is very discouraging is when the volunteers take their time to be reasonable and fair to an applicant while staying within the parameters of the Ordinances and RSA's, only to have the final decision not followed through by the Selectmen.

At present in town, there are several wetland, septic, and building violations. One dates back to June of 2020 that has yet to be resolved. The Selectmen issue building permits, knowing that their request

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for the applicant to follow zoning is being ignored. Past Selectmen have issued Cease and Desist orders or held back further permits until the applicant came into compliance; that doesn't happen anymore. Enforcing zoning is the responsibility of the Selectmen, who work for the people. The legislative body voted for a Zoning Compliance Officer; please fill the position to create conformity and enforce zoning. Selectmen change, and the interpretation of the zoning changes with the Selectmen. It would be nice to have one consistent person and one interpretation. A good question to ask is: is it legal for the Selectmen to hold their positions and act as our Zoning Compliance Officers? Ummm, seems like there could be a conflict of interest: complete control of building permits and lack of compliance with our zoning.

The Selectmen would like to now decrease our wetland setback to help eliminate their headache, eliminate paperwork and process. There is relief in our zoning, for a minimal application fee, to help ensure that our wetlands stay clean and clear. One of the points discussed at the Conservation Commission Meeting with Selectman Bersaw is that a smaller lot with a 150' swath cut through it is a large piece of unusable property. But it really isn't; an applicant can apply for relief and receive an education on how to handle the care of the wetlands to help prevent possible pollution of the water downstream. This allows a Zoning Compliance Officer to make sure that the precautions are being used

and installed correctly. Knowledge is Power. Based on what I know, I'll be voting "NO!" to Amendment 1.

Zoning Changes in Richmond: Please Consider the Consequences

Kathryn D. McWhirk

It's my understanding that the State of NH presents basic guidelines regarding zoning. Towns in NH create their own zoning which cannot be less than the State of NH RSA's and can be more stringent. The Zoning Ordinances are put on the ballot by the Planning Board for the legislative body (you and I) to decide on. ALL Zoning Ordinances should be created to help protect the privacy, safety and the natural resources in Richmond. Fran Heap explained in the February issue of *the Richmond Rooster* the State of New Hampshire has many RSA's to protect the shorelines in NH, but not the setbacks adjacent to local marshlands, bogs, streams, or vernal pools. That protection is left up to each individual town to protect the wetland regeneration areas in their own towns. The Richmond Selectmen have proposed decreasing our wetland setback from 75' to 20'; that is one heck of a change! Mention was made several times to go with zero, no protection. The final distance was increased by five feet to the 25' on the ballot, through the process of board and commission discussion.

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We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to these items.

Danny Wahl
603-239-7200

November 17, 2020 Planning Board Minutes

Selectman Bersaw presented research on towns addressing wetland setbacks. Three of the seven towns Bersaw researched have setbacks: two have 75' and one has 50'. Three of the seven towns follow the state setbacks. One town was inconclusive. Note: Research proved Swanzeey has a wetland setback of 125'; originally, Selectman Bersaw said Swanzeey had no setback. Further research showed that Sullivan, Stoddard, Rindge, Peterborough, and Dublin have 50' setbacks, both Jaffrey and Westmoreland have 75' setbacks.

Selectman Bersaw discussed structures within the wetland. One example he presented to the board, "What is considered a structure in Richmond? Does it include a flagpole?" Bersaw continued saying that the enforcement of the setbacks creates a headache and would eliminate additional process.

The point was made that the present zoning allows for relief to that setback and allows for education when working around wetlands: proper installation of silt fencing, hay bales to help with erosion; proper reclaiming of the surface with seeding; proper reclaiming of the area after the construction has been completed. This process clearly would include input from the Richmond Conservation Commission.

December 15, 2020 Planning Board Minutes

Selectman Bersaw attended the Richmond Conservation

Commission meeting on December 3, 2020. After a short discussion, the Richmond Conservation Commission came up with a 25' setback from the high-water mark. A whole five foot increase to protect our water supply.

December 29, 2020 Planning Board Minutes

Selectman Bersaw talked about the Richmond Conservation Commission Meeting and the increase of five feet to 25'. He suggested that the Commission was OK with a zero setback, but Chairman Taylor suggested 25', and Drew agreed. The rest of the Board originally said, "zero", but agreed with the 25' setback.

Board member Duda spoke about research he had done from the State of NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and that NH has governing rules for wetlands. In the February issue of *the Richmond Rooster*, Fran Heap did an excellent job at fully explaining the State of NH's part in governing wetlands' protection, but not governing setbacks adjacent to inland wetlands. Duda continued that water is a valuable resource and, if a person does pollute it, would trickle down and could disturb someone else's water supply. Duda said that it is pretty important to control what is around our wetlands.

Duda also mentioned that, if the Selectmen want to reduce the setback to follow state regulations, they need an applicant to apply and receive appropriate permits when required. What would be the follow-up in the Town to assure that the

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proper permits were in place according to DES?

Duda added that there is a process in our Zoning Ordinance that, if an applicant is within the wetlands, they can go to the Zoning Board of Adjustments and ask for relief. Reducing the wetland setback removes a local layer of enforcement from our town and following the State of NH DES regulations.

Chairman Maillet added that, "if it is difficult to enforce now, why would a setback change be any different?"

Special Exceptions and Variances in Richmond help to educate an applicant to take proper steps to assure that our wetlands are protected. The cost is minimal for the applicant to assure the protection of our water supply.

Vice Chairman Condon expressed he was against the change, that enforcement is an issue in this town now, and a reduction wouldn't change the enforcement. The Selectmen have to enforce the Zoning Ordinance equally to all residents. So, in ending, I'd like to ask Selectmen Bersaw, Daniels and Wallace how much of a headache would it be if residents' water was affected and unusable? Would the Town help residents obtain a clean, fresh water supply? Or, would that be a "civil matter" that the Town wouldn't follow through on?

Selectmen Bersaw, Daniels and Wallace, if it's such a headache to enforce our local zoning, who will follow through at the State of NH DES level to

be sure all regulations are being followed? And, what would the expense be to the land owner? Are there any State fees? What about the State paperwork? If the State of NH only handles shoreline wetlands with a heavy hand, does that mean that the wetlands in Richmond would have no protection? Richmond is rich in clear, fresh abundant water, and it would be a shame to lose this most precious natural resource. I will be voting NO to Amendment 1 on March 9, 2021.

Zoom, the Final Frontier **Kim Mattson**

Zoom seems like such an easy step for school children to learn, doctors' appointments, municipalities and businesses to help slow the curve of the Coronavirus.

March 13, 2020, The State of NH Office of the Governor sent out Emergency Order #23. This relieved municipal and local governmental bodies from deadlines for accepting, hearings, and action on applications both Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

All of the Richmond Land Use applications were put on hold per the Governors Emergency order.

March 23, 2020, The State of NH Office of the Governors sent out the second Emergency Order #12. State and local government bodies are permitted and **encouraged** to utilize emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A to conduct meetings through electronic means.

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Richmond doesn't have the means to electronically allow Boards to meet as suggested and **encouraged** by the State of NH Office of the Governor.

June 15, 2020 - Emergency Order #40 had expired. A letter from the Richmond Selectmen encouraged all boards, committees and commissions to resume their meetings as soon as possible. Attached was a five-page document, listing procedures to be followed. The procedures from the Selectmen included: wearing face masks, taking temperatures, having hand sanitizer available, achieving six feet of social distancing and to make healthy choices.

June 23, 2020 - First Planning Board meeting held outside at the Pavilion. Decision was made to put Zoom in place for volunteer members to continue to participate and to have a quorum present to assure business could be conducted. Eric Duda volunteered to work with Selectman Andrew Wallace to make this "happen." Duda worked quickly to send information to Chairman Maillet on cost and basic outline of services. Cost: \$14.99/month.

So, the journey begins...

June 29, 2020 - First visit to the Selectmen to set up Zoom for the Boards, Commissions and Committees. Selectman Wallace agreed to work with Duda and set up Zoom.

The year has continued with many visits to the Selectmen's office. Four months later, I'm told it's still in the works. Now it's been five months, a long-term 33+ year volunteer has resigned due to lack of mask wearing by Planning Board members while at meetings and no Zoom offered. He also represented the Town of Richmond regionally as a Commissioner for Southwest Region Planning Commission and sits on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Region Planning Commission. His history with the Planning Board spanning over 33+ years is knowledge we can't replace.

It's now been six months since discussions with Selectman Wallace, and we're still waiting for

Zoom. It came to my attention that the laptop at the Town Hall cannot leave the Town Hall. So, we requested to have the rest of our budget encumbered into the next year to purchase a laptop. The Selectmen agreed; we now have a laptop but no Zoom! Zoom is a tool that could be used by all boards, committees and commissions in the Town, not just Land Use.

In January, at a Planning Board Meeting, our three selectmen attended not wearing masks; at the Board's requests, they did their best at six-foot social distancing. After working on Zoning changes, an outside conversation started in reference to internet at the Vet's Hall. The Selectmen would like to pursue the same company as the Fire Department. The Fire Department gets their internet at no cost. We are now quickly approaching eight months since our request for Zoom. I have board members on both boards asking when we'll get Zoom. We still have one to three board members on both boards who refuse to follow the five-page document given to the boards in June 2020 by the Selectmen.

February 11, 2021 - Pre warrant Meeting that was lightly attended, but there is a hopeful update: Selectman Wallace explained that he is working with a fiber optic network that already has equipment placed in our municipal buildings. A meeting with representatives from the company will be held and their first goal is to negotiate a new contract between them and the Town in order to expand broadband to all municipal buildings. Wallace is waiting on the contract details and is expecting an answer soon.

The goal is; once the Town is up and running an effort will be made to form a broadband committee to explore expanding access to the community. Wallace has started the process of planning with the Southwest Region Planning Commission working on a regional proposal for USDA support in expanding the rural broadband.

All I can do is hope at this point.

Candidates' Night Cancelled

There will not be a Candidate's Night due to health concerns; the only contested race is for Selectman.

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 9th. 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 on Election Day.

If you are unable to come to the polls on Election Day, you can request an absentee ballot, if qualified. The conditions that qualify a voter to request an absentee ballot are listed on the Application for Town and School Election Absentee Ballot. This Application is on the Town of Richmond website, richmond.nh.gov, on the Town Clerk's page, under the Elections bar.

The deadline for returning an absentee ballot by the voter is the day before the election no later than 5:00 PM. If mailed or delivered by someone authorized to return it, the deadline is Election Day no later than 5:00 PM.

As provided in Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #83, the Selectmen have postponed the second session of the Town Meeting, referred to as the business session. It is scheduled for April 10, commencing at 9:00 AM, at the Veterans' Memorial Hall. At the business session, 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, please contact the Town Clerk's office. No voter registration activity will occur on the day of the business session.

As always, please call (603) 239-6202 if you have any questions or concerns.

Town Clerk's Calendar

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

March 8

OPEN 9-Noon and 1-4 PM for regular business

OPEN 4-5 PM to accept absentee ballots only

CLOSED 6-8 PM

March 9

Town Election

Polls open 11 AM-7 PM, Veterans' Memorial Hall

March 12

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

March 16

OPEN 3-5 PM to accept applications for recounts of votes cast at Town Election for any questions

Fare Thee Well

Annette Tokunaga, Town Clerk

Two people with complexions untouched by pain or grief,
fingers intertwined,
come for their marriage license.

He speaks in a gravelly voice.
He will not let them cut off his legs to prolong his life.
He will be buried whole.

A woman changes her name on her voter registration,
her joy palpable through the plexiglass service window.

He brings the death certificate to prove what he lives every
day, the unbearable burden of being a "surviving spouse."

I will miss you all.
It has been my greatest privilege to serve you,
the people of Richmond.

Parks and Recreation

Karen Daugherty

It was, by far, one of the coldest days we've had for our Winter Event! Everyone took turns warming by the fires. We cooked hot dogs, s'mores, and drank warm cocoa with all of the fixings. Kids painted in the snow with colored water, did a winter scavenger hunt, and made crafts. It was great to see everyone that came. Please join us for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th at 10 a.m. at the pavilion.



March 27th, 2021 (10 a.m. at the pavilion)
Easter Egg Hunt, donuts, and hot chocolate



Spring 2021

Roadside Clean-up

June 2021

Summer Picnic and Tie Dye Party

August 2021

“Back to School” Party

September/October 2021

Collaborative event with Harvest Festival and Agricultural Fair

December 2021

Movie at Takodah

January 2022

Winter Event

Library News
Wendy O'Brien

Be Pinch Proof-Borrow Something Green!
Just in case you need something green to prevent those painful pinches, grab one of our green books to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



March is Crafting Month

It's the end of a long winter and many of us have been crafting overtime. But how about trying something new? We have some books that might intrigue you:

The Candlemaker's Companion: A Complete

Richmond Public Library
19 Winchester Road, Richmond, NH 03470
library@richmondnh.us Tel: 239-6164

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

Catalog:
opac.libraryworld.com/
opac/home.php. Library
name: Richmond Public.
No password required.

Guide to Rolling, Pouring, Dipping, and Decorating Your Own Candles

*Drying Flowers**

Making Crafts from Your Kids' Art

Silk Painting: The Artist's Guide to Gutta and Wax Resist Techniques

Wild Mittens, Unruly Socks: 22 More Outrageously Unique Knitting Patterns

*By Richmond's own Barbara Radcliffe Rogers

Kids Craft Kits

We didn't forget your kids for Crafting Month! Different weekly craft kits will be available for pickup all week on the Library front steps. This month's crafts celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, kites & wind-socks, St. Patrick's Day, and bunnies for Easter.

New Titles

Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the Loss of a Valuable Resource, John C. Porter

In an Instant, Suzanne Redfearn

On Chapel Sands: My Mother and Other Missing Persons, Laura Cumming

Code Name: Lise: The True Story of the Woman Who Became WWII's Most Decorated Spy, Larry Loftis

Outlawed, Anna North

The Scorpion's Tail, Douglas J. Preston and Lincoln Child

At the time of writing, we are offering curbside service. Please contact us at 239-6164 or at library@richmondnh.us to arrange for your selections and pick-up time.

March into Spring
Karen O'Brien

*Over the land freckled with snow half thawed
The speculating rooks at their nests cawed
And saw from elm-tops, delicate as flower of grass,
What we below could not see, Winter pass.*

Edward Thomas



The snow still reigns supreme here, but signs of spring are at hand. The days are longer, and the tree buds are swelling. The pussy willows' fuzzy catkins are out, and the first red-winged blackbird made his appearance at my feeder. The supply of wood pellets has dwindled, but we look to be in good shape to have what is needed for the rest of the season.

At this time of year, I am looking ahead to summer, and one of the delights of that season is the blooming of roses. Many have exclaimed to me that they had no idea that the rose is considered an herb. As herbs are generally considered to be a plant useful to humans (culinary, medicinal, industrial, decorative), the rose certainly can lay claim to most of these categories.

Roses have been a favored flower of humans since time began. Its attributes have been lauded in art and literature, and the rose figures prominently in many historical and religious contexts. Medicinal uses of the rose are encountered in many cultures and throughout the ages. Fossil evidence of roses dating to 32 million years ago has been discovered in Oregon and Colorado. Petals of roses have been unearthed in Egyptian tombs, having been used in elaborate funerary bouquets from the Ptolemaic period (305 to 30 BCE). Early Greek mythology credits the origin of the rose to the goddess of love, Aphrodite, whose birth created sea foam that turned into white roses, which signify purity and innocence.

Pliny the Elder (23-79 CE), a Roman historian and writer, wrote in his *Naturalis Historia* that charred rose petals were of great use to darken the eyebrows, and suggested that dried powdered rose petals should be sprinkled on the body as a deodorant. Avicenna (980-1037 CE), a Persian physician, called for rose oil in many of his healing preparations. In the Middle Ages, the apothecary rose (*Rosa gallica officinalis*) was extremely popular and distilled often. The oil was frequently used to mask unpleasant odors and the bitter tastes of many medicinal brews and potions of the period.

It is traditionally believed that the briar rose

(*R. canina*) was the source of the crown of thorns placed on Christ's brow at his crucifixion. Consequently, in Christian flower symbolism, the rose stood for the blood of martyrs. Many religious paintings of saints during this period depicted both a lily – for purity – and the rose – for blood shed. In Europe, a favorite remedy for hemorrhaging included roses; the Doctrine of Signatures popular at this time indicated that something associated with blood would be good for ailments concerning blood.

But, as a culinary experience, the rose as food is now experiencing a renaissance of sorts and enjoying a renewed popularity as a delicate flavoring and attractive seasoning.

The Romans were particularly enamored of the rose: both as a sensual delight and for its supposed effectiveness as a preventative for drunkenness. They also concocted a pate of red rose petals, eggs, calves' brains, wine, and oil that was baked and served as an appetizer. Many banquet halls were filled with roses: carpeting floors, suspended from ceilings, and lavishly displayed.

In 13th century England, a pottage was made of pounded chicken and rose petals. In medieval times, the medicinal properties of herbs were not considered separate from their use as a flavoring agent. The fact that rose tasted good and was easily obtainable probably only enhanced its use in food and medicine.

Bancke's *Herbal* of 1550 contains many references to rose, including melrosette, sugar roset, syrup of roses, oil of roses and rosewater. Rose was felt to "comfort the braine and quench the spirit". In



the Queen's Delight (1695), a recipe was included for candied rose petals. Through the Tudor and Stuart periods, rose hips, pureed and sweetened, were used in tarts. Petals and buds were used in salads.

Distillation of rosewater brought new uses into the kitchen, and marchpane (now known as marzi-



pan) was originally made with ground almonds flavored with rosewater. Blancmange was a dish first made of shredded chicken, ground almonds, and rosewater. Later versions omitted the meat and thickened the pudding with egg, serving it as a dessert. The nineteenth century saw a shift from using roses as a source of food and medicine to regarding them as a garden and landscape plant. Some of this may be attributed to the fact that, as hybridization became fashionable in the 1800's, many of the highly scented and flavorful roses, such as damask, centifolia and gallica, were crossed to create roses which were beautiful and repeating, leaving scent and flavor as a faded memory.

If you wish to try cooking with roses, your best bet is to use the old-fashioned or heirloom types, whose scent and taste are much better than modern hybrids. Many rugosa roses, which are hardy and easy to care for, are very fragrant and tasty. Use your nose and taste buds to try them out. These types of roses are very hardy, too, so they can survive our freezing temperatures and they do not usually have the typical rose problems of black spot, fungus, etc. The single petaled varieties often have large rose hips, which are an excellent source of Vitamin C and make a lovely tea or jelly.

The following is a recipe that I used in a workshop recently. It is quite simple, but very rich and satisfying. The rose sugar can be made when roses are at their peak - it keeps very well in a tightly sealed jar.

ROSE STUFFED DATES

20-30 soft dates

1 package cream cheese (low-fat OK)

1/4 cup rose sugar (recipe below)

In a bowl, soften the cream cheese and mix in the rose sugar, being sure to smooth out any lumps. Take the pit out of each date, and separate into two halves. Spread one teaspoon or so of the cream cheese mixture on each half. Makes 40-60 appetizers.

ROSE SUGAR

Using a mortar and pestle, take equal amounts of rose petals (white heel removed) and sugar and grind together. Be sure to grind the rose petals as fine as you can. The mixture may cake up, but it can easily be re-ground before using. Keeps up to a year if stored in a tightly sealed glass jar.

Take some time this year to smell the roses!

Karen

The Green Woman's Garden

Sweet Spring: the Love of Maple

Tim Rogers

One of the lures of living in rural areas is the abundance of gorgeous trees, and, among them, the Maple is perhaps the most wonderful. It provides us with shade in the summer and in the fall; for a brief period, it adds spectacular color to the September and October foliage show. But its greatest glory comes in the spring, just about now, when the snows are melting, and temperatures alternate between freezing and warming.

We came to Richmond in time for the Bicentennial of the United States in 1976 and, the following spring, set about looking for maples to tap. While I found surprisingly few, I did find six or seven: some out front along the road and a few more along the edge of the deep valley cut by our unnamed brook. With my trusty auger and bit, I set out about 10 taps, small spigots set into a hole drilled into the living tree.

Our daughter Julie was little, just about six, and she was fascinated to watch the steady drip, drip, drip, but wondered what we would use that water for. A few old cement blocks which had been left behind by the previous owner created a handy fire-place, and the racks out of an old stove that we had discarded (you never throw away something that could be useful!) finished off the boiling place.

That "water" from the trees made it to big can-





ning pots on that small fireplace outdoors; wood collected from dead trees on our land heated it to a boil. Hours later, it produced the sweet, unique, sticky syrup that everyone in New England loves. In time, Julie and her sister Lura, got big enough to help, and, every year, we collected enough maple sap to sweeten our lives for the coming year.

But, if you don't have trees or the time, this is still the time of year to enjoy this annual New England ritual. Walk into any sugar house and you will immediately be overwhelmed by the warm, steamy atmosphere, rather like a sauna run by someone who loves sweets. The air is sweet-smelling and, most often, the syrup maker who is watching the boiling maelstrom will be happy to tell you about the process and answer questions.

Here, in Richmond, Daniels Family Maple started producing maple syrup from Richmond's trees in 2008, and the family is still at it. Now, there are three generations of the Daniels' family working on the place, producing, and selling maple products as you read this. The farm is at 71 Greenwoods Road in Richmond. They sell syrup in sizes from pints to full gallons. Call them at (603) 239-7269 before heading out to make sure they are available. Another place, just north of Keene, to visit is Clark's Sugar House on Crane Brook Road, off Route 123-A in Alstead at (603) 835-6863. The Month of March is Maple Month in New Hampshire. The State's maple producers open their places so folks can see the syrup being produced and buy it to enjoy at home. It makes a great family outing. Check the NH website at <https://nhmapleproducers.com/directory/> for the locations in which you are interested. It doesn't really matter whether it is rainy or sunny: once the sap starts, these syrup makers boil until the trees stop producing. It's wise to call before you go. The trees can be temperamental, and sugar houses don't boil if there is no sap. But, just because one place is not boiling, doesn't mean a place a few miles away is not. Another way to celebrate the season is a pancake house. In southwest New Hampshire, we like to go

to Stuart and John's Sugarhouse in Westmoreland at (603) 563-9218, just a few miles west of Keene at the intersection of Routes 12 and 63. Before or after your tour, have a big, hearty pancake breakfast with pancakes or fritters or waffles and lots of maple syrup. They are open every weekend during the spring season. Another, not too far away, is the sugar house at Parker's Maple Barn, Brookline Road, in Mason at (603) 878-2308. It has a year-round restaurant and gift shop nearby.

Irish Bread Terri O'Rorke

3 C flour
2/3 C sugar
3 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
1 C raisins
2 eggs
2 C buttermilk
2 Tbsp vegetable oil
1 Tbsp caraway seeds (optional)



Combine dry ingredients, raisins and seeds, if using. In a separate bowl, combine eggs, buttermilk and oil. Add this mixture to the dry ingredients, mixing lightly, just until blended. Pour the batter into a greased 1 1/2 quart casserole dish. Bake for 1 hour in a 350 degree oven.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY, RICHMOND!

Shout Out to the Richmond Fire Department Pat Visocchi

*Who would have thought in a town so small,
we would have the best fire department of them all?*



My encounter with the fire department came as I was planning a drive-by birthday parade for my four-year-old grandson. I haven't lived in town long, so I didn't know to whom to reach out. I was given Chief Atkins' name. He was so responsive and said, "Knowing his guys, we would have a few fire trucks". As fate would have it, on that day, the firefighters were called out for an emergency and could not attend. We came inside the house as it was a frigid day and, lo and behold, my phone rang, and it was Chief Atkins asking if we wanted them to still come. So, after their having to respond to an emergency, we had a line of fire trucks and two sheriffs' cars with sirens blaring, driving by



our house! These guys parked their vehicles, got out, and wished my grandson a happy birthday. Chief Atkins even presented him with a gift and a card signed by the whole department! For a child who was turning four and could not have a party due to COVID-19, this meant so much. I was touched by this gesture of kind-

ness. I videotaped the event, and my grandson watches it often. This will be a birthday to remember for him.

Of course, this is one of many heartfelt moments which occur constantly by this group of very devoted volunteer firefighters - yes, folks, volunteer. It takes special people to perform such duties as skillfully and with as much heart as they do. Of course, it all starts at the top; it takes a great Chief (Chief Atkins) to form such a top-notch professionally skilled group.

There's probably not a lot of people in town who realize all of the tasks that the firefighters perform on a daily basis; I know I didn't. Responding to fires is only a small portion of what these guys do. While most people are running out of a burning



building, these guys are running in to save people and their possessions. Did you know that these guys check on our elderly and in-need residents to make sure they're okay? They respond to accidents in which they might be the last ones to hold someone who is taking a final breath. Imagine having to deal with those emotions. These guys do this out of the goodness of their hearts and their willingness to help people. I bet you didn't know they took money out of their own personal funds to provide materials and construct a handicap ramp for a house of a paralyzed resident. When one of our own selectmen took a serious fall - thank God he's okay- while trying to repair a roof, the fire department was there to help his son finish the job. The firefighters are constantly called out to help our neighboring communities to provide assistance, as well. These are just a few of the untold stories of Richmond Fire. The department also runs a training program for older teens interested in learning to become a volunteer firefighter. Richmond is very lucky to have such a dedicated and skilled group of individuals who give their all every day for all of us. They leave their families to take care of ours. They deserve the utmost respect and admiration for what they do. Thank you, Richmond Fire.



We Say Good-bye to Former Firefighter, Harry Cowles Lord (April 1, 1927 - January 5, 2021)

Bill Pearsall shared Harry Cowles Lord obituary on Legacy.com with the Rooster. Bill writes, "Harry was a longtime member of the Richmond Fire Department, much of it as a lieutenant. After moving back to NH, he often attended the bar-b-que."

Harry Cowles Lord, age 93 of New Hampton, passed away peacefully at Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia on January 5, 2021 after a brief illness. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Harry's name to the New Hampton Firefighters Association

Endorses Andrew Wallace

As selectmen in Richmond it has been my pleasure to work with Andrew Wallace for the last two years. Andrew is up for re-election on March 9th and I hope the town will back him in his bid. As you may or may not know Andrew has a degree in business and is a cost analyst for a multi-million dollar company. Over the last two years his knowledge and expertise has proved to be invaluable to the board and town. He recently spearheaded a move to get free wifi to all the town buildings. His concerns have always been the welfare of the town and its residents. Again please vote Andrew Wallace for selectmen on March 9th. Respectfully submitted, William Daniels

Endorses Carol Jameson: Successful Past and a Bright Future

I first met Carol Jameson at a Richmond Garden Tour several years ago. Carol's friendliness, intelligence and organization caught my interest. At the time, I was a Selectman, and we were short a Selectman, so I asked Carol if she might be interested in joining the Select Board. So, a very successful story begins...

Carol served the town for two full terms, several years as Chairman. Carol took on the role of Welfare Administrator, volunteering her time with no compensation, serving as such, until 2020, when Pam Bielunis took it over. Carol stepped up and represented the town on the municipal coalition to oppose the construction of the Kinder Morgan pipeline. She was instrumental in adopting procedures to make sure the town government was fair, open to public review, and to help protect the Town from legal liabilities, in many ways acting as the Town's legal counsel, without remuneration. She educated the Select Board, saving the Town from costly lawsuits. Carol was responsible for the institution of an annual review of town properties so we could put town owned tax-deeded properties up for sale: bringing revenue into the Town and putting long-forgotten parcels back on the tax rolls. Carol started and continued writing a column from the Selectmen in *the Richmond Rooster* while in office to keep residents updated on what the Board was working on. I'm pleased to say Carol Jameson is once again running for office and I encourage you all to vote for Carol in the upcoming election.

Thank you.

Sandra Gillis

ReElect Andrew Wallace Selectman

Two years ago Andrew Wallace was elected to serve out the 2 years remaining in the term of a retired Selectman. I have had the pleasure of serving with him during that two-year period. Andrew is a young man with a growing family; not your usual candidate for Selectman. Many were excited at the prospect of a younger person, who is committed to the long-term welfare of the town in which he has chosen to raise his family, serving as a Selectman. He grew up in Richmond West (Winchester) and is a lifelong resident of the area. I am glad that he has proven himself to be up to the task.

Youth in public servants has its advantages, just as do the ages of maturity. I am more than twice his age, yet we have worked very well together. In fact, I think of the current board as a smooth working team. I hope to keep it that way.

One of the issues that Andrew threw himself into solving immediately was the long-standing problem of an expensive and inefficient police department that was inherited from previous Boards. Thankfully that problem has been solved to the satisfaction of many residents, and its resolution is due in no small degree to his efforts. His business experience working with budgets and numbers has proven very helpful to the Chairman Bill Daniels and me. He scrutinizes the town expenses like a pro. In addition, he has more technological expertise than either of his elders on the board and that too has been useful to the efficient operation of office affairs.

It is that interest in technology that has prompted him to take the initiative on his own to aggressively pursue for the Selectmen a path to providing broadband internet service for as many Richmond residents as possible. His work has already produced some results and I hope that he can continue his efforts in that area during his next term.

Although no two Selectmen will agree on everything, I have found that due to his fiscal responsibility and his exceptional interest in serving the town effectively, we have a lot in common, and I would hope that the voters of Richmond will turn out in March to vote him back into office. In case you did not notice, our roads are in better shape and our taxes have gone down two years in a row. That is no coincidence. It is due to hard work.

Thank you Andy!

Douglas Bersaw - Fellow Selectman.

RICHMOND NEEDS YOUR VOTE

MARCH 9, 2021

Veterans Hall, Rt. 32 N

SELECTMAN	CAROL JAMESON
PLANNING BOARD	STACIE MAILLET
	KATHRYN MCWHIRK
TOWN CLERK	KAREN O'BRIEN
TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS	ROSTISLAV EISMONT
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	JOHN LEWIS
CEMETARY TRUSTEE	



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP
RICHMOND'S WATER CLEAR AND CLEAN
VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1

75 FEET IS NOT MUCH TO ASK FOR CLEAN WATER!

THINK OF THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

TOWN ELECTIONS - TUESDAY MARCH 9TH, 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

TOWN MEETING - SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH, 9:00 AM

Wear your mask, stay safe and healthy

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

The Richmond Rooster Richmond, NH 03470



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1/2 page.....\$550

Full page.....\$1100

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Deadline is the 10th of each month.

Email – therichmondrooster@gmail.com

Rooster Online: <http://therichmondrooster.net>

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:

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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 can find a home, where we can find a home, and
 we can find a home, where we can find a home.

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