



Main Street

A Monthly Newsmagazine

Volume XIX Number 1

Alton, New Hampshire - January, 2003

Complimentary

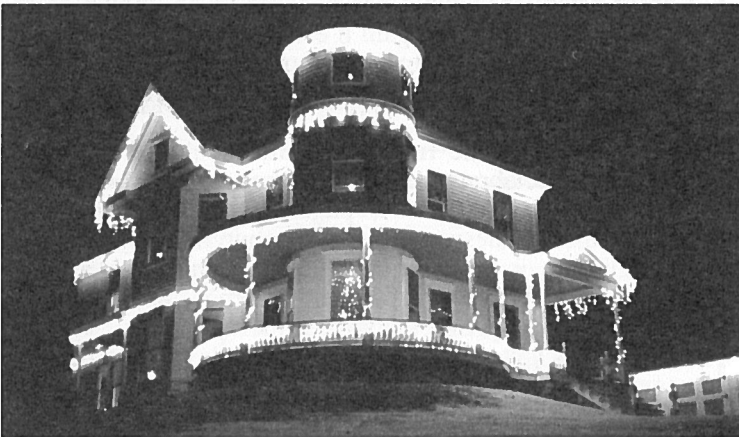
AS THE YEARS GO BY . . .



PAST:

**THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND
DID NOT HAVE UNIFORMS**

See update on page 9



PRESENT:

LIGHT-UP NIGHT A SUCCESS

See story on page 5



WEST ELEVATION

FUTURE:

**PROSPECT MOUNTAIN
HIGH SCHOOL TO OPEN**

See forecast on page 8



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by

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REMEMBERING

By Steve McMahon, Alton Bay Proprietor

Connie Melchionna passed away on November 27. For those who don't know, Connie and her husband Al owned the Blue Jay in Alton Bay.

It was purchased from Elmer LeBlanc in 1963. When they first opened, it was a luncheonette also selling subs and homemade doughnuts. The space included what the Alton Bay Post Office now occupies. They added the mini golf course and arcade, and people knew and anticipated its opening up each spring because that meant summer was just around the corner.

Sadly Connie's husband, Al, passed away in June 1989 on the golf course, but Connie and her daughter, Phyllis, continued on, although on a smaller scale. Connie will be sadly missed by many who frequented the Blue Jay over the last 38 years. Phyllis and her husband, Marty, plus her daughter and son-in-law, will continue to run the arcade and golf course for the future.



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**CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR
THROUGHOUT THE AGES**

By Joe Harris, Main Street Staff
Writer



As we share "Happy New Year" greetings with family and friends in the first days of January, some of us might like also to be aware that it hasn't always been the way that we are now doing it in the beginning of the 21st century. Strange as it may seem, New Year's Day hasn't always been celebrated on January 1.

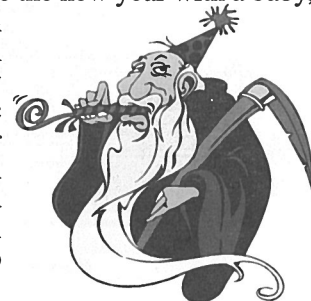
The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. The ancient Babylonians were the first to observe the day more than 4,000 years ago. Around 2,000 years later they celebrated the official beginning of a new year on March 23, although their society had no formal written calendar. The end of March was a logical choice for the beginning of a new year, as it is the time when spring begins and new crops are planted. When you stop to think about it, January 1 has no astronomical or agricultural significance — it is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for 11 days, with each day having its own particular mode of celebration.

The Romans continued to observe the new year on March 25, but their calendar was constantly tampered with by a succession of emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman Senate declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year in 153 BC. But constant tinkering with the calendar continued until 46 BC, when Julius Caesar established what has become to be known as the Julian calendar. Once again it established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, the Romans had to let the previous year drag on for 455 days!

Although in the first few centuries AD the Romans continued to celebrate the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrent with many of the pagan celebrations. During the Middle Ages the Church officially continued to oppose celebrating the new year. Western civilizations have only observed the holiday for the past 400 years.

The tradition of using a baby to symbolize the new year began in Greece around 600 BC. It was the tradition of that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of the god as the spirit of fertility. The ancient Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

Although the early Christian Church denounced the practice as pagan, the popularity of a baby as a symbol of rebirth forced the Church to reevaluate its position, eventually allowing its members to celebrate the new year with a baby, which was to symbolize the birth of the baby Jesus. The use of an image of a baby with a New Year's banner as a symbolic representation of the new year was brought to the American colonies by the Germans, who had used the effigy since the 14th century and has come to symbolize the New Year since.





Main Street's Inside Front Page

YOUTH ACTIVITIES GET A BOOST

By Dick Wallace, CYA Chairman

On page 22 of this issue of Main Street readers will notice something that they have not seen before. It is the first issue of a Community Youth Activities (CYA) calendar. Alton residents may be interested to know how it came about. In February of last year I was appointed to the Belknap County Citizens Council for Children and Families. The council's mission is to "Promote community justice within the communities of Belknap County so that children and families can live safely with dignity and respect."

My initial step was to introduce the council to the Alton Selectmen. Following this presentation I met with several people who would help me develop a sense of community issues that might benefit from my advocacy. The feeling was the effort should begin with a focus on developing a community youth center and additional activities for Alton's younger citizens. In June I established the non-profit Community Youth Activities (CYA) committee, a small but dedicated group of Alton citizens. The first CYA activity was a successful teen dance held in August. The Alton Community Forum held in November provided further support for our CYA work.

As the CYA began to plan additional activities for the town's youth, we saw that we had a need to know about the youth opportunities provided by other organizations and then support these other groups so as to effectively schedule CYA events. From that need the idea evolved of sharing our work by publishing a youth calendar listing all youth activities. A consolidation of youth activities would be a convenience to both parents and youth by highlighting in one place the many activities offered. Our hope is that the calendar will encourage our young people to participate in activities designed for them while also supplementing the provider's normal community notification process — a win-win situation. The CYA plans to publish the monthly calendar in Main Street on a continuing basis. We also intend to keep the community informed about our efforts to facilitate a center for youth.

The CYA would really appreciate community feedback about our work. Please call me at 875-8221 with any questions and comments. Finally, we thank Main Street for their support of our efforts.

CHURCHES OFFER SERVICES

The Week of Christian Unity will be observed by the churches of Alton with a special service at the St. Joan of Arc Rectory (in their newly-renovated basement sanctuary) on Sunday, January 19, at 6 p.m.

The pastors and lay people of all three congregations in town (St. Joan of Arc, the Bay Church, and the Community Church of Alton) will be participating.

On the following Sunday, January 26, the churches will once again initiate an ALPHA Course to be held at the new Community Church of Alton Fellowship Hall on Church Street. Tentative time for the kick-off supper is 6 p.m. Contact any of the three parishes (see Main Street's Information Center) for further information about this ten-week course in basic Christianity.



NEW CHURCH TO RISE

Last month the parishes of St. Joan of Arc in Alton and St. Cecilia in Wolfeboro were informed that Bishop McCormack had signed a purchase and sales agreement for 12 acres of land on the west side of Route 28 just north of its intersection with Route 28A. A new combined parish, still to be named, will erect their church "high on the hill overlooking Route 28" such that it will be "prominently visible in both directions," as stated in the pastor's letter of December 8.

17TH ANNUAL ICE-OUT CONTEST DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28

For the 17th year, Main Street is giving you the opportunity to win a prize still to be determined.

This is an annual contest won by the person who comes closest to the date of "ice-out" in Lake Winnepesaukee as decided by the official ice watchers around the "Big Lake." Last year "ice-out" occurred at 5:30 a.m. on Friday, April 5. The earliest date was March 28, 1921, and the latest, May 12, 1888, the first year there was an organized contest. Records date from 1887.

"Ice-out" is defined as that moment when the M/S Mt. Washington can reach each of its ports unobstructed by ice. A group of local residents who are considered experts in the art of ice watching, supplemented by observations from aircraft, pinpoints the exact date and time when the last large section of ice disappears from Lake Winnepesaukee.

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 28 and participation is limited to Alton residents and subscribers to Main Street with only one entry per household/address.

ICE-OUT ENTRY FORM

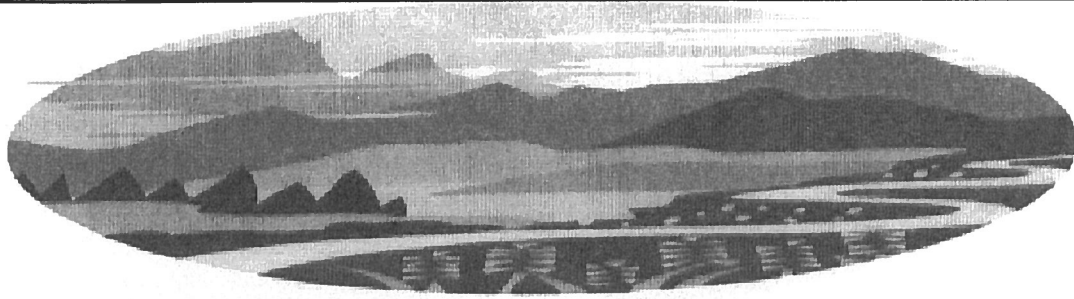
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) ____ - _____

I predict "ice-out" will occur on:
_____ at _____ a.m. or p.m.
(date) (time) (circle one)

Mail this completed entry form by February 28 to:
P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay 03810



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MARCH 2003 ELECTIONS

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The annual town ballot election is Tuesday, March 11, from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Alton Central Fire Station. If you wish to run for either a town or school office, you must file at the Town Clerk's Office from January 22 - 31 during the regular business hours. On January 31 we will remain open until 5 p.m. There is a \$1 filing fee for any office receiving compensation.

Absentee ballot applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Remember, to file for an office or to receive an absentee ballot you **MUST** be a registered voter. If you are not registered yet, you may fill out the Voter Registration Card until January 21 in the Town Clerk's Office from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Or you can meet with the Supervisors of the Checklist on January 21 from 7 - 8 p.m. at Town Hall, Depot Street entrance.

As always you must present a photo ID and proof of your physical address in Alton, such as a utility, electric, or cable bill which shows your name and street/road on which you live. A P. O. Box is not a physical address.

The offices to be filled in the March election (and the name of the present holder of that office) are as follows:

Town Elections

- One Selectman for 3 years (Stephan McMahon)
- One Town Clerk for 3 years (Lisa Waterman)
- One Tax Collector for 3 years (Anne Kroeger)
- One Treasurer for 3 years (Patricia Palmer)
- One Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years (Muriel Stinson)
- One Highway Agent for 3 years (Kenneth Roberts)
- One Library Trustee for 3 years (Nancy Jordan)
- One Fire Ward for 3 years (Russell Sample, Jr.)

- One Fire Ward for 1 year (George Murphy)
- One Cemetery Trustee for 3 years (Shirley Lane)
- One Water Commissioner for 3 years (Edward Peterson)
- Three Budget Committee Members for 3 years (Ruth Messier, Laurie Boyce, Cydney Johnson)
- Two Budget Committee Members for 2 years (Donald Mitchell, Nina Chambers)
- One Budget Committee Member for 1 year (Bradley Smith)
- Two Planning Board Members for 3 years (Thomas Varney, Donn Brock)
- One Supervisor of the Checklist for 1 year (vacancy)

School District Elections

- One School Moderator for 1 year (vacancy)
 - One School Clerk for 1 year (vacancy)
 - One School Treasurer for 1 year (Shirley Young)
 - Two School Board Members for 3 years (Wayne Fraser, Joyce Hopper)
 - One School Board Member for 1 year (Terri Noyes)
- The School District Deliberative Session will be held on February 1 at 1 p.m. at the Alton Central School. The snow date will be February 8.

ALL NIGHT PARKING BAN

IN EFFECT THROUGH APRIL 1

According to a town ordinance, motor vehicles or trailers are not permitted to be parked or stopped on any highway in Alton between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. from November 15 through April 1, or at any other time during snow storms when snow removal maintenance is being performed.

The fine is \$10, and vehicles in violation of this ordinance may be towed away at the owner's expense.



LIGHT UP NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS

By Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

The Town of Alton sponsored its annual "Light Up Night" on December 7. Santa made a special guest appearance at the Gilman Library and greeted all of the boys and girls. The Bay Church Ensemble entertained the spectators at the Community Church of Alton (Main Street) and also led the holiday caroling with wonderful, festive music. The Community Church of Alton sponsored the refreshments and holiday atmosphere. Seasonal displays were also at the Gilman Museum and Alton Town Hall. Santa lit the holiday tree at Ginny Douglas Park at 7 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the community for participating in the holiday celebration. A special thank you goes to the New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (see page 23 for a letter of thanks); our anonymous donor for the lights that are now on the tree; Alton Garden Club for decorating the Ginny Douglas Park gazebo and town buildings; Fire and Rescue Department for transporting Santa on their fire truck; Tim Kinnon, Gerry Theodora, and John Bishop for providing electric service at the park and Fran Washburn, Maureen Parker, and Pat Rockwood for organizing the teddy bear and antique doll tea party at the Alton Town Hall.

It was a most successful event for the town. Happy New Year to everyone from our department.

JAIME SANBORN DEPLOYED OVERSEAS

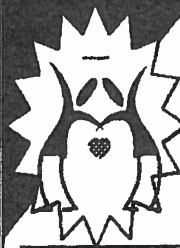
Airman Jaime L. Sanborn, stationed aboard the USS Harry S. Truman, was deployed on December 5 for Bahrain. She will be overseas until June 2003. Anyone wanting to wish her well or send new year greetings can contact her at:

Airman Sanborn, Jaime L.
USS Harry S. Truman @CVN 75 Box 0078
FPO AE 09524-0078.

In keeping with Main Street policy, a complimentary subscription is being sent to her while she is deployed overseas. A thank you for the December issue from her also said "Merry Christmas to my friends and those I love. Wish we were around to hug each other. So instead I send this letter in hopes it will make things better!!!"

Editors' note: For a more recent and fuller report on Jamie's days at sea, see her article on page 17.

The board and staff of Main Street would like to do the same for any Alton resident in the military while he/she is on active duty overseas. Please contact us by phone or mail with the name and address and a little background so we can provide the same service as Jaime Sanborn is getting.



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Meg Jones- Program Director

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~YOGA~

NEW!!

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Drop-ins ok. Jump in anytime.

~ Ladies Light Weight Workout ~

Weds. 7:00pm-7:40pm. \$5.00/class.

Real women working together!

Drop-ins ok. Jump in anytime.

~ CLUB ROOM DANCE SCHEDULE ~

Friday 1/10/03...grade 5 and 6

Friday 1/17/03...grade 7 and 8

Club Room Available for parties!

Full sound system and lighting effects!

~ KIN~DER~KARA~TE! ~

~ For 5 year olds ~ What a KICK it's been!

New Class ADDED: Weds: 5:30-6:30

\$50.00 / session. 5 week session begins
1/8/03. Space available, but fills quickly.

~ KARATE ~ New Year Special!

NEW STUDENTS!

\$10.00 OFF FIRST MONTH

AND \$10.00 off uniform with first
month. \$20.00 savings! Good 3/1/03

MOUNT MAJOR SNOWMOBILE CLUB

By Joanne Shibley, Club Secretary

Our youth safety class, held in December under the instruction of Virginia Bergeron, went very well. There were 23 children and six adults present. Many thanks to Virginia and the club members who assisted her.

A \$50 membership donation was approved from the club to the New Hampshire Snowmobile museum. Efforts are continuing to reopen closed portions of Trail 22. The club has been approved by the NHSA (NH Snowmobile Association) for the following Grant + Aid — Two Reimbursements: up to \$4,150.90 for grooming expenses and up to \$3,100 for future improvements along Trail 'D'.

Future Events

Ride-In: This will be on Saturday, January 11, starting at 10 a.m. from Bob Bergeron's house on Route 140. There will be numerous snowmobilers riding in groups. This is a good event if you are unfamiliar with our trail system. Come and let us show you around. There is limited parking space available if you need to bring your machines on a trailer.

Poker Run: This will take place on Sunday, January 12. The run starts and ends at the Alton Bay Community Center. It will start at 10 a.m. and run until 2:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded at 2:30 p.m. If you would like to help, please come. If you would like to donate an item to be used as a prize, please call or e-mail us (see the Schedule on the Information Center, page 13).

We are going to try running a free classified section for our members on our web-site. If you have an item you wish to sell, e-mail us the details, and it will be placed on the site.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14, at 7 p.m. at the JP China Restaurant, Alton Bay.

ALTON/NEW DURHAM LIONS CLUB

Over 40 members and guests attended the Thanksgiving meeting in November at the American Legion. The turkey raffle winners were drawn and the New Durham Station Restaurant graciously stored the turkeys and allowed the winners to pick them up there. The winners were: Dick Flemming, Jean Sheusi, John Irving, MacDonald from New Durham, Kay O'Keefe, Jill Warner, Brooks from New Durham, Gordon Campbell, and Nancy Hussey. Winners were contacted by telephone. The Lions Club thanks everyone for their generous support in making the raffle a huge success. In December plans for participating in the Winter Festival on Alton Bay were discussed and will be finalized at the January 16 meeting. Anyone interested in joining this community-orientated group, contact Lion Steve at 875-3117.

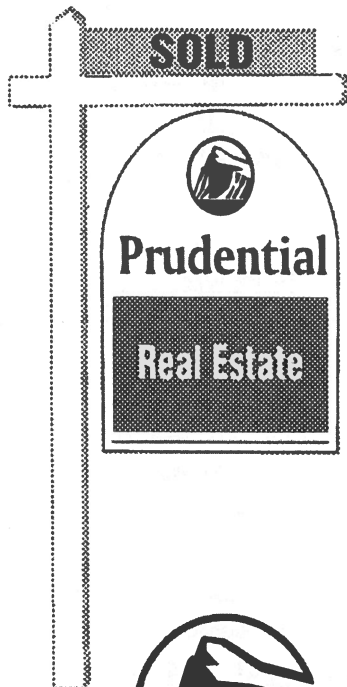
CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Club will be sponsoring a "In Joying the New Year" Luncheon on Wednesday, January 15, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Conference Center on Route 11 in Alton Bay.

The Special Feature is "Singing in the New Year" with Denise Gordon from Strafford. She will harmonize her music 'n comedy with us. "Bringing in the New Year" will be presented by the Special Speaker, Joan Hutchins from Hampton, who will share her secret of joy in all seasons.

Reservations for the lunch and the available complimentary nursery may be made by calling: in Alton, Melissa at 776-2224 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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TO PROTECT AND SERVE
 By Detective-Corporal Ed Correia
 Alton Police Department

POLICE EXPLORERS A REAL POSSIBILITY

My column in last month's Main Street spoke about the possibility of a Police Explorer post being implemented at the Alton Police Department. There were a sufficient number of calls after that for me to proceed to the next step. On Monday, January 20, at 7 p.m. there will be an informational meeting at the Alton Central School. This is open to anyone ages 14 through 21 and their parents. We will use this forum to determine if the police department should move forward in establishing a Police Explorer post. Refreshments will be served.

The Police Explorer program is a way for young people between the ages of 14 and 21 to learn about the police and other law enforcement related careers. Participants meet on a regular basis and become acquainted with such topics as search and seizure, laws of arrest, building searches, practical firearms training, defensive tactics, crime scene investigations, and much more. We are interested in hearing from people between the ages of 14 and 21 who live in Alton or any of its surrounding communities who may be interested in being part of a Police Explorer program. If you might be interested, please contact me at 875-0757 or 875-0368.

Police K-9 Graduates with Flying Colors

Sgt. Chuck Anderson and his sidekick K-9, Rom (note his commanding presence in the accompanying photo), have graduated from the prestigious Boston Police K-9 Academy. This was an extremely intensive 14-week training program conducted in Boston. Sgt. Anderson said: "This was probably one of the most challenging schools I have ever attended, but it was also the most rewarding." Rom is now a certified police dog and tracker. One of the biggest difficulties with this type of school is that the officer is not only responsible for learning his part of the material, but also that of his K-9. Congratulations to Sgt. Anderson and Rom for a job well done.



A New Addition To Alton's PD

The Alton Police Department would like to welcome Officer Todd MacDougall to the ranks of our highly esteemed APD. He comes to us from the Rochester area. Todd holds a degree in criminal justice. He is married and has a son.

INDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION

Lakes Region Soccer Club is having its annual recreation indoor league. All games are played on Sunday afternoons beginning on January 19 and continuing through March 16. The starting time is 1 p.m. The age groups are U8 (ages 6 and 7), U10, U12, U14, U16, and U18. All games will be played in school gyms in Wolfeboro or Wakefield.

The registration dates and times are: Thursday, January 9, from 6 - 7 p.m. and Saturday, January 11, from 9 - 10 a.m. The place is the Alton Central School in the front lobby. What you need to bring is a copy of the birth certificate, a Social Security number, and \$25 (checks payable to LRSC).

For more information call Pete Clifford at 875-1533 x307 or Terry Stamp at 569-1810. Volunteers are needed for team parents and assistant coaches.

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MASSAGE WORKSHOPS

To be held at Alton Dance Academy!

For Health and Balance to present two interactive workshops.

Partners Massage on January 25
 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm
 and
Sports Massage For Your Children
 on January 26 from 1 to 3 pm,

For more information
 check out the website.
www.forhealthandbalance.com

or call Alton Dance Academy at
 875-DNCE (3623)
 Space Limited - register now!

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK
By Donald E. Parks
Superintendent of Schools



BUSY TIMES AHEAD

The next six months of the 2002-2003 school year will be very busy. The Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on the school budget on Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m. (snow date the 18th). The Alton School Board will hold its deliberative session on Saturday, February 1, (snow date the 8th), and the Town/School Election Day vote will take place on Tuesday, March 11. The recruitment of new teachers for Alton Central School will start with advertisements on March 1. It is anticipated there will be three to four openings due to retirements, resignations, and the creation of 2.8 new positions. With respect to Prospect Mountain High School, the search process for the new principal will start in earnest in early January and will conclude around April 1.

It is estimated construction for the new high school will start around March 1, or earlier weather permitting, given the bids are within the allotted budget. The construction process will involve clear cutting the lot and then building the road for access to the site for the delivery of materials, concrete trucks, steel, block, and bricks.

The JMA School Board will have to make a decision on SAU services this spring for the ensuing school year(s). SAU #72 was hired for only one year. There could be a change in SAU services on July 1, depending upon what decision is made by the JMA School Board.

The new Prospect Mountain High School will be an energy efficient school and a cost effective building and will provide a healthy learning environment for the students. The Superintendent of Schools and the architect met with

representatives from New Hampshire Electric Cooperative to discuss the installation of energy efficient electrical motors to run circulating pumps and other systems in the building. These energy efficient items will be part of the specifications, and the district will be eligible for rebates. The building will have a southern exposure to maximize natural light and heat from the sun. A lot of natural light will be used in the building via skylights and windows. The heating and air circulation will be efficient and will utilize the latest technology available. There will be a Digital Control System operated through a computer to control heat and air flow. The building will be constructed with steel, block, and brick and will be installed thoroughly insulated to minimize energy use.

It will be exciting to witness the clearing of the land, building of the road, and the erection of the steel, and the laying of the block, brick, and mortar. A dream will become a reality in about 18 months.

ELECTION OF VNA/HOSPICE OFFICERS

The VNA/Hospice of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity elected officers for the coming year. They are: David Booth, President; Alice Z. Calvert, Vice-President; Harvey Widman, Secretary; and Peter Alden, Treasurer.

SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY?

After a night of stormy weather there is only one way to find out if the kids have to be bundled up and put out the door to go to school. The *official* school closing announcements for Alton Central School are broadcast over radio stations WASR (1420AM), WEVO (89.1FM), WOKQ (97.5FM), WLNH (98.3FM), WNNH (99.1FM), WKXL (102.3 & 107.7FM), WLKZ (104.9FM), and scrolled across the bottom of the screen on WMUR-TV (Channel 9).

Do your kids think getting down the chimney is the miracle of Christmas?



*Children should know
there's more than one reason
to celebrate Christmas.*

*This year, introduce them
to the real meaning
of the Holiday season,*

*and let Jesus
give Santa Claus
a little competition.*

The Christian Churches of Alton
The Bay Church ~ The Community Church ~ St. Joan of Arc
 (see Information Center for worship times)

A VERY PRODUCTIVE COMMUNITY FORUM

By Pat Fuller, Chairman, Forum Steering Committee

Thank you to everyone who participated in the community forum held this past November 19. The Town of Alton showed that it is a community that cares about its youth! About 50 people participated by sharing ideas and concerns about the town's assets and challenges when dealing with the problems facing our teenagers today.

All facets of our community were represented: teachers, school administrators, churches, town government, state government, police department, fire department (in spirit, they had to leave early for a fire call), and the students. Among all the Belknap County towns we had the highest turnout of young people; they deserve a big THANK YOU!

I would also like to thank the steering committee for their hard work: Pastor Bob Hett, Pastor Peter Bolster, Russ Holden, Terese Hopper, Pattie Lee Loynd, Kellie Troendle, and Dick Wallace. Dick and I also want to thank those who indicated that they would be willing to help in the future with teen activities; you will be contacted.

Information gathered at the forum is available at the Town Hall, and it may be copied.

Again, my sincere thanks to all who made this a successful endeavor.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #72

By Ray Nadeau, Post Commander

Contributions for the High School Band Uniform Drive continue to come in, and the thermometer will shortly read \$5,200. We have had a good month with several donations coming in from local businesses and private individuals. All December donations will be reported in the next Main Street. We plan on a renewed effort for the new year and are hoping more local merchants will contribute to this worthy cause. Send your donations to the Bank of New Hampshire, Main Street, Alton or the American Legion, P. O. Box 814, Alton, New Hampshire 03809.

The children's Christmas party at the Legion was a roaring success with approximately 75 children from Alton and the surrounding communities. Santa was in his best jolly mood and handed out gifts and goodies to all in attendance.

Chef Andy Schofield invites you to our Sunday breakfasts. They are presented from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and feature a full-blown meal with all the trimmings, including eggs and omelets to order! Sunday breakfasts are a family affair, and there are plenty of things that appeal to the smaller appetites.

The American Legion family would like to thank the readers of the Main Street for their support of the community activities and fund raisers at the Legion. We wish every one of you a Happy New Year.

"OPERATION BLESSINGS"

By Paulette Wentworth, Alton Town Hall

After seven years of this project I am still amazed at the generosity of the people in the Town of Alton. I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the "Operation Blessings" project.

We were able to provide 40 families with a delicious turkey and all the fixings. I would like to thank Alton Bay Lakeview Market for ordering the turkeys for me and the police and highway departments for their generosity and services.

A personal note to the folks who deliver the baskets for me — I couldn't do this without you. Thanks!!!

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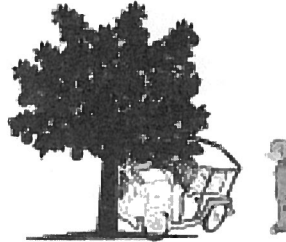
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E-mail <griffin2107@hotmail.com

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THE CHECKOUT DESK By Holly Brown Librarian

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the annual Friends of the Gilman Library Holiday Tea which took place on December 10. All who attended enjoyed a wonderful variety of delicious baked goods. Entertainment was provided by members of the Alton Central School Band and Chorus — Amanda Jones, Allison Dudman, Jeff St. Cyr, Rebecca Golden, Josh O'Neil, Ashley Hubbard, Danielle Dearnley, Amber Richardson, Kyle Adabahr, Dave Blanchette, Ashley Finethy, and Director Tom Stevens. It was a very special addition to the celebration. This year we welcomed well over 90 people to our tea. Please know that if you took part in this festive occasion, through donating baked goods, your time, your musical talent, or just by joining us, your efforts were greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again next year, and don't forget to bring a friend.

Special thanks go to the members of the Friends who took part in the decorating committee this year. Their attention to detail and creative talents not only helped to beautify our library but also helped to get us in the spirit of the holidays.

The Friends of the Gilman Library have proven once again that "Friends make good things happen." Our Friends will always have a special place in our hearts. As usual they are looking for new members and ideas. For information on how you can be a part of this vital organization, please call the library at 875-2550 or stop by the circulation desk.

Also, we want to thank the Alton Garden Club for donating the beautiful wreaths that add that special holiday touch to

the entrances at the front and back of the library. They too have never failed to make the holidays special.

A New Year — A New Card

If you have not visited our library yet this year, make sure you stop in soon to pick up your new library card. When you are issued a new patron card, we will ask that you fill out a new application which takes only a few minutes. Please remember, you must bring your new card with you when you wish to check out library materials. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we make this transition into the second phase of the automation process.

Let's Keep Talking About Books

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. The book of choice is *Cape Light* by Thomas Kinkade. If you are in need of a copy of the book, please let us know.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

By Elf #1, Daryl Czech

The generosity of our community is the stuff of which legends are made. The Mrs. Santa Fund has again this year grown to overwhelming proportions to support the needs of the community.

Thank you to all who participated — there are the Fireflies and friends who shopped and wrapped and tied and toted; there are those who donated monies, those who donated toys, quilts, afghans, gloves, scarves, hats, wrapping paper, tape, and ribbon; and there are those who gave, precious, time. It would take pages to name you all. YOU know who you are. Please know how special you are in your caring for others!

Once again, thank you, most sincerely!

RE-EMERGING FROM THE DEPTHS

By Jesse Lindland, Alton Homeschooler

This is the story about the magnificent wood schooner moored in the Alton Bay area for the past 23 years. The pirate flag flies on its tallest mast — a reminder that it is more than just any ordinary schooner. The owner of this grand boat is none other than Keith King, Sr., the primary caretaker and a man with a rich past.

Keith has had an interest in boats for as long as he can remember. His dream schooner began with a project at a college where he was employed. They were in need of a large project for their students, and Keith thought that building a boat would be an excellent idea. Unfortunately, the students' enthusiasm was not as great as he had hoped; most students were unable to see the completion of the boat due to time constraints. Sadly, the college ultimately cancelled the program. The boat was yet to be completed so Keith decided to finish the project, which ultimately resulted in a dream come true — his own boat.

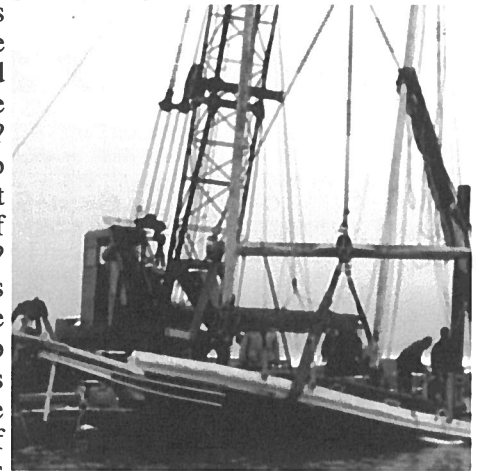
The schooner took eight years to build, working six months out of the year. Upon completion, Keith took it to the Alton Bay docks and cast off on June 1, 1985. Both friends and people who had assisted in the construction came to celebrate. The Peter A. Atwood (named after a very dear departed friend) has been in the water ever since, sailing the open water and attracting admiring stares wherever it may sail.

Most unfortunately, on the weekend before Thanksgiving this past year, the Peter A. Atwood sunk in Wolfeboro Bay. Keith was stunned but remained hopeful. The following day a dive crew was sent down to assess the damage. The schooner had sunk in approximately 40 feet of icy water, and

only about six feet of the mast remained above the surface. A barge equipped with a crane would have to pull it up.

The following day all the equipment and supplies were brought in and the process began. Hopes were high and everyone was tense.

The questions weighed heavily: Would the ship break in half? Was it buried too deep in the clay at the bottom of Wolfeboro Bay? Not that many hours later hopes were renewed as the ship broke the water's surface in one piece. The cause of the sinking was



found to be a small hole in the stern. Apparently it would never have sunk except for the excessive snow and water in the hull that overcame its buoyancy. Water seeped in over the unseasonable stormy weekend and made the difference in sinking the schooner.

The boat is now safe in Keith's back yard. Many necessary repairs can now be made, although most people would groan over the painstaking work ahead. Keith is ready for the challenge. He enjoys repairing the schooner as much as sailing it; thus, the Peter A. Atwood should be back in its natural marine habitat by April or May of this year.



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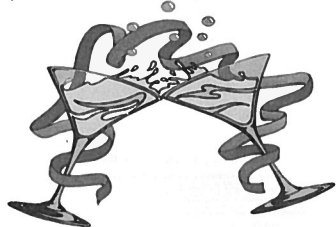
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EVENTS

- Wed. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 2003
 Fri. 3 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Nute Middle HS, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Nute Middle HS, 7 p.m.
 Sun. 5 BREAKFAST, American Legion, 8 a.m.
 Tue. 7 BOYS BASKETBALL at Portsmouth Christian, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Portsmouth Christian, 6:30 p.m.
 Thu. 9 BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC, Pearson Road Community Center, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
 INDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION, see story
 Fri. 10 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Moultonboro Acad., 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Moultonboro Acad., 7 p.m.
 Sat. 11 INDOOR SOCCER REGISTRATION, see story
 Sun. 12 BREAKFAST, American Legion, 8 a.m.
 Mon. 13 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Library 6:30 p.m., see Checkout
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Laconia Christian, 7 p.m.
 Tue. 14 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Laconia Christian, 7 p.m.
 Wed. 15 CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON, Conference Center, 11:30 a.m., see story
 Thu. 16 BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING, School Budget, ACS Music Room, 7 p.m. (snow date the 18th)
 Fri. 17 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Profile, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Profile, 5:30 p.m.
 Sun. 19 BREAKFAST, American Legion, 8 a.m.
 WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY, St. Joan of Arc, see story
 Mon. 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY
 POLICE EXPLORER POST, Informational Meeting, ACS, 7 p.m., see Protect and Serve
 Tue. 21 SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST, Town Hall, Depot Street Entrance, 7 - 8 p.m., see story
 Wed. 22 1ST DAY TO FILE FOR TOWN OFFICE, see Elections
 Fri. 24 BOYS BASKETBALL at Lin-Wood Public, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Lin-Wood Public, 5:30 p.m.
 Sat. 25 OLD-FASHIONED SKATING PARTY, see Fun Of It
 Sun. 26 BREAKFAST, American Legion, 8 a.m.
 ALPHA COURSE, Community Church, see story
 Tue. 28 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Portsmouth Christian, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Portsmouth Christian, 6:30 p.m.
 Thu. 30 ASSEMBLE Main Street, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. 31 BOYS BASKETBALL at Sunapee Middle HS, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Sunapee Middle HS, 7 p.m.
 Sat. Feb 1 DELIBERATIVE SESSION, School Budget, ACS, 1 p.m. (snow date the 8th)

ABCCC=Alton Bay Christian Conf. Center; ACS=Alton Central School

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.**



**Happy
 new
 year!**

NOTICE TO ALTON RESIDENTS SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK VACANCY

Due to a recent resignation the Alton School Board is seeking letters of interest from Alton residents who would like to be considered to fill a vacancy as School District Clerk until the next election in March 2003. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest no later than Friday, January 10. The School Board will address the vacancy at their regular meeting on January 13. Send your letter to Wayne Fraser, Chair, c/o SAU #72, P. O. Box 120, Alton 03809.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

By Laurie Boyce, ACS Volunteer Coordinator

The volunteer program at the Alton Central School (ACS) has been great so far this year with so many new people. We now need a person to handle the lunch cart at the school on Wednesdays. Our current volunteer has had her hours changed and cannot do it anymore. It would be Wednesday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. every week. If you can do this, please call me at 875-7371. Thanks.

PERMIT AND LICENSE RENEWAL

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The 2003 dog licenses will be available January 2 at the Town Clerk's Office. Your current license expires April 30, 2003. To renew your dog's license you will need to bring a current rabies certificate. The fees are \$10 for a dog that is not neutered, \$7.50 for a neutered dog, and \$2 for an owner over 65 years of age for the first dog. The above information also applies to owners of new dogs. If you *no longer* own your dog, please call this office.

If you have an aquatherm, your permit needs to be renewed at the Town Clerk's Office. The hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is 875-2101 if you have any questions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Alton Budget Committee will hold a

Public Hearing on the Proposed

Alton School Budget ~ FY 2003-2004

Thurs. Jan. 16, 2003 - 7 PM

Alton Central School Music Room

(Storm Date Sat. Jan. 18, 2003 - 1 PM)

Information Center

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

- Baha'i Fireside — Thu., 7:30 p.m., Holway Residence, Old New Durham Road
- Bay Church — Services on the grounds of the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center. Sun. School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.; Wed. Fellowship Supper, 6 p.m., followed by Discipleship Study, 7 p.m. Rev. Robert H. Hett, Pastor; 875-6765
- Community Church — Sun. Service, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m., Baptist Meeting House, Main Street; Sun. School, 9:30 a.m., Congregational Meeting House, Church Street, Rev. Peter Bolster, Pastor; 875-5561
- 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
- North Barnstead Congregational Church — Sun. School and Worship Services, 10:30 a.m., 504 N. Barnstead Rd, Rev. Gray Fitzgerald
- St. Joan of Arc — Weekend Masses in the Rectory — Sat., 5 p.m. and Sun., 8 and 11 a.m.; weekday Masses, Mon., Wed., and Fri., 8 a.m. at St. Cecilia's, Wolfeboro; Tue., Thu., and Sat., 8 a.m. at Rectory Chapel; Sun. Mass St Paul's in Barnstead, 9:30 a.m.; Rev. George Ham; 875-7191
- 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 2003

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

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

American Legion — 2nd Mon., 7:30 p.m., Legion Hall, Rte 28

American Legion Auxiliary — 2nd Mon., 6:30 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

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., 364-7413 for directions

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., The American Legion, 6:30 p.m.

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

Moms In Touch — Tue., 8:15 a.m., 875-2866

Mt. Major Snowmobile Club — 2nd Tue., 7 p.m., JP China, Alton

Bay; 875-3858 or <info@moutmajorsnowmobileclub.com>

PTSA. — 3rd Wed., Alton Central School HS Library, 7 p.m.

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

Community Center

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

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- BOARD OF SELECTMEN — 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6 p.m.; (Replays on Channel 26 following Thurs. and Fri.); Chairman Stephan McMahon, 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 Justine Gengras, 875-5095.
- FIRE WARDS — 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Central Fire Station, Chairman Stanley Czech, 875-3815
- 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 Wayne Fraser, call 875-7890 for appointment.
- 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

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U.S. SENATE

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

John E. Sununu, 1229 Longworth House Office Building,

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

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

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jeb Bradley, 1218 Longworth House Office Building,

Washington DC 20515; Phones, Fax, E-mail: To be announced

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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

Janet Allen, 269-6313

James Pilliod, 524-3047

Gordon Bartlett, 524-6536

David Russell, 364-7449

Laurie Boyce, 875-7371

John Thomas, 528-5112

Charles Clark, 293-9194

Mike Whalley, 875-7266

BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Christopher D. Boothby, 527-5400

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

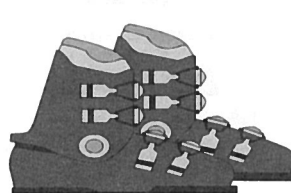
Stephan McMahon, Chairman, 875-6322

Pat Fuller, 875-5546

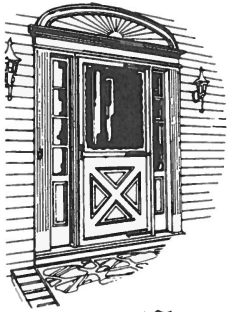
William Ryan, 875-2112

Don Irvin, 875-2924

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**STUDENTS CITED FOR HONORS
AND CITIZENSHIP**

The Alton Central School (ACS) has announced the students who have made the Honor Roll and named for Citizenship during the first quarter of the 2002-2003 academic year. High Honors requires a grade of at least 92 in all subjects; Honors, a grade of at least 83; and Citizenship is based on attendance, no discipline, and no failing grades. The listing, below, continues from Grades 2 through 6 published in last month's Main Street.

Grade 7 Citizenship: Ashley Bailey, Hayley Barnet, Andrew Barthel, Stephen Biddle, Erin Brackley, Tony Castagnaro, Derek Chase, Amber Couture, Matt DiVito, Meagan DiVito, Leish Donnelly, Jacob Dore, Natasia Drewniak, Emily Folan, Gary Ford, Ryan Gillan, Jessica Harrell, Chelsea Hawkins, Daniel Hopper, Logan Hopper, Tyler Houghton, Eric Houlne, Travis Hunter, Makina Itchkavich-Levasseur, Ben Jones, Brian Jones, Jeremy Kim, Jesse Lane, Andrew Levasseur, Ryan Lougee, Alina Loynd, Zachary Macdonald, Karol Mansfield, CJ Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Tara Prescott, Alisa Price, James Richardson, Tony Rogers, Matt Rojek, Wetherley Rouleau, Cody Servetas, Robyn Shibley, Justin Smith, Jason Tanguay, Chad Tenander, Brianna Tidd, Krystal Virgue, Casandra Wainwright, Kelsie Whitney, Jessica Wilcox, Jonathan Yelle, Jordan Yelle

Grade 7 High Honors: Tony Castagnaro, Brianna Tidd,

Grade 7 Honors: Ashley Bailey, Meagan DiVito, Ryan Gillan, Chelsea Hawkins, Daniel Hopper, Makin Itchkavich-Levasseur, Jesse Lane, Ryan Lougee, Chris (CJ) Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Tara Prescott, Wetherly Rouleau, Robyn Shibley, Jason Tanguay, Casandra Wainwright, Kelsie Whitney

Grade 8 Citizenship: Dottie Jean Bailey, Ryan Ball, Brett Belanger, Kyle Belanger, Bradley Bissell, Jennifer Boucher, Megan Burwell, Kris Callahan, Mara Cook-Hamer, Jessica Covil, Jeremiah Dea, Erin Donnelly, Ashley Dwyer, Jane Farrell, Ashley Finethy, Tyler Fiscus, Nathan Fogell, Charlotte French, Leann Fuller, Nick Gagne, Courtney Goodwin, Joseph Gray, Kim Hannafin, Robin Honnald, Ryan Hussey, Caila Kantar, Pamela Lambert, Dan Lampman, Joshua Liedtke, Nicholas Lund, Joseph Macdonald, Kelly Main, Courtney Marston, Donny McGee, Crystal Mills, Juli Minnick, Carmen Niquette, Brandon Parsons, Melissa Pryor, Jesse Purrington, Rachel Ricker, Jacob Ridner, Marc Roy, Sara Scanlon, Robert Scott, Suzie Sherwood, Bryce St. Cyr, Jeffrey St. Cyr, George Stevens, Ashley Sweeney, Wesley Taggett, Julie Thoroughgood, Kelsey Tinkham, Ty Tremblay, Josh Vlk, Steven Waterman

Grade 8 High Honors: Jane Farrell

Grade 8 Honors: Bradley Bissell, Kris Callahan, Ashley Dwyer, Ashley Finethy, Nathan Fogell, Charlotte French, Kimberly Hannafin, Ryan Hussey, Caila Kantar, Kelly Main, Melissa Pryor, Rachell Ricker, Sara Scanlon, Suzie Sherwood, Bryce St. Cyr, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Kelsey Tinkham, Ty Tremblay

Grade 9 Citizenship: Kyle Adabahr, David Blanchette, Nick DiVito, Johanna Dickson, Allyson Dudman, Bryan Enis, Ryan Fogell, Jake Ford, Chris Frost, Dana Fuller, Rebecca Golden, Jimmy Grant, Brett Hammond, Ashley Hubbard, Adam Johnson, Luke LaFreniere, Justin Maciejewski, Jennifer McAllister, Josh O'Neil, Taylor Peterson, Jacqueline Piaseczny, Dan Pitman, Patrick Quinn, Amber Richardson, John Roberts, David Saalfrank, Christelle Sharpe, Preston Sharpe, Anthony Simone, Aimee Terravechia, Katrina Tidd, Lindsey Turner

Grade 9 High Honors: Luke LaFreniere, Taylor Peterson, Daniel Pitman

Grade 9 Honors: Ashley Hubbard

Grade 10 Citizenship: Nathan Alden, Jacob Bemis, Natasha Bickford, Brittany Chapman, Cory Damm, Kelly Eagles, Anne Farrell, Vanessa Gilbert, Cassandra Golden, Scott Goyette, Leslie Guertin, Damian Hackett, Heather Hammes, Erin Hannafin, Travis Hillsgrove, Travis Hopper, Elizabeth Husak, Sonya Itchkavich-Levasseur, Christina Jamieson, Brian Kivlehan, Tara Loprete, Whitney Marston, Camille Niquette, Travis Parsons, Brandon Pellowe, Brenna Quann, Shayna Randall, David Roberts, Brian Roy, Lyndsey St. Laurent, Michael Tidd, Sarah Tinkham, Ashley Waterman, Devon Wiley

Grade 10 High Honors: Anne Farrell, Heather Hammes, Christina Jamieson

Grade 10 Honors: Cory Damm, Erin Hannafin, Travis Hopper, Tara Loprete, Whitney Marston, Brenna Quann, Shayna Randall, Lindsey St. Laurent, Mike Tidd, Ashley Waterman

Grade 11 Citizenship: Michelle Allen-Farrior, Elizabeth Bidle, Kara Castaldo, Tamara Cornelissen, Elspeth Dana, Carl Dickson, Ryan Donnelly, Shane Drew, Robyn Ford, Jill Green, David Helie, Amber Johnson, Melanie Katsoulis, Lindsay Kenerson, Melissa Kim, Vanessa Lampman, Kyle McAuliffe, Krsity McDaniels, Ricky Meuse, Crista Perkins, Tim Phelan, Tonya Prescott, Dan Quinn, Meredith Roy, Liz Sheing, Zach Simone, Molly Souliere, Matt Sydow, Isaac Tharpe, Kelsey Yelle

Grade 11 Honors: Tamara Cornelissen, Ryan Donnelly, Kristy McDaniels, Crista Perkins, Tonya Prescott, Dan Quinn, Meredith Roy, Matt Sydow

Grade 12 Citizenship: Adam Ames, Jordan Anahonak, David Bailey, Hilary Ballentine, Scott Baumgartner, Katie Brooks, Kendra Brown, Dennis Callahan, Jenn Carr, Millicent Cochran, Jamie Coigley, Ashli Coughlin, Rick DeFlumeri, Tiffeny Desmarais, Jill Feger, Michael Friedman, Stephanie Hillsgrove, Terese Hopper, Justine Houghton, Kelly Jalbert, Amanda Jones, Siobhan Kivlehan, Sarah Lamothe, Jessica Lannon, Stephanie Lannon, DanLaurin, Megan MacDonald, Kristen Murray, Elizabeth Paradise, Rebecca Ray, Brian Richardson, Patrick Ricker, Kim Russell, Tom Ryan, Kelley Scanlon, Zachary Shea, Tiffany Simone, Lindsay Sleeper, David Snell III, Julie St. Sauveur, Amanda Tharpe, Erin Wood

Grade 12 High Honors: Dennis Callahan

Grade 12 Honors: David Bailey, Scott Baumgartner, Katie Brooks, Jenn Carr, Millicent Cochran, Jamie Coigley, Ashli Coughlin, Jill Feger, Stephanie Hillsgrove, Terese Hopper, Justine Houghton, Sarah LaMothe, Megan MacDonald, Kristin Murray, Elizabeth Paradise, Dave Snell, Julie St. Sauveur



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BUDGET COMMITTEE PROGRESS

In December the Budget Committee completed its review of the school budget proposed for July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004.

Capital Improvement Projects for the town and school were presented at the December 19 meeting. Following that meeting, the Budget Committee enjoyed the holiday hiatus.

Meetings will resume January 7 at which time the committee will hear presentations on Acct. 4196 Insurance, Acct. 4155 Employee Benefits, Acct. 4194 Grounds/Maintenance, Acct. 4520 Recreation Department, Long and Short Term Debt. On January 9 the Water Department will present their Acct. 4331 and 4330 Fire Hydrants. The Fire Department will present budget proposals for Acct. 4220 and Emergency Management Acct. 4290.

Drafts of the school warrants are due to the Budget Committee by January 7, and January 14 is the last day for school petition warrant articles.

The public hearing on the school budget will be held Thursday, January 16, at 7 p.m. in the Alton Central School music room; the storm date is Saturday, January 18, 1 p.m. at the same location.

January 21 through 24 will be spent finalizing the school budget recommendations. Also, throughout January the committee will continue to review and make tentative recommendations on the town budget.

WHAT YOU NEED FOR A WARRANT ARTICLE

By MaryBee Longabaugh, Supervisor of Checklist

First, before I address the warrant article, please be aware that to vote in any election you must be a registered voter. To be registered you have to fill out the Voter Registration Card and show a picture ID and proof of residence in Alton (utility, cable, tax, electric bill or car registration), i.e., anything that shows you reside in Alton on a specific street/road. A P. O. Box does not prove residency. Anyone can rent a box.

Now onto the warrant article issue. Often people have issues which they wish addressed at the Town Meeting. To have this happen they must present the petition with the question and the signatures of 25 registered voters who are residents of Alton to the Board of Selectmen in time for it to be put on the warrant. This year the deadline is Tuesday, February 4 (school petitions are due by January 14 at the school). Before the Selectmen see your petition, the Supervisors of the Checklist authenticate each name against the voters' registration list.

If you are going to pull together a warrant article and go about getting signatures, please take a moment to understand the following requirements which will determine whether your petition will be considered.

1) You must have 25 legitimate signatures. This means that the people signing **MUST** be registered voters, not just residents.

2) When you set up your petition, please make sure there is a space for a **PRINTED** name as well as the signature and a current address.

3) Make sure the person signs with the name as it shows on the Voters Registration List ("Checklist"). Often the person signs with an every day signature and it does not match up with the name on the list/card.

4) For peace of mind, get 30 - 35 names on the petition so that you can be reasonably sure that 25 will be registered voters. Many people gladly sign a petition for a cause, and no one asks if they are registered. Those who are not registered voters will be eliminated from the list immediately.

LIFE ABOARD THE USS HARRY S TRUMAN

By Jaime L. Sanborn, Airman, USN

Thanks, Main Street, for your interest in what we do out here on the high seas. To start this is a large ship and there are a million jobs. I, myself, am an Airman which means I work in the hangar bay pretty much playing parking attendant to the aircraft we have on board. We work long hours seven days a week while we are at sea. There are many drills run to prepare us for the unexpected — the personnel must always keep alert. Our days are very busy!

Since I am on duty at night I get an awesome view of the sunrise on a daily basis. Let me tell you, it is absolutely AMAZING. I watched it one morning from the flight deck although it was very windy. It was like sky diving to see the sun pop up over the horizon. It was spectacular and something that will always be with me. The water is the most amazing color I have ever seen, and it is mind boggling to think I am out here.

There is always food here to eat and some of it is good. Surprisingly we get real cereal — Count Chocula, Lucky Charms, Froot Loops, Frosted Flakes and mashed potatoes with gravy. For Christmas we had caroling and a huge dinner which was the best of the best. We get ice cream and treats; we have vending machines for snacks and sodas; we have two stores so we can pick up what we need; there are games, TVs, digital cable, and a variety of new movies everyday; and there is a barber shop to keep us clean cut. This ship is really like a little city with itty bitty little roads. There is such a diversity of people from everywhere — it is awesome. It is like living at work with a lot easier commute (two minutes to the job).

The mail service via "snail-mail" is still really slow, but it is nice to have e-mail. One could go nuts without it. I will try to keep you informed of all the interesting things that occur. Alton, I just want to say Happy New Year and take care.



HAPPY NEW YEAR IN THE OUTDOORS!

January is the month that starts the new year. To the outdoor person, it's the start of new fishing and hunting seasons. If you cannot get out of the "hunting mode," fox, mink, muskrat, raccoon, and snowshoe hare may still be hunted through this month and up until March. Snowshoe hare would be my choice of game to hunt this month as they are quite tasty. The problem is finding where they are and then seeing them. They are white furred at this time of year and blend in very well with their environment. They surround themselves with the thickest patches of swamp, briars, and "whips" that they can find. Hunting deer last month with snow on the ground got me into some of these places where "rabbit runs," tracks, and scat were quite visible.

Spots like this are scattered all around the Alton area, but they do not all hold snowshoe hares. You have to bust some brush to find the right patches. Some people use dogs (mainly beagles) to roust snowshoes from their thick hiding spots. Once the chase is on, a snowshoe has a tendency to run a circle back to where the chase began. The hunter should wait at that spot for the hare to (hopefully) return. Most hunters use shotguns, but some use a 22 rifle for a greater challenge. Good luck.

Coyote may be hunted all year long during daylight hours, but January 1 is the start of the night hunting season for coyote. Written landowner permission is required for hunting at night. I saw quite a few large coyote tracks last month, following

the same deer that I was hunting. Other hunters I have spoken with had similar sightings. Their population seems to be growing in Alton. Coyotes eat anything they can catch, including live stock and pets. It is one of the main reasons snowshoe hare choose their habitat. When deer yard up in the winter, coyotes can kill several deer from the same herd, and they often take fawns in the springtime. So, hunters, get out and shoot some coyotes and save a deer.

The season that really starts the new year is Ice Fishing — PROVIDED that there is safe ice. The Big Lake is reputed to be a great spot to catch large rainbows this year. They are also doing great in many of the other lakes that have been stocked in the past eight years. Remember, please, use no lead while ice fishing. Non-lead sinkers and jigs are widely available now. The law is that you can use no lead weighing one ounce or less, and no lead jigs less than one inch long. Lead ingestion accounts for 10 to 50 percent of the dead loons found by researchers. Get the lead out!

Also, stay warm!

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HAPPY HOBBY DOLL CLUB

By Natalie Turner, Secretary

During the November meeting of the Happy Hobby Doll Club, more Christmas donation money was allocated and the club Christmas party plan was finalized. Membership applications for next year were sent out, and anyone interested may begin by calling President Maureen Parker. The Doll Show Raffle for 2003 was also voted on and will be a doll house that has been electrified, wallpapered, painted, and furnished by the club members. Tickets will soon be on sale.

The meeting continued with the introduction of Jeannie Siegs Fashion Doll project. At each seat were kits she had prepared using a cherry red and a gray figured silken fabric. Each kit was beautifully complete, even to being hemmed and embroidered, plus a snap and a needle with color matching thread. Under Jeannie's direction each member tacked and constructed with a minimal amount of sewing a charming cocktail dress for the 15- or 18-inch tall doll friend that they had brought to the meeting. The atmosphere must have been similar to an old-time sewing bee with jokes and laughter and family stories that kept smiles on everyone's face. After the dolls were dressed, there was a fashion show with each little guest proudly showing off the new fashion creation. Maureen



Parker (left) and Maria Lantagne show their dolls. It was an impressive assembly.

The refreshments that appeared on the buffet table were put there by Joanne Libby and Maria Lantagne. Everyone munched on delicacies of their choice (the crab dip was wonderful) and talked for a while longer until it was time to pack up. All left smiling and chuckling after a special evening.

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

By Bob Longbaugh, Co-editor

Alton property owners received their tax bills in early December, and to no one's surprise, total taxes went up 88 cents per thousand dollars of assessed evaluation. To the credit of the Alton Selectmen, however, the town rate decreased a penny from the \$4.60 per thousand that was in effect for 2001. For 2002 the state rate increased 12 cents, the county went up 21 cents, and the school topped them all with a 56 cent increase. The jump in the school bill was attributed mostly to the expenses of constructing the new Prospect Mountain High School in combination with the Town of Barnstead.

All of this comes out saying that a property owner who has a house and land in Alton assessed at \$100,000 and paid \$1,478 in taxes for 2001 will find his/her bill for 2002 to be \$1,566, or \$88 more. Taxpayers in certain lower income brackets may qualify for some relief and should check with the town's tax collector for the instructions and forms.

PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE EXTENDED

By Joe Harris, Staff Photo Editor

Due to an overwhelming demand, Main Street has extended the submission deadline for the Second Annual Photo Contest to Friday, February 28. The extension of one month will allow all entrants sufficient time to prepare holiday and winter photos for display and submission.

Everyone is invited to participate and encouraged to enter as many photos as they desire. All photos entered will be displayed beginning in March at the Town Hall for everyone to view and vote for his or her favorite photo and artist. Ribbons will be awarded to all entries.

Entry forms and labels may be obtained at the Alton branch of the Bank of New Hampshire during regular business hours, and all entries may be dropped off at the Main Street drop box in the lobby. Once again, we ask all entrants to affix labels to the back of each photo submitted so they can be properly identified and returned. Please do not submit originals if they are the only copy you have! We especially encourage photographers to submit black and white and digital photos.

All photos must be 8" x 10" mounted in 11" x 14" mattes. For safety, handling, and display purposes, any photos mounted in glass or framed will not be accepted. Main Street reserves the right to reject any photo that does not meet the standards required for submission.

So get out your cameras, have some fun, and share your photos of what makes Alton unique.

BE CAREFUL ON THE ICE

From NH Fish and Game Department

The season for fishing, skating, and other winter sports, such as snowmobiling and cross country skiing, on the ice is fast approaching, if not already here. Is it really safe to venture out onto a frozen pond or lake? Here are some guidelines for ice safety which could save your life.

Wait For A Long Cold Spell

Never take it for granted that the ice — or any body of water — is thick enough to support your weight. Check it out first! Start at the shore and using an auger, spud, or axe make test holes at intervals as you proceed. The rule of thumb for new, clear ice is that there should be a minimum of 4 - 6 inches of ice to support a few, well-dispersed people; 6 - 7 inches for small, on-foot group activities; and 8 - 10 inches for snowmobilers. (Ice thickness recommendations are based on information from the Cold Regions Research Laboratory in Hanover).

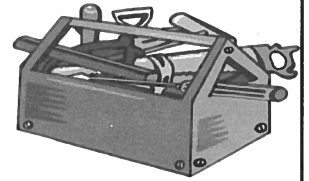
If the ice at the shoreline is cracked or squishy, stay off. Do not go on the ice during thaws and avoid honeycombed ice, dark snow, and dark ice.

Remember, ice is usually thinner near moving water, i.e., inlets, outlets, around wharves and bridge abutments, near islands and objects protruding through the ice.

13 Quick Tips

- 1) Test the ice; 2) Wind and currents break up ice; 3) Dress in layers; 4) Bring hot drinks and food; 5) Fish, hike, ski, or snowmobile with a buddy; 6) Don't gather in large groups; 7) No fires on the ice; 8) Bring blankets and a first-aid kit; 9) If you fall in, reach for solid ice, kick, and roll to safety; 10) Follow all fishing and snowmobile regulations; 11) Don't drive cars out on the ice; 12) Clean up; 13) Avoid areas that are questionable.

Finally, bring all your trash off the ice. Litter will either sink to the bottom polluting the water or will wash ashore in the spring.



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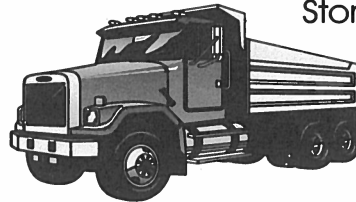
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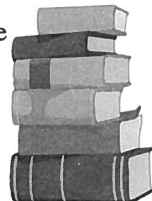
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VISITING THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Our trip to the Arctic Circle on a tour bus was one of the optional tours offered on our caravan to Alaska in the summer of 2000.

It began in Fairbanks at 5:45 a.m. There were several stops along the way, the first in Joy, Alaska, where there was a small store operated by the Carlsons, a family who moved there from Wisconsin about 20 years ago. They had five natural children and 28 adopted children! Their compound



included a general store (above), a huge log house and several guest log houses, all without running water, electricity, or central heat. They home schooled all the children, too. Most are grown now, only five left at home. We met several of them, and they all looked like they loved it there. What an impression that family left on all of us!

We also stopped to examine the Alaska Pipeline. After seeing it alongside the road during our trek north, the magnitude of the construction was mind boggling. In fact the road was built as a result of the pipeline. Today trucks taking supplies to Prudhoe Bay and tour busses are the only traffic that goes on this road (which is gravel all the way).

We stopped again at the Yukon River, which is one of the largest rivers in North America and the scene of the gold rush in the late 1800's. It was used for travel then, as well as now. There are several Athabaskan villages located on the river. We saw a family loading a boat with supplies (fresh veggies, soft drinks, and water) to take up the river 26 miles to their village. The Athabascans are the main native tribe in central Alaska. The Eskimos settled all along the northern coasts, and the Tlingits settled the panhandle along the southeast coast.

Our next stop was at the Arctic Circle, where we got out of the bus and had our pictures taken at the marker. North of this point the sun never sets in the summer nor rises in the winter. It was quite warm and the mosquitoes were horrendous. On our way back we stopped to walk on the tundra, which is like walking on a sponge. The tour director dug into the soil to the permafrost so that we could see how close the frozen ground is to the surface (about 12").

We stopped again for dinner on the Yukon River and then boarded the coach for the remainder of the trip to Fairbanks. We got back to the camp 17 hours later, tired but grateful we had made this wonderful trip.

You may have questions about our full-time RV-ing life style or thoughts for a future column. Please e-mail us at <Livingourlife@aol.com>. Henry David Thoreau said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined." That is what we are doing.

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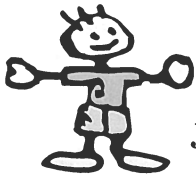
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FOR THE FUN OF IT
 By Kellie Troendle, CPRP
 Parks and Recreation Director

JOIN US IN JANUARY

If you have any questions regarding the programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, call 875-0109 for information.

Country Line Dancing Lessons

The Country Line Dancing group will resume this month at the Alton Bay Community Center on Thursdays from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Please call the office for the starting date.

Old Fashioned Ice Skating Party

The Community Youth Activities Committee is sponsoring an Old-Fashioned Ice Skating Party on Saturday, January 25, from 4 - 7 p.m. on Route 140 across from the Fire Station, weather permitting. This free family event includes ice skating, bonfire, raffles, games, and music. The Alton Fire and Rescue Department will be selling their famous sausage subs and soda; hot cocoa and cider and s'more kits will also be available for purchase. Stop by and join in the fun as we ice skate, enjoy a cozy fire, and visit with our community members.

Volunteers are needed to help with the event. For more information or to volunteer call the number listed above.

Teen Movie Night

The Community Youth Activities Committee is sponsoring a Teen Movie Night in February. Please watch for fliers and an announcement in the February issue of Main Street.

ALTON COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTIVITIES
JANUARY

This calendar is a service provided by the Alton Community Youth Activities (CYA) committee. Call 875-8221 for information, suggestions, and corrections.

- Thu 2 Mock Trial Rehearsal, grade 8, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS, HS Library
- Sun 5 Sun. School, grades 6-8, 9:30 a.m., Bay Church, Rand Hill Rd Sun. School, grades 9-12, 9:30 a.m., ABCCC; AB Lounge Jr/Sr HS Youth Group, 4-6 p.m., CCOA Youth Center
- Mon 6 Mock Trial Rehearsal, grade 6, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS, HS Library Chess Club, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS Cafeteria
- Tue 7 Global ED Program, grades 5-6, 3-4 p.m. ACS Computer Rm Making College Search Count, grades 10-11, 1:30-2:30 p.m., ACS Cafeteria, parents welcome
- Wed 8 SIM City Engineering Program, grade 8, 3-5 p.m., ACS. EM
- Thu 9 Global ED Competition, grades 5-6, 3-4 p.m. ACS Computer Rm Mock Trial Rehearsal, grade 8, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS, HS Library
- Fri 10 Geography Bee, grades 4-8, 9-10:30 a.m., ACS Gym Youth Center, Drop In grades 6-12, 3-9 p.m., CCOA, open to all community youth
- Sat 11 Snowmobile Course, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., ACS HS Classroom Chess Tournament, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., ACS Cafeteria
- Sun 12 Sun. School, grades 6-8, 9:30 a.m., Bay Church, Rand Hill Rd Sun. School, grades 9-12, 9:30 a.m., ABCCC, AB Lounge Jr/Sr HS Youth Group, 4-6 p.m., CCOA Youth Center
- Mon 13' Mock Trial Rehearsal, grades 6-7, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS HS Library Chess Club, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS Cafeteria
- Wed 15 Debate Team, 1:30-2:30 p.m., ACS HS Library SIM City Engineering Program, grade 8, 3-5 p.m., ACS EM
- Thu 16 Mock Trial Rehearsal, grade 8, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS HS Library
- Fri 17 Youth Center Drop In, grades 6-12, 3-9 p.m., CCOA, open to all community youth
- Sun 19 Sun. School, grades 6-8, 9:30 a.m., Bay Church, Rand Hill Rd Sun. School, grades 9-12, 9:30 a.m., ABCCC, AB Lounge Jr/Sr HS Youth Group, 4-6 p.m., CCOA Youth Center
- Mon 20 Mock Trial Rehearsal, Grades 6-7, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS HS Library Chess Club, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS Cafeteria
- Wed 22 SIM City Engineering Program, grade 8, 3-5 p.m., ACS EM
- Thu 23 Mock Trial Rehearsal, grade 8, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS HS Library
- Fri 24 Youth Center Drop In, grades 6-12, 3-9 p.m., CCOA open to all community youth
- Sat 25 Old Fashioned Ice Skating Party, 4-7 p.m., pond across from Route 140 Fire Station, see Fun Of It to the left
- Sun 26 Sun. School, grades 6-8, 9:30 a.m., Bay Church, Rand Hill Rd Sun. School, grades 9-12, 9:30 a.m., ABCCC, AB Lounge Jr/Sr HS Youth Group, 4-6 p.m., CCOA Youth Center
- Mon 27' Mock Trial Rehearsal, Grades 6-7, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS HS Library Chess Club, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS Cafeteria
- Wed 29 SIM City Engineering Program, grade 8, 3-5 p.m., ACS EM
- Thu 30 Mock Trial Rehearsal, grade 8, 3-4:30 p.m., ACS HS Library
- Fri 31 Youth Center Drop In, grades 6-12, 3-9 p.m., CCOA, open to all community youth

Legend: AB=Administration Building; ABCCC=Alton Bay Christian Conference Center; ACS=Alton Central School; CCOA=Community Church of Alton on Church Street; EM=Enrichment Module; HS=High School



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HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS
 By Ken Roberts
 Highway Agent

WINTER WONDERLAND . . .

. . . is what we have. Happy New Year to everyone!

The drivers in their trucks have been out plowing, sanding, scraping their routes, and staying ahead of "ol' man winter." They are keeping the roads safe.

In between time the department has been keeping up the truck maintenance, making sure the equipment is ready to go at any time.

I would again like to caution you. When you are out driving and see a plow truck, please reduce your speed. These trucks are so very heavy and carry so much weight that an unexpected vehicle coming around the corner quickly makes the situation one of panic. It can be impossible to stop short. Public Safety Is Our #1 Concern!

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, black, 4 cyl., 4-door, AM/FM cassette, A/C, cruise control, power locks, mirrors, \$2,975. 875-0033.

2001 YAMAHA BLASTER, HO engine and extra wide tires, \$2,695 or BO. Peter, 875-1523 x307.

1991 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER minivan, great condition, 4-sp auto, A/C, AM/FM cassette stereo, family value package, 3.3L V-6, heavy duty suspension, full spare, very clean, runs great, \$1,200. 875-4063.

2 GARAGE DOORS, overhead, insulated, 7' x 9', white raised panel, with windows, \$775. 875-0033.

1988 PONTIAC GRAND AM, 4-door sedan, runs great, real clean, "Iron Duke" 2.5L 4 cyl. engine, 3-sp. auto, CD stereo, A/C (needs belt & charge), cruise control, \$500. 875-4063.

1986 FORD F150 super cab, 302 engine, runs ok, needs body work, first \$100. Peter, 875-1533 x307.

1983 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, runs, needs lots of work, good transmission and 350 cu. engine, good sheet metal, no rust, bad passenger door and back bumper, BO. Joe at 875-0358.

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A CAMERA, on Roberts Cove Road, owner call 569-1800.

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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.

December 30 - January 3: Mon., Beef Stew; Tue., Lasagna; Wed., New Year's Day - closed; Thu., Pork Cutlet/Gravy; Fri., Fish Fillet.

January 6 - 19: Mon., Baked Chicken/Gravy; Tue., Hot Dog; Wed., Stuffed Shells/Sauce; Thu., Pot Roast/Gravy; Fri., Chicken Chop Suey.

January 13 - 17: Mon., Sloppy Joe; Tue., Fish Fillet/Lemon; Wed., Stuffed Cabbage; Thu., Meatballs/Gravy; Fri., Sliced Turkey/Gravy.

January 20 - 24: Mon., Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - closed; Tue., Turkey Rice Casserole; Wed., Rigatoni Casserole; Thu., Pork Loin/Gravy; Fri., Fish Cakes/White Sauce.

January 27 - 31: Mon., Pork Sausage/Onion Gravy; Tue., Pub Burger/Mushroom Sauce; Wed., Chicken Leg/Gravy; Thu., Fish Fillet/Lemon; Fri., Spaghetti/Meat Sauce.

CARD OF THANKS

Words alone cannot express the gratitude I have in my heart for the support and care given to my husband, John Bishop, and me during his recent illness. Included in my gratitude are my family, neighbors, and friends for their loyal support.

/s/With everlasting appreciation, Shirley Bishop

The Community Church of Alton (CCOA) would like to thank Christine Consentino and staff of the Alton Village 5 & 10 for their kindness and generosity in assisting our young students select gifts for Samaritans Purse "Christmas Shoeboxes."

These shoeboxes are distributed worldwide to young children in refugee camps, third world countries, and other places, bringing them Christmas gifts of love and hope. Christine read a poem and scripture of giving and love and gave a copy of it, plus a nice goody, to each child.

Thank you for all the hearts you touched.

/s/CCOA Sunday School Teachers



The Parks and Recreation Department would like to recognize and thank New Hampshire Electric Co-Op for volunteering their time and equipment to hang the lights on the tree at Ginny Douglas Park. Without the assistance of the staff at the Co-Op, we would not have been able to hang the lights on the 60-foot spruce tree. They have been very helpful with our continuous projects all year long, and we appreciate their contribution to our town very much.

/s/Kellie Troendle, Director, Parks and Recreation

**IN Main Street
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO . . .**

. . . Rori Boyce was chosen to represent New Hampshire in the USA Young Miss Pageant in Atlanta . . . Rolf Dutzmann and his two Young Astronaut groups planned a rocket launch with rockets designed and built by the young people . . . 26 town and school posts were open for election . . . the Gilman Library announced amnesty month for anyone with long overdue books.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . a community survey exploring the possibility of expansion by the Gilman Library was included in Main Street . . . there were 17 town and school posts open for election . . . public hearings were scheduled by the Budget Committee for the town and school budgets and by the Planning Board to go over amendments to the zoning ordinance . . . Gwendolyn Jones was elected to the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association . . . Charlotte Kneeland was to lead the International Side Saddle Organization, an equestrian group, in President Clinton's Inaugural Parade.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Once again Alton Central School was a recipient of the Blue Ribbon School Achievement Award for outstanding school volunteer programs . . . there were 23 school and town offices listed to be filled in the upcoming elections . . . the Gilman Library was proudly displaying its new unique weather vane of two readers sitting back to back absorbed in their favorite pastime . . . The Official Ballot Referendum Form of Meeting was now becoming reality . . . Alton Central School grade 4 artists, Kathryn Pellowe and Aimee Terravechia received awards from the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services.

HEY KIDS ... HERE'S YOUR CHECKLIST OF ALL THE COP CARDS YOU NEED TO BE IN THE RUNNING FOR THE PRIZE

By Ed Correia, Detective-Corporal, APD

The Alton Police Department (APD) has received their brand new order of "cop cards", and all of them are shown below. Each officer in the department has his/her own set. On the front is a full color photograph of the officer and on the back is a biography and personal message to our young folks in Alton. There is a total of 14 cards and the idea is to introduce yourself to each officer and ask him or her for one of their cards. The first youngster to collect all 14 and either bring them to the police station or show them to me at school will receive a special prize from Police Chief Iwans.

The "cop card" idea was spawned several years ago with the advent of the community policing philosophy which has permeated the law enforcement profession. Almost every department has instituted such a program. It is yet another way for police officers to interact with the community — especially young people — in a positive fashion. The program helps to encourage children to talk with their local police officers and in turn helps to foster the idea that the police are their friends and available to help them.

So kids, who will be the first to bring me all 14 cards and win the grand prize?



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