



The

Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow About

December 2024

2024 Election Results: Richmond versus NH (Winners in bold type)

Online Source: [2024 General Election Results | New Hampshire Secretary of State](#)

Editorial: Signs of the Times Fran Heap

<u>U.S. President & Vice-President</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Kamala D. Harris & Tim Walz	288	418,496
Jill Stein & Rudolph Ware	3	3,680
Chase Oliver & Mike ter Maat	3	4,425
Donald J. Trump & JD Vance	457	395,531
<u>U.S. House, 2nd Congress District</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Maggie Goodlander	300	211,643
Lily Tang Williams	431	187,813
<u>NH Governor</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Joyce Craig	237	360,157
Stephen Villet	18	16,202
Kelly Ayotte	484	436,131
<u>NH Executive Council, District 5</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Melanie Levesque	253	71,093
Dave Wheeler	461	81,655
<u>NH Senate, District 9</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Matthew McLaughlin	288	16,211
Denise Ricciardi	438	17,235
<u>NH House, Cheshire Dist. 10 (two)</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Barry Faulkner	263	2,550
Alan Gross	225	1,921
Sly Karasinski	388	2,220
Daniel LeClair	403	2,187
<u>NH House, Cheshire District 17</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Kristan Tilton	253	3,973
Jennifer Rhodes	461	5,204
<u>Cheshire County Commis., Dist. 1</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Benjamin Tilton	251	6,231
Skipper DiBernardo	410	6,364
<u>Cheshire County Sheriff</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Eli Rivera	341	24,807
Richard C. Pratt, Jr.	373	17,779
<u>Cheshire County Attorney</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
D. Chris McLaughlin	394	29,265
<u>Cheshire County Treasurer</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Jack Wozmak	386	29,060
<u>Cheshire County Register-Deeds</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Anna Z. Tilton	393	29,159
<u>Cheshire County Register-Probate</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Jeremy LaPlante	387	28,997
<u>Constitutional Amendment Question:</u>		
Disqualify Judges at Age 75, not 70?	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>
Yes	382	452,311*
No	217	237,224

*Note: Constitutional Amendment failed to pass. Two-thirds majority had been required.



Prior to the November General Election, I don't think a week in Richmond went by when I was not hearing new reports of political signs being vandalized or stolen. Some signs were removed from private property. Some signs were damaged beyond repair, and, in the case, of those on Monument Road, were littered around a group of mailboxes and would have remained there had it not been for a conscientious resident who collected them and laid them in the pile you see in the photo. One Richmond resident with a sign outside his business had his livelihood threatened by an anonymous coward. An out-of-town candidate commented how frequently he was having to replace his political ad signs in Richmond. *(Those signs are not cheap!)* One elderly widow whose signs were stolen from right in front of her house lamented, "Geez! Whatever happened to free speech, you know?" She spoke wisely: political ads are a recognized form of free speech in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Statutes RSA 664:17 and RSA 664:221 do a nice job of spelling out how political ads must be handled in our state. For example, if your land abuts Rte. 32 or Rte. 119, you have every right to place political signs within the public right-of-way portion of your private land. However, you cannot block the view of a state highway with your signs.

You cannot attach political signs to road signs or utility poles. And, by the second Friday after a General Election, you must remove your political signs. So, in 2024, all political signs for the General Election should have been removed before midnight on November 15th.

This probably would surprise anyone who has gone through the round-about by the Monadnock Regional Schools in Swanzey, but it is actually illegal in New Hampshire to put your political signs on public land. (Yes, that includes Four Corners, folks!) Government officials may remove such signs on public land, but are required to hold onto them for one week after the General Election so that sign owners can retrieve them. Of course, it is always illegal to place your signs on someone else's property without consent.

In a town where voters consistently outperform the state average in election turnout, it is hard to believe there are Richmond residents who begrudge others the free speech they make use of themselves when they cast their ballots or display their own political signs, but they are out there. To the rest of Richmond's voters, thank you for respecting democracy at work. You make this country a better place.



Our Town Clerk, Karen O'Brien, served up a slice of history to voters when she offered them her homemade Election Cake. Now, who said voting couldn't be a treat?

(Photo by Mark Lanen)

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All We Want for Christmas is a Computer

Pam Bielunis



As many of you might have noticed on Election Day, the Supervisors of the Checklist were very busy taking new voter registrations, being sure no voter was duplicated, and entering them appropriately into the computer. In addition, the day following an election, the supervisors enter the names of everyone who voted into the NH State Voter System ("batching"). What you might not know is that the two laptop computers being used were our own personal computers. The town's Acer laptop is old and is unable to perform the tasks we need to complete to be sure that our Alpha Voter list is current. Therefore, we need a computer with an up-to-date system to support the new State of New Hampshire Voter Registration System implemented in April 2024, as well as support the town's Welfare Department.

Rather than ask the residents to totally fund a new computer through their tax dollars, I got the idea to fulfill residents' requests to obtain some Richmond shirts. I located a vendor who could provide us with the shirts at a reasonable cost so the profits could go toward the cost of a computer. On Sunday, November 10, 2024, I set up the first shirt order at the Vets' Hall. I am thrilled to report 97 shirts were sold in 40 minutes!! By request, I have ordered more. I will announce the next "Shopping Day at the Vets' Hall" on the Richmond Rooster and Richmond NH Community Facebook pages, as well as putting it on the sign in front of the Vets' Hall. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser endeavor.



The Trails of Richmond and Beyond

Kevin Ellis

October 19th, I and four other Richmond residents went to Brookline, NH to compete in the Ghost Train 30 Hour Ultramarathon Race. It's a 15-mile out-and-back course on a relatively flat rail trail which starts from Camp Tevya in Brookline and goes to the Department of Public Works ("DPW") in Milford, NH. Runners of all abilities (some in Halloween costumes!) attempt to see what their bodies can do and push their limits. Some can do 130 miles, while others do 30 miles.

This might seem crazy, and you might say to yourself, "But what about your knees?!". Well, if you don't over-train and take care of yourself, most ultra runners have better knees than the average person. You also might think, "Even if I wanted to do something like this, how would I get started?". To tell you the truth, it's much easier than you think. You just have to allow yourself to take it easy at first and not worry about how fast you're going and how many miles you've done. The most important part of trail running is enjoying it. You're bettering your body and mind while being out in nature. For the most part, I don't even consider it running, I consider it more of an exploration of the trails and surrounding areas. It's an adventure every time you tie up your laces!

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, there are so many wonderful opportunities to check out the trails in our community. In fact, not long ago, Carol Jameson and Jonathan Hill co-published a hiking guide for our town and nearby towns called, Nature Walks and Hikes in Richmond, New Hampshire and Neighboring Towns. It's a fantastic resource to find many different types of trails that are only a short drive or hike away from your front door.

Some of my favorite trails to run on are the ones to the Benson Cemetery, to the FAA beacon, and the Metacomet-Monadnock.



The Benson Cemetery trails are great because there's a lot of diversity of terrain. There's smooth double track, washed out class six roads, flowy single track and some rocky and rooty stuff, as well. There are also all kinds of fun trails that divert off from the main trail - almost like a choose-your-own-adventure game. And, needless to say, the actual cemetery is pretty cool to explore once you get there.

The trail to the FAA beacon is also very enjoyable. You start on the power lines off from Taylor Hill Rd. Stay on power lines for a short time before you duck into the woods onto some tight single track. That will eventually pop you out to a dirt road which will lead you to the top where the beacon is located. There are some fantastic views at the top!

Lastly, my favorite trail in Richmond is hands-down the Metacomet-Monadnock trail. You can hook onto this trail at multiple points in Richmond, but the easiest one might be off Old County Road. Once you get on the trail, it's some easy double track, but then you inevitably find yourself on some marvelous single track which, if you wanted to, could take you all the way to Gap Mountain and even Mt. Monadnock. If you find yourself on this trail, do yourself a favor by taking in its beauty and enjoying your time in the forest.

I hope you find some inspiration from this article and discover yourself exploring our great trails in Richmond and maybe even purchasing the trail guide I mentioned previously. It's a very useful tool once you are ready to go off on your own adventure, either by yourself, with a friend, or as a family exploration. This town and the surrounding areas have so much to give in terms of outdoor recreation. Enjoy the journey! [Editor's Note: With holidays upon us, copies of the hiking guide may be purchased at the Richmond Public Library for \$15 each; proceeds help keep the Rooster running. Thank you, Carol and Jonathan for the generous gift which literally keeps on giving and Kevin for the wonderful endorsement in this article.]



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Sudoku Puzzle #8

Written and Submitted by Sr. Mary Joseph

	1		7	2				
9		3				1	2	4
8				9	1			
	3		2	1		4	8	
1			3		4			7
	4	5		7	9		1	
				4	7			8
7	5	8				9		1
			1	5			3	

“...the Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to fulfill its essential role in our democracy. The press was to serve the governed, not the governors.”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black

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The Icon Museum of Clinton Massachusetts: Faith, Art and Culture

Stillman Rogers

The holiday season is a time for introspection and appreciation of the beauty of religion and the art that it fosters. In Clinton, Massachusetts at 203 Union Street (an hour and a half drive from southern New Hampshire), the Icon Museum is an amazing and fulfilling place to see, experience and learn about icons, revered images of saints, religious figures and places which have inspired and solaced members of Eastern Christian societies for many centuries.

The museum is a great place for a holiday season outing for the sheer beauty of the images there and for the reflections on faith that they engender.

Founded in 2006 by industrialist Gordon Lankton, the museum occupies a former historic fabric weaving factory and town police station, beautifully designed to present the largest collection of Orthodox Eastern religious icons in the United States.

Icons are images used for religious purposes and are not worshipped as holy items in themselves, but as venerated objects used in prayer as inspiration and to help focus worship, as “a portal into a divine realm”.

Images incorporated into each icon form a complex set of information: interwoven symbols portraying the essence or characteristic of the person, object or event which inspired the artist to share that attribute. Items used in the icon, such as gestures, hairstyles, colors, or objects are intended to portray the qualities of the subject.

The collections of the Museum include icons from many Eastern Orthodox nations and peoples. While the Russian Orthodox church represents one of the largest denominations in the collections, the Museum also presents many examples from other nation's peoples who follow the precepts of the Eastern Orthodox Rite, including those of Greece, Ethiopia and the Veneto-Cretan region.

The paintings use vibrant hues which draw the eye; the colors used in the images and objects depicted often have specific meanings. The icons are



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beautifully displayed, and each is identified as to the subject, the artist and date of creation. Information regarding the function of icons is also available from the staff and materials available at the museum.

If you plan to visit, I would suggest that you go to the museum website and do some exploring:

<https://www.iconmuseum.org/about/>

The site has information on icons, present exhibitions, planned future exhibitions and past exhibitions.



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Successful Mobile Food Pantry Events in Richmond in 2024

Pam Bielunis, Welfare Administrator
There were three Mobile Food Pantry Events at the Vets' Hall in Richmond this year: one in July, one in September, and the final one of 2024 on November 2nd. These events were held to provide free food to the residents of Cheshire County.

There are NO income requirements at Mobile Food Pantry Events, and everyone is eligible to receive the food items. The food items include: canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, meat, pasta, rice, tuna/salmon, kid friendly items, and eggs. These food items are allocated from local farmers and stores, so the program supports our local farms as well as the individuals who obtain the food items at the events—a win-win situation. In addition to the events in Richmond, an individual may also visit the ones in Fitzwilliam, Gilsum, and Winchester.

Hope to see everyone next year. I will announce the events on the Richmond Rooster and Richmond NH Community Facebook pages, as well as putting it on the sign in front of the Vets' Hall.

Update from the Supervisors of the Checklist Pam Bielunis



Effective November 11, 2024, the new HB 1569 Law went into effect. This encompasses voter registration requirements. In the past, affidavits could be used for documentation. That is no longer the case. Now, acceptable proof of age, identity, citizenship, and domicile are required. If proper documentation is not provided, the individual will not be eligible to register to vote. He/she may gather the proper documentation and return to complete their voter registration. In addition, there are all new forms for us to complete, so please be patient as we become accustomed to these changes.

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session for voter registration and all name, address, and party changes on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 10 AM at the Vets' Hall. Please bring proper photo identification and proof of any changes you plan to make. If you have any questions or need another time, please contact Pam Bielunis, Supervisor at 603-239-6498 (landline).

We want to thank everyone who came out and voted at the General Election. 761 ballots were cast, representing about 88% of Richmond's voter population. Congratulations!

Hiccups and Miracles Pam Goodell



Just as the Old Brick Church was closing in on the home stretch for repair of the bell tower, we stumbled on one of the last fences in our "steeple chase." Unfortunately, the contractor has found two rotted support beams which were not obvious early on. Therefore, the race to complete the bell tower repairs is on hold until he can find an engineer to advise him how to continue.

So, we are down, but not out. In fact, just as all this happened, we received another anonymous \$5,000 donation! Once again, the help has come through just as we needed it. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support. We appreciate everything everyone has done.

A lot of work was done before this hiccup, and not much rain water is coming in now. In addition to partial repairs on other sections, repairs to the east side of the tower have been completed. Now, we are all praying that an engineer can be found.

We will keep you informed as we regain our footing and get back on track.

Christmas Breakfast Casserole Terri O'Rorke

Ingredients

- 7 slices white bread, crusts removed and cubed
- 2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 6 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 C. 2% milk
- 1 tsp. ground mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

Directions

In a greased 11 x 7 inch baking dish, combine the bread and cheese. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, milk, mustard, salt and pepper; pour over bread and cheese. Sprinkle with bacon. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 50 - 55 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serves 8.



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Library News
Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for December
Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime
Saturdays, 10 AM – Noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle
Wed., December 4th, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces
Wed., December 4th, 6 PM: Coffee with the Classics
Book Club @ Conant Library in Winchester, *The Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys
Tues., December 10th, 6 PM: Tuesday Book Club, *A Redbird Christmas*, Fannie Flagg
Tues. & Wed., December 24th -25th: **CLOSED** for Christmas Eve and Day Holidays
Tues., December 31st, 11:30 AM: Ring in the New Year; Note: Library opens again after the party from 3 - 5 PM.
Wed. January 1st, **CLOSED** for New Year's Holiday
Ring in the New Year Party
Join us on New Year's Eve starting at 11:30 AM. for a fun-filled family party. We will have games, snacks, and will be counting down the minutes until noon, when we will take turns ringing the Library's school bell to usher in 2025!



Storytime at the library
(Photo by Trish Newton)

Storytime
Did you know that we hold a weekly drop-in storytime at 10 AM on Wednesdays? Come read, sing, and play with Deb and Wendy. In December, we will run with the gingerbread man, sing about stars, and get warm and cozy with hibernating animals. Come join us!

New Titles
The Vegetarian, Kang Han
The Grey Wolf, Louise Penny
The Blue Hour, Paula Hawkins
The Cliffs, J. Courtney Sullivan
All Colors of the Dark, Chris Whitaker

An Omission


Last month's *Rooster* article, "A Presidential Visit" by Fran Heap, failed to give the Richmond Public Library credit for its co-sponsorship of the Lincoln presentation, without which this program could not have been held at the Veterans' Hall. Thank you, RPL!

A Message from the Southwest Region Planning Commission

Greetings,
I'm excited to share an opportunity for individuals interested in starting or advancing their careers in energy efficiency to attend free energy efficiency courses thanks to a DOE grant. Below please find the full announcement, and attached please find the associated image.

Free Energy Efficiency Courses Available Through Department of Energy Funding!

Are you interested in starting or strengthening a career in energy efficiency? Starting in January 2025, MAXT Makerspace in Peterborough, NH will host a series of workforce programs aimed at providing individuals with a pathway to gain skills



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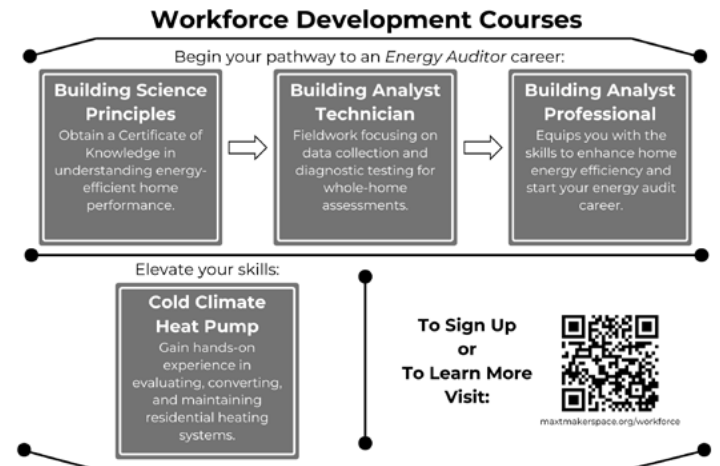
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Saturday 10-2

and certifications in this field. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), tuition for these programs is FREE to those who can demonstrate they intend to use the skills gained as part of a career in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. To learn more, please visit maxtmakerspace.org/workforce.

We would appreciate this announcement being included in your next newsletter if possible, as this opportunity may be of interest to Richmond residents. Please let me know if there is anything else I can provide. Thank you!


Sincerely,
Alicia DeBruin
Community Energy Fellow
adebruin@swrpc.org
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[Editor's Note: Readers are cautioned to exercise due diligence when responding to job-related solicitations. Publication of such solicitations by the Richmond Rooster does not imply its endorsement.]

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Christmas Eve Service
Pam Goodell

There will be a Christmas Eve service at the Richmond Community United Methodist Church on Tuesday December 24, 2024, at 4 PM. All are welcome to come celebrate this special time together. The Christmas story will be told through the reading of scriptures and with the singing of hymns.

Special vocal and instrumental music will also be presented for the enjoyment of all. In fact, if you would like to share your musical talent involving Christmas pieces, please let us know. We'd love to have you participate. As we end the service, we will form a circle around the sanctuary, each holding a lighted candle as we sing Silent Night. May we worship together in peace, praise and fellowship.





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Solution to Puzzle #8 from Page 4

5	1	4	7	2	3	8	9	6
9	7	3	5	8	6	1	2	4
8	6	2	4	9	1	3	7	5
6	3	7	2	1	5	4	8	9
1	8	9	3	6	4	2	5	7
2	4	5	8	7	9	6	1	3
3	2	1	9	4	7	5	6	8
7	5	8	6	3	2	9	4	1
4	9	6	1	5	8	7	3	2

TEMPORARY CHANGE IN SHELTER HOURS



PLEASE READ BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS

Due to unforeseen staffing changes, we are adjusting our public open hours for shelter services until further notice.

Starting this week, we will remain open to the public from 11 am to 3 pm on Thursdays. We will be open by appointment only on all other days for MHS shelter services including adoptions, strays, surrenders, and other customer service related programs.

Our Training Center, Boarding, Daycare, Grooming, and Puppy Play School services will remain open for their typical hours and appointments.

To make an appointment for shelter services, on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, please call 603-354-4004.

For information on adoptable pets, please refer to the [adoption pages on our website](#).

We appreciate your patience and kindness during this time.

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"Andrew took time to really understand ABTech and was genuinely interested in what we needed to grow and prosper," says Ken. "That mattered to us."

Chris and Ken Abbott | Owners (pictured with Andrew Richardson, SBW)
ABTech, Inc. | Fitzwilliam | Switched to SBW in 2022



"Savings Bank of Walpole offers precisely what our business needs from a bank."

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

The Richmond Rooster
an Independent Domestic Non-Profit Corporation



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December's Contributors:
 Pam Bielunis, Ada DeBruin, Kevin Ellis, Pam Goodell,
 Fran Heap, Wendy O'Brien, Terri O'Rourke, Stillman "Tim"
 Rogers, Sister Mary Joseph.

Town Administration

Selectmen: William Daniels, Doug Bersaw,
 Andrew Wallace
 Selectmen Meeting at Town Hall – Mon. 5:30 P.M.
 Public is welcome to attend. Please call 239-4232 for an
 appointment if you have an item for the agenda.

Town Administrator: Susan Harrington
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Thompson
 Mon. 9 AM – Noon, 3 PM – 5:30 PM
 Wed. 9 AM – 1 PM
 Thurs. 9 AM – Noon

For town business outside of the above hours,
please call 239-4232 for a Monday evening appointment.

Town Clerk: Karen O'Brien
Deputy Town Clerk: Cheryl Brake
 Tues. 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM
 Wed. 9 AM - Noon & 1 PM - 4 PM
 Thur. 8 AM - Noon

For Tues. appointments (5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM),
call 239-6202 or email the clerk.

Tax Collector: Steve Boscarino
Deputy Tax Collector: Mary Rogers
 Mon. 6 PM – 8 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon

Planning Board: Held at Taylor/VanBrocklin Bldg.
1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month - 7:00 PM

Transfer Station and Recycling Facility: 239-8136
 Tues. 8 AM – 4 PM, Thurs. 8 AM – 7 PM
 Sat. 8 AM – 5 PM

Library: Wendy O'Brien, Library Director, 239-6164
 Tues. 3 PM – 7 PM, Wed. 9 AM – Noon
 Thurs. 3 PM – 7 PM, Sat. 10 AM – 2 PM

Police (Non Emergency): 355-2000
Fire/Rescue (Non Emergency): 239-4466
Fire Warden:

Fire Permit: Buzz Shaw, 239-4238
Selectmen – 239-4232
Town Clerk – 239-6202
Tax Collector – 239-6106

Highway Department – 283-6619
Taylor/VanBrocklin Building – 283-6649
Building Maint.: Pam Bielunis

[Phone number area codes are 603, unless otherwise noted.]

Visit town online: <http://richmond.nh.gov> or in person at
Town Hall at 105 Old Homestead Highway.

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 1/2 page.....\$630
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