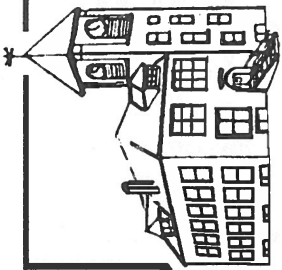
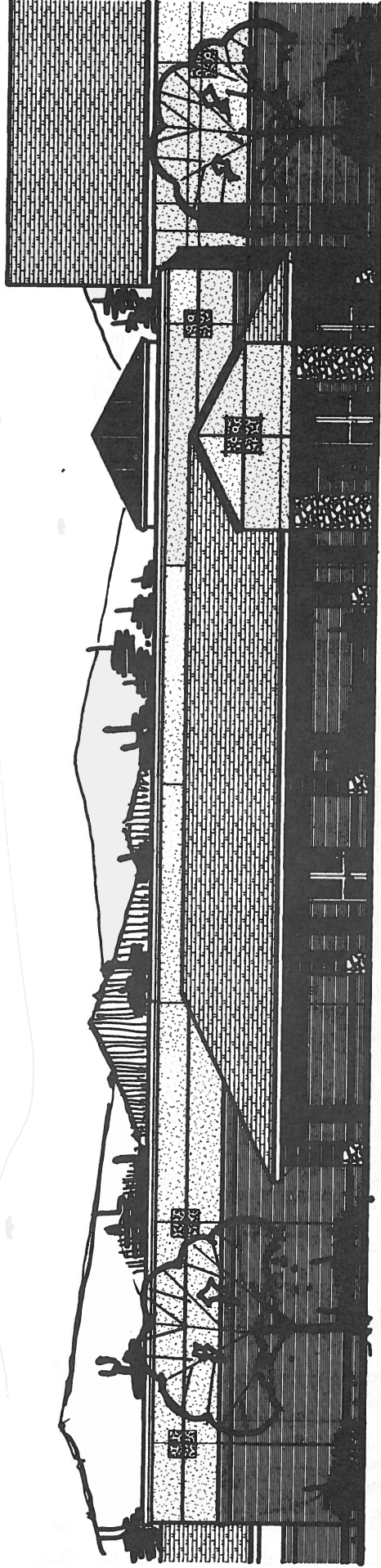


Main Street

A Monthly Newsmagazine



*Proposed Alton/Barnstead High School -
(Architectural Rendering)*



TO BE, OR NOT TO BE ???

The Taxpayers Who Vote on March 12 Will Decide The Question

Story on page 3



Published Monthly Since 1985
by

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YOUTHARTMONTHATACS

By Jennifer VanCor, Art Instructor

Youth Art Month is upon us, and the Elementary Art Department at the Alton Central School (ACS) will again showcase students' artwork at the Town Hall this month. The show will be hung from Monday, March 11, through Friday, April 5. Town Hall hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

An added item on display this year will be an assortment of cards made from student artwork. Thirty pieces of art were selected and printed into blank note cards and will be sold in packages of six for \$8 at the Gilman Library and at the school. They are being sold to reach a larger viewing audience and to raise money for our school. Proceeds will go toward an art scholarship fund and a new glass display case for the Art Department.

Please stop in to see this show at the Town Hall. The students have worked hard and, as always, are thrilled to have their work on display.

**ALTON BAY WINTER FESTIVAL
CANCELLED DUE TO MILD WEATHER**

The Alton Bay Winter Festival which was to take place on Sunday, February 17, was cancelled due to the ice conditions. The festival traditionally held at the Water Bandstand on Lake Winnepesaukee did not take place because of concerns regarding the safety of the ice.

The Parks and Recreation Commission who sponsors the event was expecting over 1,200 people to attend. They decided that, due to the large number of people coming to the festival in addition to the ice derby participants, the ice might not be safe. There were no plans to reschedule the event.

ACTIVE PARENTING SERIES

On Tuesdays the popular Active Parenting Series will be offered at the Alton Central School. The six-week series has been developed to aid in the difficult task of raising children. Issues to be discussed include: discipline methods that work; the three keys to a child's self-esteem; how to avoid anger; communications skills that win cooperation; teaching your child responsibility; and how to teach your child to respect you.

Molly Connelly, M.Ed., will lead the series on Tuesday nights beginning March 5 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for the program; it is open to all parents; and free child care is provided. Pre-registration is required so call 875-7500 to sign up.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE IT IS DUE

Last month's **Main Street** carried a story on page 15 headlined "This Is Hystorical 101," which listed reputed answers on Grade 6 history tests. The source cited was the Internet because it arrived as one of those "funnygrams" that e-mail correspondents love to pass around. As is usually the case, the original source was omitted.

An alert reader has notified **Main Street** that the excerpts listed were from the book *Anguished English* by Richard Lederer. Readers who enjoyed the inadvertent witticisms of the fledging history scholars quoted therein might want to chuckle over more of the same by purchasing *Anguished English* from their favorite bookseller.

ADVERTISER ALERT

Advertisers, Alert, Alert, Alert! There is a new deadline for you to get in your copy and payment. It will now be the 10th of the month. This is being done because the volunteer staff for **Main Street** has found herself unable to "co-edit" at the same time.

Also, when you are submitting "camera ready copy," please be sure that you do NOT fold the paper so as to create the ad you have created and do NOT place scotch tape over any part of the ad that is to be scanned. Contact the Advertising Manager (875-5397) if you have any questions or concerns.



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Main Street's Inside Front Page



Not yet completed, but last month the new dock for Alton's two Public Safety watercraft was very much in evidence in Alton Bay. With the cooperation of the Mount Washington Steamship Company, the town has been constructing these new "homeports" for Alton's fireboat and police marine cruiser.

VOTERS' INFO NIGHT IS MARCH 5

Now an annual custom Main Street will again sponsor what was formerly called "Candidates Night." This is an opportunity for voters to hear the candidates for contested town and school offices express their views and be questioned by the audience. Candidates running unopposed will be introduced and given time to make a summary statement, but they will not be asked to field questions.

The date is Tuesday, March 5; the meeting time is 7 p.m.; the place is the Alton Central School's Music Room.

This year — because the other questions to be decided on the written ballot are so numerous and substantial — the subject matter is being broadened to make a re-naming in order: It will be "Voters' Information Night." Added to the night's program will be spokespeople who will make presentations and field questions on the proposed zoning amendments and school warrants. This may be the last time to ask questions on the bond issue for the proposed joint high school with Barnstead.

Mark Northridge will be the moderator, as he has been for the past three years. As was the case last year, the candidates will be limited to a two-minute opening presentation. The question period that follows will not be open ended, but instead terminated by the moderator with an eye on the clock and the audience's attention span.

Make yourself an even more informed voter. Come out for this forum to see and hear for yourself what the candidates have to offer their community, if elected.

If you are unable to attend, cable TV's Channel 25 will be telecasting replays of the event. Check LRPA-TV's program listings on either channel 24 or 25 for exact times immediately preceding election day.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE: VOTERS TO DECIDE FATE OF SCHOOL

By Bob Longabaugh

Publisher's Note: The Editorial Board of Main Street is aware that the following article transcends any previous coverage attempted on local issues. The board has decided to publish the report with the stipulation that you, the readership, be made aware that if views are perceived to be expressed, they do NOT reflect those of Main Street's board.

On March 12 the future of education in Alton could turn a significant corner if 60 percent of the people who go to the polls that day draw the arrow across the appropriate space. The proposition appearing as Article II of the School District's written ballot would appropriate the sum of \$9,633,125 for the construction of a new high school with the Town of Barnstead. If 66 2/3 percent of Barnstead's voters approve a similar amount, a building much like the rendering on the cover of this issue of Main Street will arise on the 70 (plus) acre site on the west side of Route 28 about one mile south of the Alton traffic circle.

If either town's voters nix the proposition, the Alton School Board will be faced again with the problem of where to put the next batch of new kids who show up to be educated. Interestingly, Alton's lower percentage of "yes" votes required for approval of the bond issue is because Alton now operates under the official ballot rules of "S.B. 2," while Barnstead has retained the traditional open "town meeting" format.

Main Street is venturing for only the second time into the area of journalism intended to present both sides of an issue in as equal a manner as possible. Only once before (November, 2000, page 8, dealing with the proposed Home Rule Amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution) has this periodical presented the "pros" and "cons" of a matter being presented to the voters for their decision. If this reporter fails in bringing forth all arguments, it is due more to space limitations in a 22-page magazine rather than a lack of determination.

In attempting to gather what the word "on the street" is concerning this subject, Main Street contacted 18 persons who are active in civic affairs or community activities. Where messages were left on answering machines concerning what we sought in the way of information, the response rate was less than half. Nevertheless, we have reasonable confidence that the information we were able to obtain is representative of what concerns the electorate on this issue.

The BIG Picture

The reader will find below the official positions of the Alton School Board and its Building Committee as presented to us by Wayne Fraser, Vice Chairman of the School Board and chairman of the committee, and Donald Parks, Superintendent of Schools. Their position, of course, presents the "pro" side of the arguments.

The "cons" come from all the other sources, which do NOT necessarily indicate their own personal positions — just what they know to be the views that do not coincide with those of the School Board.

As would be expected, the primary argument against the proposed joint school centers on the tax impact. After that

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THE WRITTEN BALLOTS ON MARCH 12

Voters stepping up to the polls at the Central Fire Station on March 12 will be handed two paper ballots. The ballot for the municipal election will contain the names of the candidates for town offices (see page 11) and five proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance. The zoning amendments being sought by the Planning Board were described on page 9 of the February issue of Main Street.

The other ballot for the school district will be a lot more involved. In addition to the candidates for school offices, there will be 16 articles dealing with the operating budget and items of capital expense. All the money warrants state the recommendations of the town's budget committee, as well as the dollar amounts requested by the school board. One article, for the purchase of a replacement tractor, will seem nonsensical because it will be for zero dollars. The amount was changed from \$13,044 to zero at the Deliberative Session because the requested funding is already included in the operating budget.

The largest money warrant, in the amount of \$9,633,125 to fund a new high school, is covered in some depth starting on page 3 of this issue of Main Street.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ATTENTION WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

With no candidates appearing on the ballot for three positions, write-ins can play a crucial role in an election. Main Street invites all write-in candidates to join those listed on the March ballot to be present on Voters' Information Night, Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m., Alton Central School music room.

Readers will note that there is a write-in listed under the Trustee of the Trust Funds because that person sent Main Street the required biographical statement (see page 11).

If you decide to run as a write-in on a contested position, you will be given the same opportunity as your opponent(s) on Voters' Information Night to be heard. If the position is uncontested, you will be introduced and given the chance to make a short statement. All candidates are welcome to bring a handout for distribution to those attending this forum.

Please RSVP to MaryBee or Bob Longabaugh, 875-5067, if you wish to be recognized that night.

(Paid Message)

MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL

By Nancy Nordberg, Maxfield Buchanan Associates

Have you ever asked yourself how we, as community members, can help support our schools? As a senior manager in administration and now a REALTOR® at Maxfield Buchanan Associates in Alton, this question has been one that I have strived to answer.

As a manager I have worked with local town officials identifying ways of helping to support education in the area of technology. Through this experience it became apparent to me that if we (businesses, individuals, and towns) worked together to find complementary funds in support of education, our children would reap the benefits of the best education this country can provide.

Since moving to Alton and beginning my career as a REALTOR®, I continue to pursue this ambition of working to help support the education of our children. My contributions to this cause can BEGIN WITH YOU! If you have a child, or children, who attends or will attend Alton Central School, please choose me as your REALTOR®. I will work diligently to assist you in purchasing and/or selling your home. Once we have completed this purchase and/or sale, I will thankfully contribute \$100 to the Alton Central School.

TOWN MEETING ON MARCH 13

By Bob Longabaugh

If the pattern of recent years repeats itself, somewhere between 200 and 300 of the town's 2,684 registered voters (as of 2/15/02) will show up at Alton's Town Meeting to make decisions concerning over \$5 million of taxpayers' money. At one point in the 2001 meeting as few as 115 voters were recorded deciding a money article.

This year the traditional town meeting will convene at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, in the gymnasium of the Alton Central School with Town Moderator Mark Northridge presiding. Almost but not all of the matters to be voted upon concern the expenditure of funds.

One question to be decided that is not directly tied to a dollar amount is the petition warrant article to abolish the Budget Committee. The only other warrant article to come about via a citizens' petition is that which would do away with the requirement that groups applying to use the town's community centers must have liability insurance before the center is made available for their event.

Beyond the two petition warrant articles on the agenda, there are 17 articles that the Alton Selectmen have laid out for voters to decide. Most have to deal with the vehicles and other capital equipment needs of the Fire, Highway, and Police Departments. Rising above all of these, however, in terms of the sheer magnitude of bucks, is the so-called "sweep article" that has to do with paying for the day-to-day operations of running Alton. As Main Street goes to press in February that number is \$4,070,830 while the Budget Committee is recommending \$3,997,624.

How much tax money gets spent and on what will be decided by those of the 2,684 registered voters who check in at the front desk and pick up their voting cards on March 13.

GOOD BEGINNINGS

From time to time Main Street feels it is important to review some of the services available to this area. Good Beginnings is a program for pregnant women and their families and families with new babies. The purpose of the program is to be a caring community that gives help to families while they are pregnant and after they have their new baby. The birth of every child is truly a unique experience. It can be a time filled with questions. Being a parent can sometimes be stressful.

Good Beginnings provides levels of service for all families who are expecting a baby. It offers a home visit by a maternal-child health nurse when the new mother returns from the hospital. The nurse will do a physical assessment of the mother and baby, as well as answer any questions even experienced mothers may have.

Your community wants to be supportive of new families. Caring and trained volunteers are available to be matched with families. They are able to lend a hand with baby care, find community resources, and help parents to be comfortable in this new role.

Good Beginnings also has a home visiting program for women who are pregnant. This program offers visits from a nurse and parent educator and provides health education, child development, family support, and connection with resources.

Good Beginnings serves families in Alton and the Southern Carroll County area. The program is sponsored by the VNA-Hospice of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity. The Wolfeboro Area Children's Center and Huggins Hospital are also partners in this program. For more information call Bette Coffey, 569-2729. Interested in becoming a Good Beginnings volunteer? Call Betty John, 569-2729.

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Brown, Sandra	Thursday's Child
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The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer	
Gilman, Dorothy	Kaleidoscope
Griffin, W. E. B.	Under Fire: A Corps Novel
Hiaasen, Carol	Basket Case
Hill Reginald	Dialogues of the Dead
Katzenbach, John	The Analyst
Kellerman, Jonathan	Flesh & Blood
Koontz, Dean	One Door Away From Heaven
Lescroart, John	The Oath
Lewis, Beverly	October Song
Lowell, Elizabeth	Eden Burning
Meltzer, Brad	The Millionaires
Roosevelt, Elliott	Murder at the President's Door
Stone, Katherine	Star Light, Star Bright
Thayer, Nancy	Custody

NONFICTION

Fowler, Connie May	When Katie Wakes
Johnson, Dave	How to Do Everything With Your Digital Camera

YOUNGADULT

Canfield, Jack	Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Tough Stuff
Covey, Sean	7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens
Fleischman, Paul	Seek
Koss, Amy Golden	The Girls



CHILDREN

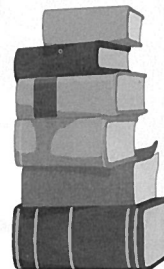
Base, Graeme	The Water Hold
Bridwell, Norman	Clifford's Happy Mother's Day
Brown, Marc	D. W.'s Library Card
Ehlert, Lois	Waiting for Wings
Gibbons, Gail	Behold the Unicorns
Goodall, Jane	The Chimpanzees I Love
Hill, Susan	Stuart at the Library
MacLachlan, Patricia	Caleb's Story
My First Hanukkah Board Book	
Pallotta, Jerry	Twizzlers Percentages Book
Pfister, Marcus	Rainbow Fish & Sea Monsters Cave
Polacco, Patricia	The Butterfly
Rylant, Cynthia	Great Gracie Chase: Stop That Dog
Wood, Audrey	Alphabet Adventure

AUDIO CASSETTES

Connelly, Michael	The Black Ice
Delinsky, Barbara	The Woman Next Door
Deveraux, Jude	The Summerhouse
Griffin, W. E. B.	The Soldier Spies
Grisham, John	The Street Lawyer
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STUDENTS WIN SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

By Joan Burns, ACS Art Instructor

Again Alton Central School (ACS) art students have made our school and community extremely proud. For the first time Dana Lang, a senior, won one of five American Vision Awards given in the state for her pen and ink calendar "Listless" which depicts teenage challenges and abuses. ACS also won three gold key awards. Dana Lang won two, one for her calendar and one for her pen and ink pop-up book about the game of chess titled "Checkmate Sir." Kristie Roberts, a senior, won a gold key award for her clay sculpture, "The Game," two magnificent dragons playing chess.

Three silver key awards were won. Kristie Roberts received two. Her first was for "Getting Sleepy," a clay dragon incense holder and the second for a flag book, "The Red Dragon." Stephanie Hills Grove, a junior, won a silver key for her mixed media canvas painting depicting entertainment performances for our troops overseas against a background of the stars and stripes superimposed over the khaki service print pattern. Dana also won an Honorable Mention for "Once We Were," her printmaking images of babies, and Katie Pellowe, Grade 8, won an Honorable Mention award for a floral still life painting that she did in Grade 7.

All gold key winning works will be judged again nationally in New York. National gold key winners will have their work exhibited at the Cocoran Gallery in Washington, D. C.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE

The New Durham Girl Scout Troop 475 will be selling cookies on Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Alton Circle Grocery. Cookies are at last year's price of \$3 a box. Support the troop and enjoy the cookies!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EVENTS

By Millie Pierce, Unit Secretary

The American Legion Auxiliary will be having their annual St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance on March 15 from 7 p.m. - 12 midnight. Corned Beef and Cabbage and all the trimmings will be served and there is dancing to follow. Join us for an evening of fun. A donation of \$6 per person or \$10 a couple is your cost.

On March 17 the Auxiliary will hold their Easter Ham Raffle starting at 1 p.m. in the lounge/dining room. Bring your friends and join us for an afternoon of relaxing fun.

Monies raised at these fund raisers help to give scholarships, Christmas party, and many other community projects.

Join us at our new Post home for either or all functions.

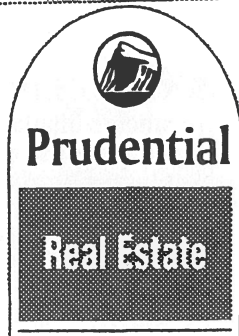
CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Club will be sponsoring a "March Winds" luncheon on Wednesday, March 13 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Conference Center on Route 11 in Alton Bay.

"Forecaster's Revue - Insights on Weather" is the Special Feature with George Dunnavan, weatherman from Moultonboro. Special Speaker, Marsha Poirier of Berwick, Maine, will present "Seasons of Change."

Reservations for the lunch and the available complimentary nursery may be made by calling in Alton: Janet at 875-2032 between 2 - 6 p.m. or Karen at 875-8144; in Gilford: Faith at 293-8073.

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Club is an interdenominational group with no formal membership.



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BABE RUTH LEAGUE

By Gary L. Noyes, Sr., President,
Kingswood Area Babe Ruth

Alton Babe Ruth registration for ages 13 - 15 will be on Saturday, March 23, at the Alton Central School gym from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$30. The Alton Babe Ruth team will participate in the Kingswood Area Babe Ruth League.

Parents who have players planning on participating in the upcoming season should attend the registration with their player. New players to the program must bring a copy of their birth certificate. You can call me for more information at 875-7140.

ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE

By Gary Dudman, President

It is that time again when the Alton Youth League (AYL) begins to think about softball and baseball. AYL is a group of volunteers, independent of the Town of Alton, who provide the uniforms, equipment, coaches, and schedules for athlete's ages 5 - 12 who want to learn and enjoy the games of baseball and/or softball. The Alton Parks and Recreation program does provide the fields and maintenance of the fields upon which we play and practice.

Like any volunteer organization we are in desperate need of coaches and board members. Many of last year's volunteers have again committed to helping this year, but we still need more. Whether you are a seasoned umpire, coach, scorekeeper, or just a parent who enjoys working with kids, we need your help.

This year we will again utilize the mail-in forms for registration. The forms were distributed through the Alton Central School in early February and will be due by March 9. Late registrations will be accepted after that date with a late fee, and we will be holding a sign up on March 9 (location still to be determined). For information contact me at P. O. Box 883, Alton 03809, <gdudman@metrocast.net>, or 875-1564.



THE CHECKOUT DESK

By Holly Brown

Librarian

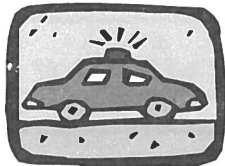
MORE THAN BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

We wish to express our most sincere thanks to everyone who helped us to "celebrate our love of books" by taking part in our book sale which took place February 12 - 16. Participants donated plastic bags, books, and purchased books. As always, your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. The proceeds go toward the purchase of new books.

In addition thanks go to those who took part in the AM/FM Cassette Stereo Boom Box Raffle. The drawing was held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Shirley Bishop! All proceeds will go to the library for the purchase of new books or audiotapes.

The latest addition to services provided by the Gilman Library is the "Puzzle Swap." Those who wish to participate may borrow a puzzle from our collection and if you would like to, leave one of your own in its place. If you are looking for a new hobby, you might consider trying a puzzle. They are a great way for people of all ages to relax while keeping the mind and memory active. You can elect to take one of ours home or take some time to work on the puzzle we have set up here for everyone to enjoy. Special thanks to those who have donated puzzles, thus allowing us this new service.

The Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. They will be discussing *The Road From Coorain* by Jill Ker Conway.



TO PROTECT AND SERVE
By Detective Glenna Heath-
Roberts
Alton Police Department

A "SNIFF-IN" AT SCHOOL

Anyone in the vicinity of the Alton Central School (ACS) on January 28 might have thought the place was going to the dogs. There were "K-9" dogs all over the place because Principal Russell Holden had requested the NH Police Canine Academy (NHPCA) and the NH Working Dog Foundation of Center Strafford to bring their dogs and handlers to ACS in order to check out the school building and grounds for the presence of illicit drugs. The Alton Police Department (PD) had contacted the Working Dog Foundation and asked for their assistance, which they provide to area police departments at no cost. The search was coordinated by Sgt. Lou Ferland of the Portsmouth PD, who is the head dog trainer at the NHPCA.

There were two "hits" on student lockers inside the school, and the dogs also "alerted" on four cars parked in school lots. There were no drugs found, but the odor of marijuana was prevalent in the area of the student lockers, indicating that there had been drugs in the vicinity in the recent past.

The Alton PD wishes to thank the NHPCA and the NH Working Dog Foundation for their help. The foundation started eight years ago with four dogs and has grown to the current membership of 39 dogs. Representatives from the following departments came to ACS: NH National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, Salem PD, Newmarket PD, Windham, Maine, PD, and the Lincoln County, Maine, Sheriff's Department.

Federal law mandates the Drug Free School Zone, which is the area within a 1,000-foot radius of the school. There are greater penalties for violation of the Drug Control Act committed within this school zone. ACS practices "ZERO TOLERANCE" for drug violations and continues to work closely with our department in making the school a safe place for our children to be educated.

The search was a success in many ways, including bringing about an increased awareness of the substance abuse problems in our society in this day and age and the prevalence of drugs being used by persons of all ages. We want to make the kids aware that we will not tolerate any drugs in the school, as well in the community. The NH Working Dog Foundation will be sending their dogs for a follow-up visit in the near future.

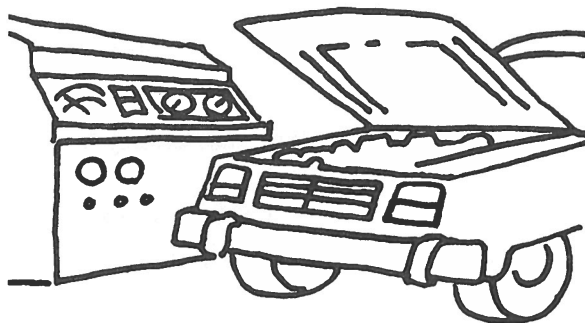
Alert To Rural Mail Customers

THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT RASH OF MAIL THEFTS OF OUTGOING MAIL FROM RURAL ROUTE BOXES IN ALTON AS WELL AS NEIGHBORING TOWNS. When the flag is up on your mailbox, it is an invitation to a thief to steal your mail. The checks that you have made out to pay your bills may be cashed by others than who you intended. PLEASE use caution and be alert if you are leaving your mail in your roadside box to be picked up by your mail carrier. Our department suggests that to avoid the possibility of theft outgoing mail should be placed in the secure mail drops at local post offices.

NEW AT MAXFIELD REAL ESTATE

Along with many other changes that continually occur in and around Alton, Maxfield Real Estate is proud to welcome Ann Ehlers as a new sales associate to their staff. Ehlers specializes in residential real estate and is an active member of the Merrymeeting Lake Association.

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- >Wilderness Camp: ages 12-16
- >Junior Camp: ages 6-10

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Main Street's Information Center

MARCH EVENTS

- Sat. 2 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE, see story
 Mon. 4 BLOOD DRIVE, Alton Central School, 3:45 - 7:45 p.m., see story
 Tue. 5 VOTERS' INFORMATION NIGHT, Alton Central School, 7 p.m., see story
 Wed. 6 4-H CLUB, Animal Pack, Gilman Library, 5 p.m.
 BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9 ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE, Registration, see story
 Mon. 11 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Gilman Library, 6:30 p.m., see Checkout
 Tue. 12 TOWN AND SCHOOL BALLOT VOTE, Central Fire Station, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., see story
 Wed. 13 CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCH, Conference Center, 11:30 a.m., see story
 BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 TOWN MEETING, Alton Central School, 7 p.m.
 Thu. 14 BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC, Pearson Road Community Center, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
 Fri. 15 ST. PATRICK'S DINNER/DANCE, American Legion, 7 p.m., see story
 Sun. 17 EASTER HAM RAFFLE, American Legion Hall, 1 p.m.
 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
 Wed. 20 VERNAL EQUINOX, 2:16 p.m. EST, Is It Spring Yet? 4-H CLUB, Animal Pack, Gilman Library, 5 p.m.
 BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Sat. 23 BABE RUTH, Registration, Alton Central School, see story
 Wed. 27 BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 PASSOVER begins
 Thu. 28 ASSEMBLE Main Street, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. 29 EASTER CANTATA, Bay Church, 7:30 p.m., see story
 Sun. 31 EASTER

TO LIST YOUR EVENT SUBMIT WRITTEN INFORMATION TO:
 (1) P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay, 03810 or (2) Bank of New Hampshire (Main Street box). **Be sure to include a phone number.**

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Monday, March 4, from 3:45 - 7:45 p.m. at the Alton Central School. As usual there will be a well-stocked canteen table with donations from local businesses and volunteers. Most people who are in good health, 17 years of age or older and weighing over 110 pounds, can donate blood through the Red Cross. Blood donors can give every eight weeks. Unfortunately, the number of donors has been dwindling at the Alton Blood Drives over the past several years. Regular donors, new donors, and those who have not been in for a while are encouraged to donate blood (the gift of life) or time on March 4. The target is to meet or surpass the Red Cross goal of 80 pints.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer or donate food/drink, contact local coordinators, Ann Norman-Burke, 875-5492, or Lisa Finethy, 875-7653. For facts about donor eligibility, call the Red Cross at 1-800-463-9400 or visit their website at <www.newenglandblood.org>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE POLLS

If you are willing to help at the polls on Tuesday, March 12, call Mark Northridge, Town Moderator, at 875-5255 and volunteer your time. There is always a corps of "regulars," but not everyone is available for every election. For newcomers to Alton it is a good way to see how the town operates at this level and start to learn names and faces. The shifts are from 7 - 11 a.m., 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., and 3 - 7 p.m. Then there are the "after the polls close" tabulators who work from 7 p.m. until the last vote is tallied.

TOWN AND SCHOOL ELECTIONS

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The Alton Town and School District elections will be held on Tuesday, March 12, at the Alton Central Fire Station on Route 140, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Town absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office. An application must be completed by a registered voter before a ballot can be handed or mailed to the applicant. While applications for school absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the ballot must be obtained from the School Clerk. Absentee ballots will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Monday, March 11, at the Town Clerk's Office and by MAIL ONLY on election day.

Registering to vote can be done at the Town Clerk's Office until March 1, on Saturday, March 2, at the Town Hall between 11 a.m. and 12 noon with the Supervisors of the Checklist, and at the polls on election day. You will need the following: TWO forms of identification, a photo ID and a document with your physical Alton address (not a P. O. Box), such as an auto registration, oil or electric bill, checkbook, or property tax bill.

Educate yourself prior to March 12. There will be two lengthy ballots to fill out. Go over the items before you enter the booth. For instance the town ballot will include five zoning amendments proposed by the Planning Board. Pick up a copy of these changes at the Land Use Department or the Town Clerk's Office.

Tables are available for any local non-profit organization to sell products, raffle tickets, etc. Space is limited; therefore, it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. To reserve a table, call the Town Clerk at 875-2101.

DOG LICENSES

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

Dog licenses expire on April 30 and are now due for renewal as required by state law. Please bring in an updated rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate, if applicable. The fees are as follows:

Male/Female - \$10

Neutered/Spayed - \$7.50

1st Animal of Senior Citizen over 65 - \$2.

You may mail your license request to Alton Town Clerk, P. O. Box 637, Alton, New Hampshire 03809. Please include the above information, a check in the appropriate amount made payable to the "Town of Alton," and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will return your rabies and/or neutering certificate. If you are over 65, please send proof of age.

There will be a rabies clinic in mid-April; please see the April edition of Main Street for the details.

If you *no longer have a previously licensed dog* or have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 875-2101 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

KINDERGARTEN SIGN UPS

Is your child is going to be age 5 by September 30, 2002? Are you planning to register him/her for kindergarten? If so, please call Sharon Guild or Cindy Loprete at the Alton Central School at 875-7373 to set up an appointment. The Registration and Screening Day will be held on Thursday, May 23, and Friday, May 24, at the Alton Bay Community Center.

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

When the candidates filed to run for office in the school and town elections, they were given a questionnaire and asked to return it to Main Street by a specified date. The form called for information on the candidate's background (training and/or experience) and a position statement — no more than 50 words — on "Why are you seeking this office?"

The information contained in the questionnaires that were returned by the deadline is reproduced below. When the candidate's position statement exceeded 50 words, in order to provide a level playing field, neutral editors reduced the statements to meet the specified maximum. Statements edited to meet the 50-word maximum are designated "condensed."



SELECTMAN - 3 YEARS

(Elect Two)

PATRICIA M. FULLER (875-5546)

Background: University of Lowell, BS in Administration of Law and Justice, PreLaw; Alton Zoning Board of Adjustment, 5 1/2 years; Gilman Library, substitute Assistant Librarian, volunteer, 5 years; Legislative Aide; New Hampshire Educational Surrogate Parent, 14 years; McIntosh College, Paralegal Studies.

Statement: (Condensed) I love Alton and care about its future. With property taxes more than doubling over the past ten years, it's time to control spending. Having grown up in a family of firemen and policemen, I am keenly aware of the necessity for and needs of both departments. Please vote for me.

DONALD B. IRVIN

Background: Alton resident since 1975. Previously served on Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. Coached (baseball) Alton Youth League. Semi-retired after 30+ years as police officer with time as a supervisor and Commandant at NH Police Academy. BA in English, minor in psychology, and Associates Degree in Liberal Arts.

Statement: (Condensed) I seek this office to continue to work for the best interests of all residents. Alton: is in the midst of major changes which will have major impacts on all; will need to make updates to some facilities to keep up with services needed; has great people working for it.

JOHN T. WHITNEY, JR. (875-7600)

Statement: I served 20 years in the U. S. Army and have moved back to Alton to raise my family. I want my kids to have the same quality education, opportunities, and advantages growing up that I had.

TREASURER - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

PATRICIA PALMER

Background: 25 years in bookkeeping, 15 years banking experience, treasurer for many organization.

Statement: I was appointed Treasurer for the Town of Alton in August 2001; I am looking forward to continuing in this position so as to serve the community in which I live.

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS - 3 YEARS

(Elect One)

No candidates listed on ballot. *Write-ins will decide this office.*
One write-in candidate responded prior to press time.

JOHN W. KIMBALL

Background: Several management positions in government service over the past 26 years.

Statement: I have been an Alton resident since 1977. Retired from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard with 26 years of service. I feel that I would be an asset to the community of Alton and to the current board members. I would greatly appreciate your write-in vote.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE - 3 YEARS

(Elect One)

SHIRLEY COPELAND

Questionnaire not received by press time.

FIRE WARD - 3 YEARS

(Elect One)

STANLEY E. CZECH

Background: Nine years as Alton firefighter; two years on Budget Committee, and three years on Board of Selectmen.

Statement: (Condensed) Position should be of value to residents and supportive of Fire Chief and members of department. There is no written guidance of position so if I am elected, I intend to propose a document describing authority and responsibilities; if approved by town, it could be included in Town Policy Manual.

FIRE WARD - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

RUSSELL M. SAMPLE, JR.

Questionnaire not received by press time.



MODERATOR - 2 YEARS

(Elect One)

MARKA. NORTHRIDGE

Questionnaire not received by press time.

CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 3 YEARS

(Elect One)

TAMMEY CORNELISSEN

Questionnaire not received by press time.

WATER COMMISSIONER - 3 YEARS

(Elect One)

JOHN T. CONBOY

Questionnaire not received by press time.

BUDGET COMMITTEE - 3 YEARS

(Elect Three)

JOHN P. BROOKS (875-2851)

Background: General foreman and superintendent, Los Angeles, California; Officer in Charge, Lynwood, California.

Statement: (Condensed) I have been very active in Alton organizations: former commander and presently quartermaster of Alton VFW; treasurer, Alton Knights of Columbus; Community Action Program as relief manager; Main Street staff; donate two days per week to Meals on Wheels preparation. I am retired and have time to help the town.

GREGORY FULLER

Questionnaire not received by press time.

BUDGET COMMITTEE - 2 YEARS

(Elect One)

No candidate listed on ballot. *Write-ins will decide this office.*

PLANNING BOARD - 3 YEARS

(Elect Two)

CYNTHIA M. BALCIUS

Questionnaire not received by press time.

PLANNING BOARD - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

DONN BROCK

Questionnaire not received by press time.

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST - 6 YEARS

MARYBEE E. LONGABAUGH (875-5067)

Background: Supervisor of the Checklist since May, 1999, chair since November, 1999. Associates Degree, Colby Junior College, 1953; Graduate, Katharine Gibbs, Boston, 1954; BS in Business, College of Saint Rose, 1985; co-editor, Main Street.

Statement: The supervisors have given uniformity to the voters registration list; they completed the state mandated purge in August, removing over 1,000 names of people who did not vote in 2000 or at Town Meeting 2001. I would like to continue ensuring that the list stays updated.

SCHOOL BOARD - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

LAWRENCE ALTING

Questionnaire not received by press time.

SCHOOL MODERATOR - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

TERRIA. NOYES

Questionnaire not received by press time.

SCHOOL TREASURER - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

SHIRLEY E. YOUNG (875-7530)

Background: Been elected to this office since 1972.

Statement: Have years of experience, since 1972, for this position. Would appreciate your vote again this year.

SCHOOL BOARD CLERK - 1 YEAR

(Elect One)

DEBORAH L. BURTON

Questionnaire not received by press time.

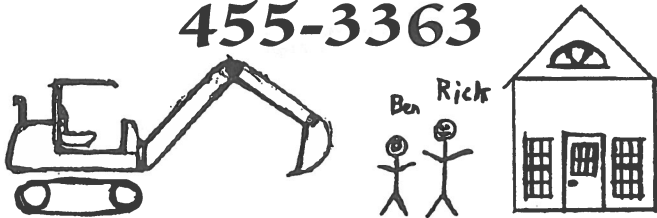
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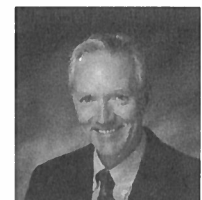
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Main Street's Information Center

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

- Baha'i Fireside — Thu., 7:30 p.m., Holway Residence, Old New Durham Road
- Bay Church — Sun. School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Services, 10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center Chapel; ALPHA Pilot Group, Sun., 6 p.m. Call 875-6765 for schedule of Wed. night activities; Rev. Robert H. Hett, Pastor; Rev. John Fogell, Assoc. Pastor
- Community Church — Sun. School, 9:45 a.m.; Sun. Services, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; nursery available on premises; Congregational Meeting House, Church St.; Rev. Peter Bolster, Pastor
- First Free Will Baptist Church — Sun. School, 9:45 a.m.; Church, 11 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; Depot St., New Durham; Pastor James Nason
- St. Joan of Arc — Weekend Masses at Baptist Meeting House on Main Street; Services, Sat., 4 p.m. and Sun., 8 a.m.; Weekday Masses, Tue. and Thu., 8 a.m. and Communion Services Mon., Wed. and Fri., 8 a.m. in Rectory Chapel; Fr. George Robichaud, Pastor, 875-7191. Sun. Mass St. Paul's in Barnstead, 10 a.m.
- Wolfeboro Bible Fellowship — Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; Route 28; Pastor Scott Button

GILMAN LIBRARY: 875-2550

Tue. and Thu., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Wed. and Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; closed Sun. and Mon.

SENIOR MEAL SITE: 875-7102

Mon - Fri., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Pearson Rd. Community Center

SOLID WASTE CENTER: 875-5801

Sun., Mon., Fri., and Sat., 7 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Closed Tue., Wed., and Thu.

Rines Road Pit — Closed until April 2002

TOWN HALL: 875-2161

Selectmen's Office, Tax Collector, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Welfare Officer, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Building Inspector — 875-5095 for hours and appts.

Parks and Recreation — 875-0109 for info and appts.

Planning Director — 875-5095 for hours and appts.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Alcoholics Anonymous — Tue., 8 p.m., Alton Bay Community Center

American Legion — 2nd Mon., 7 p.m., Legion Hall, Rte 28

American Legion Auxiliary — 3rd Mon., 7 p.m., Legion Hall

American Legion Jr. Auxiliary — 1st Tue., 6 p.m., Legion Hall

Boy Scout Troop 53 — Wed., 6:30 p.m., Central Fire Station

Community Services Program, Sat., 10 a.m. - 12 noon., 875-2273

Cub Scout Pack 53 — Last Tue., 6:30 p.m., Legion Hall

Eastern Star — 2nd Tue., when meeting, 875-5211

4-H Club, 1st and 3rd Wed., 5 p.m., Gilman Library, 875-5325

Flying Club — 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., 859-7900

Friends of the Gilman Library — 2nd Tue. (in season), Library

Garden Club — 4th Tue. (in season), Congregational Mtg. House

Happy Hobby Doll Club — 4th Fri., 7 p.m., Pearson Road

Community Center

Historical Society — Watch for announcements of programs, Apr. -

Oct.; Nov. - Mar., Museum open by request, 569-2629

Knights of Columbus — 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road

Community Center

Lions Club — 1st and 3rd Thu., Foxy Johnnie's Restaurant, New Durham, 6:30 p.m.

Masonic Lodge — 2nd Thu., when meeting, 875-7448

Moms In Touch — Tue., 1 p.m., 875-2866

Mt. Major Snowmobile Club — 3rd Tue. (Oct.-Mar.), 7 p.m., New Durham Railway Station, 875-3858

P.T.S.A. — 3rd Wed., Alton Central School HS Library, 7 p.m.

Senior Citizens — 2nd Wed., 1 p.m., Pearson Road

Community Center

FWF — 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

CALL 875-5067 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- BOARD OF SELECTMEN — 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6 p.m.; Cable Channel 25 replay following Thursday, 7 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m., Chairman James C. Washburn, call 875-2161 for appointment.
- BUDGET COMMITTEE — 3rd Thursday (twice a week in "budget season"), 7 p.m., Chairman Ruth Messier, 875-6750
- CEMETERY TRUSTEES — Meetings posted at Town Hall and Post Office, Chairman Shirley Lane, 875-5864.
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION — 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Co-Chairs, Earl Bagley and Cindy Balcius, 875-5095.
- FIRE WARDS — 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Central Fire Station, Chairman Richard Quindley, 875-2910
- GILMAN MUSEUM COMMITTEE — Meets on call, Chairman Bill Crocker, 875-2161.
- LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM — Meets on call, Chairman Juliet Peverley, 875-7232.
- LEVEY PARK TRUSTEES — Meet on call, Chairman Dick Jones, 875-3855.
- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION — Meets on call, Chairman William Lionetta, 875-0109.
- PLANNING BOARD — 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Chairman Tom Varney, call 875-5095 for appointment.
- SCHOOL BOARD — 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6 p.m., Chairman Joyce Hopper, 776-8733
- SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST — Meets on call, Chairman MaryBee Longabaugh, 875-5067.
- TRUSTEES OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY — 3rd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Chairman Nancy Jordan, 875-2550.
- TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS — Meets on call, Chairman Joseph R. Houle, 875-7321.
- WATER COMMISSION — 2nd & 4th Thursday, 8:30 a.m., Water Department Office, Chairman Reuben L. Wentworth, 875-4200
- ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT — 1st Thursday, 7 p.m., Chairman Fran Washburn, 875-5095.

*DENOTES A CHANGE OF INFORMATION

CALL 875-5067 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. SENATE

Robert C. Smith, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-2903; Phones: (800) 922-2230, (202) 224-2841, Fax: (202) 224-1353; e-mail: opinion@smith.senate.gov

Judd Gregg, 393 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC

20510-2904; Phones: (202) 224-3324, (603) 225-7115,

Fax: (202) 224-4952; e-mail: mailbox@gregg.senate.gov

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Washington DC 20515; Phones: (202) 225-5456, (603) 641-9536,

Fax: (202) 225-5822; e-mail: Rep.Sununu@mail.house.gov

N.H. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ray Burton, 271-3632 (Concord), 747-3662 (Woodsville)

N.H. SENATE

Robert Boyce, 875-7371, e-mail: SenatorBoyce@metrocast.net

N.H. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gordon Bartlett, 524-1220 (w), 524-6536 (h)

Laurie Boyce, 875-7371, e-mail: ljboyce@metrocast.net; "walk-in"

office hours 1st Friday of the month, Town Hall, 9 - 11 a.m.

Stanley Czech, 875-3815, e-mail: sdczech@worldpath.net

Dave Russell, 364-7449, Fax: 7448, e-mail: russells@worldpath.net

BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Christopher D. Boothby, 527-5400

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

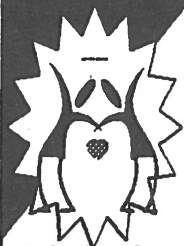
James C. Washburn, Chairman, 364-7413

Don Irvin, 875-2161

William Ryan, 875-2112

Stephan McMahon, 875-6322

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 ALTON, NH 03809



THE MONTH BETWEEN SEASONS

March is the middle month for the outdoors person, the month between seasons. The ice fishing season (not much of one this year) ends this month, and salmon season starts next month. Ice fishing now can be a pleasant experience. The days are getting warmer and longer, leaving you more comfortable on the ice and with more daylight to fish. As of right now (the middle of February) some bays on the big lake are safe, and most of the smaller lakes have about ten inches of ice. It will soften quickly this year so **BE SURE TO CHECK** the thickness before venturing out.

Smelt may still be taken by angling only (hook and line) through March 14. The smelt "dipping" season runs March 15 to April 30. These tasty little 3- to 6-inch fish may be taken in a dip net in nine lakes and two rivers in New Hampshire. In Alton, Sunset Lake, in Wolfeboro, Rust Pond, and in Barnstead, Suncook Lake are all open for smelt dipping. It closed on Winnie about six years ago because the human smelt dippers were too much competition for the salmon and lake trout. The fish were loosing their main food supply, and the salmon that were caught were very skinny. This prompted the "no smelt dipping rule" in New Hampshire's big lakes containing salmon and lake trout. As always, be sure to check the regulations before you venture out.

Along with the ending of ice fishing season, most hunting seasons end this month. March 31 ends night hunting for coyote. Red fox, muskrat, snowshoe hare are huntable through this month until the 31st. The crow hunting season occurs March 1 - 31. The next season to start is salmon season on April 1. So March is the month to get ready.

I use this month to tie up a bunch of trolling streamers to fool the salmon. I also check out all my fishing gear by cleaning and lubing the reels and lines and checking my supply of lures and flies. With the lack of ice this year, there should be plenty of open water for the April 1 opening day. Very different from last year which, if you recall, had virtually no open water on April 1. If you haven't driven through the Bay on April 1, do so this year. You'll be amazed at the number of fisherpeople there.

If you are a fly fisherperson, the World Fly Fishing Expo takes place March 9 and 10 at the Shriners' Auditorium in Wilmington, Massachusetts. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$2 for children. Hours are 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday. This is a great show specializing in fly fishing only. Good deals can be found on all equipment. Plan to spend at least a few hours there. Might see you here!

The story for March then is get out in the warming weather, prepare for next month's fishing, and enjoy Alton's Outdoors.

MOMS IN TOUCH
 By Phyllis Brooks

We are still gathering each Tuesday morning at 11:30 a.m. for prayer. If you wish to attend, please call first (875-2866) because the location does tend to change.

We are really focusing on praying for everyone's health for both students and staff. We have been lifting up our bus drivers too as they face the challenging road conditions.

And we haven't forgotten about the school board who have donated countless hours of their time and energy toward gathering information for this new high school. Thank you for all you are trying to accomplish for our children.

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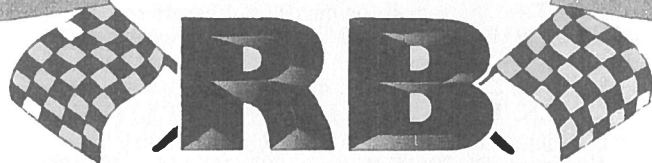
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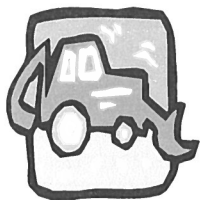
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HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS
By Ken Roberts
Highway Agent

DO YOU GO OUT OR DO YOU STAY HOME?

That is a question which is asked by so many in the winter. It has been an unusual type of year — snow one moment and then the next moment it rains.

We would rather see the snow. Rain on cold roads turns to ice on contact. It if snows first and then turns to rain, we leave the snow on the roads to leave some traction during the raining period. When the rain is over, we scrape and sand all roads. This method has a history of working. So in conclusion, if the weather calls for rain, stay home.

On a brighter note this column will be in the March issue so spring is just around the corner. As always, please call us if you see anything that may be dangerous. This includes pot holes, trees that are down, culverts that may be plugged, anything at all. We will try and correct the problem as soon as possible. Just call 875-6808.

March 13 is Town Meeting. I hope to see you all there to help plan the future of Alton.
Public Safety Is Our Number One Concern

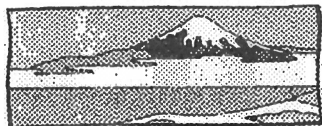
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Effective July 1, 2001 the USDA publicized new guidelines for people to receive surplus foods.

The chart is broken down into household size and then yearly, monthly, and weekly incomes. A household of 2 might have a yearly income of \$21,479 or a monthly, \$1,790 or a weekly, \$414. A family of 4 might have a yearly income of \$32,653 or a monthly income of 2,722, or a weekly income of \$628.

The Alton Community Services Program with their headquarters on Main Street (old American Legion building) is an organization in place to help anyone or a family sort through their difficulties. Call 875-2273 if you need assistance.

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LONG-TERM CARE COORDINATOR

By Toni Quinney, Belknap County Coordinator

Elderly and disabled residents of Belknap County now have access to a free assessment and counseling service right in their own home. The Belknap County Long-Term Care Coordinator is available to help residents and their family members access the education, assessment, and counseling necessary to plan for their long-term care needs. This service gives residents the opportunity to make these difficult choices before reaching a crisis in their lives. To discuss your situation or to make an appointment for a home visit, contact me at 527-5410, Ext. 233. The office is open Monday - Friday.

A POTENTIAL LIFESAVER A DEMONSTRATION

From The NH Wildlife Department

With hypothermia resulting in drowning being a very real threat to our children with the number of ponds, lakes, and rivers in Alton, this might be a good demonstration to help children understand the danger. It will require the following items: a jar or pail large enough to submerge a person's arm up to the elbow, ice, water, and a dime. Place the dime in the bottom of the pail. Fill the pail to the top with ice, add water until the pail is full. Allow the ice to melt so that the dime is literally sitting in ice cold water. Have the child submerge their hand and arm in the pail and hold it there for 15 seconds. Then, ask them to pick up the dime without using their other hand or sliding it up the side of the pail. They won't be able to do it.

This graphically demonstrates the dangers of hypothermia and cold water submersion, a very real peril for the late winter and even early spring adventurer. The average child thinks in terms of warm summer waters when they can swim to safety. They don't understand the effects of cold water submersion and how quickly it can immobilize a person and result in drowning. A few minutes with this demonstration could save a life.

HONORS: MARCHAND, SPENCER, CURRID

Kristina Marchand, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McPhee and the late Richard Marchand, was named to the Dean's List at Lesley College, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Marchand is a senior and majoring in Special Education and Human Development and Family Studies with a minor in Psychology. She is a 1998 graduate of Alton High School.

Sarah Spencer, daughter of Linda Monasky of Alton and Michael Spencer of Binghamton, New York, has achieved Cowles Honor Scholar status. As a member of the Elmira (New York) College Class of '02 Spencer was recognized at the college's Winter Convocation as a student who has maintained a 3.6 cumulative grade point average or higher.

Matthew Currid, formerly of Alton and currently attending Bishop Brady High School, was recently awarded a four-year college scholarship by the United States Navy. The scholarship is based on academics, leadership, and athletic qualifications. Currid will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the fall to study Electrical Engineering.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SUCCESS SKILLS

By Catherine Bond, ACS Career Coordinator

Alton Central School (ACS), joining with the Junior Achievement (JA) program, is offering a mini-course in career/life skills to Grade 9 students. The purpose of JA, a non-profit organization financed by businesses, foundations, and individuals, is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business, and economics in order to improve the quality of their lives. The Success Skills program helps students learn interpersonal skills and problem-solving strategies necessary for the workplace. Jeffrey Kantar, Financial Representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and a resident of Alton, has offered to teach this course as part of the Alton School-to-Work partnership.

Continued from Page 3

the "con" arguments neatly subdivide into two categories: (1) those that deal with design details of the proposed school and the appropriateness of its site, and (2) the considerations involved with joining with another town to build and operate a school to serve both.

Main Street does not have the space for a full discourse on the design details (flat roofs, snow accumulation in the courtyard and only one access point to the site, are the leading examples) or the appropriateness of the site (too far from the center of town and/or too expensive to make the site developable or ameliorate environmental factors such as wetlands, etc.). To these negatives the voter will have to decide whether they warrant a vote to kill the project and start again (with construction cost inflation and time loss for Alton's present school age population), or still leave room for a "yes" to proceed and improve the details by volunteering to serve on the building committee or otherwise making oneself heard during the design process.

Starting With The Deliberative Session

When voters gathered on February 2 to set all the warrants for the school district's written ballot, the most serious discussion soon focused on the proposed new high school. It did not take long for the issue to become one of whether Alton should continue the implementation in partnership with Barnstead or go it alone.

Even after the Deliberative Session the objection most heard to the proposal to build a joint high school with Barnstead deals with what Alton would lose in the way of autonomy and control. A larger school would open up more curriculum offerings and a broader athletic program, but Alton would not have the complete say in determining what it wants to provide for its students. Conventional wisdom is that it would cost more to go it alone. The estimate by the district's professional architect is that the school proposed for 350 students in 1998 at a price of \$8,015,000 would now cost \$11,500,000. There are those who point out, however, that Alton withdrew from a multi-town SAU not that long ago even though it cost more to do so, simply because we thought it was worth it to be in charge.

At the Deliberative Session long-time Alton resident Loring Carr made a motion to pursue building a new school on our own and take in Barnstead students on a tuition basis. The school administration responded that they opened negotiations with Barnstead with this idea, but the Barnstead committee said "no thanks," they would rather have some ownership. The motion failed.

More recently Main Street asked Carr to elaborate on his views of the single town approach. He began with an analogy of how a property owner would not enter into a JMA to build a residence with a neighbor. He cited the pitfalls, many of which are covered in this article. Summarizing his position to go it alone, he pointed out "we keep total control, no 95 percent demand payments, no binding arbitration, no veto power over us, no other town owning half our land and building, no assistant superintendent bills, no stalled teachers' contract negotiations because of overburdening tax bills in another town, and no post bond payments after 20 years to buy out a used building and the land back."

As would be expected, the school administration has a very different view of the accuracy of the above statement. Main Street obviously does not have the space to print each point and counterpoint; we expect that between now and election day readers will be able to follow the issue in the daily and weekly newspapers covering Alton.

The "Pocketbook Issue"

By far the sentiment most heard from persons

Continued to next page



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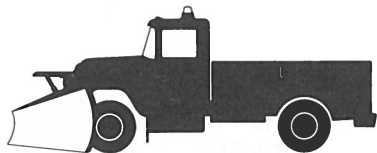
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Continued from previous page

considering voting "no" on the matter is "I can't afford it." The projections of the school tax increase required to finance the bond issue start at 33 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation in 2003, rising to 94 cents in 2004 (the highest year) and then falling off about three cents each year until the final year in 2023 when it would be 38 cents per thousand.

There is no dispute that educating Alton's children is going to cost more in the future. Not only does state law require it, but just about everybody acknowledges that the school board cannot refuse to educate any child who meets the residency requirement. As reported by the town's Code Official, building permits issued each year for new residential construction are remaining relatively constant. Housing starts for the past four years in Alton have consistently been around 60 per year. So far there does not appear to be any end in sight. The Alton Central School, as it stands today, was designed for 500 students, and the 2001-2002 enrollment is 735. The overflow is being accommodated in modular classrooms located outside the main building.

Given the situation that the present physical plant is beyond capacity and additional new students keep showing up, the question boils down to how does Alton provide at least an adequate education to its children while minimizing the financial impact upon the town's taxpayers. The last proposed solution to this question was turned down by the voters in 1998 by a vote of 418 to 673. At that time the tax impact would have been \$1.54 per thousand dollars of assessed evaluation. The voters seemed to be saying to the school board "present us with a less expensive solution," although there were undoubtedly other reasons as well.

The school board and its various committees that have been working on this since 1998 have brought forth what they believe to be an affordable course of action. They feel they are being very responsive to what they have learned from the numerous exit polls that they have conducted. To lessen the price to Alton taxpayers, they sought and have obtained voter approval of a cost sharing plan with the Town of Barnstead. While lessening the price tag, however, the inclusion of another town has raised a new and different set of concerns that are giving some potential voters reasons to say "let's not."

But before going to those concerns, the basic question of "affordability" still dangles. There is a large body of opinion in town that points to the property revaluation just completed where increases as high as 71 percent have been experienced by some property owners. On the other hand, it has been pointed out that those who saw their valuation increase no more than 25 percent are actually experiencing a tax decrease this year.

Taxpayers say with respect to a school tax increase "ow," and "why now?" The "ow" is self evident and the only discussion is how loud the "ow" should be. The "why now" is not much more complicated — if it's not now, the "ow" will only be that much more painful for every year of postponement in the view of the proponents. "This is the best deal we're going to get," they say, "and we best take it before things get worse." The opponents look at their family finances for next year and thereafter and remain steadfast that "we can't afford it."

Are There Cheaper Alternatives?

Since the quest for more school space began, there has been the incentive to find the least cost solution. Early public forums held to obtain the views of affected parties brought forth a multitude of suggestions to expand on the present site. Some wanted to grow upwards while others suggested buying adjacent properties, even as far as down to the fire station. Even if all property owners were willing to sell — and this is a BIG if — a rough estimate is that the cost would be around

\$2 million before any site development was figured in.

Expanding vertically is even trickier because only a small portion of the existing building would support an additional floor. Compounding the implementation is that the upward expansion would take longer than the summer recess and carrying out construction of this nature on top of active classrooms is simply not done.

How About Sending Our Overflow Elsewhere?

A less frequently heard idea to avoid major expansion costs for Alton is to send the students that we cannot fit in our accommodations to other school districts. Alton's School Superintendent estimates that even if we could find schools with a capacity and willingness to accept our students (which other districts are finding increasingly difficult to do), we would be paying a tuition of around \$10,500 per student and in 2003 there would be 228 students to be sent elsewhere. That amounts to \$2,394,000 for tuition and probably \$100,000 for transportation, or a total of \$2,494,000. Superintendent Parks says it would cost \$2,200,000 to educate them here while not subjecting Alton to the varying whims of other districts.

Other Financial Considerations

An issue that remains alive even after the approval of the Joint Maintenance Agreement (JMA) with Barnstead is what happens in the case of a default budget becoming effective. The JMA requires that the joint high school still be funded at 95 percent of its approved budget and critics say that amount would likely be made up by taking it from the monies originally designated for grades K - 8. The Alton administration counters that it does not automatically follow that K - 8 would be shortchanged; the school board would re-examine their total budget for reductions that would least impact the education program.

An additional financial consideration surrounds what would happen if Barnstead chose to withdraw from the JMA before the 20-year bond issue is retired. Alton would be faced with buying out Barnstead's share of an aged high school at the original bond price. One questioner also asks what happens to the 40 percent State reimbursement in this case; would Alton be required to pay back the 10 percent "bonus" granted joint schools? The official reply is that each district would not have to pay back the 10 percent extra aid, but from that point on the state aid would drop to 30 percent.

The school administration goes on to point out that with respect to buying out the other's share of a used building "the JMA contains language that allows for an unbiased and fair appraisal of the building taking into consideration its value at the time of sale."

A very different economic matter that would be difficult to discern in the balance books would be the subtle impact a school shared with another town would have on Alton's overall infrastructure costs (police, fire, highway, etc.). An example would be that a larger school might require more attention by the Alton Police Department, and that cost is not likely to be offset by any contribution from Barnstead.

So, Is It To Be Or Not To Be?

On that question those who go to the polls on March 12 can find reasons (above) that will back their choice to vote either yes or no. If one accepts the premise that there is no way to duck out of paying more to educate Alton's youngsters over the next few years, the choice becomes one of how much will the increase be. The Alton School Board maintains that it has come up with a course that responds to the community's wishes at a reasonable cost. Those that do not agree say it would be better to pursue other alternatives. In the meantime the school bell will not stop ringing.

**Vote Yes or Vote No
But VOTE!**



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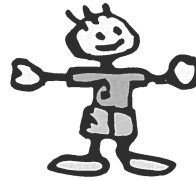
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FOR THE FUN OF IT
By Kellie M. Troendle, CPRP
Parks and Recreation Director

OUR MARCH PROGRAM

The Parks and Recreation Department will really be hitting our stride in March with lots of programs designed to be of interest to all ages. If more information is needed on any of the following, please call 875-0109.

Lottery Bingo

Friday, March 15, at the Pearson Road Community Center from 1 - 3 p.m. The program is free to Alton Senior Citizens. Play ten novelty games, prizes awarded for each game, and there will be door prizes. Refreshments will also be served.

Pre-School Programs

Programs are designed for children 3 - 5 years of age and are held at the Alton Bay Community Center from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Program fee is \$3 per day. Programs are limited to eight participants, so please register early.

Luck of the Irish — March 13. Be green for the day and join in the fun on this lucky day. A Leprechaun has hidden gold and silver coins for you to find on a treasure hunt. Program includes a St. Patrick's Day craft, cooperative games, and festive snack. Register before March 8.

Egg Hop — March 27. Participants will take part in an egg hunt, play cooperative games, and make an Easter craft project. Snack included. Register before March 15.

Country Line Dancing Lessons

Lessons for adults of all ages are held every Thursday at the Alton Bay Community Center from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Learn new dances every week. Meet new people and exercise by dancing. Beginners are welcome. Program fee is \$3 for the winter season. Lessons will not be held in inclement weather. Call 875-0109 for more information.

It's Egg Hunt Time Again

Egg Hunt — For Ages 3 - 8. Join in this annual, exciting event. Participants will hunt for hidden eggs filled with surprises around the park. The Egg Hunt will be held at Jones Field on Saturday, March 30; please wear boots if there is snow on the ground. In case it is raining or snowing on the day of the event, the Egg Hunt will be held at the Alton Bay Community Center. Call 875-0109 to verify the location if you are not sure. Please arrive at the event location at the following time: Ages 3 and 4 at 10 a.m.; ages 5 and 6 at 10:30 a.m., and ages 7 and 8 at 11 a.m. The program is free for Alton children. Volunteers are needed; please call Kellie at 875-0109 to help.

Alton Bay Community Center Rental

The Alton Bay Community Center is available for rent for private parties, meetings, and functions. The center has a large meeting room, full kitchen, restrooms and a beautiful view of Lake Winnepesaukee. Call 875-0109 for rental information.

Thank You To Arthur DiVito

I would like to recognize and thank Arthur DiVito of our staff for his hard work, creative ideas, and positive contributions in making the town buildings and parks looking great. Arthur is an asset to our department and appreciated very much.

HONEST, HARD-WORKING MOM

**Wants To Clean Your Home or Office
During the Day. Reasonable Rates.
References Available.**

875-2866

CLASSIFIED ADS

Alton residents may place classified ads in any issue of Main Street. As a public service ads are primarily for *noncommercial* private individuals who have items for sale (except real estate for sale or rent), items or services wanted, free items, personals, or help wanted notices. The rate is \$1 for each noncommercial ad of 35 words or less. Each additional 35 words costs \$1. (There is no charge for "Cards of Thanks" or ads under the "Free" and "Ride Sharing" classifications.) The rate for commercial ads is \$12.50 per column inch. Main Street reserves the right to refuse any ad, or edit it for length/style. Ads must be submitted with payment to Post Office Box 210, Alton Bay 03810, by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Submissions may also be placed in the Main Street box at the Alton branch of the Bank of New Hampshire. Ads **must** contain a phone number.

FOR SALE

1997 FORD CONTOUR, auto transmission, air, power door locks, cruise control, AM/FM cassette, antilock brakes, \$3,750. 875-0033.

CHICKERING PIANO, tuned regularly, 13 years old, \$1,000 or BO. 875-5242.

1988 CROWN VIC, runs good, 157K, \$300 or BO. 875-2866.

ARTLEY FLUTE, excellent condition, \$200. 875-5242.

DRESSER AND CHEST OF DRAWERS, dresser large with mirror, Rock Maple, no bed, excellent condition, \$175 or BO. 364-6226.

WANTED

WANT TO RENT HOME, professional couple with children seek to rent large comfortable home, not seasonal rental, reply by phone or fax to 875-7740 or P. O. Box 1621, Alton, NH 03809.

WORK WANTED, retired man looking for part-time or full-time work, snow removal or general maintenance. 364-1998.

BOAT SLIP on Winnepesaukee, Alton-Gilford area, for 24-foot boat. 875-3670.

BOAT SLIP, Winnepesaukee, Alton Bay area, for a 22-foot boat. 875-7432.

WILLING TO ADOPT cockatiels and small parrots to good homes; (have three homes at this time willing to adopt); can be reached by my cell phone @Connie. 387-9427.

LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Program is open to all age 60 and older. Meals served Monday-Friday, 12 noon. Suggested \$2 donation. 875-7102.

March 1: Fri., BBQ Riblet.

March 4 - 8: Mon., Stuffed Peppers; Tue., Chicken Cordon Bleu; Wed., Macaroni & Cheese; Thu., Veal Roulade/Gravy; Fri., Baked Meat Loaf/Onion Gravy.

March 11 - 15: Mon., Sliced Ham/Sauce or Chicken; Tue., Tuna Casserole; Wed., Roast Turkey/Gravy; Thu., Chicken Filet; Fri., Corned Beef or Baked Fish.

March 18 - 22: Mon., Beef Stew; Tue., Pub Burger/Mushrooms; Wed., BBQ Chicken; Thu., American Chop Suey; Fri., Pork Roast/Onion Gravy.

March 25 - 29: Mon., Breaded Veal Cutlet/Gravy; Tue., Chicken ala King; Wed., BBQ Riblet; Thu., Stuffed Shells/Meat Sauce; Fri., Creamed Chipped Beef or Turkey.

NEW DURHAM ALTON FARMINGTON

JOE GOODROW'S RUBBISH REMOVAL

875-4488

235 STOCKBRIDGE CORNER ROAD
ALTON, NH 03809

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to thank the Alton Fire Department for their prompt assistance during my recent emergency. It is truly comforting to know that we have such professional and dedicated men and women in our town fire department. Thank you again.

/a/Gene Rogers

IN Main Street FIFTEEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Voters at Town Meeting approved a bond issue article to erect a new building to house the Police Department . . . a bond issue article for alterations and additions to the Alton Central School was approved at the Annual School District Meeting . . . Pat Merrill and Russell Jones were elected to the Board of Selectmen and William Moore was elected its chairman . . . plans for a Vietnam Monument were begun by American Legion Post 72 . . . the Apache Players presented two one-act comedies, *Who Am I This Time?* and *Baby* . . . Dorothy Bristol was appointed Director of Special Needs at Alton Central School.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Alton voters were to vote on 16 Warrant Articles including repair of the underwater electric cable to the bandstand in Alton Bay . . . 35 candidates were vying for 22 offices in the town and school elections . . . Jill Dunham won the local award in the Alton/Alton Bay Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Voice of Democracy contest . . . the Alton Volunteer Ambulance Service advised the community they had no intention of disbanding their service even though the deaths of the founders, Leo and Marion MacDonald, had left them shorthanded during the daytime . . . the Alton Junior Apache Players were presenting the play *The Day the Cat Jumped* . . . Blue ribbons were awarded to Tanya Witherbee for two works entered in the *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards competition.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Town Meeting would address 36 Warrant Articles . . . Alton Central School received the Blue Ribbon Achievement Award from the NH Partners in Education for school volunteerism . . . Dan Moulton, Grade 8, Alton Central School, was declared the winner of the Middle School Spelling Bee with Becky Spencer, Grade 6, first runner-up; other classroom champs were Katie Boles (8C), Emily Sydow (8A), James Borelli (7B), Greg Gatton (7A), Gina Teolis (7C), Nick Hallin (6C), and Josh Kern (6D) . . . Main Street reinstated sponsorship of Candidates' Night to give Alton voters the opportunity to get answers from those running for office.

IS YOUR LIFE OUT OF CONTROL?



DO YOU FEEL:

*Pressured? *Worried? *Depressed? *Goals Missed? *Sick?

WE CAN HELP YOU:

SIGN-UP FOR OUR NEXT "RELAXATION RESPONSE" CLASS!
THREE NIGHTS 3/11, 18, 25TH*6:30-8:00PM*CALL TO REGISTER.

Holistic Health Journey Alton Bay Phone: 603-875-8221

BAY CHURCH SPECIAL SERVICES**By Bob Hett, Pastor**

The Bay Church will remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the following special services on March 28 - 31.

On March 28 the church family will gather in the Lombard Center Dining Hall of the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center for a "pot-faith" supper followed by the traditional Maundy Thursday Communion Service.

On Good Friday the choir, under the direction of Rev. John Fogell, Associate Pastor, will present Joe E. Parks' seasonal rendition of "Alive!" (see story right).

Saturday evening at 7 p.m. the Chapel will be open for prayer for those who are in eager anticipation of the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Sunday morning.

Resurrection Day will begin with the traditional Sunrise Service in the Chapel, hosted by the Bay Church. Rev. Peter Bolster of the Community Church of Alton will be the speaker.

A breakfast in Lombard Dining Hall is planned

EASTER CANTATA AT BAY CHURCH

You are invited to attend a special Easter Cantata at the Bay Church in Alton Bay on Friday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. directed by Associate Pastor John Fogell. The Cantata, "Alive!" takes you through some of the important events of Christ's passion, from the triumphal march into Jerusalem to the resurrection. Through these songs and narrations you will witness the tender moments in the Upper Room, see Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, catch glimpses of the cross, and behold the empty tomb.

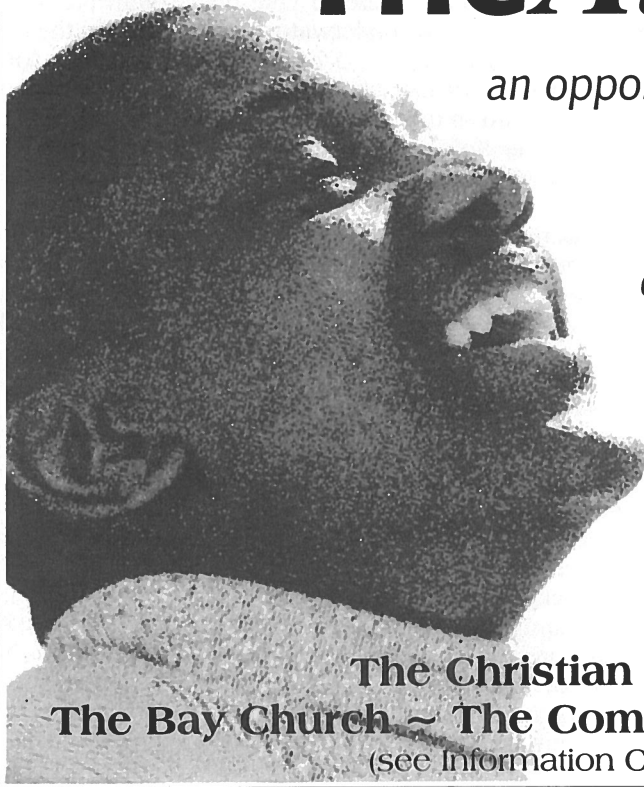
Come and listen to this exciting work; it will help you look past the world's vision of Easter and see for yourself that Jesus is Alive! For more information call 875-2245.

immediately following the Sunrise Service. Sunday School for students of all ages, nursery through senior adults, will be held at 9:30 a.m. followed by Resurrection Day Worship at 10:45 a.m. My message will be on "With Eternity in View."

For further information about these special services or the weekly events of the Bay Church, call 875-6765.

The Alpha course

an opportunity to explore the meaning of life



Our churches invite you to join us.

*The course starts Tuesday, April 2, 2002
6:30PM with dinner & child care provided.*

For details call:

875-5561 ~ 293-7928 ~ 875-5418



Alpha

The Christian Churches of Alton

The Bay Church ~ The Community Church ~ St. Joan of Arc

(see Information Center for worship times)



Main Street

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