



Alton's

Main Street

Volume XX Number 2

Alton, New Hampshire - February, 2004

Complimentary

PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

By Richard Cunningham

After the first Joint Maintenance Agreement (JMA) Committee Public budget meeting, in which some 70 resident's voiced concerns with the budget, a second meeting was held on January 7th at the Alton High School Gym. Over 100 residents and teachers of both towns attended to express their thoughts on the proposed budget.

The one unifying point by all was that the building of the school was a necessary and a good project, but there was a great deal of debate regarding the costs and process of opening the new school. Equipping the school for maximum capacity when it is slated to open at just over half capacity was discussed. Also discussed was the bidding process for equipment, and staffing needs for the new school. Additionally, there was a great deal of concern over what would happen if one or both towns did not pass the final proposed budget.

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Prospect Mountain High School, January 6, 2004

Photograph by Barry Elliott, J.M.A. Clerk of the Works





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TOWN AND SCHOOL ELECTIONS
By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The election for Town and School Officers and zoning amendments will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Town Meeting will be the following night in the gymnasium at the Alton Central School at 7:00 o'clock.

Absentee ballot applications for both elections are available at the Town Clerks office. You must be on the voter checklist to receive an absentee ballot. The last day to register to vote is February 27, 2004 at the Town Clerks office, with the Supervisors of the Checklist on Saturday, February 28th between 11-11:30 a.m. or on election day.

February 3rd is the last day voters can submit a petition for a warrant article. Please be sure the signers: 1) are residents of Alton, 2) sign their legal voting name, 3) print legibly so the Supervisors can read the name, and 4) there are more than enough names (minimum 25) in case any are rejected.

A limited amount of tables are available at the election for any non-profit organization to sell products, raffle tickets, etc. Contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 875-2101 if your group is interested.

MOMS IN TOUCH
By Phyllis Brooks

We welcome all Alton Moms with children in the Alton Central School to come join us each Tuesday, at 12:30 p.m. While we have snow on the ground, we will be meeting at the home of Sheila Shea's on Gilman's Corner Road. Remember don't let the little ones keep you away. We have plenty of things to keep them busy. We have been praying for a wide variety of issues as well as the children, the teachers, the staff, the administration and all those who volunteer to serve on the many committees that help run our school.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO HELP OUR CHILDREN.

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).



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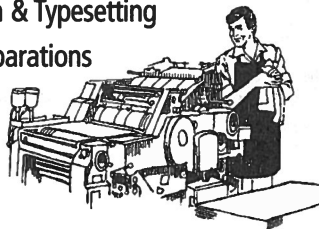
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PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

continued from cover

Several speakers spoke in support of the budget stating that they had worked long and hard to bring the School into reality and had full confidence in School officials to know what they need. State Representative Michael Whalley voiced his concerns that an event as important as a New High School was being marred by lack of communication between the School Officials and Constituents of Alton and Barnstead. The issues of whom had the final authority to present a budget, the JMA or the Alton and Barnstead Budget Committees was also debated. At the time of the meeting, a lawsuit had been filed and the ruling by the Belknap Superior Court had not been issued.

The Public Hearing then was closed, and the JMA continued with an open session without further public input. After much debate the JMA budget committee voted to reduce the budget to \$5,000,000, with the School Administration to decide where to make the appropriate cuts. A later meeting of the School Board resulted in their coming up with a final budget of \$5,350,000.

A few days after the meeting, the Belknap County Superior Court ruled that the JMA provides for the School Board to provide the final budget numbers. The Court also ruled that the JMA could not be forced to separate capital items from the PMHS first-year-operating budget. A petition to change the wording of the JMA is currently circulating.

The School Deliberative Session will be held on January 31st at 1pm in the Alton Central School gymnasium. At this meeting the final budget will be debated and voted on. After the Deliberative Session, the budget agreed on will be presented to the public at the School Elections on March 9th.

PTSA FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE AT ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL By Cyndi Dame

Alton Central School PTSA will be holding the annual Father/Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 21, 2004, from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. Admission is \$5.00 per person and tickets may be purchased from Debby Lane in the Elementary Library. The dance is for children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. Entertainment includes music, dancing, raffles, and lots of fun!!!

2005 DOG LICENSES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE. THE CURRENT DOG LICENSE WILL EXPIRE APRIL 30TH. PLEASE CALL 875-2101 IF YOU NO LONGER HAVE YOUR DOG.

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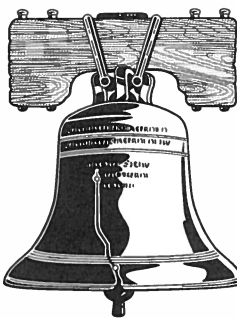
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 By Ken Roberts
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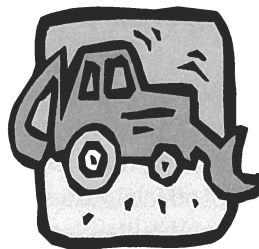
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Bruce Waterman



It's cold out! It's been great for ice fishing and ice skating, but still make sure you check out the ice first before approaching it. Mother nature has sent us a variety of weather; 27" of snow, then pouring rain, more snow, more rain, and now She's just giving us bitter cold. Use caution when outdoors, dress in layers and be careful to prevent frostbite.

We are checking our routes, sanding and scraping the roads where needed, we have also been thawing frozen culverts and cutting ice from ditchlines. We do appreciate your calls as problems occur, Thank You.

Places Mill Rd is now open, the recommended posting will be "E 2" which will allow for legal load vehicles to resume passage across the structure.

Please drive safely and please yield to plow equipment; when following a plow please stay back 200 feet.

Remember Town Meeting on March 10, hope to see you all there. We're looking forward to Spring!

Public Safety is our number one concern.

MRS. SANTA FUND THANKS YOU

Once again it is time to say THANK YOU!!!!!! to all the wonderful volunteers who support the Mrs. Santa Fund. Once again the contributions continue to amaze...So many contributions...of money, toys, clothing, quilts, afghans, gloves and hats, wrapping paper, ribbon, tape from the community, thank you all!

AND to our volunteers who shopped and shopped and wrapped and tied and toted and carried, and gave that most precious gift, of your time and yourselves... thank you all!

It would take pages and 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, THANK YOU, MOST SINCERELY!

MT. MAJOR SNOWMOBILE CLUB NEWS

Mt. Major Snowmobile Club's "ANNUAL RADAR RUN" will be held in conjunction with the Alton Bay Winter Festival on Sunday, February 15th.

The Radar Run will be held on the ice in Alton Bay from 11 am to 3 pm. Trophies and plaques will be awarded at 3:30 pm. Please come and support the club! We had a great turn out last year and alot of fun. Check our website at www.mountmajorsnowmobileclub.com.

The club's next meeting is February 10th at 7 pm at the Pearson Road Community Center in Alton.

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IN Main Street

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . After more than nineteen years of service to Alton, Rev. Dwight Meader, pastor of the Community Church, retired. He and his wife, Lois, were very special people. He had many talents outside his ministerial sphere. Among them were gardening, music, and carpentry. He built his new home after dismantling the old parsonage. He was active in Masonry and a volunteer fireman. The Meaders now reside in Rochester... Winter Carnival activities will encompass the full week before the Ball. Contests will be in the last two periods of school daily. They will include a brainbowl competition, chess tournament, snow sculptures, broomball competition and foul shooting to name a few. King and Queen will be crowned at the Carnival Ball...

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Nancy Merrill reviewed a history of "Boating on Winnepesaukee as part of the bicentennial revisit to the early days of Alton. The gundalow, a sail propelled barge, was replaced by the horseboat until steam power started with "The Belknap" in 1832. Other steamers came along including the "Mount Washington", built in Alton Bay in 1872... Seven students from Alton Central School participated in the Lakes Region Music Festival at Belmont High School. Selected to go were: Pam Bothwick, Jaime Sample, and Jessica Trefethen. Band members chosen were Jeremy Collins, Jessica Emanouil, John Herman and Marisa Kelley....

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Andrew Fuller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fuller was selected by the DAR as "Good Citizen of the Year"... Alton will have access to Channel 25 PEG (Public, Education and Government) to give residents a view of Town Meetings. School meetings and other important public affairs. Peter Pijoan of Alton Bay is the coordinator of this cable channel... The annual Winter Carnival will take place on February 14 at Alton Bay with bed races and other contests such as tug- o - war.



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**18TH ANNUAL ICE-OUT CONTEST
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28**

There's still time for you to enter the 18th annual ice-out contest. Main Street will still accept one form per household/address postmarked no later than February 28, and the prize to the winner for this year is dinner for two at the **Dockside Restaurant**.

This is an annual contest won by the person who comes the closest to the date of "ice-out" as decided by the official ice watchers around the "Big Lake." The earliest date was March 28, 1921, and the latest, May 12, 1888. 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.

Participation is limited to Alton residents and subscribers to Main Street. Most important is the fact that your entry must be postmarked by February 28 and be sure that you indicate a.m. or p.m. on your form. Only one entry allowed per household/address.

ICE-OUT ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

I predict "ice-out" will occur on:

(month) _____ (date) _____, at

(time) _____ am or pm (circle one)

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I will first complete my discussion on **Master Planning** and then address some of the larger **projects** being considered by the Board.

Once the **Board has passed the Visioning Statement**, the Goals and Objectives, which are part of Vision Chapter, need to be revised. Each chapter will then to be brought into agreement with the completed and approved Vision Chapter. Following the Master Plan's update, the Board will take a careful look for its consistency with the ordinances and regulations.

I have heard it many times from planning boards: "We are so busy doing application processing, that we don't have time to do real planning." I believe that statement is only partly true. If towns had done their planning in a proactive manner, applications would be considered pieces in the puzzle. The final "picture of the puzzle" would be the Master Plan's vision made up of a combination of public and private projects.

At the present time, we have three major **site plans**, which have been presented to the Planning Board to discuss concepts. I want to make it clear, that these projects are not official because they have not been submitted as completed application. The smallest of the three projects is for a branch bank of Profile Bank of Rochester. This bank will be constructed on the site of Catholic Church located at the intersection of Old Wolfeboro Road and Main Street.

St. Katharine Drexel Church, which was created from the recent consolidation of St. Joan of Arc in Alton and St. Cecilia in Wolfeboro, is being proposed on Hidden Spring Road. At full capacity this church is planned to accommodate 500 persons.

The largest pending submission is a retail complex consisting of a grocery and drug store with a restaurant as an "out parcel." This complex is located south of the traffic circle on Range Road. I will provide more detailed information once the projects become official.

2004 JUNIOR DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST Top NH Winner to Receive \$500 Scholarship

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department invites young New Hampshire artists to submit original artwork depicting New Hampshire waterfowl to the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest.

The Best-of-Show New Hampshire winner will advance to the national Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. The three top winners at the national level will receive cash awards and trips to Washington, D.C., in the fall to attend the adult Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

Entry forms can be downloaded from <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>, where you also can find additional background on the contest.



ALTON OUTDOORS
By Jack Miller

For most of us, February is a dull month. It is in the middle of the winter and there is not much to do, except try to stay warm. But if you are an outdoor person, there is still plenty to do.

Ice fishing is the main outdoor activity this month. There is usually plenty of ice by now, but each year varies. I remember quite a few years ago when we had a big February thaw. Most "bob-houses" were pulled off the ice, and a rain-storm widened their holes to 12-15 feet across. Every once in a while you could even see a salmon swim by. Last year, during the Rotary Fishing Derby, I chopped through 10 feet of ice (5 holes through 2 feet of ice each), and got tendonitis (tennis elbow) in my right arm for the effort. Lesson learned? Get a power auger for thick ice. This year's Rotary Fishing Derby is being held February 7th and 8th.

Lake trout/salmon lakes are limited to 2 ice fishing devices. Most other lakes allow 6 devices, upping your odds of getting a bite. Many of our local lakes are stocked with rainbow trout and also contain pickerel, perch and bass, adding to the excitement. Get out and get some fresh air this month.

For the hunter, snowshoe hare, fox, raccoon, and of course, coyote, are huntable this month. If you are a deer hunter, shoot a coyote! Deer hunting was tough last year with a 12% reduction in the deer kill. Harsh winters and coyotes are to blame. The coyotes have been very active around our house this year. I have found a kill site near by where a pack of coyotes took down a deer. I have also seen quite a few tracks in the snow.

If you are an indoor person this month, there are a lot of hunting and fishing shows to keep you interested. February 5-8 is the Eastern Fishing and Outdoor Expo. at the Centrum in Worcester, MA. February 27-29 is the Granite State Sportsman Show at the Center of NH, Manchester. These shows allow one to try out new gear, talk to the experts, and get some good deals. Plan to spend several hours browsing.

See you out there.



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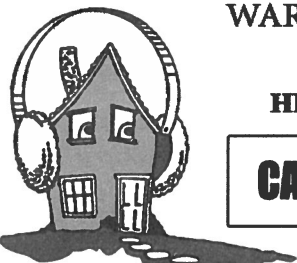
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FOR THE FUN OF IT By Kellie Troendle, CPRP Parks and Recreation Director

Working towards 10,000 steps per day Snowshoeing Events

"Full-Moon" Snowshoe Walk- February 6, 2004- 5:45pm meet at trailhead, Snowshoe Walk begins at 6:00pm at the Trask Swamp area on Fort Point Road off of Chestnut Cove Road. Join us for a beginner walk/snowshoe hike with slight inclines, please bring snowshoes and poles and be sure to dress in layers for winter including: gloves, hat, water, snacks, and headlamp or flashlight. The moon should be bright enough to light the way but an extra lamp is helpful for each person. If there is inclement weather the snow date will be February 7, 2004. The estimated time to complete the walk/hike is 1 - 2 hours. The Snowshoe Event is free. Pre-registration is required, please call Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109 for trail directions and to register by February 4, 2004. Participants should be in good physical condition and be able to complete a three-mile hike. Participants under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

"Sunshine" Snowshoe Intermediate Hike- February 28, 2004- 9:45am meet at trailhead, hike begins at 10:00am at Knights Pond, off of Rines Road in East Alton. Please dress for the outdoor weather and be sure to include all of your gear including water and a camera. The estimated time to complete the hike is approximately three hours. The Snowshoe Event is free. Pre-registration is required, please call Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109 for trail directions and to register by February 23, 2004. Participants should be in good physical condition and be able to complete a six-mile hike on varied terrain. Participants under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Alton Bay Winter Festival

The Annual Winter Festival will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2004 from 1:00pm-3:00pm at the Alton Bay Bandstand on Lake Winnepesaukee, weather permitting. Sign up in advance for the Great Alton Bay Bed Race- 5 team members push, pull or ski the bed to the finish line. Decorate your bed with a creative theme or just show up with a bed on skis; call us at 875-0109 to register your team and for the race rules. Great prizes will be given away from Gunstock Ski Area. The Bed Race is the most popular event of the day. The Parade of Beds begins at 2:45pm with the race at 3:00pm. Other events starting at 1:00pm will include: scavenger hunt, fly-in, snow sculpture contest, snowshoe walk, snow mobile radar run, Robotics demonstrations, raffles and D.J. Music. Hot drinks and food will be available for purchase. Get outside on the holiday weekend and come play with us.

BAY CHURCH MOVES ON By Sandy Robinson

As many of our Townspeople are aware, The Bay Church has been in a period of transition since Pastor Bob Hett's move to the West Coast. While seeking the person God has planned to pastor our church, we have been enjoying inspiring messages from a variety of guest speakers. A time of transition can be frightening and frustrating or it can be a time of restructure, renewal, and spiritual growth. We have been striving to focus on God's will.

The Board of Elders and Pulpit Committee have been meeting regularly to conduct church business and set more concrete goals for the future of the church. We expect to be back to our more diversified activities including Ladies' Bible Study, Men's Prayer Group, Social Events, Youth Adventures, and Craft Classes etc. very soon. Times, dates and places will be announced.

There will be an open meeting of the church body, both members and friends, on Feb.8th at 12:30 at the church on Rand Hill. A luncheon is planned.

LAKES REGION CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S GROUP FEBRUARY MEETING By Karen Poor

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Group cordially invites you to attend it's February 11th meeting at Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant, Rt. 3, Meredith at 10:00 a.m. This will be a "Continental Breakfast" for a cost of \$8.00.

Our program will be "Painfully Shy" with guest speaker Carmen O'Neill of Buxton, Maine, who will tell us how she developed confidence through the love of friends and family and as a result of her best friends death from leukemia and how this changed her life.

On a lighter note, our guest feature will be Debra Winsor from "Webbie's Baskets and Gifts" in Moultonborough, with baskets for all occasions. Reservations are needed. In the Alton area call Melissa at 776 - 2224 and in the Gilford area call Faith at 293 - 8073. Child care will be provided at Calvary Bible Church, 6 St. James Street, Meredith and reservations are needed for this as well.

Our group is a non-denominational group of ladies with no formal membership or dues required. Everyone is welcome and we are finished with the meeting at 11:30 so you can be home in time for the children. Brave the cold New England weather and warm up with coffee, muffins and fruit for the body and soul.

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CONHD4E

LEARN MORE ABOUT NEW HAMPSHIRE'S TREES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

By Jan Hooper

Did you know one large shade tree cools the air as much as five air conditioners running 20 hours a day, and communities with healthy natural resources have a better quality of life, improved health and lower crime rates?

These are just a few of the benefits natural resources provide to our cities and towns. An educational series "Tree Steward and Earth Team Natural Resource Volunteers" begins Feb. 3 at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth and on Feb. 5 at the NH Fish & Game office in Concord. Each site will host the 11 session series Tuesdays or Thursdays from 8:45am-4pm through April 15.

Applications are still being accepted at both locations. A \$50 course fee includes an extensive resource guide and additional information throughout the course. Participants then volunteer time through a wide variety of projects and activities that help improve natural resources. The series is being sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension, the NH Division of Forests and Lands, and the U.S. Forest Service, in partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and County Conservation Districts.

For an application or more information, contact Pam Doherty, UNH Cooperative Extension at 629-9494 ext. 120. A limited number of scholarships are available to individuals unable to pay. To ask questions in Belknap County you can also call Jan Hooper at the Conservation District 527-5880.

CONSERVING LAND & WATER DURING DEVELOPMENT

"Conserving Land & Water During Development: Farmland, Forests, Water, & Housing" program is open to the public for Belknap County Conservation District's 2004 Annual Meeting. The meeting is in the evening on February 18 at the Willows Restaurant, Weirs Beach and preregistration is due by Feb 10. Please contact the BCCD office at 527-5880 well in advance of then for information. Speakers will provide an overview of the topics and then answer questions as a panel: . Achieving Smart Growth in New Hampshire, by Adjunct Professor Plymouth State Univ., JH Taylor & Assoc. Conservation Subdivision & Low Impact Development, by Town Planner, Stratham, NH. Subdividing, Keeping Open Space & Farmland, by Assistant Planner, Bedford, NH. Lot Size +/- or Density by Soil Type, Brook Haven Farm Environmental, NH Assoc. of Natural Resource Scientists

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KINGSWOOD WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT TRIP HAS OPENINGS

By Felice Carr, World Language Coordinator.

Discover the Treasures of Italy! The Kingswood High School World Language Department is in the final stages of preparing for a tour of Rome, Florence, Venice and other parts of the Italian peninsula. This 10 day trip will depart Boston June 23.

In Rome, history comes alive with a tour of the ancient Roman Empire. Walk in the footsteps of Caesar and visit the many classical sights including the ruins of the Roman Forum, the 2000 year old Colosseum, and the Arch of Constantine. A tour of the Vatican City will include the Vatican Museums, the Raphael Rooms, and the Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo's extraordinary ceiling. Also included is a visit to St. Peter's Basilica and where one can enjoy a bird's eye view of Rome from the top of the magnificent Dome. Of course no trip would be complete without walking through the narrow streets, visiting the small upbeat shops, having an Italian ice cream, and sitting at the Spanish Steps. This is just a sample of what the trip will offer!

Florence, known as the cradle of the Renaissance, is home to Michelangelo's statue of David in the Academia Gallery. A visit will also include the Uffizi Museum. After sightseeing, there will be time to browse through the leather and craft market, and the famous rows of shops which have been reserved for gold and silversmiths since the 16th century. In the square, there may be an opportunity to have your portraits sketched by an artist.

Venice is where we will cruise the canals in a gondola seeing the many beautiful sights. A tour of the city through centuries old passageways will lead us to the famous Rialto Bridge, the Galleries, and the Doges Palace. This city is known for its hand-blown glass creations in the boutiques surrounding St. Mark's Square, so leave room in your suitcase for a one of a kind souvenir!

Italy has more to offer than just cities. Our journey includes a visit to Pompeii, the ancient town buried under ash when a nearby volcano exploded in 79 AD, and a visit to the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. Also included is a side trip to see Romeo and Juliet's "Verona", Siena, and Sorrento. We will also enjoy many sights through Campania and the Amalfi Drive. There are many more sites too numerous to mention. Pick up a brochure to find out more!

All this plus the famous Italian cuisine! The price includes private tour bus, air and hotel, breakfasts & dinners, all entrance fees to museums and sights along with guided tours.

This tour will be a private tour for students and adults from the area. There are still seats available for this wonderful adventure to sunny Italy! Any adult or student interested in more information can contact Mrs. Carr @ (776-6003). Reserve your seat now for this June 23 - July 2 Italian adventure!

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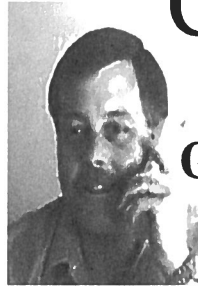
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Clubs and Services

COMMUNITY HEALTH & HOSPICE NEW PROGRAMS

The Family Caregiver Network will be hosting a viewing and discussion of the program, "The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's," on Monday, February 2 from 10:00 AM to 12 noon at the CH&H office, 780 N. Main Street, Laconia. A light lunch will follow. Call Pat Marceau at 524-8444, ext. 343 to register.

The Caregiver Focus Group will meet on Tuesday, February 17 at Community Health & Hospice from 5:30 to 7:30pm at CH&H. The Focus Group is designed for caregivers who want to learn more about problem-solving and education related to caregiving issues. This will be a regular monthly event on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Andréa R. Huertas, RN, BSN, CHPN, has been chosen as the new Program Manager for the Hospice and Palliative Care programs at Community Health & Hospice in Laconia. Huertas is enthusiastic about her new position and sees it as an opportunity to educate people about Hospice. She has developed several Hospice education programs which she is offering to community organizations or to health care professionals. The programs are:

End of Life Education: This program helps educate audiences about patient choices at end of life. It explains palliative care and Hospice care; durable power of attorney for health care, the Living Will, and the importance of communicating with family members/caregivers about end of life care options.

Pain and Symptom Management: Many medications can be used to control pain, shortness of breath, nausea, confusion, agitation, and other symptoms. In addition, complementary modalities such as guided imagery, massage, or music can be very helpful in certain cases.

End Stage Cancers and Non Cancers: Understanding the disease process as it relates to end of life care is very important. This program helps explain the various signs and symptoms of advanced disease.

Hospice Caregiving: Sometimes the idea of caring for a dying person can be very frightening to caregivers, a spouse, or family members-even though they really want to be a part of the patient's care. In this program we teach family members and caregivers how they can provide physical, emotional and psychological support to the patient and to themselves as well.

Bereavement: This program explains that there's no "right" or "wrong" way to grieve. Each person reacts differently to the loss of a loved one, and Community Health & Hospice offers 12 month follow-up and bereavement support through our support groups, phone calls, and visits following a Hospice death.

For more information, call Andrea at Community Health & Hospice at (603) 524-8444, ext. 323.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- Tues. 3 Last Day to submit petitions for warrant articles (see p. 2)
- Fri. 6 Full Moon Snowshoe Walk, 5:45pm (see p. 8)
- Mon. 9 Alton's Book Chat, 6:30pm, Gilman Library (see p. 14)
- Sun. 15 Winter Festival, 1-3pm, Alton Bay Bandstand (see p. 8)
- Fri. 27 Last day to register to vote at Town Clerks office (see p. 2 for other important dates and times)
- Sat. 28 Main Street Ice-Out Contest Deadline (see p.5) Snowshoe Hike, 9:45am (see p. 8)

Bereavement Support Group: Community Health & Hospice offers a Bereavement Support Group at Community Health & Hospice, 780 North Main Street, Laconia. Call Carolyn Stevenson, 524-8444, ext. 321 for more information.

Overeaters Anonymous: Overeaters Anonymous (OA) meets weekly on Thursdays at the Alton Bay Community Center on Route 11 from 5:30-6:30pm. Also meets Tues., Cong. Church Center Ossipee, Sat., Huggins Hospital Wolfeboro. Call 434-7578 for more info.. All are welcome.

Young Family Program: the Community Health & Hospice is offering a free Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) to parents of children ages four months through five years. The ASQ is a parent-completed screening system to help identify children who should be referred for a comprehensive assessment for medical, special education, early childhood education, mental health, and social services. For more information or to request a questionnaire, call Carol at 524-4339, ext. 346.

Blood Pressure Clinics: Blood Pressure Clinics are held in the following locations: Belknap Mall on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am - noon, near Shaw's Supermarket and Belmont Senior Center on the third Wednesday of the month from 12:30 - 2:00 pm.

American Red Cross Blood Services: Red blood cells have a shelf life of only forty-two days, so new reserves must be added to to hospital inventories every day. If you would like information about becoming a regular blood donor, contact the American Red Cross Blood Services - New England Region at 1-800-843-3500, or go to www.newenglandblood.org/nh for a list of blood drives.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Alcoholics Anonymous -- Tue., 8 p.m., Alton Bay Comm. Ctr.
Alton Community Services Prog., Sat., 10 a.m. - 12 noon., 875-2273

Alton Masonic Lodge #75 -- 2nd Thu. except July & Aug., 875-7448

American Legion -- 2nd Mon., 8:30 p.m., Legion Hall, Rte 28
American Legion Auxiliary -- 2nd Mon., 6:30 p.m., Legion Hall
American Legion Jr. Auxiliary -- 1st Wed., 6:30 p.m., Legion Hall
American Legion Family--2nd Monday 7:30pm, Legion Hall
Boy Scout Troop 53 -- Wed., 6:30 p.m., Central Fire Station
Cub Scout Pack 53 -- Last Wed., 7 p.m., Legion Hall
4-H Club, see website <www.alton4H.org>

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.

Moms In Touch -- Tue., 12:30 p.m., 875-2866

Mt. Major Snowmobile Club -- 2nd Tue., 7 p.m., Sr. Center,
875-3858 or <info@mountmajorsnowmobileclub.com>

OES, Warren-Alpha #10, Wolfeboro -- 3rd Tue, 7:30 p.m., 539-7898

Overeaters Anonymous (OA), Thursdays, 5:30, Alton Bay
Community Center. Call 434-7578.

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

Senior Citizens -- 2nd Wed., 1 p.m., Pearson Road
Community Center

Sons of the American Legion, 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Legion Hall
VFW -- 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

CALL 875-2151 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

Information Center

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

- Baha'i Fireside -- Thu., 7:30 p.m., Holway Residence, Old New Durham Road
- Bay Church -- 9:30am Sunday School, Church on Rand Hill Rd, 11am Worship Service, ABCCC Chapel; Weds. Prayer meeting - 6:45pm Church on Rand Hill Rd. To confirm call 875-5211.
- Community Church -- Sun. Service, 9:30am, Main Street Church Rev. Peter Bolster, Pastor; 875-5561
- First Free Will Baptist Church -- Sun. School, 9:45 am; Church, 11 am; Evening Service, 6 pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 pm; Depot St., New Durham; Pastor James Nason
- North Barnstead Congregational Church -- Sun. School and Worship Services, 10:30 am, 504 N. Barnstead Rd, Rev. Gray Fitzgerald
- St. Katharine Drexel -- Weekend Masses Sat., 8am and 4pm, Sun., 7, 8:30, 11am and 5pm; weekday Masses, Mon. through Fri., 8am; Rev. George Ham; 569-2548
- Wolfeboro Bible Fellowship -- Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship Service, 10:30 am; Evening Service, 6pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 pm; Route 28; Pastor Scott Button

GILMAN LIBRARY: 875-2550

Tue. and Thu., 11 am - 7 pm; Wed. and Fri., 9 am - 5 pm; Sat., 9 am - 1 pm; closed Sun. and Mon.

SENIOR MEAL SITE: 875-7102

Mon-Fri., 10am-2pm; Pearson Rd. Community Center

SOLID WASTE CENTER: 875-5801

Sun., Mon., Fri., and Sat., 7am - 4:45pm.

Closed Tue., Wed., and Thu.

Rines Road Pit -- As of April 19, Sat. and Sun., 8 am - 2:45 pm.

TOWN HALL: 875-2161

Selectmen's Office, Tax Collector, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Welfare Officer, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
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.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BELKNAP COUNTY COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES--Contact Dick Wallace, Alton Appointee, phone 875-8221

BOARD OF SELECTMEN -- 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6pm. (re-plays on Channel 26 later in the week), Chairman James Washburn, call 875-2161 for appointment.

BUDGET COMMITTEE -- 3rd Thursday (twice a week in "budget season"), 7 pm, Chairman Cydney Johnson, 875-7448.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES -- Meetings posted at Town Hall and Post Office, Chairman Shirley Lane, 875-5864.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION -- 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7 pm, Town Hall, Co-Chairs, Earl Bagley and Justine Gengras, 875-5095.

FIRE WARDS -- 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm, Central Fire Station, Chairman Ken Roberts, 875-6808

- GILMAN MUSEUM COMMITTEE** -- Meets on call, Chairman Kathy Currier, 875-5095.
- LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM** -- Meets on call, Chairman Juliet Peverley, 875-7232.
- LEVEY PARK TRUSTEES** -- Meets 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 Thomas Hoopes, call 875-5095 for appointment.
- SCHOOL BOARD** -- 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6 pm, Chairman Lawrence Alting, 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 pm, Chairman Nancy Jordan, 875-2550.
- TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS** -- Meets on call, Chairman Joseph R. Houle, 875-7321.
- WATER COMMISSION** -- 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 9:30am, Water Department Office, Chairman Buddy Peterson
- ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** -- 1st Thursday, 7 pm, Chairman Richard Quindley, 875-5095.
- *DENOTES A CHANGE OF INFORMATION
CALL 875-2151 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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, 111 Russell Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510; Phones: (202) 224-2841, (603) 647-7500, Fax: (202) 228-4131; e-mail: mailbox@sununu.senate.gov

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ieb Bradley, 1218 Longworth House Office Building, Washington DC 20515; Phones: (202) 225-5456, (603) 641-9536, Fax: (202) 225-5822; web site: www.house.gov/Bradley

N.H. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

N.H. SENATE

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

N.H. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

<u>Janet Allen</u> , 269-6313	<u>James Pilliod</u> , 524-3047
<u>Gordon Bartlett</u> , 524-6536	<u>David Russell</u> , 364-7449
<u>Laurie Boyce</u> , 875-7371	<u>John Thomas</u> , 528-5112
<u>Charles Clark</u> , 293-9194	<u>Mike Whalley</u> , 875-7266

BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Christopher D. Boothby, 527-5400

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

<u>Pat Fuller</u> , 875-5546	<u>Stephan McMahan</u> , 875-6322
<u>William Ryan</u> , 875-2112	<u>James C. Washburn</u> , 364-7413
<u>Alan Sherwood</u> 293-7041	

ALTON U.S. FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM

By: Sarah Tinkham

This April a group of students from Alton Central School will have a chance to visit Texas to participate in the U.S. First Robotics Competition. This competition is a national event that has been running since 1992. The process of getting to the competition and being involved in it requires teamwork, designing, technology, time and money. These students involved here in Alton will be given the task to create a robot with certain abilities, limiting only size, weight and material usage to perform in the competition. They are being mentored by Brian Hikel, the industrial arts teacher in Alton, to lead them in this project. At Texas their robot (designed and built by the students participating) will compete in head to head competition against robots built by other teams. They have to perform multiple tasks within a limited time span. Nine hundred and seventy teams across the country have company sponsors such as Diamyler Chrysler, NASA, MIT, BAE Systems, the Navy, and many other large engineering firms. Alton's only sponsors are the local companies and willing donators. In Alton's six-year history we have taken on and beaten teams sponsored by the names above. The U.S. Robotics Team here in Alton is asking local companies, and town philanthropists for donations to support the Alton Team, 319. For information visit www.usfirst.org. Thank you to the Alton Police Dept. for your generous donations, and to the Wolfeboro Rotary for your donations as well. Please look in upcoming issues for team progress, and updates on the robot. Also, we will be holding a spaghetti supper fundraiser on the night of March 5th. It will be held from 5:30-8:00. More information will be in next months' Mainstreet. We hope you plan to attend to help us raise some more funds! Thank you!!!

ALTON'S BOOKCHAT

By Debra Laurion

The book that was discussed at our last meeting was *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. This book took place in South America at the Vice President's home during his birthday party. He had a well known opera come and sing for him in front of several guests when a terrorist group took over demanding the President. The rest of the book was about the daily lives of the hostages and the terrorists while they are waiting for the demands to be met before the guests are released.

The next book to be discussed will be *At Home* in Mitford by Jan Karon. The meeting will be on February 9th at 6:30pm in the Agnes Thompson room at the Gilman Library. All are welcome, just pick up a copy of the book at the library and join us on February 9th.

Gilman Library Hours:

Tues, Thurs. 11am-7pm; Wed, Fri. 9am-5pm
Sat. 9am-1pm; Sun, Mon. Closed



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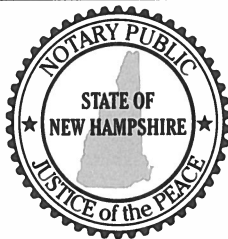
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MORE HARM THAN GOOD
Thinking about feeding deer this winter?
Think again.

Are you tempted by the advertisements that promote the availability of so-called "deer feed" at the store? Don't be, wildlife biologists say: feeding wild white-tailed deer may harm the animals' ability to survive a New England winter.

"Some people say, 'if the deer look (or seem) skinny and hungry, I should feed them,'" remarks Kent Gustafson, deer project leader for N.H. Fish and Game. "But it's a lot more complicated than that. Despite our best intentions, supplemental feeding creates an artificial situation in which the deer, the habitat and the public may suffer."

The commercial availability of "deer feed" does NOT make it OK to feed the deer — in fact, supplying white-tailed deer with supplemental feed can actually cause more harm than good, according to wildlife biologists from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

Darrel Covell, a wildlife specialist with Cooperative Extension, notes that white-tailed deer in New Hampshire are at the northern limit of their range. "They have several natural adaptations that allow them to survive the winter, like a thick winter coat of hollow hairs and the storage of fat in fall for later use in winter." In winter conditions, adult deer conserve their energy, getting as much as 40% of their daily energy during winter from their fat tissue. In winter, COVER — not food — is the key to deer survival. Deer seek softwood cover ("deer yards") to avoid deep snow, high winds and extreme cold. Deer move little in these areas, using a network of trails that disperse them and reduce competition for natural food. When humans feed the deer, it disrupts carefully-honed survival strategies, and may lead to the deer spending more energy than they can afford outside of safe shelter.

"Quality natural habitat provides the best insurance for deer survival in winter," says Gustafson. "If you care about deer, leave them alone — let them be wild, and find natural foods and appropriate winter shelter on their own."

"Many people think of feeding deer like feeding birds," remarks Covell, "But there are some critical differences that make feeding deer unhealthy for the deer population, for plants near the feed site and for passing motorists."

The bottom line, says Gustafson, is "Please don't feed the deer, and please discourage your neighbors, friends and relatives from engaging in this harmful activity." Here are the top reasons to resist feeding wild deer:

- * Feed sites congregate deer into unnaturally high densities. These high deer densities can:
 - attract predators and increase risk of death by coyotes or domestic dogs;
 - spread diseases among deer;
 - cause aggression, wasting vital energy reserves and leading to injury or death;
 - reduce fat reserves as deer use energy traveling to and from the feed site;
 - result in over-browsing of local vegetation and ornamental plants;
 - deny access to food, because subordinate deer are kept away from feeding stations, and over-browsing by larger deer removes food available to fawns; and
 - increase deer-vehicle collisions.

* Feed sites lure deer away from natural wintering areas. This attraction can trap deer in inferior winter habitat and increase the chance of malnutrition and predation. If deer continually go to feed sites instead of deer wintering areas, then young deer may never learn to find their natural winter habitat. Also, landowners may lose their incentive to manage for dense softwood cover, typical natural winter habitat for deer.

"More Harm than Good," a brochure on deer feeding, is available for download from <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us>; or at Fish and Game regional offices or headquarters, Cooperative Extension offices in each county or Extension's Forestry Information Center at 1-800-444-8978.

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SUNDAY MORNING LEGION BREAKFASTS CONTINUE TO BE A BIG HIT

By Ray Nadeau

Breakfasts on Sunday Morning are open to the public and are more popular than ever. A full breakfast menu is served from 8:00 AM to noon at the Legion Post on Route 28 near the traffic circle. The menu includes eggs and omelets made-to-order, ham, bacon, sausage, home fries, beans, biscuits and gravy, fruit, cereal and juice.

The American Legion family sponsors breakfasts with most of the proceeds going to different charities they support. This effort is augmented by non-profit groups from the community who use the breakfasts as periodic fund raisers. Since the breakfasts began, over a year ago, organizations such as the Lions Club, Alton School organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, have raised thousands of dollars through these fund raisers. Sponsors for upcoming breakfasts are:

- Feb. 1 Appalachian Mountain Teen Project
- Feb. 8 Children's Miracle Network
- Feb 15 Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Annual Sweetheart Breakfast)
- Feb 22 Simade Shrine
- Feb. 29 AVAILABLE
- Mar. 7 Annual Needy Family Program
- Mar.14 AVAILABLE.

If you and your non-profit group would like to schedule a breakfast, all you have to do is call Club Manager Andy Schofield at 875-3461, publicize it and bring 4 to 6 volunteers in by 7:30 AM the morning of your breakfast. Notice that February 29 and March 14 are available at this writing.

Don't forget that food is served every Friday and Saturday from 4:30 to 8:00 PM. There is a full menu to choose from including everything from pizza and sandwiches to such entrees as Maple Dijon Chicken, Fisherman's Platter and NY Sirloin Steak as well as weekly specials.

AMERICAN LEGION UPDATE

The Legion year starts in July and ends in June, so we are half-way through this year and what a busy half year it has been!

- The fund drive for the High School Band Uniforms culminated and the uniforms have been ordered
- We had outstanding programs and activity for Veterans Day, the annual needy family program and the holiday Veterans program.
- We have a record high membership for all three segments of the American Legion family.

If you are eligible for membership, stop by the Legion Post and pick up an application. Don't forget your spouse and kids too!

The Jr. Auxiliary is preparing for their annual sweetheart raffle, to be held at the Sweetheart breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 15.

The Sons of the Legion are busy raising funds for their charity projects, including Childrens Miracle Network.

We are currently planning the upcoming St. Patricks Party featuring Corned Beef and Cabbage and a DJ for the entertainment of members and guests on Sat., March 13.

In April, new officers will be elected. We are hopeful that the community will continue to support activities and fund raisers hosted by the American Legion Family under their new leadership.

Also in the initial planning stage is the annual Memorial Day Parade, which will be tied into the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington DC the end of May. We are hopeful that the High School Band will have their new uniforms for the parade this year.

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Brown, Rita Mae	Full Cry
Brown, Sandra	Best Kept Secrets
Clark, Carol Higgins	Popped
Collins, Jackie	Hollywood Divorces
Deveraux, Jude	Forever and Always
Evanovich, Janet	Full Speed
Gabaldon, Diana	Lord John & the Private Matter
Gardner, Lisa	The Killing Hour
Kellerman, Jonathan	The Conspiracy Club
LaHaye, Tim F.	Babylon Rising
Maron, Margaret	Last Lessons of Summer
Martin, William	Harvard Yard
McCullough, Colleen	The Touch
Michaels, Fern	The Future Scrolls
Patterson, James	The Big Bad Wolf
Patterson, Richard N.	Balance of Power

NONFICTION

Applebaum, Anne	Gulag: A History
Austin, Denise	Shrink Your Female Fat Zones
Brinkley, David	Brinkley's Best
Browne, Sylvia	Visits from the Afterlife
Bush, Barbara	Reflections
Cosby, Bill	I Am What I Ate & I'm Frightened!!
Keegan, John	Intelligence in War
Kushner, Harold S.	The Lord is My Shepherd
Moore, Michael	Dude, Where's My Country?

JUVENILE

Jacques, Brian	Loamhedge
Macaulay, David	Mosque
Bemelmans, Ludwig	Madeline & the Bad Hat
Cosgrove, Stephen	Fiddler
Lee, Spike & Lee, Tonya	Please, Baby, Please

AUDIO

Bradford, Barbara T.	Where You Belong
Braun, Lilian Jackson	The Cat Who Knew Shakespeare
Clark, Mary Higgins	Mt. Vernon Love Story
Delinsky, Barbara	Coast Road
Rule, Ann	Everything She Ever Wanted

VIDEO

Be My Valentine
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Cold Comfort Farm
The Other Side of Heaven
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A Troll in Central Park

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Here we are in February. In three months the 2004 season at the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility will start. As you plan a garden in the spring, plan that summer vacation, or jot down June weddings and graduations, please check off the third Saturday from May through October on your calendar as a reminder for dropping off household hazardous waste. Those dates are Saturday: May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, and October 16, 2004.

The first full season at the LRHHPF turned out to be a busy one. A total of 362 households attended the Facility, of which 91% were from member towns. Alton had 27% representing 97 households. Twenty-nine more households were assigned passes that were not turned in. Households from non-member communities comprised 9% (34) of attending households. For comparison, at the one-day collection in 2001 Alton had 55HH, and Wolfeboro had 236HH. In 2002, Alton's tally was 103, with 237 from Wolfeboro. The greatest numbers attended the last 2 months in the 2003 season which may have been due to more expansive newspaper coverage.

Survey results were consistent with previous year's results. First-time attendees were 35% of the total. Sixty-five percent desired multiple visits per season. Financial support was overwhelming with 92% responding in favor of putting more funds in the budget to cover collecting more waste. Not only did the swap shop receive an 80% endorsement, but every good product carefully pre-screened by the waste hauler was taken by someone to be used, rather than disposed of, truly a win-win situation.

The LRHHPF is located at 404 Beach Pond Road in Wolfeboro. In the spring, folks from member towns such as Alton can go to their local Transfer Station and get a free pass prior to attending. For a speedy and safe drop off, please put the contents in their original containers in a strong cardboard box or a sturdy bag prior to loading them into your trunk. Glass containers can be cushioned with crumpled newspaper to prevent breakage.

Bring your household hazardous waste and your pass to Wolfeboro. Follow Rt 28 to Wolfeboro Falls, as you pass the army tank at the Wright Museum on your right, you will see Rt 109A veer to the left at the fork in the road. Go up 109A until you reach the cemetery on the right. Go right onto Beach Pond Road and watch for the 2 bright yellow A-frame signs marking the entry to the Facility on your left. It is located at the bottom of the hill just before the Wolfeboro Solid Waste Facility.

Please call Sarah M Silk, Site Coordinator with any questions at 569-2073 or 651-7530 during the off season. May to October messages can be left at the Facility phone 569-Let's Take Care Of it.

Town Hall Notes

By Russ Bailey, Town Administrator

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our many friends and citizens who came by the Town Hall to make donations and contributions to those less fortunate persons who needed assistance during the Holidays. You were all so generous and it made a difference. We also appreciate the work and volunteers of the Mrs. Santa Fund, the American Legion and other organizations who collaborated their efforts to make the Town's holiday activities successful. The wreaths donated by the Garden Club for our Town buildings were placed in time for Light up Night and added to the beauty of the season.

Plans are underway for some changes in the venerable Town Hall. The Land Use and Property Records Department will be relocating to the first floor to better accommodate the public. The Administration Offices and Social Services will be moved to the second floor. The location of the Town Clerk and Tax Collector offices will not change.

To enhance the building consideration is being given to new carpeting and paint. More updates on these events will be printed in future editions of Main Street.

The E-911 process continues to be ongoing. We continue to take information from residents, and if you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 875-0207.

The Public is encouraged to attend the Selectmen's Meetings, or it may be viewed on the LRPA TV, channel 26. Videos are also available at the Library. In February the meetings will commence at 6pm on Tuesday the 10th and on Monday the 23rd.

If you would like to serve as a volunteer on a Board, Committee, or commission, please contact the Selectmen's office at 875-2161.

We receive numerous telephone calls asking about the hours of operation at the Town Hall. Your Town Hall is open Monday - Friday except holidays, 8:30am-4:30pm, or unless posted otherwise. We do not close our offices for lunch or a work break, and members of the staff are always available.

This month the Town Hall display case is featuring QUILTS, courtesy of the Gilman Museum, we hope you will enjoy this exhibit from the collection or Pearl and Harold Gilman.

Also in February is the Town's annual Winter Carnival, always a fun event and enjoyed by townspeople and visitors. More information about Winter Carnival can be found on page 8 of Main Street.

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Kindermusik at Alton Dance Academy is having **Free Demonstration Classes** for Kindermusik Village on Monday, February 9, 2004 and Thursday, February 12, 2004 at 8:45 am.

Kindermusik Village Classes will begin Monday, February 16, 2004. Classes are 45 minutes, twice a week on Monday and Thursday for Newborn to 1 1/2 years of age. Class size is limited.

Call Alton Dance Academy for more information on Free Class Demonstrations at (603) 875-3623



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ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE NEWS

By Lisa Jones, AYL Secretary

The Alton Youth League has set dates for softball, baseball, and tee-ball registrations to take place downstairs in the Gilman Library. Mark your calendars for the following dates and times: Thursday, March 4, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Sat., March 6, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and Sun., March 7, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please do not forget a copy of the player's birth certificate.

There is an open board position of Concession Manager. If you are interested, please call Dianna Rojek at 875-0493 for more information

The Alton Youth League is looking for "sign sponsors." We are a non-profit organization made up of many volunteers who provide baseball and softball to all the children in our community ages 5-12. We would like to offer businesses the opportunity to display a sign at the "Little Fenway Park." This will help our organization as well as give your business great exposure to the nine towns that visit "Little Fenway Park." If you would like to display a 4'x4' sign, the cost is \$200 for three years. We ask that you send a business card or letterhead with your payment to help Winnepesaukee Sign personalize your sponsor sign. Call Heather Couture at 566-7578 with any questions or mail responses to: Alton Youth League, P.O. Box 883, Alton, NH 03809.

Our next meeting will be held downstairs in the Gilman Library on Sunday, February 8 at 6:00 p.m. In the event of bad weather, call Dianna Rojek at 875-0493 to confirm. The public is always welcomed to attend. If you would like to see how the league is run or have new ideas for fundraisers, please join us.

More New Programs at Kwoon Karate!!

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Call Meg Jones at 875-1171 to register.
Both programs being Feb. 4th.

THE CHECKOUT DESK

By Holly Brown
Librarian

In honor of Valentine's Day, the Gilman Library will "celebrate our love of books" from Saturday, February 7th. - Saturday, February 21st. let a good book warm your heart. We will celebrate in two ways. We will hold a special book sale. Fill a plastic bag for just \$1.00 or purchase a canvas book bag for \$5.00 and fill it free of charge. And we will accept all overdue books free of late fees. Please join us in the celebration.

If you are in need of the perfect Valentine's Day gift for that special someone we still have brass bookmarks, Afghans, Alton village posters, canvas book bags, t-shirts and Alton village collectibles and commemorative bricks available for purchase. Gift Certificates are also available if you would like to purchase a Library Card for a family or individual living outside of town.

The book discussion group will be meeting on Monday, February 09, 2004 at 6:30 PM in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room at the Gilman Library. The book of choice is entitled *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. If you are in need of a copy of the book please let us know.

Just a reminder, there will be no preschool story hour while the Alton Central School is on vacation or closed due to inclement weather. In the event that the Gilman Library must close due to weather conditions the announcement will be made through the following radio stations; WEVO (89.1FM), WLKZ (104.9FM), WLNH (98.3FM), WNNH (99.1FM), WOKQ (97.5 FM) and WASR (1420AM) and shown on WMUR-TV (channel 9).

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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.**

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8' WESTERN PLOW in good shape - \$600.00; antique glass bottles and farm tools, student desks. Call 875-1048

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HELP WANTED - Recreation Program Leaders, Arts and Craft Instructor, Tennis Instructor and Swim Lesson Instructor for the Department of Parks and Recreation for seasonal programs, part-time positions available, 4-24 hours per week. Applications are available at the A.V.A.S. Public Park building, 875-0109.

HELP WANTED - Looking for a person to come to my house and watch my 5 month old, at times my 4 year old too. Times and pay to be determined. Please contact Mike or Carley at 875-0617.

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Heartfelt Appreciation

Our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the vendors, entertainers, and people who donated their merchandise, time and money to the Richie Whitehouse Benefit at Jimmy's Sports Bar. God Bless you.

The Whitehouse Family

Thank You

I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Departments, Town Employees and members of the community for their kindness and generosity towards me during my recent surgery and hospitalization. You have been most kind and patient and all your well wishes and prayers have most certainly helped towards my recovery. Again, Thank you everyone.

Patricia Rockwood

**ALTON STUDENTS
GET AN UNPLANNED VACATION
By Judith Pellowe**

The recent cold weather created havoc at the Alton Central School when pipes burst on Wednesday evening, January 14. School was canceled Thursday and Friday while crews worked to repair the damage. The timing of the closure, which occurred at the end of the second quarter, caused midterm exams to be pushed back. The third quarter began on January 28, two days later than originally scheduled.

In an apparently unrelated incident, steam pipes burst at the school on Saturday morning, January 17th, causing fire alarms to be activated. Students at the school for sports practice were evacuated to the Modulars outside the gymnasium entrance.

A phone call to the Superintendent requesting information about the cause of the steam pipe burst was not returned.

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ALTON COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

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

- Sundays Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 Fridays Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-9 pm, CCOA
 Mon 2 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Global Ed (part of Enrichment/G&T Class), grades 5-6, various Days/Times, consult Ms. Dwyer for details, Enrichment Module, ACS
 Tue 3 Sewing, 3-4:30pm, Family Consumer Sciences, ACS
 Mon 9 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Tue 10 Sewing, 3-4:30pm, Family Consumer Sciences, ACS
 Thu 12 Captain Smyle, grades 1&2, 9-9:30am, Gym, ACS
 grades 3&4, 9:45-10:15 a.m., Gym, ACS
 Ice Fishing (tentative) workshop, gr. 4, ACS
 Fri 13 Ice Fishing (tentative), workshop, grade 4, 8:30am.-1pm, ACS
 Spelling Bee, 1-2pm, Gym, ACS
 Mon 16 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Tue 17 Sewing, 3-4:30pm, Family Consumer Sciences, ACS
 Sat 21 Father/Daughter Dance, grades K-5, 6:30-8:30pm, \$5.00 pp, Cafeteria, ACS
 Mon 23 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Tue 24 Sewing, 3-4:30pm, Family Consumer Sciences, ACS

Legend: ACS=Alton Central School
 CCOA=Community Church of Alton on Church St
 HS=High School
 CYA=Alton Community Youth Activities team
 PTSA=Parent Teacher Student Association;
 PRCC=Pearson Road Community Center

IMPACT OF AMERICORPS CUTS FELT LOCALLY

By Roger Hogan

"The past few months have been difficult for us" said Jan Hooper, Program Manager for the Belknap County Conservation District, as she discussed the large pine tree that came to rest on Belknap County's wetlands boardwalk at Gunstock. "Getting the tree cut up and repairing the broken handrails and balusters used to be all in a days work. Best of all, it got us out of the office". Things have not been the same for the BCCD since the Federal government stopped funding the AmeriCorps program. "We had the best group of young people you could hope for. They were professional, dedicated, worked under all kinds of adverse weather conditions and never lost their enthusiasm. We miss them. We have been heavily dependent on them and our volunteers".

Hooper pointed out that the loss of AmeriCorps will require the District to take a hard look at cutting costs associated with ongoing programs. Their well known annual tree and shrub sale will become even more dependent on volunteers, beginning as early as February of 2004. The District has been working hard to get their website online and current so that order forms can be downloaded from the computer. At present they have a mailing list of nearly two thousand people and are hoping that they can realize substantial savings by decreasing the size of mailing efforts required in the past. "Ideally we will be able to provide electronic service to customers who own computers. In one of our latest sales events, we requested email addresses as a first start, and that will be a continuing effort on our part," said Hooper.

This year the Belknap County Conservation District has been involved in many other environmental projects involving municipal stormwater management, river bank erosion control, gravel pit restoration, wetlands delineation and student/teacher water quality and lake watershed programs. "We have had no choice but to avoid taking on new projects" said Hooper.



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