



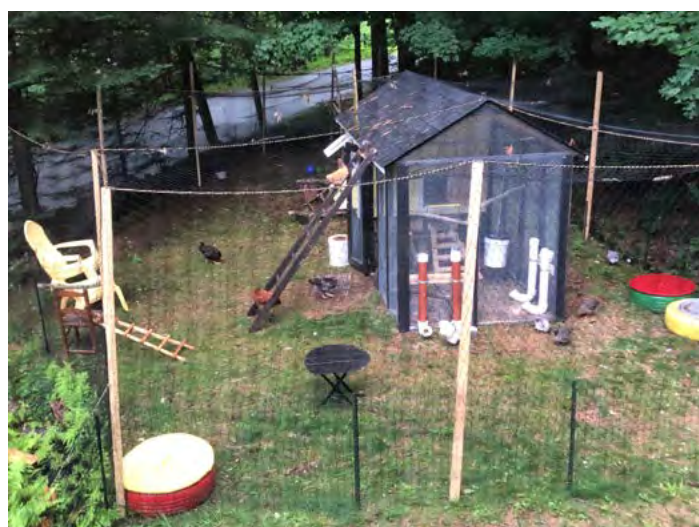
Flock Boss
Kevin Murphy



Kevin Murphy with Violet. Photo by Renée Bochman

When trying any new endeavor, you can read about it, watch YouTube videos, and talk to others who have experience, but nothing truly teaches the lessons actually doing it yourself can teach. Taking on the responsibility of having chickens is no different. And so, our journey began, chickens ordered, delivered and safely in our cardboard box brooder. We went with a mixed flock of Easter Egger (“SweetPea”), Golden Laced Wyandotte (“Tulip”), Speckled Sussex (“Buttercup”), New Hampshire Red (“Rose”), Buff Brahma (“Lily”), Lavender Orpington (“Violet”), White Silkie (“Daisy”), and a Speckled Silkie (“Poppy”). As they grew, and we became attached, the thought of putting them outside on their own was a scary one. Would they be warm enough, would they figure out how to get up and down the ladder and how would they do at night all alone? Until the house started to smell like a barn, then, it wasn’t hard at all to move them out to the coop! In the coop they went, all eight. They grew and learned so fast right before our eyes, all with names and personalities more distinct than we could have imagined.

We were aware of the threat from predators on the ground and from above and thought we would be ok. Then, one afternoon, we lost two of our girls, Violet and Poppy, to a hawk. We learned we needed



to physically protect our flock from these threats; awareness was not enough. And, so, came the netting across the top and down the sides of the side yard. With the side yard fully netted, we could replace the two we lost. Then, we learned about chicken math. We lost two, but got five more chicks: Lavender Orpingtons (“Violet” and “Jasmine”), two more speckled Silkies (“Poppy” and “Petunia”) and a Bielefelder, named “Zinnie”. The Bielefelder is genetically bred with a dot on her head if she is a hen - science is cool! Fast forward, Brooder Number Two was built, new and improved! We built a little picnic table and jungle gym



Zinnie helping with the Rooster. Photo by Renée Bochman

Richmond Historical Society

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Daisy

to replace the ones we gave away, thinking we would not be needing them again. The “littles”, as we started to call them, grew quickly and, with some experience under our belt, we fast tracked them to the outdoors.

Chicken pecking order is real, so merging the “bigs” and the “littles” had us a little worried. They seemed to quickly settle in without any real squabbles, even though they still hang out with their original groups. But, they are still young. If you drive by Whipple Hill, you might catch Renée and I sitting in our yellow chairs hanging out with them. Buttercup can jump really high for mealworms, SweetPea is finally starting to eat out of our hands, and Zinnie and Lily are quick to jump up into your lap for treats. They all have their own personality and quirks. We’ve been enjoying our time with the girls gaining their trust. Now, we await the gift of some eggs, hopefully, before winter comes. Nothing teaches like experience. You just need to keep learning and enjoy the journey. Honey, what do you think about goats?

From a friend on Athol Road

Richmond Holiday Fair Alison VanBrocklin

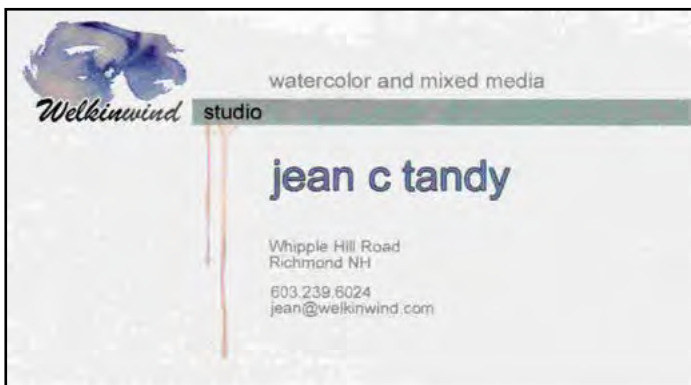
We are looking forward to the 2021 Holiday Fair, this year scheduled for Saturday, November 13th at the Veterans Hall in Richmond. Shopping hours are from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM on the day of the fair. A take-out luncheon will be available from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Safety protocols will be observed.

The Holiday Fair is sponsored by the Richmond Community Church. It provides local artisans an opportunity to present handcrafted treasures, and shoppers a unique beginning to the holiday season. If you would like to join other local artisans in a traditional craft fair, please contact Alison at (603) 239-4494 for more information or to reserve your space.



Richmond Presents: Night of Stars Talent Show Wendy O’Brien

Come join in the fun at the first annual Night of Stars Talent Show on December 4th! We are looking for entrants of individuals and groups from the towns of Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Swanzey, Troy and Winchester. Children and adults can enter to win cash prizes. Applications to participate can be downloaded from the Town of Richmond’s website at <http://www.richmond.nh.gov/>, be picked up at the Richmond Town Hall, or at the Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Swanzey (Mt. Caesar and Stratton Free), Troy and Winchester Libraries. Entries are due at the Richmond Public Library by November 13th. For more information, contact Wendy O’Brien, Librarian, at library@richmondnh.us or (603) 239-6164. This event is sponsored by the Richmond Public Library and the Richmond Parks and Recreation Commission.



See You Next Spring -- Maybe

Shaun Bennett

This October issue of the Rooster comes after most of the birds we see during the summer have departed for their winter grounds, travel that for many of them is long, dangerous, and extremely arduous. Half or fewer of them will make it back to Richmond next year while the rest perish.



Red-tailed hawk

The raptors (hawks and vultures) migrate later and with a different strategy than the songbirds. Unlike the little birds, raptors are still migrating through our area in October. You can often see a lot of them if you go to Mt. Monadnock on a clear day after a period of rain or overcast. Hawks seek rising air currents caused by, among other things, winds that have been deflected upward by a topographic feature like Mt. Monadnock. With little or no effort required on the birds' part, these updrafts carry them to higher altitudes from which they can begin a long, shallow glide southward until they find another updraft and do it again. It's the same process that sailplanes (gliders that have no engines) and their human pilots use, and it works well. The record for a single sailplane flight without landing is over 1,800 miles. Lots of hawks are attracted to big updrafts and, on a good day, at Monadnock, there can be dozens spiraling skyward on the updraft elevator in an avian assembly, called a "kettle."

Books by Barbara and Tim Rogers

New hardcover garden books at ¼ to ½ price

"Growing and Using Fresh Herbs"

"The Dictionary of Horticulture"

"Encyclopedia of Everlastings"

"Flowers and Gardens" *"Drying Flowers"*

For a full list and descriptions: rogerswrite@gmail.com or 239-6231

Earlier this year, the Cornell Lab reported 400 million birds on the move northward in the U.S. on just one single night. In the 1990s, five billion migrated every year, but that number has fallen by about a third, as populations of many species have declined precipitously. There are over 200 migratory species in North America, and I hold in awe friends who can identify them. (I should have started learning them back when I could remember things for more than five minutes.) Understanding a bit about the challenge involved in migration should give us all a greater appreciation of what the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the Indigo Bunting, or the Spotted Sandpiper we see in warm weather has gone through to get to Richmond and what it is about to undertake each fall.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Radar on Cape Cod has detected as many as 12 million birds passing southward in one night as they begin a migration "leg" that requires continuous flight --NO stops-- for 80 to 90 hours -- almost four days! In human terms, it would be like running four-minute miles continuously for 80 hours. The efficiency of the birds' metabolism works out to the equivalent of as much as 720,000 miles to the gallon (if they used gas). The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds we enjoy at our feeders are super achievers. Some fly non-stop 500 or 600 miles across the Gulf of Mexico. While their hearts beat at as much as 1,200 times per minute, the 20-hour trip can consume half their tiny weight (five hummingbirds to the ounce pre-flight, 10 afterwards).

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Needless to say, this kind of effort takes its toll, and migrants arriving in southern areas have been described as “feathered skeletons”, so depleted of fat reserves and muscle tissue that it is absolutely essential for them to find food resources immediately on arrival. Given the challenge of migration under normal circumstances, it is not hard to imagine what havoc weather phenomena can cause and the consequent mass bird mortality. What impact have this year’s huge hurricanes, Henri and Ida, had? I hope the storms were too early or late to do great damage to migrating birds.

Birds have a remarkable and completely unexplained ability to foresee weather patterns. (Let’s hope it includes hurricanes!) They can time migratory flights to coincide with favorable winds so waves of migrants are assisted by tailwinds, instead of battling headwinds. And, they also seem to be able to find altitudes where air flow is best. This can mean flocks of birds flying (often in the dark) at 20,000 feet. I wonder if numbers of them suffer from unfortunate meetings with aircraft as they fly so high. The highest known flying bird was recorded just as it was sucked into a plane’s jet engine at 39,000 feet (a bit over seven miles up). It was the end of the bird, but the plane survived, presumably through emergency measures, since the bird in question was an enormous, 10-foot wingspan Ruppell’s Griffon. A bunch of North American migrants at a quarter to half an ounce each probably wouldn’t even be noticed in passenger plane jet engines that are certified to withstand bird strike weights equivalent to several hundred warblers.

How the birds deal with low temperatures is another mystery of high-altitude migration. Newer long-haul aircraft have screens at the passenger’s seat which give data like the plane’s location, time until arrival, altitude, speed, etc. They may also tell temperature outside the plane. At a typical long-haul cruising altitude of 35,000 feet, the temperature is so low that it scares me, often 40 degrees below zero or lower. My mind races: “Doesn’t the aluminum skin of the plane become brittle and crack at this temperature?” or “How the heck can I be sitting here at 70 degrees when six inches away the temperature is so low that it would turn me into a popsicle in a minute?” At ten or twenty thousand feet where the birds fly the air would be warmer, but how warm? The Federal Aeronautics Administration says that a “Standard Atmosphere” at that altitude has a temperature of minus 12 degrees! How are these fragile, half ounce bits of life not only surviving these frigid temperatures, but also travelling in them for hundreds or thousands of non-stop miles to homes deep in a rainforest or elsewhere in Central or South America?

Birds face a daunting array of challenges, and I have no idea which is their greatest threat. It might be habitat loss as forest is converted to agriculture, or the dramatic loss of the insect populations which feed many of them, or climate change. Night time collisions with tall structures like buildings and bridges kill 365 million every year in the US. Even our cats take a tremendous toll, around a billion birds annually.

The migrants will be back next spring -- at least some of them. Enjoy them while they last.



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HIKING BOOK SUPPORTS YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER

Carol Jameson

Jon Hill and I have written Nature Walks and Hikes in Richmond, New Hampshire and Neighboring Towns, a book about our hikes in the area. Many of these hikes were originally written as articles that appeared in the Richmond Rooster. We have expanded the articles, added a few more, and included maps of the hikes and driving directions to the trailheads. Some of the hiking descriptions include local history and a description of what was there before, back in the day.

There are 32 hikes included in the book - 16 are in Richmond, and 16 are in neighboring towns. The Richmond hikes are off the beaten path, on trails, logging roads and discontinued roads deep in the forest, frequently featuring cellar holes, stone walls and other signs of prior settlement. The hikes in neighboring towns are on trails that are well-marked and well-maintained, each chosen for a particular purpose such as history, botany, interesting ruins, plant or animal life, or views.

This book is a group collaboration by many Richmond residents, volunteering time and talents to create a resource for the town. Graphic design, proofreading, writing, making the maps and reviewing the material - all done by Richmond volunteers.

The book is 8 1/2 x 11" in size, 82 pages, in full color with many photographs. It retails for \$15 and can be purchased from Toadstool Bookstore in Keene or the Richmond Public Library. All proceeds benefit the Richmond Rooster.

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Nature Walks and Hikes in Richmond, New Hampshire and Neighboring Towns

Carol Jameson and Jonathan Hill



[Editor's Note: We at the Rooster are extremely touched to be the beneficiaries of such generosity. The book is beautiful, with color photography we wish we could offer in our monthly printed newspaper.]

If you purchase a copy of this book from the Toadstool Bookshop or from Wendy at the Richmond Library, please take a few minutes to look over the Acknowledgments Page. So many people contributed to this wonderful hiking guide; we are deeply grateful to all of them. Further, kudos to those members of the Rooster's Board of Directors who manned the book selling booth on Richmond Day!]

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Musical Farmer's Market

Suzen Perry

Local farmers and do-it-yourselfers are bringing life back to Four Corners. What a treat to have some community spirit in the middle of town every Sunday! There are home baked breads, vegetables and fruits, plants, syrup, beauty products, pottery, fresh flowers, and even music!

Our resident musician, Lenny Solomon, has been in the New England music scene for fifty plus years. The singer, songwriter, guitarist started his career and became a weekly entertainer at the Idler Coffeehouse in Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA, where he has lived for over forty years. There he shared bills with many touring performers like Chris Smither, Bonnie Raitt and Spider John Koerner.

After raising a family, Lenny formed a folk/country band in 1997, performing his original material throughout New England. He won many awards as the band became more prolific from 2005 to 2014. His four CDs have received fine reviews over the years and have been aired on public and college radio stations far and wide. "There are elements of old country and western singers like Merle Travis and Doc Watson", one radio announcer said. The CDs are available at the market. His website is www.solomonband.com.

I met Lenny at the Club Passim in Cambridge, (originally Club 47 in the early 60's) where he's performed often over the last thirty years. I was taken by his songs and asked him if he ever considered having a female back-up singer. He agreed to give it a try. Not only did we find our voices worked well together, harmonizing, we enjoyed each other's company and eventually married. On occasion, I'll sing a song or two with him, where he continues to entertain at various venues in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts, and every Sunday at Four Corners in Richmond.

So, come one and all to the musical farmer's market and pick up some fresh home grown or locally made products. See you there!



Lenny Solomon and Goats



REMINDER

Walk to End Alzheimer's
Keene State College
9:00 a.m. on October 2, 2021



SKINNY CABBAGE SALAD

Terri O'Rorke

5 cups thinly sliced cabbage
2 cups shredded carrot
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup finely chopped dill
 $\frac{1}{3}$ tsp. salt
 $\frac{1}{3}$ tsp. pepper
1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

In a large bowl, add the cabbage, carrots and dill. Sprinkle the salt on top. "Massage" the salad for 4-5 minutes to soften the cabbage and allow it to develop a nice texture. Add olive oil and pepper; stir everything together. Serves 4.

Parks and Recreation

Karen Daugherty

The talent show is still in the works for December 4th. Please sign up in the library, or download the form online, and drop it off to Wendy at the library. Our winter event will take place in February or March of 2022.

October 3, 2021, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Harvest Festival
December 4, 2021, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Talent Show at the Vets' Hall

February/March 2022 Winter Event

April 2022 Easter Egg Hunt

Spring 2022 Roadside Clean-up

TOWN CLERK TIDBITS

Farm and Ag Plates

Karen O'Brien, Town Clerk

Richmond has a rich agricultural history and even today has many small farms and agribusinesses. This rural and agricultural nature results in many applying for Farm or Agriculture ("ag") plates from the DMV. I want to shed some light on the strict requirements which need to be met to be considered eligible for these plates.

An individual applying for these plates MUST have a farm. If you go to the DMV website nh.gov/dmv, you can read the entire RSA21:34a Farm, Agriculture, Farming. There, it explains what constitutes a farm. For our purposes, I will try to condense this. If you come into the office to apply for these plates, you will be given a copy of the rules.

Agriculture and farming constitute all operations of a farm: cultivation of soil; application of fertilizer and chemicals; raising and sale of livestock, fowl, horses, fish, bees, and fur-bearing animals; production of greenhouse crops; all related agricultural, floricultural, viticultural and forestry businesses. If you really have a farm where you are involved in the above activities, you are eligible to apply for a farm or ag plate. Many desire this, as these registrations are far less costly than regular registrations.

But, there are more restrictions. The only vehicles you can register for these plates are trucks or tractors; or, in the case of farm plates, a semi-trailer. No SUVs are allowed, nor regular vehicles. Additionally, an ag plate means you can travel no more than 20 miles from the entrance to your farm. The vehicle can ONLY be used to transport farm product from your facility, carry workers, hay or feed, or transport animals to fairs, etc. No trips to the grocery store or local ice cream parlor! A farm plate does not have the same mileage restriction as an ag plate, but does require the vehicle be used SOLELY for the transportation of your farm product (to market, delivery, etc.)

So, if you truly have a farm and are willing to abide by the laws regarding where you can go and what you can use the vehicle for, you can then sign an affidavit attesting to that fact. Signing that affidavit means you are using the vehicle in the required manner and for the purposes intended. It is a misdemeanor offense to make false statements, and you could be subject to fines and penalties per RSA 641:3 Unsworn Falsification – misuse of plates law.

So, to recap, be sure you are using your farm or ag vehicle according to the law. These vehicles are not intended for personal use, but are deemed to be an adjunct to the business of farming. I hope this clarifies the permitting of these plates and the responsible registration of these vehicles.

Library News

Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for October

Every Saturday, 10 a.m. - Noon, Drop-in Knitting Circle

Every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., Storytime

Special Events

Tues., Oct. 12th, 6:00 p.m., Book Group, *Before You Know Kindness*

Thurs., Oct. 21st, 6:00 p.m., 3D Printer Tech Night

The Book Nook

We are so sorry we couldn't be with you on Richmond Day due to the number of rising COVID cases. You may be asking yourself, "What are we going to do with all the used books?" The answer is: the Book Nook! In addition to the outdoor Book Shed, we will offer a different curated selection of books each week inside the Library. Visit the Book Nook each week for a new selection and stay tuned for a specific list of genres.

Book Club

Join us on October 12th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss *Before You Know Kindness* by Chris Bohjalian:

On a balmy July night in New Hampshire a shot rings out in a garden, and a man falls to the ground, terribly wounded. The wounded man is Spencer McCullough, the shot that hit him was fired – accidentally? – by his adolescent daughter Charlotte. With this shattering moment of violence, Chris Bohjalian launches the best kind of literate page-turner: suspenseful, wryly funny, and humane. — GoodReads.com

Copies are available at the Library.

New Titles

The Madness of Crowds, Louise Penny

Yours Cheerfully, A. J. Pearce

Another Kind of Eden, James Lee Burke

Bloodless, Douglass J. Preston and Lincoln Child

The Five Wounds, Kristin Valdez Quade

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.



Forestry Succession Talk and Walk

Fran Heap

On August 21st, Richmond's Conservation Commission generously sponsored an excellent presentation by two NH foresters, Steve Roberge and Matt Kelly. Due to some damp weather, the forestry talk was moved indoors to the Veterans' Hall. Even so, several Richmond residents braved the mud to walk in Bennett Forest afterwards.

Steve's presentation, "New Hampshire's Forests through Time and the Disturbances which Shape Them", began with the 1938 loss of 50 percent of NH's forest due to a Nor'easter. Twenty-five acres on Mount Pisgah was set aside by Harvard University for research and was named, "the Harvard Tract." That untouched tract has taught many lessons. Fire, hurricanes, beaver damming, watercourse diversions, deer, invasive insects, and climate change all can damage a forest, but the good news is that, if managed properly, the forest can grow back.

Richmond has kept a significant percentage of its land forested. Proper forestry techniques are necessary to keep its forests in good health. A certified forester will mark 10 to 12 healthy trees per acre to be left standing to regenerate new growth. A certified forester will take an inventory of wildlife on a given property to evaluate the best time of year to timber so as to have minimal adverse impacts on wildlife. For example, the forester will avoid cutting during summer nesting and winter bear hibernation. Extensive clearing by residential developers who do not use these techniques is of great concern. Also of concern is that trees in the Monadnock Region, while diverse, are almost all of the same age (80 – 100 years old).

If you would like to know more about preserving forests for generations to come, please read Matt Kelly's email. Three cheers to the Conservation Commission for sponsoring this important event!



Forestry Succession Presentation at Vet's Hall. Photo by Alan Conklin



Steve Roberge and Matt Kelly at Bennett Forest. Photo by Alan Conklin

Subject: Follow up to Forest Succession Event

Date: Fri, 3 Sep 2021 16:44:12 +0000

Hi all,

It was a pleasure to meet you all at the Forest Succession event in Richmond. Special thanks to Dick for organizing the event.

For those who missed Steve's talk (or if you just can't get enough of it!), here's a video of him given the same talk a few years ago: <https://youtu.be/v9L61AA4VDA>

Also, here's a bonus video of Matt Tarr (UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist) talking about forest structure and wildlife habitat: <https://youtu.be/v9L61AA4VDA>

If you're interested in learning more about how climate change will impact our forests, I would encourage you to visit this site: <https://forestadaptation.org/assess/ecosystem-vulnerability/new-england>

It includes lots of relevant information regarding the vulnerability of our forests to climate change and forest management strategies that focus on adaptation.

Finally, attached is a great publication that talks about forest resiliency in the context of various stressors, including climate change. The table on page 8 is particularly useful for thinking about how impacts of climate change will affect various tree species. *[Editor's Note: Please contact Mr. Kelly for this publication.]*

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments about these resources, or any other forest-related topics.

Have a great weekend!

Matt Kelly, Natural Resources Field Specialist
Cheshire County Forester, UNH Cooperative Extension
Matt.Kelly@unh.edu



Sapsucker Holes in Straight Columns. Photo by Alan Conklin



Turkey Tail Fungus. Photo by Alan Conklin

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The Richmond Heritage Commission

The Richmond Heritage Commission (2014-2021), founded and mentored by Bob Weekes, thanks the town residents and many friends for their generous support.



105 Old Homestead Hwy www.richmond.nh.gov

Richmond Presents:
The 1st Annual Local Area Talent Show
(Towns of Richmond, Winchester, Fitzwilliam, Swanzey, Troy NH)
Veterans Memorial Hall-150 Old Homestead Hwy-Richmond, NH 03470

Talent Competition Rules and Regulations

1st place \$100.00 2nd place \$50.00 3rd Place \$25.00

2 Prize Categories: Adult (18 yrs and over) Child (under 18 yrs)

Prizes will be judged on Showmanship, Creativity, Sound and Stage Presence

Stage area size is 8 1/2 feet deep by 16 feet wide. Please arrange/adjust your act to our stage area size.

Rehearsal is Mandatory therefore, please plan to attend
November 20, 2021 from 7-9 at Veterans Memorial Hall 150 Old Homestead Hwy (rte32) Richmond, NH 03470

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THESE RULES

Rules are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Talent Competition organizers

1. Acts requiring more than 12 FEET of ceiling height will not be allowed.
2. Acts will be allotted no more than Four (4) MINUTES to perform. With one (1) minute to set up if needed. Parent(s) will be allowed to assist if needed.
Acts will be PENALIZED if time is exceeded.
3. Participants may only perform ONE (1) time during the show. Any participant who participates in more than one performance will disqualify BOTH acts.
4. NO profanity or vulgar lyrics in any vocal performance or dance music. No lewdness.
5. NO nudity allowed! Keep attire at a respectable and tasteful level.
NO alcohol, tobacco, or drug advertisements are to be shown on any clothing.
6. NO pyrotechnics, open flames or any other dangerous additions.
7. Microphone(s) will be provided.
YOU must provide your own CD player, music, taped music, instruments, props, keyboard, etc., if needed.
8. Lighting is just what the hall provides. If you require additional lighting, you must provide your own, however special effects lighting must be cleared by committee first.
9. All contestants are to arrive 1/2 hour early for check-in. Check-in will be inside of the front door.
10. Judges decisions are final. Prizes will be awarded as (1) One prize per place.
If you are participating as a group act, one (1) prize, (not each individual member).

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Richmond Presents:

The 1st Annual Local Area Talent Show

(Towns of Richmond, Winchester, Fitzwilliam, Swanzey, Troy NH)

Veterans Memorial Hall-150 Old Homestead Hwy-Richmond, NH 03470

December 4, 2021 7pm-9pm



Talent Show Entry Form



Please Check

☐ Individual Act

Adult _____ (18 yrs of age and over)

☐ Group Act

Child _____ (under 18yrs of age)

Name(s) (if group, please provide group name and members):

Address: _____

Telephone number

Home: _____ Cell: _____

E Mail Address: _____

SOLO ACTS

Talent Performing: (if song, please specify song name and artist):

GROUP ACTS (because of setup time and space limit, we cannot accept bands)

Talent Performing: (if song, please specify song name and artist):

Entry Forms are due on **November 13, 2021 by 12:00 PM** at
The Richmond Library - 19 Winchester Rd -Richmond, NH 03470
603-239-6164 or Emailed to

Forms may be downloaded from town of Richmond website **richmond.nh.gov** or
picked up at **Richmond, Winchester, Swanzey, Fitzwilliam or Troy Library**

By signing and submitting this form, I agree to and will adhere to Local Talent Show
Rules and Regulations and may be subject to disqualification if any rules are not abided
by.

Parent/Guardian (if under 18years of age)

Signature

Date _____

Only in October Karen O'Brien

*They's something kindo' harty-like about the atmufere
When the heat of summer's over and the coolin' fall is here -
Of course we miss the flowers, and the blossoms on the trees,
And the mumble of the hummin'-birds and buzzin' of the bees;
But the air's so appetizing'; and the landscape through the haze
Of a crisp and sunny morning of the airly autumn days
Is a pictur' that no painter has the colorin' to mock -
When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.*

James Whitcomb Riley

I came across the poem, "Old October", while looking for an autumnal introduction to this article. I love the colorful language and the description of summer giving way to fall. This is only one stanza of the poem, but the one that spoke to me of the season. I always love this time of year, with cooler temperatures, even though the flowers are fading and I know winter is just around the corner.

In October, thoughts turn to pumpkins, colorful foliage, Halloween, and festivals and fairs. It also is a good time to capture seeds for planting next year. You can save seeds from your garden plants, but realize that if you have grown anything that is labeled, "hybrid", your seeds will not be true. Hybrids are created by taking two similar varieties and using the pollen from the male and transferring it to the female flower of the other. Once the female part is pollinated, a fruit begins to grow, and at the end of the life cycle of the plant, seeds are formed. These seeds are known as F1 and are usually the result of many trials of plants, selected for vigor, disease resistance, color, flavor, and a host of other reasons, often combining two desirable traits.

Gregor Mendel, an Augustinian monk, was the first person to experiment with crossing plants to develop new hybrids. He conducted experiments between 1856 and 1863, working with pea plants. Since peas are self-fertile, they were an ideal plant to pollinate by hand and work towards improving them. He was not recognized for his work until much later, in 1900, but his pioneering work in genetics led the way for other botanists, such as Luther Burbank, to continue work in the field of botany.

Burbank, known as the Plant Wizard, created a potato which launched his career as a hybridizing genius. This potato, known as the "Burbank Potato", was bought by McDonald's (the source of those famous fries!) and, upon selling the rights to this genotype, Burbank moved from Lancaster, MA to California, where the climate was more conducive to his experiments. He created more than 800 new vegetables, fruits, and flowers, proving that man can indeed alter nature for the better.



Native Corns In Open Peruvian Market

If you grow open pollinated seeds, you can still have problems saving seeds if you grow two or more varieties of the same plant. For example, broccoli can cross with cabbage, or sweet and hot peppers can get all mixed up. The pollinators go from one plant to another, transferring that pollen, in effect, and creating a hybrid. The only way to get true seeds is to grow only one type of each variety, or separate them by quite a distance. Some plants need a separation of a mile or more, so usually this is not able to be done in a garden setting. One year, I saved seeds from an unusually wonderful pepper. The next year, I got something entirely different than what I had grown, even though the pepper plants were in different parts of the garden. So, unless I grow only one variety of a plant, I don't bother saving seeds. Peas, lettuce, tomatoes, and squash are usually fine as they are self-pollinating and don't seem to "mingle" much.

But I do collect seeds of native plants. The trick is getting them at the right time, dry enough to save, but, before they burst open and release the seeds from their pods. I start in September, sometimes earlier, looking for the signs that the fruits of the plants, where the seeds are contained, are starting to turn tan or brown. When they sound and feel dry enough, I snip off the fruits into small paper bags, which I immediately label with the name and date. Then, they go into my greenhouse, where they continue to dry and are safe from critters who may want a quick snack. I only need to keep them for a couple of months, as seed sowing begins in January for many of these plants needing a period of stratification

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to germinate. I have to watch that the temperatures do not get too high, as warmth is not good for storing seeds.

The most important thing is to keep seeds dry; moisture can cause them to germinate. And once that happens, they must be planted. But, kept properly, seeds can last a long time. A dark closet, a dry cool basement, or anyplace where temperatures don't get too hot or too cold is fine.



Seed Savers Exchange has a handy chart for distances between varieties when saving seed; it is online at: https://www.seedsavers.org/site/pdf/Seed%20Saving%20Guide_2017.pdf. The Exchange also has lots of detailed information if you want to know more about the best ways to save your own seed. Most seeds can be kept for one or two years, but some can last for three to five. There are lots of charts out there if you want to know how long your seeds will last.

I remember reading about the oldest seed to ever germinate: a date palm which had been buried in a dry, cool area. I was surprised to learn that this 2,000 year old seed has been usurped by seeds of a little plant preserved in the permafrost buried by a squirrel 32,000 years ago! *Silene stenophylla*, a flowering plant native to Siberia, was found 124 feet below the permafrost; radiocarbon dating confirmed that they were 32,000 years old. Interestingly, the mature seeds had been damaged, but scientists were able to extract

tissue from the immature seeds and successfully grow these plants which then produced their own seed.

This may have important implications for large scale seed saving projects such as the Doomsday Vault or Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. There, seeds are frozen. Knowing that regeneration can occur with plants long extinct is an exciting proposition.


So, try your hand at saving seeds. Even if you come up with something entirely different from what you expected, you may find that you have an improvement or a tasty new treat or your very own variety that you can pass along. What fun!

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Source to Sea Cleanup Combats River Trash Now & Into Future Kathy Urffer, River Steward

Brattleboro, VT – For the last 25 years, the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) has coordinated the annual Source to Sea Cleanup across four states, targeting trash-ridden sites and equipping volunteers with the tools needed to get the job done. September 24 - 26 marks the next event as thousands of volunteers take to the rivers to clean up all kinds of preventable litter. Anyone interested in getting dirty for cleaner rivers can get more information and register at www.ctriver.org/cleanup.



Last year, Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers removed over 10,000 beverage containers, more than 900 tires, and approximately 35 tons of trash from in or near rivers. As the annual Cleanup approaches its 25th anniversary, reflecting on the source of this pollution is as important as the solution. CRC continues to advocate for solutions to the persistent problem of trash pollution, particularly

plastics and tires. “After cleaning up 1,202 tons of trash over the past 24 years it’s clear that repeated cleaning is not the solution to our trash problem,” says CRC Executive Director Andrew Fisk. “Consumers need to avoid single use items. And it’s time for the businesses who created and have been profiting from this trash to now help solve the problem through fundamental redesign of how our products are made and disposed of.”
Plastic Advocacy

In Massachusetts, two plastic-prevention bills are in the works that would prohibit polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam) and expand the existing Bottle Bill to place a deposit on alcoholic nip bottles and other smaller plastic containers. “While including a deposit on nips is a direct incentive to return them, it does not solve the complications of processing and recycling these small plastic bottles,” said Andrea Donlon, CRC’s river steward for Massachusetts.

“Despite the fact that recycling is pretty widely available in western Massachusetts we still see dumping and littering,” Donlon said. “There’s a particular need to rethink packaging because we keep finding plastic beverage containers, wrappers, and food related waste.”

Recycling costs have increased considerably since 2018, according to the Conservation Law Foundation, when China stopped accepting plastics, glass and other recyclables from the United States. Since then, more recyclables have been diverted to landfills.

USA Waste & Recycling and All American Waste are two of the Lead Source to Sea Cleanup sponsors and organize their own employee volunteer groups, too. “We look forward to sponsoring and participating in the Source to Sea cleanup event every year and know first-hand that proper waste disposal is important to keep our rivers and communities clean,” says Frank M. Antonacci, COO of USA Waste & Recycling.

Preventing plastics from reaching our rivers also stems the flow of an invisible pollutant: microplastics. Found worldwide in our water, food and environment, microplastics form when plastic begins breaking down in water, and cause yet-to-be-known effects to our health.

In August, CRC began the first-ever microplastics monitoring program on the Connecticut River

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with volunteers taking samples from over a dozen locations. This program follows CRC's "Swap Your Dock" campaign that began two years ago focusing on the microplastic pollution caused by unenclosed and decaying foam used on old floating docks.

"Chunks break off, animals will burrow holes in the docks and live in them and all of the degrading polystyrene flows down the river," said Kathy Urffer, CRC's river steward for Vermont and New Hampshire.

In 2019 Vermont passed a statewide ban on single-use plastics and polystyrene containers, and is now looking to expand their existing bottle bill to include additional containers. New Hampshire does not have a bottle bill, and the last time the state tried passing one was in 2011, Urffer noted.

"The bottom line is people should be switching to compostable materials and packaging," Urffer said. "Or glass and metal – things that can actually be recycled or reused."



Tired of Tires

Meanwhile, Connecticut has taken the lead looking at an "extended producer responsibility" (EPR) bill to make tire manufacturers responsible for tire disposal and recycling, too. Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers collected over 946 tires during last year's Cleanup, emphasizing the extent of this problem. EPR programs lead to free, easy disposal of items such as tires, paint, mattresses, electronics, and batteries. Free disposal

eliminates the incentive for illegal dumping. EPR programs have been successful across the country and the world to turn waste into a reusable commodity. These programs also include advanced market development, which can increase the value of post-consumer materials and provide opportunities for economic development.

CRC partners with Bridgestone's Tires4Ward program to collect and dispose of tires collected during the Source to Sea Cleanup. The company collects truckloads of tires to be used for rubber flooring, playground surfaces, modified asphalt, and other civil engineering applications.

#RiverWitness

"You can help show the problem to help solve the problem," says Stacey Lennard, CRC's Cleanup coordinator. "Take a photo, video, or make art inspired by river beauty or river pollution. Get creative, use #RiverWitness, and tag CRC on social media."

As they count down to the Cleanup, CRC will be sharing challenges, giveaways and helpful tips posted each day on their social media channels. You can join the fun by posting photos, videos or original art that illustrates your love for the river with the hashtag #RiverWitness. Select images will be used to further CRC's advocacy work around trash reduction and environmental protection. Submit your photos to CRC on:

Facebook @connecticutriver

Instagram at @ctriverconservancy

Twitter at @CTRiverH2Oshed.

"Show decision-makers this is important to you. Speak up for your rivers," says Lennard. Cleanup volunteers will be using the CleanSwell smartphone app, developed by the Ocean Conservancy, to tally this year's trash. These tallies are important for CRC's work because they show the scope of the trash problem and focus solutions where they're needed most.

August 23, 2021

Meeting of Board of Selectmen

Selectmen present: William Daniels, Douglas Bersaw and Andrew Wallace

Public Present: Kathryn McWhirk

Non-Board member present: Susan Harrington




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HOURS
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SUN. 8 AM - 8 PM

Meeting opened at 5:30 pm

Daniels moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board voted to approve the manifest dated August 23, 2021, for week of August 13, 2021-August 19, 2021 in the amount of: \$ 141,067.90 for payroll/accounts payable. This manifest also includes the monthly payment to the Monadnock Regional School District in the amount of \$127,000.00.

Bersaw moved; Daniels 2nd Board voted to approve Yield Tax for Map 405 Lots 039 and 041-436 Old Homestead Hwy.

Wallace moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board signed letter notifying Map 405 Lot 093 190 Fish Hatchery Road that their Building Permit has expired and we have not received an Occupancy Permit, contact office.

Driveway permit received from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation for paving driveway at Map 414 Lot 018-390 Athol Road.

Email from resident Maureen Schorr to the Richmond Selectmen. Board read and took under advisement.

Email from Maureen Schorr a member of the Morgan Reserve Association stating the Morgan Reserve Association would like to engage in a process of research only regarding the designation of a "compact part of town". Ms. Schorr provided a map of the Morgan Reserve and an email stating Law Enforcement Officers have visited the Reserve.

Email from Dixie Gurian regarding a drainage problem at the Richmond Public Library where the water has no place to go so it has eroded the pavement and exposed the culvert. The Road Agent has been contacted to protect the area so people do not go near it. The DOT has also been notified and will need to empty the drain

pipe of sand and will hopefully start working again.

Harrington advised the Town of Richmond would be receiving the first of two payments from the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$58,835.58 in the next five to seven days. The 2nd payment in the amount of \$58,835.58 will be received in the summer of 2022. The Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are from the State under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). The \$58,835.58 will be encumbered to provide a fund for future broadband development in town.

Harrington advised Board of zoning violations, missing building permits, missing occupancy permit and possible misuse of land in Current Use for 215 Fay Martin Road Map 412 Lot 014.

Board discussed town owned property on Activity Road and information from attorney. Bersaw moved; Daniels 2nd Board voted to abolish the current Sale of Tax Deeded Property procedure that was adopted 06/26/16. Board approved the sale of Map 402 Lot 041 to Elton Blood Jr.


Bersaw discussed conversation with the Town Clerk, Karen O'Brien regarding the state law that the Town Clerk must deposit state funds every day. Due to the size of Richmond, the State of New Hampshire has approved a deposit schedule for Richmond to deposit on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to the amount of the state deposit. The State has a help desk with Tuesday evening hours available. In an effort to better serve the Town, Town Clerk, Karen O'Brien would like to change the hours to NO MONDAYS, Tuesdays 12 pm-6:30 pm, Wednesdays 9am- 12pm and 1pm to 4pm, Thursdays 8am to 12pm in order to offer evening hours to residents.

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Board reviewed the Winter Maintenance Agreement for 2021-2022. Harrington to contact Home Land Landscaping with a question regarding salt and report back to the Board.

Appointments

Henry Underwood from Southwest Regional Planning Commission met with the Board to discuss Broadband Initiatives. Board will be meeting on September 28th at 7:00 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall with the volunteers of the Broadband Committee. The Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide is attached to the minutes. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Harrington

August 30, 2021 Meeting of Board of Selectmen

Selectmen present: William Daniels and Douglas Bersaw

Selectmen absent: Andrew Wallace

Public Present:

Non-Board member present: Susan Harrington

Meeting opened at 5:32 pm

Daniels moved; Bersaw 2nd; Board voted to approve the manifest dated August 30, 2021, for week of August 20, 2021-August 26, 2021 in the amount of: \$ 2,603.37 for payroll/accounts payable.

Bersaw moved; Daniels 2nd Board voted to approve Tax Abatement in the amount of \$13.00 for Map 202 Lot 027 Sub 023. Trailer is registered.

Driveway permit received from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation for constructing driveway at 381 Fitzwilliam Road. Map 407 Lot 091.

Daniels moved; Bersaw 2nd Board signed the Winter Maintenance Agreement for 2021-2022 with Home Land Landscaping.

Daniels signed Pistol Permit# R 699685.

Letter from Dixie Gurian from the Richmond Library Trustees stating on behalf of the Board of Trustees, she would like to thank the Select board taking care of the drain in the Library parking lot. Ms. Gurian

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also recommended the Board appoint Barbara Rogers to the Richmond Library Trustees to complete the term of Douglas Bartlett which would expire on March 8, 2022.

Zoning Compliance Officer, Richard Drew submitted report after viewing Map 411 Lot 030 to note changes. Drew visited property with Chairman Bill Daniels. Report states there are piles of tires that property renter will remove gradually due to the back up at Winchester Transfer Station. Another pile of tires is in the wetland area toward rear of lot. Property renter said those will be removed as well. There are several vehicles and a truck frame that are in the wetlands. ZCO and Daniels requested that they be removed from the wetlands when the ground dries more. ZCO recommends the Selectmen send a letter requiring the tire removal before December 1, 2021. Also recommends the removal of the vehicles should be done within 30 days.

Harrington advised Board of vandalism of cemetery stone reported by Cemetery Trustee Jerry Merrifield at New South Cemetery. Merrifield will submit pictures. Board discussed the 1st Annual Local Talent Show to be held on December 4, 2021 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. Talent Show entry form attached and on the home page of the town's website.

Appointments

Road Agent, Buddy Blood met with the Board to discuss property on Activity Road- Map 402 Lot 041. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Harrington

Letter to the Editor: State Housing Appeals Board versus Rural N.H.

To the Editor:

It's like death by 1,000 cuts — bills keep coming before the legislature which eat away, bit by bit, at local control, in hopes voters won't notice. Partial bills are being "thrown at the wall to see what sticks" so Sununu and Biden can take zoning and planning decisions from towns and put them squarely in the hands of state and federal governments, as we've already seen with Housing Appeals Board. The HAB does not exist to protect you, the homeowner, but to enable predatory developers who don't care where and how they clutter up your town with high-density construction. HB 154, one of many similar bills, was passed and signed by the Governor, allowing more of your tax dollars to go to developers for high-density housing. HB 132 is still in committee. If it passes, it will allow developers to more densely pack your town by reducing the required lot size to ½ acre for single-family dwellings on parcels served by town water and sewer. Please email HouseMunicipalandCountyGovt@leg.state.nh.us before committee session on 09/08/21.

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The HAB is tyrannical because it takes away your right to vote at town meeting.

Jane Aitken, Founder

BedfordResidents.com

[Editor's Note: Caleb Symons of the Keene Sentinel reported in its September 2, 2021 edition that Rindge's Zoning Board is now subject to an HAB review of its decision to deny a permit to a 59 home development on Rte. 119. What has happened in Rindge should serve as a wake-up call to those involved in land use decisions to review their Zoning Ordinances for clarity, completeness, and alignment with the development vision of their local residents.]



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105 Old Homestead Highway, Richmond NH 03470

William Daniels, Doug Bersaw, Andrew Wallace

Mon. 9 AM – Noon

5:30 – 7 PM for business

7 PM – ? for public concerns

Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM

Thurs. 8 AM – 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: Karen O'Brien

Deputy Town Clerk:

Mon & Wed.: 9 AM. - Noon & 1 PM – 4 PM

Thursday 8 AM – Noon

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino

Deputy Tax Collector: Ann Dea Whippen

Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

Planning Board:

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1st Tues. of the month – 7:30 PM

and 3rd Tues. if needed

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Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

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Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

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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

Vets' Hall Maint.: James Nolan, 239-3353

Zoning Compliance Officer: Richard Drew

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