



The

Richmond Rooster

Something to Crow About

July 2024

Who should be the Master of the Town's Master Plan?

Fran Heap

According to NH Statute RSA 674:2, the purpose of a master plan is to:

- a. put in writing the “best and most appropriate future development” of the municipality;
- b. aid the municipal planning board “in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire”;
- c. “guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection”.

If you are like me, you would be inclined to respond to the title question with, “*Well, of course, the residents of Richmond should be the masters of the Master Plan. Heck, it's our town!*”, but you would be sorely mistaken.

At the suggestion of Alternate Lloyd Condon, Todd Horner of the Southwest Regional Planning Commission was invited by the Town's Planning Board to explain the Master Plan process on April 16, 2024. Mr. Horner's suggestion to make use of a Master Plan Steering Committee to save the Planning Board members time was endorsed by Chairman Doug Smith. One of the first questions uttered by our Board was whether the Board was even required to use public input. Despite the fact that RSA 674:3 III makes it clear that the general public must be “informed” of master plan preparation and a planning board must “solicit public comments regarding the future growth of the municipality in order to involve citizens in the preparation of the master plan in a way which is most appropriate for the municipality,” a planning board is not legally obligated to incorporate any of these comments in its version of a master plan, a position certain members of our Planning Board were eager to embrace, with Secretary Lisa Traeger emphatically saying at the June 4, 2024 Planning Meeting, “*we drive the Master Plan*” and “*the Steering Committee must be steered, not the other way round.*”

Alternate Greg Butko repeatedly recommended the Board hold public hearings earlier in the Master Plan process to understand what Richmond residents want.

Vice Chairman Jed Butterfield questioned what had or had not been done from the 2010 Master Plan and where the Board should go from here. Based on his questions, it was decided that Phase I of the Master Plan process would be to have a Steering Committee whose members would interview town department and commission members to determine what has been accomplished since 2010. Chairman Smith estimated Phase I would take two to three months to complete.

Those of you who attended the public hearings prior to the latest round of Zoning Ordinance changes might remember the pleas of Jeff Taylor and Dick Drew of the Conservation Commission to provide better protection than proposed for town wetlands and how their pleas were disregarded. True to form, on June 4th, the Planning Board did not give the Conservation Commission a spot on the Master Plan Steering Committee, which begs the question as to how Richmond can ever have the “wise resource protection” required by RSA 674:3 III. Selectman Bersaw's motion called for two Planning Board members and one Zoning Board of Adjustment member to serve on a Master Plan Steering Committee consisting of seven to ten people; his original motion excluded any resident serving in a town capacity. This last clause effectively would have barred not only individual Conservation Commission members, but any other town employee or volunteer, as well. After I questioned this clause, Selectmen Bersaw amended his motion to remove it, but there is no guarantee that any Conservation Commission member will ever be allowed to serve on the Steering Committee. Further, Secretary Traeger opined that the volunteers all could be recruited from *Richmond Grumbings*, a Facebook page, to avoid placing a free ad in the Rooster. She was overruled, and readers will find the ad later in this issue.

At the time of this printing, the Planning Board agreed to address the scope of the Master Plan and rules for its Steering Committee at its next meeting. The *Rooster* will do its best to keep its readers informed, but there is a strong push by the Planning Board to thwart public access to draft meeting minutes, public comment at meetings, and participation in the Master Plan itself.

Congrats CLASS of 2024!

Our 2024 Graduates Make Us Proud

High School Diplomas:

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- Nathan Herbert - Honor Roll
- Raven Perry
- Sarina Stengle - High Honor Roll

Awards & Scholarships:

Nicole Braley

- John Philip Sousa Award
- Student Government Member Recognition Award

Nathan Herbert

- Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award
- John Philip Sousa Award
- Monadnock Area Art Association Award
- Staff Scholarship
- Top Ten Student

Sarina Stengle

- NHIAA Scholar Athletes
- Outstanding Achievement in Biology
- Superintendent Club Recognition

Summer Planning: Sailing the Maine Coast Stillman Rogers

There is a romance associated with sailing on the sea. I don't know if my fascination with sailing ships comes from the fact that my parents decorated my childhood bedroom with pictures and even bookends of clipper ships under sails, but the love of it has been there for decades.



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One foggy morning, on a lonely part of Mount Desert Island, I saw some ghostly sails coming through a narrow passage between islands and I was hooked. I learned that the mystery ship was the Victory Chimes, a three masted ship built in the 1890s. She was magnificent; unfortunately, she no longer sails, but there are other beauties to give us that thrill of wind-powered freedom.

Last September, we traveled to Camden for a week on a two-masted schooner Mary Day. On any trip in New England, perfect weather is not guaranteed, and our trip was no different. But, it was still a wonderful experience, and an occasional fog bank and even a few hours of minimal wind did not mar our trip.

Camden Harbor is a major port for sailors on the Maine coast, and there you will find most of the passenger-carrying sailing ships on the Penobscot Coast. The rest sail out of Rockport, a few miles down the coast. Sailing out of this harbor is a thrill: once past the Curtis Island Lighthouse, the expanse of beautiful Penobscot Bay opens up. At this point, the captain orders the sails up and the crew (and passengers who want to) raise sails, and the ship comes to life, moving through the water with only the Maine wind to drive her.

This is not a cruise with water slides and bars, but it is a chance to relax, meet new friends and enjoy the sea and those things which live in it. There are plenty of places on the deck to sit and relax, even nap a bit, and explore the sea. It is not unusual to see seals popping out of the water, or gulls and other sea birds flying by or merely bobbing in the waves as the ship passes by. Another thrill is watching another Windjammer sailing past as it too explores the islands and coves of Penobscot Bay. Feel free to talk to the crew and do, if you are able, take part in the raising and lowering of sail, it's not only good exercise, but fun as well.

This is a sailing ship, and the captain goes where the wind takes you. That may take you to overnight in the old granite and fishing port of Stonington, or perhaps the beautiful and peaceful anchorage at Pulpit Harbor, or possibly even off one of the many unsettled islands in this huge bay system. You can also look

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Check out the *Mary Day* at www.schooner-maryday.com and the other beautiful ships of the Maine Windjammer Association at www.sail-mainecoast.com. But, reserve as early as you can because prime dates go fast. These cruises vary in the number of days and itineraries, as well as the number of people they can accommodate. Cruises begin in the spring and continue through late fall. You owe it to yourself to be on one of them.

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TRUE BREW REVIEW The Back Room Brewing Company Kevin Ellis



Kevin Ellis and Jane Lescynski at Back Room Brewing

A Tasting Flight of Four

On an early Sunday afternoon, once the rain passed, Jane and I took a trip down to Northfield, MA to enjoy some tasty brews from The Back Room Brewing Company. There were too many to choose from so we decided on a flight. We chose a coffee porter, an IPA, a whiskey-barreled stout and a golden ale. As there are four beers this time, I won't go into too much detail, but will do my best to give a good overall impression of each brew.

The Harbor Pilot coffee porter was nice and dark with a big tan head that lasted for a while. The aroma had lots of coffee up front, with notes of dark malts dancing in the background. The taste was a little sharp on the tongue, with loads of coffee hitting you right away. The sharpness quickly went away after a couple sips, and the porter became much smoother and enjoyable to drink. Overall, it was a solid representation of the style, and I give it a 6.5 out of 10.

The Sea Turtle West Coast IPA was burnt orange in color, with a nice white head floating up top. The aroma was citrus-like and floral. The flavor was of zesty grapefruit skins, sweet orange and a bit of piney-ness towards the backend. This to me was more of a classic, old school IPA, rather than a more modern hazy IPA. I quite liked it and give it a 7 out of 10.

Next up was the Scally Wag whiskey barrel-aged stout. Appearance was jet black with a light tan foamy head. Aroma was full of dark malts and strong whiskey and made you excited for your first sip. The flavor was very pleasant and rich; for only a 6% beer, it was still full-bodied and thick. Lots of vanilla, spices and oak up front, but balanced with sweetness from the malts. This one was a sipper and was enjoyed for a while. I give it a 7.5 out of 10.

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But the take-away beer for me (*and the one we got a full pint of afterwards*) was the Two If by Sea golden ale. I'm a sucker for when a scarce style is brewed and done right, and this one did it for me. The color was deep yellow; I likened it to a beautiful marigold flower at its peak bloom. The aroma was classic Belgian yeast with its spicy pepperiness and floral scents. Slight hints of pear and apple were also picked up. The flavor was almost a carbon-copy of the aroma, but with a little less spiciness and more fruitiness. There was an alcohol presence there, but it was stabilized by the sweet malt backbone. Needless to say, this was the winner for me out of the four beers, and my hat goes off to the brewery. I give this gem a 9 out of 10.

Besides the wide range of beer styles from which to choose, this brewery also serves wine and cider. The wine is made by the same brewer of the beer. If you don't already know the venue I'm talking about it is Cameron's Winery. The two buildings are separated, but you can choose either one to sit in and enjoy your beverage. The brewery is a very cozy and comfortable place to enjoy a pint, while the winery is in a renovated barn with three levels of seating. We sat in the barn and had an excellent time relaxing and enjoying our beer journey. There is great outdoor seating with fire pits and beautiful scenery. One last thing is the food: it's homemade, full servings, reasonably priced, delicious and highly recommended.

Overall, we loved our visit here. This was the second time we've traveled south for their beer and

food and really enjoyed ourselves each time. The beers are great, the food is wonderful, the atmosphere is inviting, while the conversations are always so friendly with either one of the owners. It's a place you want to go to get away from the world and relax with a good beer and quality people surrounding you.

Here's a tasty appetizer recipe for any summer barbeque...

Grilled Jalapenos Terri O'Rorke

Ingredients

- 24 fresh jalapeno peppers
- 12 bacon strips, halved
- 3/4 lb. bulk pork sausage

Directions

- Wash peppers. Cut a slit along one side of each pepper. Remove seeds; rinse and dry peppers
 - In a skillet, cook sausage over med. heat until no longer pink; drain. Stuff peppers with sausage, wrap with bacon, secure with soaked toothpicks.
 - Grill peppers, uncovered, turning frequently, over med. heat until tender and bacon is crisp, about 15 minutes.
- (1 stuffed pepper: about 97 calories)



"...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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Neith Boyce Presentation on July 12th
Lenny Solomon, RHS Vice President

There have not been many books written about Richmond, NH, but one of the finest was *The Town in The Forest* by Neith Boyce. In the mid-1920s, Nettie Boyce and her husband, Hutchins Hapgood, purchased the Wheeler Farm. In 1956, their son sold the property to Roy and Shirley Heise, who turned it into the Shir-Roy Campground.

Neith Boyce was an extremely creative, socially minded person. She authored novels, books of poetry, plays, and magazine articles. Around 1900, she was instrumental in the formation of the Provincetown Players in Provincetown, MA. She was the mother of four children. She also donated the theatrical curtains to the town; these were restored by the Richmond Historical Society (“RHS”) last year. They now grace the Veterans’ Memorial Hall.



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Carol Boer-Langworthy, Boyce’s biographer, retired in 2023 after teaching at Brown University for many years. She was a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in American Culture and Literature at Baskent University, Ankara, Turkey (2003 - 2004.) She is a scholar of Neith Boyce.

Carol will offer a talk about Boyce’s life on Friday, July 12th, at 6:30 PM at the Vets’ Hall. The talk is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Richmond Historical Society and the Richmond Library.

We hope to see you there.




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Richmond's Got Talent!

Saturday, July 13, 2024 – 10 AM to Noon

Lenny Solomon (guitar, harmonica, vocals) will perform at the Winchester Farmers' Market at Winchester Center, weather permitting.

Thursday, July 18, 2024 – 5:30 PM to 8 PM

Guaranteed local talent and beyond on Open Mic Night at "Stage 32", our Vets' Hall. Music starts at 6 PM. Free event jointly sponsored by the Richmond Historical Society and the Town Welfare Officer.

Saturday, July 20, 2024 – 9 AM to 1 PM

Mark Lanen (piano) will perform classic rock and blues at the Keene Farmers' Market on Gilbo Avenue, weather permitting.

Saturday, July 20, 2024 – 10 AM to Noon

Lenny Solomon (guitar, harmonica, vocals) will perform at the Winchester Farmers' Market at Winchester Center, weather permitting.



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Back to the Future! Volunteers needed!

The Richmond Master Plan review and update has started, and we need your help! The Richmond Planning Board is forming a subcommittee to compare the Town's actual accomplishments over the last 14 years as laid out as visions for the future in the 2010 Master Plan. We need 6 or 7 local volunteers to work with a few members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board for this short-term assignment of not more than 60 days. The mission entails members contacting local town offices and entities to identify which of the past visions were accomplished. A final report will be presented to the board. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Doug Smith, the Chairman at richmond.planning.board.chairman@gmail.com phone # 603-313-0011. The committee members will be installed at our Tuesday, July 9th meeting, held at 7:00 PM at the Taylor Van-Brocklin Building (next to the fire station).

This is just the first step; if we get more volunteers than openings for this subcommittee, not to worry; we will keep your information for use on future subcommittees as we continue the Master Plan update. Thank you for your support.

Richmond Yard & Bake Sale Alison VanBrocklin

Mark your calendar for the Annual Yard & Bake Sale at the Old Brick Church, 11 Fitzwilliam Road, Richmond, on Saturday, August 24th. The sale starts at 8 AM and continues until 2 PM. Come early for the best bargains! All proceeds to benefit the Bell Tower Preservation Fund.

Donations to the sale are welcomed, and drop-off/pick-up can be arranged in early August. Please call Alison at (603) 239-4494 for more information.

Richmond Historical Society

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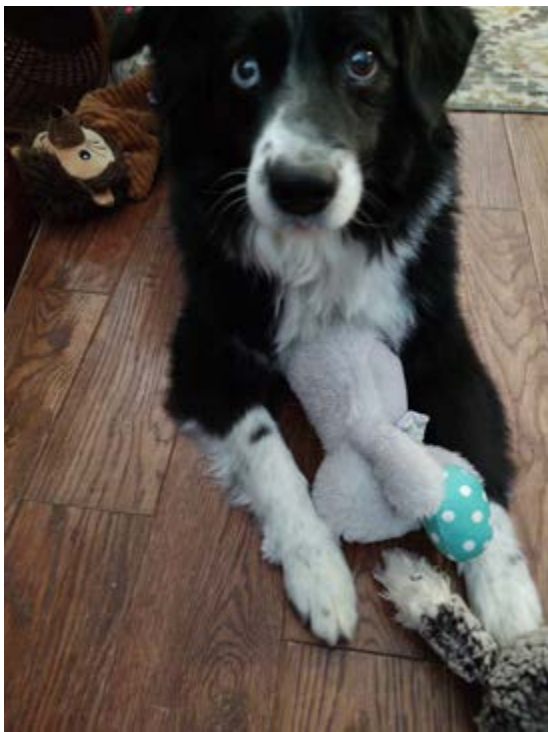
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We Have a Top Dog!
 Karen O'Brien, Town Clerk

The people have spoken – and voted – for the new mascot for the Town of Richmond. I am pleased to announce that Ozzy Auvil received the most votes for Top Dog. He will receive a basket of goodies, plus the #1 license number for next year.

If you see his owner, Sandee, out and about, you can congratulate her and I'm sure she'll pass that on to Ozzie.



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Library News
 Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for July

Anytime: *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, Michael Rosen,
 StoryWalk at Amidon Park (behind the firehouse)

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

Saturdays, 10 AM – Noon: Drop-in Knitting Circle

Wed., July 3rd, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces

Wed., July 3rd, 6 PM: Coffee with the Classics Book Club @ **Conant Library in Winchester**, *Ethan Frome*, Edith Wharton

Thurs., July 4th: CLOSED for July 4th Holiday

Tues., July 9th, 6 PM: Tuesday Book Club, *The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett

Richmond Reminisces

Join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 11 AM for Richmond Reminisces, a chance to meet your neighbors and share stories about what makes Richmond such a special place. In June, we had 12 attendees! Folks have been bringing in memorabilia, such as scrapbooks, photographs, and even old school report cards. We try to write down as many conversations as possible to preserve these memories for future generations. Anyone is welcome!



Photo by Jane Beauchamp



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New Titles

Southern Man, Greg Iles
I Will Ruin You, Lincoln Barclay
House Restored, Lee McColgan
Mind Games, Nora Roberts
Camino Ghosts, John Grisham

Books, Books, Books!

Bonnie McCarthy

August 25, 2024 will be my first book sale as the newest member of the library's Board of Trustees, and I'm asking our fellow townspeople to help make it the usual success. We need a variety of gently-used books that are in good, clean condition and will appeal to the crowd attending Richmond Day. Please do not give us text books, magazines or Readers Digest condensed books, because these traditionally do not sell.

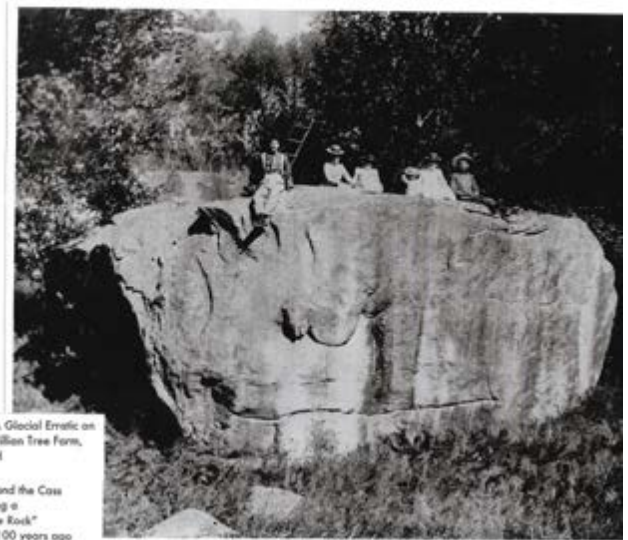
One other small request: please do not deliver your greatly appreciated books to the library until August 1st or later, because space is very limited. We

are in the process of trying to figure out how to reconfigure the library space into a community resource center, as well as a traditional library. It helps us to envision the future with as much open space as possible.

Please look through your book shelves and see what treasures you would like to share with the community. Our goal is to serve you - with your generous support.

Picnic at the Rock

Wendy O'Brien, RHS Secretary



"The Rock" A Glacial Erratic on the George Fillian Tree Farm, Richmond NH
The Buckley and the Cass families having a "Picnic on The Rock" Circa 1912- 100 years ago

The Richmond Historical Society invites you to attend the "Picnic at the Rock," on Saturday, August 3rd at 12:30 PM (*raindate - Sunday, August 4th*). Picnicking at the Rock has been a tradition for a great number of years, and we are looking forward to renewing this fun get-together. The Rock is a large glacial erratic which was deposited thousands of years ago off Route 32 North. George Fillian loved the Rock so much that he installed a plaque with the names of his ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War.

We will meet at the Veterans Hall parking lot at 12:30 PM to carpool, due to limited parking in the area. Please bring your own picnic lunch and bug spray! There will be no climbing on the rock.



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An Open Letter to Richmond Residents: Off and Running in the Steeple Chase

Plans are coming along for the bell tower and adjoining roof repair to the Richmond Old Brick Church. A deposit has been paid to A. L. Johnson & Sons Roofing of Fitzwilliam, and a contract has been signed. Total repair cost is \$53,065.

Mr. Johnson took drone pictures to get a good look at how involved the repairs need to be. Copper flashing, slates, siding, shingles, and paint are all going to be needed. There will be work done to the bell tower metal copper roof section, the bell tower shingle roof section, the bell tower siding, and the bell tower painting. A lift will be rented to allow access to all sides of the tower. Work will begin in the Fall.

Our fund-raising efforts are going well, and we'd like to thank everyone who has contributed so far. At present, approximately \$19,500 has been raised. Our book sale was quite successful, bringing in a total of \$900 through sales and donations! We would also like to thank the Putnam Foundation, through the New Hampshire Charitable Organization, for its \$5,000 grant to us for our bell tower repair. How pleased we are that so many people realize the importance of Richmond's Old Brick Church!

We are still bailing out buckets of water every time it rains. You can imagine how much work that is. Even the climb up to the tower is grueling in itself, when done so frequently. However, we are looking forward to better days. With your continued help, we are confident we will make it.

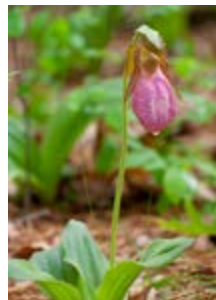
Therefore, we are brainstorming to find additional ways to raise the funds needed. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Many town folks have participated in events at the building, from weddings, and funerals, to youth activities and concerts. With your help, we can continue to keep the building open and maintained. We think many people would feel the loss of this wonderful landmark if it were to deteriorate.

Donations to help defray the cost are greatly needed and may be sent to the RCUMC or Old Brick Church at 11 Fitzwilliam Road, Richmond, NH 03470. It's also not too late to purchase tote bags and Heritage notecards. Future articles will keep you updated on the repair progress. A goal chart at the church will inform you of our financial progress.

Thank you in advance.

Old Brick Church Building Committee

The Great Richmond Ladyslipper Count of 2024 (since 2004) Hank and Louise Hallas



Please don't pick me!

This year's count was 234- truly a bounce back from 142 in 2023!

- We performed the count on May 26th, two days past peak (not June 2nd like last year);
- We had a 'goose egg' on Cross Pike where we have had as many as 33;
- The ferns and road side growth are real challenges;
- The all-time high came in 2010 at 507. The all-time low was last year at 142;
- New solo slippers have appeared in odd locations. Hopefully a good sign! Truly a moveable feast.

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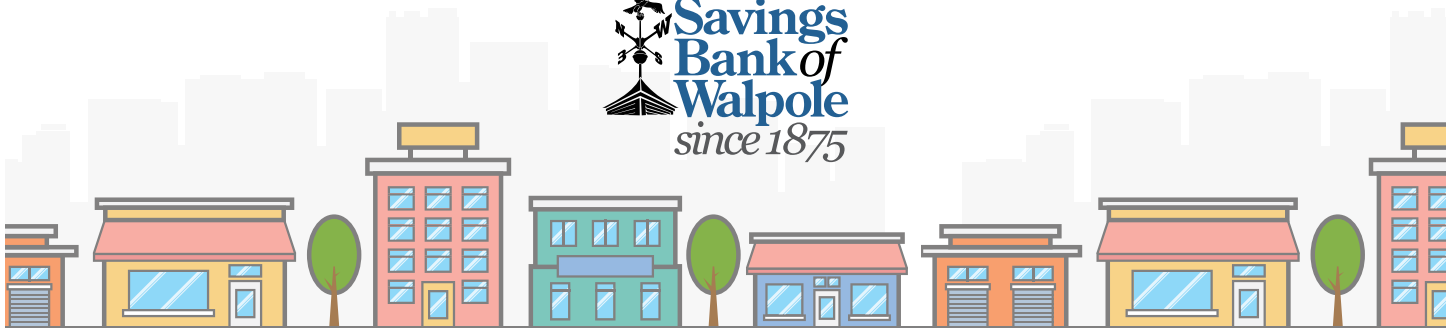
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Business card size.....\$165
Double size.....\$330
1/4 page.....\$380
1/2 page.....\$630
Full page..... \$1250

Monthly Rates

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1/4 page.....\$38
1/2 page.....\$63
Full page.....\$125

Ad Dimensions:

Business Card.....2" h x 3 5/8" w
Double Vertical.....4 1/8" h x 3 5/8" w
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1/4 page.....4.9" h x 3 5/8" w
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Stories are presented as fiction and are not intended to be historically accurate in content. Public notices, committee reports, articles, press releases, and letters to the editor are printed as received with minor changes according to space. *The Richmond Rooster* welcomes comments and article contributions. **Deadline is the 10th of each month.**

Email – therichmondrooster@gmail.com
Rooster Online: <http://therichmondrooster.net>

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

Town Library: Wendy O'Brien, Librarian, 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

Road Agent: Elton "Buddy" Blood, II – 400-3629

Building Maint.: Pam Bielunis

Zoning Compliance Officer:

[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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