

Main Street

VOL. I, NO. 2 AUGUST 1985 ALTON, N.H.

COMMUNITY UNITY IS THEME FOR FIFTH ANNUAL OLD HOME WEEK

by Catherine Calvert

Alton's Fifth Annual Old Home Week is quite unique. It's a "ten day" week and it has nothing to do with "old homes"! But one thing is for sure. It's going to be a heap of fun for all the family and it has been a heap of work for this year's small central committee consisting of Sherman Brown, John Conboy, Ed Consentino, Judy Fry, and Archie and Judy Thibeault.

This year's big event begins on August 9 with the Police Association Penny Sale and concludes on August 18 with an Ecumenical Service at the Advent Christian Campground in Alton Bay. In between will be such popular repeat events as the Fire Department Barbeque, Woodsman's Field Day, Flower and Bicycle Decorating Contests for children, a Road Race, the Lions Pancake Breakfast, a big Parade, the famous Barbershoppers Jambo-ree, and much more.

At the Saturday night Block Party, there will be lots of games, dancing, and good food sponsored by such organizations as the American Legion, Eastern Star, Knights of Columbus, Alton-New Durham Lions, and the Society of 40/8 Voiture No. 618. Two new events this year are an Antiques Appraisal Day at the Alton Historical Society Museum and a Windsurfing Regatta on Alton Bay.

The theme of this year's event is COMMUNITY UNITY and the logo (shown on this page) was created by Ron Ouellette of Bay Video and Sport-

ing Goods. Each year the logo chosen represents something from a different section of Alton. The East Alton Meeting House is this year's selection.

Russell Jones, chief of the Alton Fire Department, is a sort of father of the current series of annual events. He began preliminary planning in 1978 by approaching representative town organizations. In 1981 he brought it to the Annual Town Meeting and the rest is now history. Dan Cornelissen was the first chairman and Chief Jones the co-chairman. The objective was for the townspeople to get together and have a good time. The Fire Department sponsored the event the first three years and co-sponsored the 1984 Old Home Week with the American Legion Post.

This year it's a group of citizens who have been meeting monthly since last fall, coordinating activities with the many organizations and civic groups involved.

The real start of the 1985 Old Home Week activities was June 1, the Annual Clean-Up Day sponsored by the Committee. Many organizations were involved in the all day clean-up including scuba divers who cleaned around the beaches and docks in Alton Bay.

If the very significant theme is to have its intended meaning, "COMMUNITY UNITY" will mean that everybody will turn out from every nook and cranny of Alton for this very special celebration of the 1985 Old Home Week.



August 9-18, 1985

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

- Baha'i Fireside - Wednesday, 8p.m., Gustafson Residence, 293-7865
- Bible Conference Center - Sunday, 10:30a.m. & 6p.m.
- Community Church - Sunday, 10a.m.
- St. Joan of Arc - Saturday, 5p.m., Sunday, 8 & 11a.m.

GILMAN LIBRARY:

- Monday & Wednesday, 2 - 8p.m.
- Friday, 9a.m. - Noon & 1 - 5p.m.
- Saturday, 9a.m. - 1p.m.

TOWN HALL: 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

- Selectmen's Office
- Town Administrator
- Town Clerk
- Tax Collector
- Welfare Officer - Call 875-2000
- Planning Board - 10a.m.-Noon, Wed.

LANDFILL:

- Saturday & Sunday, 7:30a.m. - 3p.m.
- Mon., Thurs., Fri., 8a.m. - 3:30p.m.
- Tuesday, 11a.m. - 3:30p.m.
- Wednesday & Holidays - Closed

ORGANIZATIONS:

- EASTERN STAR - 2nd Tuesday
- GARDEN CLUB - 4th Tuesday
- HAPPY HOBBY DOLL CLUB - 4th Friday, 875-6750
- HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 3rd Tuesday, 7:30p.m., Congregational Church
- MASONIC LODGE - 2nd Thursday
- NEW DURHAM CAMERA CLUB - 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 7 p.m., New Durham School
- ST. JOAN OF ARC LADIES GUILD - Last Wednesday, 7:30p.m., Church Hall

REALTOR OFFERS FREE HOME VIDEO SERVICE

Curry Realtors in Alton Bay has announced that they will, upon request, videotape the interior and contents of any Alton home for insurance purposes. The service is free with no obligation.

To make an appointment or obtain additional information, call Steve Gray at 875-6600.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- ALTON BAY IMPROVEMENT STUDY COMMITTEE - Meets on call. Chairman J. Leo Meehan Jr. 875-5311
- BOARD OF SELECTMEN - Meets every Tuesday at 7p.m. Call Town Administrator Jack Henderson for appointments 875-2161
- BUDGET COMMITTEE - Meets on call. Chairman Albert V. Fisher 875-5616
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Meets every other Wednesday at 7:30p.m. Chairman Linda Mazalewski 875-2661
- MUNICIPAL BUILDING STUDY COMMITTEE - Meets on call. Chairman A. William Heidke 875-2000
- NEW TOWN BEACH SEARCH COMMITTEE - Meets on call. Chairman Kenneth B. Gilbert 859-2021
- PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS COMMITTEE - Meets on call. Chairman Jonathon Downing 875-7307
- PLANNING BOARD - Meets second Monday at 7:30p.m. Secretary Laura Whittemore 875-2171
- TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS - Meets on call. Joseph R. Houle 875-7321
- WAGE AND SALARY COMMITTEE - Meets on call. Chairman Eldon C. Swim 875-5158
- ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - Meets second Tuesday at 7:30p.m. Chairman David Birdsey 875-5250

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Al Fisher

Gilmanton and New Durham were settled in 1766. Alton and Wolfeboro in 1770.

MAIN STREET

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AUGUST EVENTS

- Thurs. 1 - SOCCER: 6 to 10 Year Olds - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m., Alton Central School
- Fri. 2 - CHILDREN'S FILMS - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2p.m., Gilman Library
- Sat. 3 - ANNUAL MEETING - East Alton Fire Association, 10a.m., East Alton Meeting House
 FLEA MARKET - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m.-5p.m., Alton Bay Community House, 569-5561
 CHICKEN BARBEQUE - Sponsored by the Winnepesaukee Building Association, 4:30-6:30p.m., Masonic Temple
 CONCERT: RICHARD & JOAN BRUST - Sponsored by the Bible Conference Center, 7:30p.m., Tabernacle
- Sun. 4 - MAGIC SHOW: LARRY FRATES - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Mon. 5 - CHILDREN'S FILMS - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 2p.m., Gilman Library
 LECTURE: "NEW HAMPSHIRE: THE FIRST 10,000 YEARS" - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 7:30p.m., Gilman Library
- Tues. 6 - SOCCER: 6 to 10 Year Olds - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m., Alton Central School
- Wed. 7 - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: INDOOR & OUTDOOR GAMES - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2:30p.m., Gilman Library
 FILM: "HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 7p.m., Gilman Library
 CONCERT: ROCHESTER TOWN BAND - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Fri. 9 - CHILDREN'S FILMS - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2p.m., Gilman Library
 PENNY SALE - Sponsored by the Police Association, 2p.m., Bandstand
 CRAFT SHOW - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 3-8p.m., Alton Bay Community House
 BARBERSHOPPERS SNACK BAR - Sponsored by the Women's Fellowship, 6p.m.-Midnight, Downing's Landing
- Sat. 10 - CONTEST: DECORATE YOUR WHEELS - Sponsored by the Alton Fireflies, 9a.m., Bandstand
 HELICOPTER RIDES - Sponsored by the Alton Bay Flying Club, 9a.m.-5p.m., Bandstand
 FLEA MARKET - Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, 9a.m.-4p.m., American Legion Hall
 CRAFT SHOW - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 9a.m.-6p.m., Alton Bay Community House
 SUMMER TOWN MEETING - Sponsored by United Associations, 10a.m., Town Hall
 FLEA MARKET - Sponsored by the Alton Garden Club, 10a.m., Moulton Residence, Route 11 & 11D
 BARBERSHOPPERS SNACK BAR - Sponsored by the Women's Fellowship, 10a.m.-Closing, Downing's Landing
 LECTURE: "HISTORY OF SASHA DOLLS" - Sponsored by the Happy Hobby Doll Club, 2p.m., Gilman Library

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- SMORGASBORD - Sponsored by the Eastern Star, 4:30-6:30p.m., Masonic Temple
- CHICKEN BARBEQUE - Sponsored by the Alton Fire Department, 4:30-7p.m., Central Fire Station
- MULTI-MEDIA SHOW - Sponsored by the Bible Conference Center, 7:30p.m. Tabernacle
- BARBERSHOPPERS JAMBOREE - Sponsored by the Nashua Chapter, 7:45p.m. Alton Central School
- Sun. 11 - PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Sponsored by the Alton-New Durham Lions Club, 6:30a.m.- Noon, Pop's Clamshell
- HELICOPTER RIDES - Sponsored by the Alton Bay Flying Club, 9a.m.-5p.m., Bandstand
- WOODMEN'S FIELD DAY - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 10a.m.-4p.m., Central Fire Station
- ORGAN DEDICATION SERVICE - Sponsored by the Community Church of Alton 4p.m., Congregational Meeting House
- CONCERT: DWIGHT DAVIS - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Mon. 12 - LECTURE: SLIDES OF ALASKA - Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, 2:30p.m., Gilman Library
- SQUARE DANCE - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Tues. 13 - SOCCER: 6 to 10 Year Olds - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m., Alton Central School
- ABENAKI WATER SKI SHOW - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 6p.m. Alton Bay
- Wed. 14 - ANTIQUE APPRAISAL DAY - Sponsored by the Alton Historical Society, 10a.m.-3p.m., Historical Society Building
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: DOROTHY MERRILL, BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2:30p.m., Gilman Library
- DIXIELAND BAND CONCERT - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 7:30 p.m., Bandstand
- Thurs. 15 - SOCCER: 6 to 10 Year Olds - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m., Alton Central School
- TAIL GATE PARTY - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 6p.m., Bandstand
- MAGIC SHOW - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 6:30p.m., Bandstand
- BAND CONCERT - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Fri. 16 - CHILDREN'S FILMS - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2p.m., Gilman Library
- LAS VEGAS NIGHT - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 7p.m., Alton Bay Community House
- CONCERT: "MYTH" - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 7p.m., Bandstand
- Sat. 17 - CAR WASH - Sponsored by the Ladies Guild, 9a.m-1p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church
- FLEA MARKET - Sponsored by the Alton Lioness Club, 9a.m-3p.m., Alton Bay Community House
- ANTIQUÉ BOAT SHOW - Sponsored by Forest Tilton, 10a.m.-2p.m., Alton

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Bay

- BAKE SALE - Sponsored by Eastern Star, 11a.m., American Legion Hall
 OLD HOME WEEK PARADE - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 2p.m., Alton to Alton Bay
 BAKED BEAN SUPPER - Sponsored by the American Legion Post #72, 5-7p.m., American Legion Hall
 BERKSHIRE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE NIGHT - Sponsored by the Bible Conference Center, 7:30p.m., Tabernacle
 PARADE AWARDS CEREMONY - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, 7:45p.m., Town Center
 OLD HOME WEEK BLOCK PARTY - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee 8p.m.-Midnight, Town Center
- Sun. 18 - ANNUAL ROAD RACE - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m. Alton Bay
 FAMILY PICNIC - Sponsored by the Old Home Week Committee, Noon, Bandstand
 WINDSURFING REGATTA - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Noon, Alton Bay
 ECUMENICAL SERVICE - Sponsored by the Bible Conference Center, 7p.m. Tabernacle
- Mon. 19 - LECTURE: SLIDES OF ALASKA - Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, 2:30p.m., Gilman Library
- Tues. 20 - SOCCER: 6 to 10 Year Olds - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m., Alton Central School
 LECTURE: "SHIPS OF THE LAKES REGION" - Sponsored by the Alton Historical Society, 7:30p.m., Lombard Center
- Wed. 21 - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: SHORT PLAYS - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2:30p.m., Gilman Library
 CONCERT: STEWART & COLBURN - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Thurs. 22 - SOCCER: 6 to 10 Year Olds - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 10a.m., Alton Central School
- Fri. 23 - CHILDREN'S FILMS - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2p.m., Gilman Library
- Sat. 24 - FLEA MARKET - Sponsored by the Merrymeeting River Campers, 9a.m.-3p.m., Merrymeeting River Campground
 ANNUAL POT LUCK & MEETING - Sponsored by the East Alton Meeting House Society, 6p.m., East Alton Meeting House
 CHILDREN'S MUSICAL: "TWO NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS" - Sponsored by the Bible Conference Center, 7:30p.m., Tabernacle
- Sun. 25 - WATER FESTIVAL - Sponsored by the Oak Birch Inn, 2p.m., Oak Birch Inn
 VESPER SERVICE - Sponsored by the East Alton Meeting House Society, 4 p.m., East Alton Meeting House
- Mon. 26 - CHILDREN'S FILMS - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 2p.m., Gilman Library
 LECTURE: "LOOKING UNDERGROUND: HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGY IN NH" - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 7:30p.m., Gilman Library
- Tues. 27 - LECTURE: "WILD FLOWERS OF NEW ENGLAND" - Sponsored by the Alton Garden Club, 1:30p.m., Congregational Meeting House
- Wed. 28 - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: "FAVORITE CHARACTER" PARTY - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 2:30p.m., Gilman Library
 FILM: "GREAT RAILROAD JOURNIES: COAST TO COAST" - Sponsored by the Gilman Library, 7p.m., Gilman Library
 CONTEST: MISS ALTON BAY & MR. WINNIPESAUKEE - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 7:30p.m., Bandstand
- Fri. 30 - CARNIVAL - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 5-11p.m., Bandstand
- Sat. 31 - CARNIVAL - Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, 5-11p.m., Bandstand
 CONCERT: SAM GILLINGHAM - Sponsored by the Bible Conference Center, 7:30p.m., Tabernacle

THE CHECKOUT DESK
by Pat Merrill, Librarian

**\$100 BUDGET IN 1892
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In 1892, the town of Alton enjoyed its first public library. At the Annual Town Meeting, the town voted to accept a gift of \$100 worth of books from the State and also to appropriate \$50. The Alton Free Public Library opened its doors on December 31, 1892, over Laban G. Welch's Drugstore, now Fern's Energy Center on Main Street.

On June 9, 1894, the Library was moved to the newly-erected Town Hall, and was called The Library and Reading Room. A catalog of books was published for \$35 and copies were sold for 25 cents each. Catalogs were needed as patrons were not allowed behind the guard rail that protected the book cases!

The 1897 Town Report shows concern for care of books by the following: "A few books have been mutilated the past year, we think, by allowing small children to play with them at home. Permit us to call attention to the fact that the public owns its public library, and that the best guardians, and the proper guardians, of the books and magazines in the library are the people who use them. Will you kindly assist us to see that your property is not injured by those who use it. We find that the unusual privileges granted in this library are very rarely abused. If each individual visitor will take that personal interest in the books here gathered which they should take, in view of the fact that they, in part are his or her own, mutilation and theft would be still more uncommon than they are now."

In 1951, a new Library was constructed to be named the Gilman Library after Oliver J. M. Gilman, whose picture hangs in the Library over the north fireplace. His will, written October 14, 1914, states: "Ten thousand dollars shall be paid to the said town of Alton

SOCCER CLINIC

The Alton Central is offering a Soccer Clinic for children in grades 3 through 8 beginning August 19.

The program, directed by Soccer Coach Mark Dickson, consists of daily sessions for two weeks. The cost is \$25. Additional information may be obtained by calling 875-7500.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Al Fisher

The second steamship on the Big Lake was built in Alton Bay and launched on July 5, 1851. Known as the "Dover", it plied the waters of the lake for forty years.


as a fund the income of which shall be used for the purchase of land and erection of a public library building thereupon for said town."

However, that amount of money was not considered enough to build a new Library and the money was left at interest. In 1940, a building committee was appointed. The war intervened, and the building was not begun until 1950. Land was donated by Lewis P. Varney in memory of his son, Robert Wilson Varney, and construction was begun under the direction of Roy C. Barnes.

The building was finished in 1951, and the dedication ceremony was held November 9, 1951. Annie Wheeler, the librarian, was associated with the Library since 1896 and was the librarian from 1909 to 1958.

In 1979, the basement meeting room was completed and dedicated to Agnes Thompson. Also in 1979, the Friends of the Library was formed under the leadership of Martha Headley.



The Library is growing. Gifts from generous and thoughtful townspeople continue; weekly hours have increased from 6 to 20; the budget has grown from \$50 to \$15,038; book collection from \$100 worth of books to 12,011 volumes; and staff from volunteer status to a librarian and an assistant.

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BARBERSHOPPERS PLAN FOR 36TH JAMBOREE

by Catherine Calvert

One of the highlights of Alton's Fifth Annual Old Home Week just has to be the Barbershoppers Jamboree. It's 5 years old, right? Wrong! Aida Downing beams with happy memories as she tells of its beginning and growth right up to this year's 36th Annual Jamboree. And well she might, because of the closeness and strong support of her and her late husband, Lester, from the event's birth in 1949.

Bill Marsden, a member of the Norwich, Conn., Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. invited a few of his fellow members to share a weekend that year at his summer cottage at Alton Bay. That weekend was spent serenading friends and visitors from aboard Marsden's boat and at Downing's Landing. Lester and Aida found the impromptu performances appealing. They encouraged the group and became delightful hosts over the many years that followed. She is a member of the committee for 1985 and just as enthusiastic.

The next year Marsden doubled the size of the group and along with the Aberjona Moaners of Reading, Mass., presented a concert on the green by Down-

ing's Landing. In 1951 almost the entire Norwich Chapter came to Alton Bay. Again with the help of the Aberjona Moaners they presented about an hour and a half show. The fourth year there were eight quartets from three chapters participating. That year the net proceeds of the show amounted to \$1,001 which was donated to Huggins Hospital. Until 1956 the concerts were held at Downing's Landing. After that the concerts were moved to the new Alton School and have been held there ever since.

In 1963 Bill Marsden, who had been the director for 13 years, died in early summer and the proceeds from the Jamboree that year were donated to Huggins Hospital in his memory.

In 1975 after hosting the Jamboree for 25 years the Norwich Chapter felt they could no longer do so. The Nashua, N. H., Chapter took over as Host Chapter and set up a scholarship trust fund in the name of the Norwich Chapter. Each year a scholarship is awarded to a student who has successfully completed one year of college.

Many organizations and the town of Alton have benefited from the proceeds

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SLIDES OF ALASKA

Slides of Alaska by Charles and Beatrice Hopkins of Rochester will be shown in two programs on Monday, August 12, and Monday, August 19, in the Gilman Library. The programs are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and funded by the Oliver J. M. Gilman Lyceum Fund. Refreshments will be served.

MAILING LIST

If your Zip Code is not 03809 or 03810 and you wish to receive MAIN STREET each month, call 875-3070 to place your name and address on the mailing list. Distribution is limited to Alton residents.

ORGAN DEDICATION

The public is invited to a Dedication Service of the recently installed Allen Digital Computer Organ in the Congregational Meeting House.

The program, demonstrating the versatility of the instrument, is August 11 at 4p.m.

BAHA' I OFFICERS

The Alton Baha'i Community recently elected the following officers: Nella Gustafson, Chairman; Muriel Gurney, Vice Chairman; Gwendolyn Jones, Secretary; and Valerie Fogg, Treasurer.



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BARBERSHOPPERS

Continued from Page 7

of the Jamboree. Among them are Huggins Hospital, Lakes Region General Hospital, Save the Mills Society of Laconia, Logopedics, Alton Police Department, Alton Bay Community House, Town Tennis Courts, Alton Central School. This year's proceeds will go toward a Little League Field which is part of Phase II of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee's Recreational Development Program.

From the beginning of the Jamboree some local names keep appearing as the main force in bringing about the success of the Jamboree: Mr. & Mrs. Lester Downing, Dr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Appleyard, Mr. & Mrs. Judson H. Downing, Mrs. Francis H. Howe, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert McCoy, Miss Marie Ketella, Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Downing, Dr. & Mrs. Louis R. Ziegra, and Mr. & Mrs. David Johnston.

The 1985 Committee consists of Aida Downing, Sally and Jonathon Downing, and Rachel Gray. The Jamboree will be held August 10 at 7:45 p.m. at the Alton Central School.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

by Al Fisher

"New Durham Gore (Alton) is not even six miles wide at its widest point and this section is separated for several miles by an arm of Winnepisaukee Pond (Alton Bay). The town is nearly 16 miles from the most southeasterly to the most northwesterly part." 1794

CALENDARS AVAILABLE

"PAST AND PRESENT II", the 1986 calendar published by the Friends of the Gilman Library as a fund-raising project is now available at Barrett's 5 & 10, Busy Corner Store, the Gilman Library, and from any member of the Friends of the Library.

Funds from the sale of last year's calendar were used to purchase a copier machine, a refrigerator for the meeting room, and a flag pole. The Library also sponsors year-round lecture and film programs, a children's program during Old Home Week, and a community Photo Contest with the proceeds.

The calendar sells for \$3.50.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS


Is your organization sponsoring an event of interest to the general public? Were officers recently elected?

Send news of your organization to MAIN STREET, P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay, NH 03810. The deadline for the September issue is August 15.

CHIMNEY INFORMATION

Starting September 1, the Alton Central Fire Station on Route 140 will be open on the first Sunday of each month from 8:30a.m. to Noon.

Jack Woodland, Alton Fire Department lieutenant, will be on hand to answer questions about the installation and cleaning of wood stoves and chimneys.

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