



Recognizing the Sacrifice
The Richmond Historical Society



In the past, the Richmond Historical Society (“RHS”) erected monuments to veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars at our Veterans’ Memorial Park. Our members saw a need to honor the service of men and women in other wars and conflicts, past, present, and future. To that end, RHS is seeking donations towards a granite monument for all branches of the military.

The people of Richmond have always shown strong support for our veterans. For this community project, RHS has gone out to bid and is nearing final decisions as to both the vendor and the monument layout.

If you would like to join RHS in recognizing the sacrifice made by those who serve and have served, won’t you please complete the attached form and mail it, along with your donation today?

Thank you so much!

Veterans’ Monument Donation Form

Donor Name:

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RHS thanks you for your generosity!

*Checks should be made payable to
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 34 Quaker Lane, Richmond, NH 03470.*

Please be sure to put “Vets’ Monument” in the memo block of your check.

Richmond Rooster
Something to Crow About

March 2025

Town Election at the Vets’ Hall
 Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 11 AM to 7 PM
Town Meeting at the Vets’ Hall
 Saturday, March 15, 2025, 9 AM

Election Candidates

Select Board – One 3-Year Slot*

Douglas Bersaw
 Jerald Merrifield

Planning Board – Two 3-Year Slots

Gregory Butko
 Douglas Smith

Library Trustee – One 3-Year Slot

Barbara Rogers

Trustee of Trust Funds – One 3-Year Slot

Francesca Heap

Cemetery Trustee – One 3-Year Slot

Jerry Mills

**only contested election*

Please obtain an Absentee Ballot Request Form ASAP from the Town Clerk if you are eligible to vote in absentia and cannot be at the polls.

Proposed Monadnock Regional School District Budget Cut by More than \$3 Million

Sean Patrik

SWANZEY, N.H. (MyKeeneNow) – In a contentious Monadnock Regional School District deliberative session Saturday, attendees voted 156 to 56 in a secret ballot to amend the proposed \$39,199,676 operating budget to an even \$36,000,000.

The amended budget was moved by Richmond resident Antoinette Cincotta, while the secret ballot was requested by Lisa Traeger, also of Richmond. Both women spoke in favor of the amended budget, as did several other Richmond and Fitzwilliam

residents. Traeger said the point is “we all need to tighten our belts.” When asked specifically what they felt needed to be cut, those who spoke in favor of the diminished budget said they did not know.

The proposed \$39 million budget contained no new programs but reflected a \$936,000 increase in health insurance expenses and an out-of-district tuition increase of \$322,000 as the predominant driving forces behind the increase over the \$37,800,000 budget voters approved last March. Monadnock Regional School District Board Member Betty Tatro of Swanzey said the increase was simply “the cost of doing business.”

Opponents of the amended budget proposal said it will have an adverse impact on the district and could potentially lead to cuts in teaching and support staff, athletic programs, or after-school programs. Budget Committee Chairman Ed Sheldon of Swanzey told the public he would aim to recommend cuts to non-academic programs and services, but said he wasn’t sure.

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, March 11 to vote on the amended budget and the other warrant articles. If the proposed \$36,000,000 budget fails, a default budget of \$38,819,434 will go into effect.

All other articles passed as written with the exception of Article Six which sought to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 for the School Grounds Expendable Trust Fund. That was amended to \$100,000 and passed on a voice vote. *[Editor’s Note: We thank Sean Patrik for permission to reprint his online article from February 1, 2025: [Proposed Monadnock Regional School District Budget cut by more than \\$3 million - My Keene Now](#)]*

Why Should You Consider Being a 4-H Volunteer?

Be an Inspiration for Youths’ Mental Health



Many of us are aware of the facts that are connected to our youth today. Historically high levels of loneliness, depression, anxiety, and feelings of failure plague children, teens, and young adults alike. * Parents and caring adults in America are concerned and wish there was an easy cure to help our youth feel more

motivated, happy, and fulfilled in their life paths. The youth of the next generation are extremely important; they will be the next leaders of our culture and society.

At 4-H, we know the vital role that young people hold and have been preparing them to be leaders of the next generation since 1902. Despite the challenges of the ages since the early 20th century, data shows that 4-H’ers are 2x more likely to have the goal of becoming a leader. They are also 3x more likely to participate in community service and 2x more likely to report living a life with intentionality and purpose. * 4-H equips youth with skills from social-emotional intelligence to confident public speaking, from being a leader in the show ring to becoming mentors for younger members. Adults in 4-H start youth at the very beginning of their memberships to become #BeyondReady to be in the greater world ahead of them. We are devoted to supporting members to find purpose and reward within themselves, their actions, and their community.

Caring adults that are dedicated to thriving youth’s present and futures are the key ingredient to creating the world that we want our young people to live in. 4-H volunteers are essential to spreading the benefits of 4-H so that our next generation can be set up with practical skills and build motivation to grow. Our mission is to reach 10 million youth by 2025 who can become #BeyondReady and we need your help. From STEM robotics to animal science, outdoor recreation to small engines trades training, farm to table to creating teen job fairs and community service, 4-H has a place for every adult and child to get involved.

All adults have a story to share and a skill to teach. To ensure a beautiful future filled with hope and meaning, please consider becoming a volunteer in your county today. We are counting on our community to become the mentors our upcoming youth need.

To get involved, email or call Cheshire County 4-H Program Manager, Astar Zuorski at azuorski@unh.edu or 603-352-4550. We are excited to hear from you and help get you started! *Statistics borrowed from the 4-H Beyond Ready website at <https://4-h.org/beyond-ready/> and from the American Psychological Association at <https://www.apa.org/>

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Sudoku Puzzle #9
Written and Submitted by Sr. Mary Joseph

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

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March Events at the Vets' Hall

Pam Bielunis

3/1/2025, 11 AM - **Supervisors of the Checklist**

Last day to register to vote before the Town Meeting;

3/11/2025, 11 AM – 7 PM - **Town Election**

For School articles and town candidates;

3/15/2025, 9 AM - **Town Meeting**

To vote on town articles on the warrant;

3/20/2025, 6:30 PM – **Open Mic returns**

Fun night of local musical talent;

3/29/2025, 1 PM – **Contra Dance Presentation**

Dudley Laufman's program is jointly sponsored by the Library and the Richmond Historical Society.

Voting Clarification

Pam Bielunis, Supervisor of the Checklist

All Voters - need to show a valid photo ID to vote.

New Voters - if you are registering for the first time in Richmond, you will need documentation for:

- identity and age (photo ID, driver's license, non-driver's license, passport);
- citizenship and age (birth certificate, passport—Real ID license does NOT work at this time);
- domicile (address on license, registration, utility, bank, or mortgage statement).

There are NO affidavits for any proofs of documentation as of 11/11/2024.



The Passing of Shelley Major

We regret to inform our readers that Michele "Shelley" Major of Old Homestead Highway in Richmond lost her battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 63 on January 29, 2025. Donations in her memory to Keene Hospice and the Monadnock Humane Society are welcome.



JC Williams, War Vet, has Died

On February 16, 2025, James C. ("JC") Williams was found deceased at his home on Scott Mountain Road after concerned neighbors contacted State Police for a welfare check. JC was known for his attendance at each town election, always making an effort to dress his best. Voting was both a serious duty and a privilege to JC.

Missing his longtime pal, Richmond resident Greg Butko had this to say about JC:

I met JC when we were in the Navy in Morocco. I taught him to play the saxophone. We have been friends for over half a century. He stopped to visit me a few years ago and told me how much he hated New Jersey. I suggested he consider moving here, and eventually he did. We both joined the VFW in Winchester.

JC was on the USS Forrestal when the explosions caused by a rocket fired from one of the planes set off bombs killing and wounding sailors. JC was a Vietnam veteran.

Open Letter from State Rep. Karasinski from the 169th General Court:

I've been assigned to the Municipal and County Government Committee, and we have been busy hearing testimony on numerous Bills. The Committee either agrees in principle or not, either way the Bill may not be workable as written, nor amendable. Legislation of interest to you may not make it through the process this year, but may reappear in future years. Town governance moves slow, and State laws come even slower. Maybe that's a good thing.

Your GOP Majority has been busy pushing back on attempts to infringe on your freedoms and raise your taxes. I am excited to be a part of advancing our Contract with New Hampshire. We have voted to turn back socialist housing regulations, sanctuary city policies, and housing illegal aliens in our schools.

You have made your support for Right to Work loud and clear – I have always supported it too! Hopefully, this will be the year we can make it the law. Constituents have asked about HB 283, relative to the list of subjects that comprise an adequate education. I look forward to the opportunity to support getting back to basics and increasing proficiency levels in core subjects.

This was the last year you'll have to pay an Interest and Dividends Tax on your 2024 interest, dividends, and retirement fund required minimum distributions. An income tax that unfairly impacted small business owners and retirees.



Sincerely,
Sly Karasinski
Cheshire District 10
sly.karasinski@gc.nh.gov
(603) 209-1776

Open Letter from State Rep. Faulkner: My Update on Goings-on in Concord for March 2025

At the deadline for March submissions, we are waiting for the Governor's proposed budget for the next two-year period. Our understanding is that she has to deal with a significant revenue shortfall, caused by huge tax breaks recently given to large corporations and the wealthiest New Hampshire residents. Of particular concern is if this results in downshifting of costs to the counties and municipalities (that is, property-tax payers) or by cutting essential services to our residents.

The committee that I am on – Public Works and Highways – will be working on the state's capital program. Our challenge will be to balance the need for a new state prison for men with needs for investments in other properties and technology, within a budget constrained by our state bonding capacity. Our committee has always been able to work together to produce a consensus recommendation to the full House for a vote in early April. Final votes on the operating and capital budgets will likely be in June, after State Senate action.

From what I've seen so far, the House has conducted its business in a more civil and respectful manner than we

did last term, thanks in large part to the Speaker's efforts. However, we still get too many recommendations from committees and too many votes on a strict party-line basis. Too often, that indicates a bill that pushes some national party position, not one that addresses the problems and issues faced by New Hampshire residents. Committee hearings and amendments provide an opportunity to craft legislation that produces a positive result for the state. I am particularly dismayed at the heartless anti-immigrant, anti-LGBTQ, and anti-tenant bills that have passed on largely party-line votes. That's not the "New Hampshire Way" that I learned growing up here.



Barry Faulkner
State Representative
Cheshire 10 (Swanzy, Richmond)
fbfaulkner@outlook.com

Library News Wendy O'Brien

Library Calendar for March

Wednesdays, 10 AM: Storytime

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

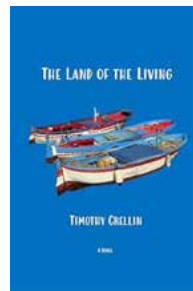
Wed., March 5th, 11 AM: Richmond Reminisces

Tues., March 11th, 6 PM: Tuesday Book Club, *The Book of Lost Names*, Kristin Harmel

Tues. March 25th, 6 PM: Author Night with Timothy Crellin

Sat., March 29th, 1 PM: "Contra Dancing in NH: Then and Now," Veterans Hall

Author Evening with Timothy Crellin



Join us on Tuesday, March 25th at 6 PM for a chance to meet local author Timothy Crellin. Tim's debut novel, *The Land of the Living*, was just released on February 25th. *The Land of the Living* is a historical novel that explores the themes of immigration and assimilation, war and its impact on families, the role of race and class in forging identity, and what it means to find home. The story follows Angela Amorelli and her husband Tommaso through Ellis Island and on to their new life in a New England fishing town. Refreshments will be provided.

Refreshments will be provided.

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NH Humanities Presentation: Contra Dancing In New Hampshire: Then and Now



The Richmond Historical Society has received a grant from the NH Humanities to present a program on contra dancing, which was once a popular feature at our very own Veterans Hall! Sponsored in conjunction with the RPL, this lecture will take place on Saturday, March 29th at 1 PM at the Veterans' Hall. The Library will close at 12:15 PM that day.

Since the late 1600s, the lively tradition of contra dancing has kept people of all ages swinging and sashaying in barns, town halls, and schools around the state. Contra dancing came to New Hampshire by way of the English colonists and remains popular in many communities, particularly in the Monadnock Region. Presenter Dudley Laufman brings this tradition to life with stories, poems and recordings of callers, musicians, and dancers, past and present. Live music, always integral to this dance form, will be played on the fiddle and melodeon. This program is free and open to the public and refreshments will be provided.

New Titles

- Three Days in June*, Anne Tyler
- Open Season*, Jonathan Kellerman
- We All Live Here*, JoJo Moyes
- Black Woods, Blue Sky*, Eowyn Ivey
- Blood Ties*, Jo Nesbo

Two Petitioned Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Why I am Voting for Them

Kim Mattson

Just a quick update for the residents who didn't make the Planning Board's public hearing held January 7th: two petitioned warrant articles were submitted by the public under NH's statute RSA 675:4. RSA 675:4. It is clear that, with enough signatures

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from the legislative body, i.e., the registered voters of Richmond, proposed changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinance will be added to the ballot and ratified by voters on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Per statute, the Planning Board must provide the public hearing and must include the petitioned warrant articles on the ballot. The Planning Board does have the right to note its disagreement to them on the ballot, and our present Board will not back them. The Planning Board at the January 7th meeting initially refused to hear discussion of the petitioned articles, with the faulty reasoning that they voted not to, until the public pointed out RSA 675:4 required the Board to hold a hearing. Despite having weeks to prepare, none of the board members did any research on petitioned article procedure before telling the public the petitioned articles were not up for discussion that night.

At last year's public hearing on zoning changes, when the Board added structures to the wetland setback, it also added the term, "Normal Landscaping" - without including a definition of what that term meant. Doug Smith, Planning Board President, assured the concerned attendees that board members would create a definition in time for the 2025 ballot. Well, they didn't come up with one, and, just like last year, claimed it was "too late" for them to create one.

Last year, the majority vote of the Board allowed structures in the wetland setback by right. This zoning change meant any size temporary fabric garage, solar array (by permitting process), and above ground swimming pool could be placed as close as the water's edge! Further, the term "Normal Landscaping" was slid into Article 6.

Here is the definition proposed in the public's petition:

Amendment #4

Normal Landscaping – *In the Wetland Conservation District normal landscaping shall be only that altering of terrain that is associated with the installation of structures that are allowed unless otherwise allowed by Special Exception or Variance. In no instance shall any siltation or erosion be allowed to affect wetlands by normal landscaping.*

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The Planning Board considered the proposed definition a blow to last year’s vote. Lisa Traeger, Board Secretary, claimed it “took away all the rights that were given back to the residents last year.” I strongly disagree. This definition is simply saying that the installation of any structures allowed up to the water’s edge (like fabric garages, solar arrays or above ground swimming pools) must keep the altering of terrain to a minimum and ensure erosion control measures are in place during the construction. The proposed definition goes on to say that any other uses allowed by a Special Exception or Variance should also have provisions set forth through the Special Exception or Variance to require erosion control measures. This is to protect the wetlands when a “structure” is put in the wetland setback.

The Board argued that “Normal Landscaping” was already defined in the Richmond’s Excavation Regulations. While voters have the right to determine their own Zoning Ordinance, voters have no such rights when it comes to the Excavating Regulations. Well, it’s my opinion you can’t jump from the Zoning Ordinance to the *Excavation Regulations* to find a definition. They are for two different uses with much different requirements. The Normal Landscaping definition in the *Excavation Regulations* was intended for large scale excavations and has nothing to do with the type of excavating done for fabric garages, solar arrays, and above ground swimming pools in the wetland setback. Take a look at these quotes from the *Excavation Regulations* and see if you agree:

T. NORMAL LANDSCAPING means the on-site alteration and contouring of the land exclusively devoted to improving the functional utility and planting of the grounds.

1719 Earth Excavation – The use of land for the taking of sand, gravel, rock, soil, or construction aggregate produced by quarrying, crushing or any other mining activity, but not including dimension stone. [Adopted March 12, 2013]

The petitioned Amendment #4 was signed by all members of the Richmond Conservation Commission. This does not remove any of the “rights” from last

year. The definition of “Normal Landscaping” simply requires that all provisions are in place to protect the disturbance in the wetland setback before, during and after the structure is in place - including the reseeding and planting of the area to prevent erosion.

Please vote and consider adding Amendment #4 to the definitions of the Zoning Ordinance to help keep our most valuable natural resource “water” clean for all life in and outside of our Wetlands and Wetland Conservation District.

Okay, next up is the second petitioned Zoning Ordinance change, Amendment #5. This petitioned warrant article was requested by two Richmond Conservation Commission members who attended the Planning Board meeting in person in December of 2023. The Commission’s original request was incorporated in the draft minutes available at the Town Clerk’s Office. However, in the revised minutes, the Planning Board removed what the Conservation Commission members said. At the Planning Board public hearing in January of 2024, the Conservation Commission requested, in writing, the addition of a 25’ foot green zone. The Chairman of the Conservation Commission had concerns about the excavation of the wetland to allow “structures”, like material garages, solar arrays (permit process), and above ground swimming pools. The Best Management Practices for Wetland Conservation recommend a 25-foot green strip in the event of a spill; it would allow time to remove contaminated soil before the contaminant entered the wetlands.

At the January of 2024 Planning Board public hearing for zoning amendments on the 2024 ballot, the Conservation Commission urged the board to add above-ground pools, solar arrays (allowed with permit) and fabric or pole garages to the definition of “building.” Presently, there are no size limits on fabric garages, solar arrays (permit) or above ground pools and no property line setbacks. Installation of these structures requires alteration of the surface configuration through excavation and/or fill. Fabric garages are usually used for storage and maintenance of equipment, tractors, lawn mowers and recreational vehicles which means storage of fuels, oils, antifreeze, and the like, with no



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restrictions to protect against disturbance in the wetland setback before, during and after the structure is in place.

Here is the definition proposed in the public's second petitioned warrant article, Amendment #5, asking that a green 25' buffer be put in place within the 75-foot setback:

Amendment #5

601.1 Structures and disturbance

To protect the Richmond wetlands there shall be a twenty-five-foot {25'} buffer from wetlands in the Wetland Conservation District, as defined in Article 601, prohibiting disturbance of the existing natural terrain and the erection of structures unless otherwise allowed by Special Exception or Variance.

It's my opinion that Amendment #5 doesn't prevent a person from the excavation and erection of fabric garages, solar arrays (permitted) or above ground swimming pools. Instead, it gives a layer of protection to be sure contractors and private residents use precautions when working in the Wetland Conservation District.

Just a little information on installation of the above structures:

- **Fabric Garage-in-a-Box**

A 12 x 20 foot garage, for example, requires a footprint of 240 square feet. The area needs to be cleaned of vegetation and rocks to level the ground through excavation of high spots and create a solid compacted base, typically made of gravel, crushed stone or concrete. This area should be slightly larger than the garage footprint and properly graded to ensure proper drainage.

- **Above Ground Swimming Pool**

An 18' round pool that is 48" deep takes roughly 7,600 gallons of treated water that is toxic to aquatic life, 254.5 sq. feet roughly to excavate and at least 2 yards of sand for a foundation. Add to that the excavation of another two feet to allow for equipment and pump. If you decide you want a deck around your pool, add an additional three to five feet, depending on the width of your deck. That is a heck of a lot of excavation work for an 18' round pool. Again, keep in mind a damaged pool's chemical treatment is deadly to a wetland's aquatic life.

- **Ground-Mounted Solar Panels**

Ground-mounted solar panels are allowed by State of NH permit process and can be installed anywhere with good sun exposure and enough open space. From my research, residential set-up would take anywhere from 250 - 500 square feet of open land to accommodate multiple panel and proper space. Many anchor types can be used, including concrete piers (most common), driven piers, helical piles, and concrete ballasts. The type depends on the ground conditions.

The Planning Board's response to concerns about the above structures being installed in the Wetland Conservation District is that the State of NH would find and make the homeowner responsible for any clean-up. From my dealings with the State, they are far too busy and shorthanded to properly follow up on residential spills. Keep in mind the State monitors all shorelines to lakes, ponds, streams, brooks, rivers, and coastal shoreline; that monitoring keeps them rather busy. The wetland setbacks are completely up to each town to create and enforce.

I would like to urge you to vote for Amendment #5 to protect our natural resources in our wetlands and Wetland Conservation District.

A final word: in the past, the Planning and Zoning boards consulted and teamed up with Richmond's Conservation Commission to protect our natural resources. It is such a shame these Boards no longer treat our Conservation Commission with respect. In keeping with NH's definition of Conservation Commissions, Richmond's Conservation Commission members volunteer to protect NH's natural resources, advise on environmental issues, and promote conservation activities. I do believe they carry a higher degree of knowledge in reference to the protection of our wetlands and wetland setbacks than any other board in town.

The Saxophone and Me

Greg Butko

I began playing the saxophone when I was 16 years old. Within a couple of years, I was making money with the horn. I began on a borrowed Buescher alto sax

from the 1920s which still had the original white pads. Eventually, I got a tenor sax, and this is my main horn.

I started reading *The Saxophone Journal* in the late Seventies and a monthly column called "Vintage Saxophones Revisited" by Dr. Paul Cohen which caught my eye. Dr. Cohen was a professor of saxophone from New Jersey, and he collected antique saxophones. Soon, I developed an interest in collecting them. I began acquiring quite a few old horns, but not the rare examples I saw in Dr. Cohen's collection.

In 1992, I attended a saxophone function at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. There were about 50 of us, and the man who conducted the program was Sigurd Rascher, a famous concert saxophonist. Among the participants was Paul Cohen. Dr. Cohen brought some outstanding examples from his collection, and he generously allowed us to play some of them, including an Evette Schaefer Contra Bass sax.

Leaving my collection for a moment, allow me to speak about some of my experiences. I began back in Connecticut playing in local bands until I went into the Navy. I was stationed in Morocco for 17 months. I discovered that the Red Cross Center in Kenitra had an old Conn alto from the 1920s, so I used to go there and honk to my heart's content. Eventually, I had my parents send my tenor to me and I heard that the American Embassy in Rabat was starting a Jazz Club.

I took the train for Rabat when I was off duty on a

Thursday night. The Jazz Club met at the American Embassy Annex every Thursday, I soon became a regular whenever I was off duty Thursday night. I explained I could come if I didn't have a "watch" on the Naval Communication Base in Sidi Yahia. Unknown to me, the Embassy called the base and requested my presence every Thursday night! My division complied and put me on days, so I had every night off, unless I had security duty.



The band at the Jazz Club consisted of another sax, piano, bass and drums. The Embassy set up performances for us, and we played in the Embassy Annex. While I was there, Woody Herman's band was on a State Department tour, and they played at the Annex. After the performance, some of the band members played a few tunes with us. Naturally, we were humbled!

I had a four piece group on the base comprised of sailors and marines, and we played New Year's

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Eve at the Officers Club one year and the Chiefs Club the next. There were some ball games on the base; we played the Navy and Marine hymns as well as the National Anthem before the games.

When I got out of the service, I picked up where I left off, playing dances, weddings, and other functions. I got a call to play every Friday and Saturday night with a band named “the Blue Notes.” I soon discovered it was primarily a country band. It took me a little while to pick up the phrasing for saxophone. I played for years in country bands. After that, primarily wedding and lounge bands. For a while, I was in a rhythm-and-blues band.

A friend told me about a restaurant called “Bill’s Seafood” in Westbrook, CT. I finally made the trip and I was amazed at the musicians. They were jazz players, and they were doing stuff I had never heard any local musicians do: key changes, rhythm changes in the middle of a song. Naturally, I gravitated toward the sax players to see what I could learn (and steal). They were very friendly. One of them told me to bring my horn down and sit in. I have never been reluctant to sit in with any band I saw locally, but I realized that these guys out-classed me. I said, “I would love to, but I am not on their level.” This guy told me to sit in with him at another gig he was doing which was more relaxed, which I did.



Eventually, I got the nerve to bring my horn down to Bill’s and I sat in with the band. They continued to ask me, “Where’s your horn?” I began

bringing it and sat in every chance I got. I actually got hired for some gigs with them and I got them some gigs with other bands I was working with.

Before leaving Connecticut, I was working with three bands: the Twist of Lime Band, the Charlie Kaman Band, and the Survivors Swing Band. The Twist of Lime Band was out of Waterbury, CT. It was guitar, bass, drums and myself, and sometimes a singer.

The Charlie Kaman Band started when I was asked to join a keyboard and bass player who were paid to go to Charlie Kaman’s house. Charlie Kaman was the founder of Kaman Aircraft in Bloomfield, CT. Mr. Kaman had suffered a stroke and did his best on the guitar while we played. Charlie Kaman almost went professional with the Dorsey Orchestra in the 1950s, but decided to go into engineering instead. After he went to a convalescent home, he paid us to come out there and play.

The Survivors Swing Band ended up being seven pieces (two saxes, trumpet, keyboard, guitar, bass and drums.) I went to the Wallingford Senior Center looking for musicians who just wanted to make noise for our own amusement. Soon, the other sax player, Jules Bashkin started booking us around Connecticut. Who would think anyone could afford seven piece? But, Jules was quite a salesman.

I have almost every size of sax made, including soprano, C soprano, Bb soprano, Alto, C Melody, tenor, baritone and bass. They all finger the same, but they handle differently and they sound different.

I personally like the music of the 1920s through the 1940s. I also really like the Bossa Novas primarily because of the great chord changes.

Here is a little more technical information: The saxophone craze started in the Teens and went through the Twenties. In those days, most professionals used American-made instruments. The biggest names were Conn and Buescher. Next came Martin and King, followed by Holton and York. Selmer, the French company began taking over in the 1950s, so the King Super 20 was the last American made saxophone. Today, the Japanese companies of Yamaha and Yanagasawa also make professional horns.


We don’t have the population in this area to support the band jobs like we had in Connecticut, but I really like living up here.

Letter to Editor Regarding Schooling

I am very close to a family in Cheshire County whose parents did not have a college degree but chose to home-school their six children. The kids never went to public or private school: however, each one did complete four years of college, with one even earning a Master’s Degree in English Literature. Each one made the Dean’s List every semester at the college they attended.

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The kids have all moved away. The jobs they have now: IBM as a programmer, high school Mathematics teacher, assistant principal at a private school, mechanical engineer working for an aerospace company, Emergency Room traveling nurse, and paralegal in the law department of a major corporation as a supervisor.

My friends told me they spent between \$200 and \$300 per year, to educate their children in homeschooling albeit this was 25 years ago. Books were passed down and re-used. Juxtaposition that Monadnock Schools currently spends over \$20,000 per student, per year.

These home schoolers were very well-rounded and had all kinds of sports and outdoor activities, as well as musical and visual arts, provided by the parents on a shoestring budget.

The U.S. News and World Report recently produced statistics regarding proficiencies for high schools across the country. These stats are available at USNews.com.

For Monadnock Regional High School: those proficient in mathematics, 18%. In reading, 50%. In science, 23%.

This is systemic failure. And yet, the District is asking for several million dollars more to “educate” the students.

Most folks in Richmond received an astonishing tax increase this year. Do we want a similar increase next year if the Default Budget, (higher than the actual budget) and new teachers’ contract pass?

It isn’t the vouchers issued by the State that are the problem, in fact, the monopoly of the public school system is. A socialist system always produces continually higher costs and substandard results, the old Soviet Union being a prime example.

Homeowners have a chance to reduce their property tax increase this year. It’s up to them if they want to keep throwing good money after bad.

Dan Connell
Richmond, NH

Open Letter: Richmond Values

Richmond has been my home for over 36 years. In 1988, it was a thriving, closely knit bedroom community of mostly commuters. Nevertheless, on weekends and holidays, we found ways to be a rural family and enjoy



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our lush natural resources. The Four Corner Store, the Beach, the Basketball Court/Hockey Rink, the Pavilion, the Vet’s Hall were hopping places to congregate and have fun. We had bonfires, dances, potlucks, clubs, talent nights and parades. For the most part, our love of nature was a communal foregone conclusion. It went without conflict that we would protect and preserve our beautiful Richmond, with minimal regulations and assurance our governing committees and selectboard would transparently enforce these regulations. Times have changed, increasingly less communal. The beauty of traditional Richmond Values diminishes yearly. It is time to revitalize the reason we live in Richmond. Jerry Merrifield has his roots in this town he has called home his entire life. He is not looking to the Past; he is looking to the Future. As a former Marine, he protected our country. Now, he wants to protect our Richmond Values. Please vote for Jerry and a Valuable Future.

Bonnie McCarthy

Open Letter: 2025 Town Meeting Election

I’m writing to endorse Selectman Douglas Bersaw for re-election. Doug has a commitment to the residents of Richmond that is appreciated not only in the Selectmen’s office but throughout town. His dedication to watching expenses for the sake of keeping the tax rate as low as possible goes beyond his work in the Selectmen’s office as he also serves on the Monadnock Regional School District Budget Committee. Doug also serves as the Selectmen’s representative to the Planning Board which is trying to make common sense changes to the zoning and planning in town. He brings a wealth of knowledge that is extremely valuable to the board. Doug has lived in the community for over 30 years and I am happy to endorse him for another term as Selectman.

Thank you,
Selectman Andrew Wallace

Endorsing Jerry Merrifield for Selectman

Jerry Merrifield was born and raised in Richmond. His wife Susan has lived here all her life. They have been married for 55 years. He knows and

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appreciates what life was like when people got along with one another instead of grumbling.

Jerry has not only lived in our town; he has graciously contributed to it in many ways. He was a past chair of the Planning Board. He served as a volunteer fireman. He successfully spearheaded a town warrant to support our veterans and spouses. He has served as a Cemetery Trustee and has chaired that group for the past six years. He contributes his labor to various Richmond Historical Society projects.

Jerry is a Vietnam veteran and former Marine. He served as a VFW adjunct for 30 years as well as the Commander of VFW Post 3968 for three years. Up until he retired, he managed his own auto parts business. He has a degree in art, architecture and advertising and has taken courses in business law and administration.

Jerry is a doer, not a talker. He's a man of action and energy. He's always there to help others. He wants to revive our town and has definite ideas regarding how to do so. Jerry has a lot of energy, desire and love for Richmond. He has no hidden agenda and no axes to grind. He believes in honest, transparent government. I wholeheartedly endorse Jerry Merrifield and hope you will vote for him as Selectman. Please remember that in our small town each and every vote counts!

Thank you,
Lenny Solomon

Endorsing Jerry Merrifield as Selectman

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our strong support for Jerry Merrifield as Selectman. We moved to Richmond in 1987 and raised our two children here, and they attended local schools. We ourselves served the Town in several capacities, from the volunteer fire department to the library, the cemetery committee, and the bake sales. Richmond was always a friendly, warm, and welcoming community where neighbors helped each other out and joined together for community events and projects, despite our differing views on many subjects. Sadly, this seems to have changed over the years, as friendliness has turned to animosity, and work towards a collective good has been replaced by a desire for personal gain.

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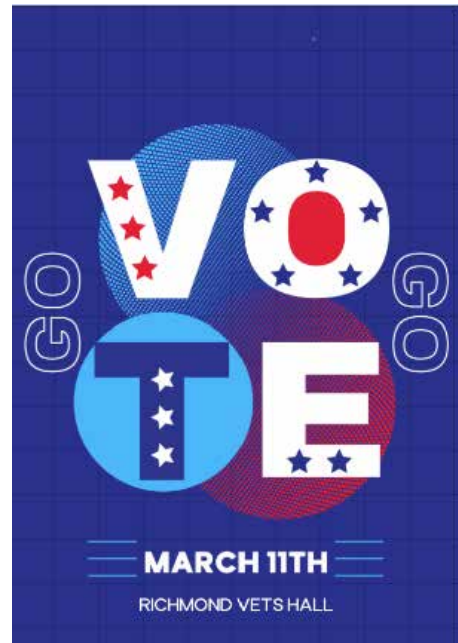
We know that Jerry Merrifield, who has lived here far longer than we have, represents all of the positive values we have always cherished in the community. We know that he will help make Richmond great again.

Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom

Endorsing Doug Bersaw for Selectman

Doug Bersaw is up for reelection on March 11. Doug is a huge asset not only to the town, but also to me as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. He is well versed in the town zoning rules and regulations and is my go-to guy whenever a grey area arises. Doug also has a good knowledge of both criminal and civil law which are also of value to the town. Doug, over the years, has held a number of positions in the town. He has, in the past, been Town Moderator, has been and presently is on the school board Budget Committee, and Planning Board, and is, of course, Selectman. The loss of Doug would be a big loss for the town and especially the Board of Selectmen. Therefore, I wholeheartedly endorse Doug and will be voting for him and ask for the good of the town you do as well.

Respectfully,
William (Bill) Daniels



Richmond Historical Society

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Pan Seared Citrus Shrimp

Terri O'Rorke



Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 C. fresh orange juice (about 2 oranges)
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice (about 3 lemons)
- 5 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped red onion
- 1 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- Freshly ground black pepper and kosher salt
- 3 pounds medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 medium orange, cut into wedges or slices
- 1 medium lemon, cut into wedges

Directions

In a medium bowl, whisk together the oil, juices, garlic, onion, 2 tsps. of parsley and red pepper flakes. Pour the mixture in a large skillet over medium heat. Bring to a simmer and cook until reduced by half, about 5-8 minutes. Add shrimp, season with salt and pepper, cooking until the shrimp turn pink, about 5 minutes. Top with remaining parsley, and fruit wedges. Serve over thin spaghetti with crusty bread for dipping.

Solution to Puzzle #9 from Page 3

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



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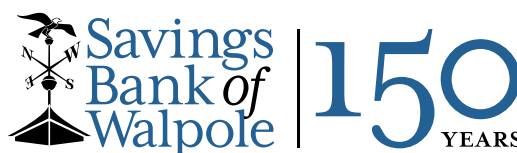
The way a crow
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The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
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A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.



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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. 4 PM – 6 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

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