



It Takes a Village

John Boccalini

“It takes a village to raise a child” is an African proverb that means that an entire community of people interacts with children so they can experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. *The Richmond Rooster* exemplifies that idiom. For almost 30 years, the *Rooster* is the result of an entire town taking part in its existence.

It has brought about a sense of community to our town of Richmond and will stand as an archive of the town’s history over the years of 1991- 2021 and beyond. Inside its issues are pages and pages of the prior history of Richmond from its beginnings, stories of the people who have lived here before, their houses and roads, as well as articles from past journals including the *Richmond Town Crier* and the *Richmond Community Newsletter*.

It is a record of Richmond’s history and issues that have occurred over the 30 years including town business, committee reports, election results, and town events. It has done in depth reporting of some of the more major issues that could have had an effect on the town. It has had featured columns including profiles of various residents, resources such as ponds, wetlands, animal life and foliage, homes and buildings, selectmen’s minutes, news from the town clerk and library, school news and news from the county. There have been lighter features such as number and word games, book reviews, jokes, poetry and artwork and various stories about just anything.

We have published four phone directories, six Richmond calendars, which included planned town events and meetings as well as birthdays and anniversaries. We even created our own root beer, called ROOsTer Beer. We have sponsored and supported many town events and created a few town events ourselves.

When I say “we” I mean all of us, as a town and beyond. Almost 65 of our residents have spent some time on our staff. In addition to all of our staff, over

550 people have contributed articles, letters, opinions, art work, photos and poetry. There have been 470 people, businesses and Town entities contributed or supported the *Rooster* to provide each house with a free copy of the paper each month. Our advertising fees for a standard business ad went up only \$2.00 from \$10.00 to \$12.00 over the course of 30 years.

I wish to thank everyone who has been a part of making *The Richmond Rooster* a part of the history of the Town of Richmond.

To the Founders - **Marie Knowlton, Kathryn McWhirk as well as myself** who were there from the start with the idea to reinvent a newsletter for the Town of Richmond in 1991, which has maintained serving the town with town news, town business and town issues. Our writers have contributed historic stories about the people, buildings, homes, and town issues that have been a part of town history. They have also presented articles that have been fun, puzzling, humorous, poetic and educational for both young and old.

To the original staff who helped the Founders put the first issue together Rooster Staff : **Arlene Jarvis, Cris and Kate Dell, Janet Boccalini, Rose Kochman and Terri O’Rorke as well as those who also contributed submissions to bring “The Richmond Rooster” to life:, Alison VanBrocklin, Jeani and Rosti Eismont, Pam Goodell, Kim Mattson (Doubleday), Bud Jacobson and Lew Whittum.**

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To the *Rooster* Staff, who all have also contributed submissions, and who have helped in keeping the *Rooster* alive for the last 30 years. (These lists are sorted by their first names).

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To all those who have contributed submissions over the last 30 years

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Sandy Pond VI: The Birds

Shaun Bennett

Aquatic birds, like ducks and geese, come to mind when one thinks of birds and water together, but there aren't any at Sandy Pond except for migrants which nest elsewhere. A predator of some sort ruined the one duck family I ever knew to attempt a nest there. Nevertheless, lots of ducks do stop off on their way to and from breeding areas. Mallards, spectacular Wood Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, and lots more show up each year. In late August or early September, an occasional Loon may be heard in the darkness, and an Osprey may appear for an autumn day or so. I also see Sandpipers early enough in the summer for them to be nesting nearby.

There are also birds which I am sure are nesting somewhere in Town and, depending on the Pond, feed themselves and their young. Great Blue Herons are regulars, best seen in the early morning, although they also may appear around dusk. At that time, you can hear the almost prehistoric croaking call as a six-foot wingspread glides through the dim light on the way in to hunt along the shallow shoreline. Makes me think of pterodactyls. Belted Kingfishers are not at all concerned about stealth; their raucous call can be heard throughout



the day. Sometimes, a couple of them may have a loud argument. Kingfishers nest in holes dug in a sand bank. For some years, there was a nest within a few yards of the Pond. That area no longer has a nest, but the birds still show up regularly to fish.

My impression is that fewer birds are found here than when I first began to pay attention sixty or so years ago. That would be consistent with the known trends in bird populations throughout North America where scientific organizations, like the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, say we have lost fully one third of our birds since 1970, about three billion of them. Let that number sink in for a moment: three billion. Among the leading causes are habitat loss, pesticides and other pollution, and - brace yourself - cats. Some cat lovers take offense when this is pointed out. It seems hard to believe that they are such prolific killers, but the lowest figure for cat carnage I found was about three quarters of a billion birds per year; other sources give far higher numbers. Those who keep cats as pets may be relieved to hear that the majority of the slaughter



is attributable to feral cats, those that have no owners. If you have cats, consider making them indoor pets.

One of the birds I particularly miss around Sandy Pond is the Swallow, which was there in multitudes at one time. Because I wasn't paying Swallows much heed in those days, I can't say which one it was, but my guess is the Tree Swallow, which, in spring, could be seen in swirling flocks over the Pond, feeding on insects likely just hatched there. Later in the season, it was wonderful to look westward in late afternoon

From a friend on

Athol Road



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when the sun was at a low angle and the water had a mirror-like surface; swallows skimmed by, snatching bugs from the water and making small splashes which appeared like little fiery explosions as the sunlight shone through them. I haven't seen more than a few swallows in recent decades, but I have had one or two pairs nest in Bluebird nest boxes I've placed in fields in the vicin-



ity. Unfortunately, the boxes, or rather the nestlings in them, are now becoming a target for lethal blowflies

Whippoorwills don't depend on the Pond, as far as I know, but they used to come to nearby fields or the open area at Camp Wiyaka at night and make their famous call. Heard from a few dozen yards away, it is astonishingly loud, and the birds never seemed to be put off by my flashlight which would give back a huge yellow "eyeshine" reflection. Haven't heard one in years. They feed by using incredibly acrobatic flying to catch insects on the wing. I can't say whether their decline is related to falling insect populations or something like habitat loss.

While there seem to be relatively few birds that

are absolutely dependent on water bodies like Sandy Pond (Heron, Kingfishers and migrants), there is usually plenty of action nearby, and it is a good place to see birds. Or hear them. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is, in my experience, one of our rarest birds, in the sense that I have seen it only twice in 60 years. But, I hear one virtually every year, calling from the hill on the north side of the Pond. I suspect that its fidelity is to the wooded area, not the Pond, but, either way, it's nice to have it there.

To someone recently arrived at Sandy Pond, it appears to be a tranquil, beautiful part of the natural landscape. And, it is. On the other hand, to someone like me who knew it half a century ago, there is a lot missing the newcomer could not be expected to know about. Earlier Rooster articles about other things that have been lost add to this picture. It makes me wish I had known the place as Native Americans did, before the losses began.

My recollection of what used to be there may illustrate what some scientists call a "shifting baseline." I remember quite fondly a time in my younger days when birds were more abundant, and I think that was how things used to be. But asking my great-grandfather what he remembered from his youth, could result in stories of much greater abundance: for example, with (now extinct) passenger pigeons so numerous, a migrating flock could take a day to pass by, obscuring the sun as if in an eclipse. Quite likely, his grandfather saw examples of similar or even greater abundance. Hence, there is a shifting view or baseline against which to compare our current situation, and, little by little, each generation loses sight of how great the change is.

Visiting Muralist Barry Faulkner's Art in New Hampshire

Stillman Rogers

A Keene native, muralist Barry Faulkner is best known for his massive murals at the National Archives in Washington D.C. For much of the 20th century, he was this country's leading mural artist.

Less known is the fact that New Hampshire houses some fine examples of his work, which the public can view in Concord and in his hometown of Keene.

Barry Faulkner was born in Keene in 1881 and

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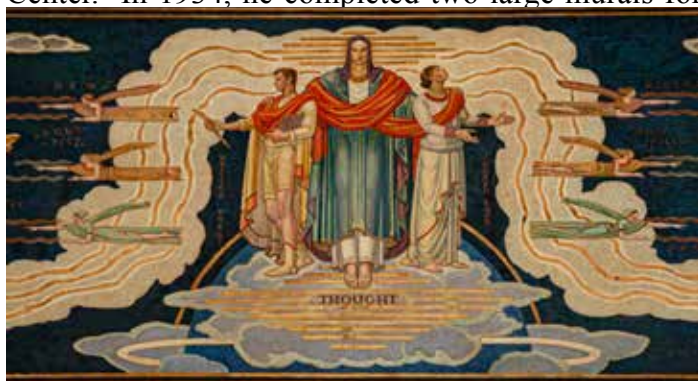
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\$	Toys Pottery Frames Cameras	Vintage Photographs and Clothing Blue Decorated Stoneware Musical Instruments	Tools Old Radios Old Telephones Old Electric Fans	\$
\$	We are currently looking to purchase many different items, including but not limited to these items			\$
	Danny Wahl		603-239-7200	

soon found himself in the midst of a group of the country's preeminent artists. Abbot H. Thayer, the portraitist, naturalist and originator of the theory of protective coloration in birds and animals, was his first cousin. His college roommate at Harvard was Homer Saint-Gaudens, son of the famed sculptor whose home and studio in Cornish, N.H., are now a National Historical Park.

When he was sixteen, Faulkner studied art with his cousin, Abbott H. Thayer, in Dublin. After his freshman year at Harvard, he spent the summer working with sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens in Cornish, then left to travel to Italy with Thayer. By 1902, he was back in New York studying art and drawing for Century magazine.

In 1907, he left the United States to study art in Italy with George de Forest Brush, in a friendship which lasted for decades. Barry's reputation as a muralist grew, starting with a commission for several large murals in the Washington Irving High School, then Sea Charts of the World for Cunard Lines, and murals for the Eastman Theater in Rochester, NY.

In 1932, his 80-foot mosaic, *Intelligence Awakening Mankind*, was unveiled at the west entrance of the new RCA Building at Rockefeller Center. In 1934, he completed two large murals for



Detail of Barry Faulkner Radio City Hall Mural,
Cheshire County Historical Society

the National Archives building in Washington D.C., The Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

But, you don't have to leave New Hampshire to appreciate the art of Barry Faulkner. The Historical Society of Cheshire County at 246 Main Street in

Keene, has some fine examples of his work. Contact by phone at (603) 352-1895 or email at www.hscnh.org.

These examples include the large 1955 mural, *Advent of the Railroad*, 1848, originally done for a local bank, which hangs in the Society's hallway. The Society also has his full color study for the 1932 mural, *Intelligence Awakening Mankind*, mentioned above. A small conference room at the front of the building contains fine drawings and watercolors given to the Society by Faulkner's family.

Almost across Main Street from the Historical Society, the Elliot mansion, now a part of Keene State College, contains an elegant spiral staircase bearing a Faulkner mural of village life in the nineteenth century. It depicts early downtown Keene, its streets shaded by huge elm trees. Another major work is in the lobby of the Bank of America on Central Square where his three mural panels entitled *Men of Monadnock* are in their original places.

The other works by Barry Faulkner in New Hampshire are in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol in Concord. Installed in 1942, these panels depict The First Commencement of Dartmouth College; Daniel Webster, as a boy, reading the U.S. Constitution; Artist Abbott Thayer and his friends in Thayer's Studio; and General John Stark preparing for Battle.

The subjects of these paintings have interesting Cheshire County connections. Dartmouth College was formed in a meeting of the school's incorporators in the Wyman Tavern on Keene's Main Street, now a museum. Abbott Thayer, himself a famed painter, had a summer home in Dublin. Daniel Webster, who was born in New

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Hampshire and grew up in a town now named Webster, very probably appeared as a lawyer in Cheshire County Courts. Revolutionary hero, General John Stark, led County Court judges into the city when the judges were afraid to open court during Shay's Rebellion.

Allen Lot, Site of the Old Richmond Fairgrounds, To Be Retained by Town Fran Heap

During the April 12th Selectmen's Meeting, several community members asked the Selectmen not to sell the 53 acre Allen Lot, Map 201, Lot 05, located just north of the Four-Corners. Once known as the "Richmond Fairgrounds", housing a baseball field, stage, bleachers, outhouses, concession stand and a pulpit for potential political candidates to discuss their agendas. The Fairgrounds were destroyed in the 1938 hurricane and left to return to nature. The request, spearheaded by Kim Mattson, who spoke in depth of the quality of the parcel, its history, and the adverse effect of large residential developments upon taxpayers, was supported by the Conservation Commission, represented by Dick Drew. The Conservation Commission presented a letter, dated April 9, 2021, to the Selectmen, noting the parcel:

- is centrally located for municipal use;
- provides space for future government expansion and recreation;
- was timbered in 2015 under a professional forestry management plan, allowing for future sustainable forest resources;
- has historical value.

Further, letters supporting not selling the property due to its rich history were written by Jerry Miles of the Richmond Historical Society ("RHS"), Hank Hallas (formerly of RHS) and John Lewis, Library Trustee, and presented to the Selectmen.

The Allen Lot had been sold to the Town of Richmond for approximately one dollar, back in 1935. The Selectmen, who had not gone beyond the stage of considering whether to put the town-owned property to bid, expressed their appreciation of learning the history

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of the parcel and unanimously voted not to put the land up for sale. The Selectmen did warn that they are considering selling other large tracts of land in Richmond.



Weatherize your Home with a Button-up Zoom Event! Susan Opal

The Richmond Energy Committee is planning on writing an article for the Rooster each month to share some of the energy efficiency projects going on around Cheshire County and give you ideas for using new efficient Heat Pumps and more! This May 4th is very special because the Keene Clean Energy

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Join us for a **NHsaves** Virtual Button Up Workshop on **zoom** with live Q & A.

WHEN:
Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

ZOOM LINK:
<https://coshn.zoom.us/j/98332999164>

PRESENTERS:
Andy Duncan, Energy Training Manager,
Lakes Region Community College
Ted Stiles, BPI Building Analyst

QUESTIONS:
Email: info@cleanenergykeene.org

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Visit www.nhsaves.com/events for dates and locations of all Button Ups. Workshops are organized by Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) www.PlymouthEnergy.org • 603-536-5030

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

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



of the NHSaves Audits and Weatherization Program.

Along with these meaningful incentives, the program offers access to established contractors and low-interest financing which contribute to savings of up to \$8,000 in rebates on overall improvement costs. Please go to: <https://nhsaves.com/programs/energy-audits-weatherization> for reducing energy costs, protecting our environment, and making the communities of New Hampshire more sustainable. This program has been implemented in all of New England and, now, NH utilities are fully funding it. NHSaves' utility partners offer a wide variety of rebates on the products and technologies which help New Hampshire homes, businesses and towns save on new, energy-efficient equipment, energy saving upgrades, and new construction that meets ENERGY STAR® standards.

The Richmond Energy Committee was started in 2007 by a small group of renewable energy enthusiasts interested in networking and learning about sustainable building and applications.

We hope to have more people join us, if you are interested, you can email me at susanopalwyatt@gmail.com.

Library News

Wendy O'Brien

We are pleased to announce that we will be open for in-person browsing on **May 1st!** Masks are required.



Committee is having a "Button-up Zoom Event!"

By weatherizing your home, you can make your home more energy-efficient and more comfortable. The Audits and Weatherization Program finds ways to save money and help the environment by improving our home's energy efficiency. The Home Heating Index tool is an easy, online way to determine if your home qualifies for an audit that can ultimately help you earn energy efficiency incentives and rebates as part

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“Peace in the World” Traveling Exhibit

We are pleased to announce that we are once again hosting an exhibition of children’s art from the Fermata Foundation. This month’s exhibition features the United States premiere of a wonderful collection all the way from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. We would love to have you come in and sign the guest book to let these kids know how much we appreciate their beautiful art and efforts towards peace in the former Soviet republics.

The Book Shed

“Take what you want, pay what you can,” is the motto of our Book Shed. Come browse gently used books, CD’s and DVD’s which change monthly. The Book Shed is open in good weather during regular library hours. We are also seeking donations for both the shed and our Library collections. Feel free to drop them off inside the Library during our open hours.



Tails to Tales

This year’s summer reading program is all about animals! The kick-off to our program will be with the Parks and Recreation Committee on June 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Then, starting on June 23rd, come join us at the Pavilion on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. as we dive down to the ocean floor, go on safari, and even investigate microscopic creatures. We are looking forward to keeping those reading skills sharp over the summer with your kids!

Kids Craft Kits

We will continue to offer craft kits throughout the month of May. Make a flower to give a loved one on Mother’s Day, celebrate Bird and Train Days, and make a Memorial Day star necklace.

New Titles

Sunflower Sisters, Martha Hall Kelly

We Begin at the End, Chris Whitaker

Strongheart, Jim Fergus

The Other Emily, Dean Koontz

The Bounty, Janet Evanovich

The Committed, Viet Thanh Nguyen

Win, Harlan Coben

Fast Ice, Clive Cussler

The Rose Code, Kate Quinn

Town Clerk Report

Karen O’Brien

Becoming Town Clerk is a real eye-opening process. All the training in the world doesn’t truly prepare you for the realities of what kinds of issues come up with seemingly simple transactions: things which cause the process to screech to a halt. A document unsigned, an error in a registration or title application, not enough supporting documents; there a host of things to trip up what should be a straightforward application. One of the documents I’ve encountered regularly that is often improperly filled out is the Bill of Sale. While there is no reason to hire a lawyer to do this, there are requirements everyone needs to become aware of so that you can register your vehicle easily.



A Bill of Sale is a legally binding document which proves that a vehicle – be it car, trailer, motorcycle, etc. - has been properly transferred between two parties. It is used most often with older vehicles and through private parties. To conform to NH State Law RSA 261:148, III, a Bill of Sale for a motor vehicle must include the following information:

- The date of the sale
- A detailed description of the vehicle, including:
 - Make;
 - Model;
 - Color;
 - Vehicle identification number;
 - Model year;
 - Year of manufacture;
 - Type of body;
 - Number of cylinders.
- Name, signature and legal address (no PO Box) of purchaser
- Name, signature and legal address (no PO Box) of seller

There are no shortcuts here. If any of the above information is missing (with the exception of cylinders on trailers), you will not be able to register your vehicle, even if it is title exempt. You may also be required to provide other documents, such as a VIN verification form, depending on the situation. You can find

more information at: <https://www.dmv.nh.gov/> There are also lots of forms available for free online if you want to have a more professional looking document.

Town Clerk Office Calendar for May

Open Mon. & Wed.: 9 a.m. – Noon; 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Open Thurs. 8 a.m. - Noon

Closed Mon., May 31st, in observance of Memorial Day



Parks and Recreation

Karen Daugherty

Here are some pictures from the Easter Egg Hunt in April. It was a great day for it.



May 1st is Roadside Clean Up! You can pick up trash bags and gloves at the library starting the weekend of April 24th. Please clean up the trash on and near your

A Friend On Granite Hill Road

property. Leave the trash bags along Routes 32 and 119 on May 1st only. Please have them out before 3 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that we will be collaborating with the library again for Summer Reading Kick-off, picnic, and tie-dye party in June. We hope to see you there!

May 1st, 2021 Richmond Roadside Clean-up

June 19th 2021, 11a.m.-1p.m.

Summer Picnic & Tie Dye Party at the Pavilion

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 Even



SPRING CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH, 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

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Join us on Mother's Day weekend to shop outdoors from an array of great local New England craft vendors. We will also have lunch (hot dogs, burgers, chips, drinks) and baked goods for sale, and a raffle of items from all vendors. It will be a fun way to spend time with Mom on her special weekend, and you can shop for Mom too!



SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST UPDATE

Pam Bielunis



Every 10 years, the State of New Hampshire does an update (purge) of the Voter Checklists, and 2021 is the year. Anyone who has NOT voted in any election in the past four years will receive a letter and be removed from the official Richmond, NH Alpha Voters Checklist. In order to be placed back on Richmond's voter list, you will need to re-register as if you were a new voter. That means you will need to bring proof of I.D., age, citizenship, and domicile (e.g., driver's license, passport, birth certificate, bill or proof that you live in Richmond). There are 107 individuals on Richmond's Alpha Voters Checklist who have not voted in the past four years and will be receiving a letter. Some of these people may have moved out of town, and we were not notified. Others are individuals who still reside in town, but have not voted in the past four

years (since April 1, 2017). This process begins April 1, 2021 and will be completed by September 1, 2021. Letters will be sent out in the first week of May 2021.

We are asking those individuals who want to re-register to please attend one of our Special Supervisor's Meetings (please bring proof of I.D., age, citizenship and domicile). The Special Supervisor's Meetings will be held:

Thursday, June 10, 7-8 p.m. at the Vets Hall;

Tuesday, July 13, 3-5 p.m. at the Town Hall;

Saturday, August 21, 10-11 a.m. at the Vets Hall;

The next election will be March 2022, and individuals may also re-register at that time or any election or Supervisor's meeting in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Bielunis at (603) 239-6498.

BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT IN SOUTHWEST NH: A TEAM EFFORT

Henry Underwood

In 2019, Chesterfield was the first. In 2020, five more followed: Dublin, Harrisville, Rindge, Walpole, and Westmoreland. This year, sixteen New Hampshire communities are poised to enter into public-private partnerships to expand broadband access and modernize infrastructure: Charlestown, Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, Goshen, Greenfield, Jaffrey, Langdon, Marlborough, Marlow, Peterborough, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sullivan, Temple, Troy, and Unity. In total, the projects amount to well over \$40 million in investment. What do these communities have in common? They have agreed that public-private partnerships are an effective way to

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address their broadband needs. In each case, they've used a unique combination of municipal bonding, combined with a monthly fee on subscribers to make payments on the bond. The majority of communities this year chose to partner with Consolidated Communications. "Public-private partnerships are cost effective, mutually beneficial and ensure individuals, families and small businesses have access to critical services," said Jeff McIver, consumer product manager at Consolidated Communications. "At Consolidated, our willingness to work directly with local towns and their leaders to upgrade and improve their broadband service allows us to deliver exactly what communities need and want with minimal to no impact on taxes." But other providers, especially ones with some presence in a community are ready to improve service as funding comes available – be it through municipal bonds, federal programs or stimulus funding.

The other notable fact about municipal broadband infrastructure improvement proposals this year is that there is a continued focus in Southwest New Hampshire. Factors at play are numerous: longstanding disparities in service quality compared to other parts of the State (see online map of data from Measurement Lab at arcg.is/X0W5C); changes to State legislation clarifying the use of general obligation bonds for broadband infrastructure; and willingness on behalf of the region's largest provider and others to modernize. However, the biggest reason for this success story in Southwest NH are the many communities and volunteers who have made it possible. Municipal staff and volunteers follow a rigorous public process involving research,

education, law, financing, and more. And they continue to lead their communities beyond implementation.

The Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) has helped with this process going back to the adoption of the region's first ever Broadband Plan in 2015 (available at swrpc.org/broadband/plan). In many ways, this process helped to lay the foundation for the broadband improvements we see happening today. And many of those involved in this work have done so by assisting neighboring communities and as participants of the Monadnock Broadband Group, an informal coalition of municipal officials, practitioners and other stakeholders with interest in understanding and coordinating relative to broadband issues in Southwest NH. Over the years, conversations have ranged from state and federal legislative updates and exploring regional models in broadband improvement - everything from Vermont's communication union districts and planning grants to the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to New Hampshire's infrastructure bonding process and "The Chesterfield Model." "We have appreciated the opportunity to act as convener and facilitator of meaningful dialog related to broadband issues and information. We are thrilled to see the real and tangible progress and results of the many partners that made this possible," said Henry Underwood, GIS Specialist/Planner at SWRPC.

Among the most notable accomplishments in the last year has been the development of the Monadnock Region Broadband Implementation Guide available at swrpc.org/broadband/resources – a play-book for communities seeking better internet service. The guide outlines a step-by-step process and focuses

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on the public private partnership first used by the Town of Chesterfield in 2018. “The Guide synthesizes the knowledge and experience of local broadband champions,” said Todd Horner, Planner at SWRPC. “The Monadnock Region has benefited from the efforts of volunteers who have acted as trailblazers on this issue. The Guide aims to document those efforts so that other communities don’t need to reinvent the wheel.”

SWRPC will continue to be a resource by continuing to support the region’s communities through the Monadnock Broadband Group as well as other avenues. SWRPC’s ongoing ability to serve in this capacity has been made possible in part through support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

To receive meeting announcements for Monadnock Broadband Group meetings, please write to Henry Underwood at hunderwood@swrpc.org or Todd Horner at thorner@swrpc.org (or call 603-357-0557). SWRPC’s broadband planning resources are available at swrpc.org/broadband.

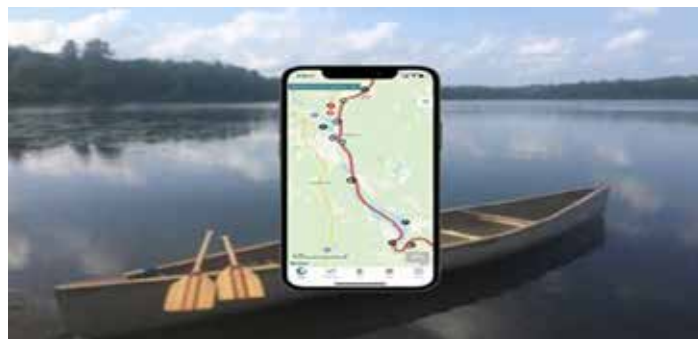
New App Launches on World Water Day, Aids Connecticut River Paddlers

Greenfield, MA – A new smartphone app will launch on World Water Day, March 22, to help paddlers navigate the Connecticut River, particularly for multi-day paddles. The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail (CRPT) is a unique, water-based trail that includes a series of primitive campsites and river access points spanning 400+ miles of the Connecticut River through NH, VT, MA and CT. CRPT is managed by a collaborative of more than 30 nonprofit organizations and state agencies, including the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Vermont River Conservancy. Those interested in downloading the app can find it in CRC’s online store at www.ctriver.org/shop, or search “Guthook Guides” in your smartphone app store.

“We chose to launch this new app on World Water Day, a day where people around the world recognize the importance of water in our lives,” says Gabriel Chevalier, CRPT Coordinator. “The

Connecticut River is the longest river in New England and enriches our lives in many ways. It offers many recreational opportunities that promote healthy communities and boost local economies. This new app offers paddlers an easy-to use digital paddling guide to navigate the CRPT campgrounds, access points, rapids and other resources along the Connecticut River.”

Proceeds from the \$9.99 app and waterproof



printed maps are used to fund trail stewardship projects. The app was developed in partnership with Atlas/Guthook Guides, who offer similar app-based guides for other well-known trails like the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail map is available as an in-app purchase in the Guthook Guides app, a free download from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail is managed by a collaborative of organizations, guided by a shared vision. Partners assist with trail planning and development, building and stewarding primitive campsites, improving access points and portage trails, and disseminating information to visitors. Campsite development, as well as ongoing stewardship, is carried out by volunteers, scout troops, and youth stewardship corps who work together to mitigate the impacts of recreation use.

To learn more, visit www.connecticutriverpaddlerstrail.org.

Kathy Urffer, River Steward

Connecticut River Conservancy

PO Box 6219 | Brattleboro, VT 05302 | www.ctriver.org
802-258-0413 | kurffer@ctriver.org



Part-Time Garden Help Needed:
An ambitious and physically healthy individual who is willing to learn about gardening in a more old fashioned and nature conscious way would be well appreciated.

Interested persons may reach Suzen Perry at natureigns@gmail.com.

POPPY SEED POTATO SALAD

Terri O'Rorke

3 lbs. red potatoes, sliced
1/4 C. each, chicken broth and white wine
1/4 C. white wine vinegar
3 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 Tbsp. poppy seeds
pinch of sugar
1/2 C. olive oil
salt and pepper to taste

Cook sliced red potatoes in salted simmering water about eight minutes. Drain. Then, toss with chicken broth and white wine; let sit five minutes. Whisk together white wine vinegar, Dijon mustard, poppy seeds and sugar in a bowl; whisk olive oil, salt and pepper. Toss with the potatoes. Then, chill two hours. Top with chives. Serves six.



**HAPPY MEMORIAL
DAY, RICHMOND!**

COAL'S INCREDIBLE JOURNEY –

**PART I:
Coal Takes a Stroll**
Fran Heap



My husband and I moved to Richmond in July 2019, complete with our entourage of cats, one of whom was Coal. Coal and his two littermates, Clyde and Cleo, shared a heated room in our basement connected to a “catio”, a screened-in enclosure below our farmer’s porch. One would think living the feline high life in such luxury would give any cat pause (or should I say, “paws”?) about taking off, but my cats had other ideas. By the next summer, Cleo had figured out how to yank out the mesh at the bottom of the catio door, and the boys

would follow her outside. We planned to fix the door, but waited a few days too many. On July 3rd, by the time we rounded up the escapees, Coal was nowhere to be found.

A frantic search ensued. My husband and I combed the wooded acres of our property for hours. I printed out Lost posters with Coal’s photo on them; my husband drove to the 25 closest mail boxes to deposit them. He met some of our neighbors, all of whom were sympathetic, including one kind man who would feed stray cats. How we hoped Coal would make it to his house or to the house of someone equally compassionate! Our days of searching and calling for Coal turned into a week. Our worst fears Coal had met an untimely end in the jaws of a coyote or fox seemed likely; we reproached ourselves for failing to fix the catio door and underestimating the wildlife of New Hampshire.

[Next month: Coal’s Incredible Journey – Part II: Coal and the Multi-Peepered Web Creature]

DOG LOST FROM WHIPPLE HILL ROAD IN RICHMOND

Black male lab mix, named “Nugget”, with nose & one sleeve spotted black & white. Please call Monadnock Humane Society at (603) 352-9011 if you have information to share and mention “ID 1241.” Thank you.

Monadnock Humane Society Appreciates Your Targeted Donations

MHS, which provides for the well-being of animals in Cheshire County, has a current need of monetary gifts towards the repair and maintenance of its aging building, as well as for specialized veterinary care for animals requiring unusual medical treatment. If you wish to target your gift to either of these initiatives, please write either “Building Fund” or “Special Vet Care Fund” in the memo of your check to MHS and mail it to MHS, 101 W. Swanzey Rd., Swanzey, NH 03446. Thank you!



EAT YOUR WEEDS

Karen O'Brien

May brings more than flowers – it also brings weeds. But, before you pull or till them out, a little education is in order. Why not use them at your dinner table? There are many pernicious weeds that are actually quite tasty, full of nutrients, and best of all – free! Just be sure of your identification, and then get ready for a gastro-nomic treat. Remember whenever using wild plants or weeds, do not collect them from areas that have been sprayed or are too close to the road where they can pick up heavy metals from car exhaust, road salt, etc.

One of the first edibles which comes to mind is the DANDELION (*Taraxacum officinale*), that hardy yellow flower that everyone tries to eradicate from the yard. But, before it flowers, the dandelion is a spring green that is full of nutrients. A quick check on Google let me know that the greens serve as an excellent source of Vitamins A, C, and K. They also contain Vitamin E, folate, and small amounts of other B vitamins and can provide a substantial amount of several minerals, including iron, calcium, magnesium, and potassium. Some people like them raw, but they may be a little too bitter for your taste. To use as a substitute for kale, you should soak the dandelion greens in cold water with a little salt for 10 minutes. Drain, and cook in a large pot of boiling, salted water – about three to four minutes until tender. The root has been used as a coffee substitute, and the flowers make a tasty wine. Or try this recipe from ediblewildfood.com:

DANDELION FRITTERS

4 cups of fresh picked (washed) dandelion flowers

Note: *I would remove most of the green part of the flower stem as it can be bitter.*

2 cups flour

2 eggs

2 cups milk

Mix the milk, flour and eggs and beat until blended well. Warm some olive oil in a skillet on the stove (keep at medium heat). Holding the underneath of the flowers, dip into the batter until totally covered in the fritter batter. Then, place into skillet, flower side down. Once they are brown, flip and brown the other side. If need be, continue flipping until the batter coating is light brown. Remove from oil and allow excess oil to soak onto a towel or paper towel. Eat plain or drizzle with maple syrup, honey, or even roll them in icing sugar while they are still warm. Be creative – add your favorite spices or herbs to the fritter batter!

Another early weed is CHICKWEED (*Stellaria media*). This delicate looking herb is nevertheless very hardy,

down to 10 degrees. Nutritious for both us and chickens, it likes cooler temperatures and so tends to be a spring and fall edible. A, D, B complex, C, rutin (a bioflavonoid), calcium, potassium, phosphorus, zinc, manganese, sodium, copper, iron, and silica are some of its attributes. In comparison with spinach, chickweed holds up extremely well as a source of iron. You do need lots, as it is small and of little substance, but it can be cooked or eaten raw in salads. Many herbalists use it in skin salves and lotions for its healing properties.



LAMBS QUARTERS (*Chenopodium album*) is delicious raw in salads or cooked like spinach, and this tasty treat has Vitamins A, C, and B's, calcium, iron, and phosphorus. Quinoa, a related species, is a hot commodity right now, as a source of protein for vegetarians. Use Quinoa in moderation as it contains oxalic acid. Formerly thought to be of European origin, as are many of our "weeds," recent archaeological studies show that the seeds were stored and used by the American Blackfoot Indians during the sixteenth century. Lamb's Quarters is a purifying plant that helps to restore healthy nutrients to poor quality soil. It also contains oxalic acid, but cooking removes that somewhat. It can be dried or the leaves blanched and frozen for use during the winter months. The underside of the leaves is covered by a whitish film, which is made up of mineral salts from the soil and indicative of its mineral-rich value. Often, the leaves will taste salty and therefore make quite a nutritious salt replacement or addition to dishes.



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PURSLANE (*Portulaca oleracea*) is a small creeping succulent plant, which shows up in disturbed areas, clinging to the ground with a vengeance. Easy to pull, you may want to consider letting some of it grow. It has a slightly sour lemony taste and is good in salads, boiled, or pickled. It is one of the only plant sources of Omega 3 fatty acids. Purslane is somewhat crunchy. Some people liken it to watercress or spinach, and it can substitute for spinach in many recipes. Young, raw leaves and stems are tender and are good in salads and sandwiches. They can also be lightly steamed or stir-fried. Purslane's high level of pectin (known to lower cholesterol) thickens soups and stews. The leaves can also be used as a poultice to burns, wounds, and sore eyes. I have grown a variety of purslane which has larger leaves and flowers, and it sowed itself successfully the following year. This is one rugged plant!



PIGWEED (*Amaranthus spp.*) A common weed, pigweed has a bad rap. Amaranths are nutritionally superior plants: the seeds have better amino acid balance

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than any other vegetable protein. They contain lysine, which is often lacking in plant proteins, and are rich in vitamins, calcium, phosphorus, and iron. The leaves are rich in protein, Vitamins A & C, calcium, and iron. As with many weeds, they contain oxalic acid, so eat in moderation. They are native to parts of North America and thrive in hot weather, tolerate drought, respond to high levels of available nutrients, and have adapted to avoid shading through rapid stem elongation. They compete aggressively against warm season crops, and reproduce by prolific seed production, as do many of our weeds. The good thing is when Pigweed is small, it is easy to pull if it is growing where you don't want it to grow. Another interesting recipe from ediblewildfood.com:

PURSLANE and PIGWEED PIZZA

Purslane and pigweed are at their best when made into this gluten-free pizza. The addition of garden herbs makes this a healthy meal.

- 1 (wide) zucchini, cut into 16 four mm slices
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pigweed
- 1/2 cup finely chopped purslane
- 2 Tbsp. each of basil, oregano, thyme (finely chopped)
- Pesto (homemade or store bought)
- Grated mozzarella or cheddar cheese
- Garlic powder (or garlic salt)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place zucchini slices onto parchment paper covered baking sheet. Cover each slice with homemade or store-bought pesto. Distribute the chopped purslane and pigweed evenly on each slice. Then, do the same with the fresh chopped garden herbs. If you do not have fresh herbs, halve the quantity if using dried. Sprinkle on the garlic powder. (Using fresh chopped garlic is also an option.) Sprinkle as little or as much cheese as you desire on the top. If adding cherry tomatoes, place under or on top of the cheese. Bake 12 minutes. If desired, after baking, crisp up the cheese under the broiler for a minute or two.

So, to sum up, those nasty weeds can also be quite tasty and become part of your cuisine. You can buy expensive salad mixes or sprouts or you can delve into the delights of foraging in your own back

yard. Just remember to know what you pick and eat, try a small amount at first, and then enjoy the experience of a more sustainable life. Happy pickin'!

An Old Friend: In the Company of Flowers

[Editor's note: the Richmond Rooster is deeply indebted to Mary Schofield; she has faithfully advertised In the Company of Flowers with the Rooster since the paper's inception.

On the day of our visit, we were touched to see the latest edition of our paper on her desk. Ever a good sport, Mary even agreed to pose with a metal rooster sculpture for us!]



photo by Alan Conklin

In the Company of Flowers was opened almost three decades ago at 88 Main Street in Keene, where it has been ever since. A full-service florist, specializing in arrangements for weddings and funerals, the shop also carries a diverse line of local and imported goods for adults and children. Its owner, Mary Schofield, regularly visits New York City's Gift Show, seeking fresh items to add to the inventory. Mary's story is the Great American Success Story...

More than 30 years ago, Mary Schofield was hired as a cashier at the old IGA Supermarket in Keene. It did not take long for her supervisors to realize her knowledge of plants was something special: Mary was quickly promoted to running the Floral Department. She was crushed, however, when the IGA finally closed, and she was left scrambling for a job. Friends who knew her work ethic offered her a summer gig, managing their shop on Nantucket for several years. Mary's son was only 14 at the time; she did not want to move him from their home in Richmond. She took her business experience and opened up a small florist shop, also on Main Street. Business soon was "blooming", and Mary needed to expand. When the former Melody music store moved out, Mary moved into what is now "In the Company of

Flowers". A hands-on person, Mary has no computer in the store, but her customers do not seem to mind. She considers herself blessed to have such "nice clientele". We, at the *Rooster*, suspect the feeling is mutual!



A New Friend: Books by Barbara and Tim Rogers

[Editor's note: we asked the Rogers, new advertisers, to introduce themselves to our readers and they did.]

When Barbara and Tim Rogers first moved to Richmond, they opened an herb business, Herbitage Farm, and Barbara wrote a monthly column for Yankee Magazine, called "The Forgotten Arts". Yankee asked her to expand on some of the columns for a book entitled, Yankee Home Crafts, and that was followed by several books on herbs, gardening and country living.

While researching these, the couple began writing articles about their travels, and soon those also led them to writing travel books. New Hampshire Off the Beaten Path highlights lesser-known places and attractions in the state, and Natural Wonders of Vermont is a guide to waterfalls, wildlife, geological features and environmental attractions.

Tim's interest in history inspired him to write It Happened in New Hampshire, featuring events that shaped the state, along with some lighter incidents that bring history to life. In all, Tim and Barbara have written more than 35 books, including a series introducing children to other countries in the world. They have contributed to others, including the latest Frommer's New England.

"Our storage shelves are overflowing," Barbara says, "So we are selling our spare copies at cost or less – and wonder why we bought so many of each new book!" They list a different group of them in each month's ad in the Rooster; "These are new books in mint condition and make good gifts," Barbara adds. For a complete list, phone (603) 239-6231 or email rogerswrite@gmail.com.

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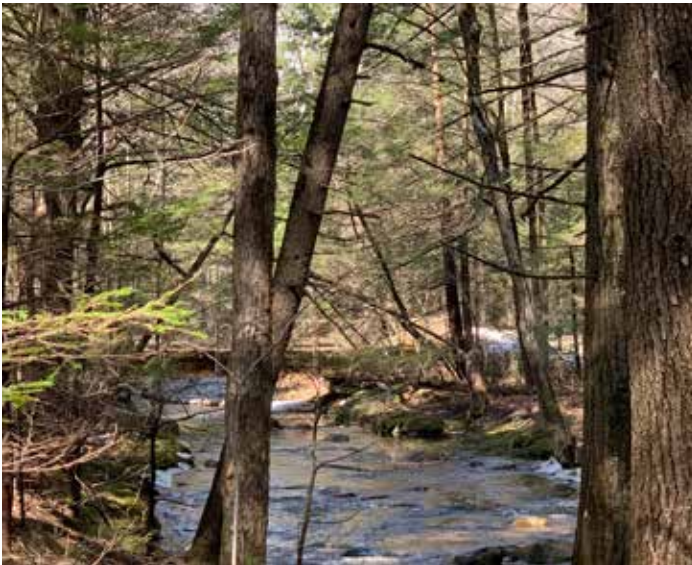
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Hiking on Discontinued Greenwood's Road

Carol Jameson



Greenwoods Road is located in southeast Richmond. It runs east from Athol Road (Route 32). There are many hikes that start on Greenwood's Road: the M&M Trail crosses here, and there are other discontinued roads that start here, such as Monument Road and the Falls Road. For this hike, we walked the length of Greenwood's Road that has been discontinued for more than a century, to where it meets the southern tip of Tully Brook Road. The walk is an easy out-and-back hike of about 2 1/4 miles, all on a rough and rutted but walkable old dirt road.

We parked at the large dilapidated barn that marks the last house and the end of the traveled portion of Greenwood's Road. Turn left just before the barn;

this is the old (now discontinued) Greenwood's Road. Straight ahead would put you on the Falls Road south to Massachusetts. The walk on the discontinued portion of the road from here is a steady and very gentle downhill slope throughout with a very slight elevation change of under 100 feet. We saw many signs of wild-life: tracks of deer, coyote and bobcat. We spotted a



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sharp-shinned hawk overhead. Midway through the hike, we saw evidence of stone walls to our left and a cellar hole on the left side of the road, on a slight rise, surrounded by myrtle. There is a network of logging roads to the right which we have explored on other days, looking for a cemetery we are told is there, near the brook, though we have not yet been able to find it. Tully Brook appeared on our right after about 2/3 of a mile. The road can be washed out here, but it was dry today.

It was late March when we did this walk. We had tried a week earlier and had to turn back because the ice and snow were too deep for walking, even with microspikes, weeks after other parts of Richmond





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had become passible. Greenwoods Road is in a cold pocket; snow and ice generally persist for days or weeks after it has melted in many other parts of Richmond.

The road ends at a narrow bridge over Tully Brook which meets the southern end of Tully Brook Road. We continued on Tully Brook Road for a short distance to walk a trail down to Tully Brook on the left side of Tully Brook Road. There is a lovely mill site here. We saw lots of yellow birch, beech, soft maple and hemlock next to the brook.

Are Special Interests Running Our Legislature?

To the Editor,

HB 341 was recommended "Inexpedient to Legislate" (ITL) by a vote of 10-9.

Write to the full House asking them to vote YES on ITL of HB 341: nhhouse@leg.state.nh.us

We've seen many similar bills that attempt to 'urbanize' rural towns in NH by favoring high-density construction over single-family homes. These bills should be sent to the trash bin. At HB 341's hearing, two out-of-state lobbyists were allowed to testify in favor; one from Virginia, another from Portland, Oregon. They are indicative of the strong national push espousing the 'new urbanist' scam, which is based on the idea people do not want to own their own homes and that parking is not needed as cars will just 'go away'.

The full list of lobbyists is available on the State website.

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There is no assurance that ‘urbanization’ will result in affordable housing, or that people will cease using cars.

Homeowners, especially those who cherish the rural flavor of small-town NH, should be troubled by out-of-staters with an agenda attempting to influence what happens in NH.

This is why it is important to write to the Committees as they examine the bills, and further, to write to the full House and Senate to ask them to vote to support or oppose those recommendations.

Peterborough NH residents were smart. They are glad that the citizens petitioned, and then voted, to have an elected Planning Board. Every Planning Board should be elected. And lobbyists should be sent packing.

Jane Aitken
Bedford, NH

[Editor's Note: Both District 12 representatives, Barry Faulkner and Jennie Gomarlo, were contacted by the Rooster about this bill. Of the two, only Representative Gomarlo responded, advising that HB 341 is effectively stalled by its "Inexpedient to Legislate" status.]

Ashuelot Brewing Company Announcement

Ashuelot Brewing Company at 101 Old County Road closed permanently on March 1, 2021, due to insurance and property issues. We at the *Rooster* are sorry to see this Richmond business go: the owner, Bryce, was known for his hospitality and his great brew.



“Free to Thee” Returns!

The *Rooster* is resurrecting “Free to Thee”, its printed version of Freecycle. Anyone wishing to give away an item may place a free advertisement, three lines or less, by the 10th of the month prior to publication. The ad must include a description of the item and the telephone number or email address of the giver.



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William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

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5:30 – 7 PM for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

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Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson

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Deputy Town Clerk:

Mon. 9 AM – Noon, 1 – 4 PM

Wed. 8 – Noon, Thurs. 8 AM – Noon

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