



Main Street

"The Voice of Alton"

Volume XIV Number 3

Alton, New Hampshire - March , 1998

Complimentary



ALTON BAY WINTER CARNIVAL RESULTS

By Kellie McGrath

The 1998 Winter Carnival sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department was a great success with over 300 in attendance. Sunny weather and blue skies made for a spectacular day and Rick from Top 40 Productions kept us entertained with great music. All events were free and great prizes were given away to the winning participants. Shown above is the tug-of-war event.

The Director would like to thank the volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission members: Jay Sydow, Bill Lionetta, Maryellen Kenerson and Debbie Burton for setting up and running the events and making the Winter Carnival possible.

The results of the various contests were as follows:

Poker Run

First Place — Carrie Vaux, 2nd — Nick Vaux;

Hockey Puck Obstacle Course

(over 30 participants)

First Place — Jason Vahey, 2nd — Danielle LePoutre, 3rd —

Michael Hicks;

Limbo Contest

First Place — Patricia Currid, 2nd- David Currid;

Scavenger Hunt

First Place — Alton Bay Christian Conference Ctr. (ABCCC);

2nd — The Green's;

Great Alton Bay Bed Race

The main event of the day, of course, was the bed race which had five contestants: ABCCC, Bed Wetters, Indiana Express, Noah's Ark, and Woodcrest. Each team had four pushers and one bed rider. When the ice "dust" cleared it was Woodcrest who took home the first place title and five all day tubing passes donated by Gunstock Ski Area.

TIME TO VOTE!

One of those events that has the potential for altering the course of local history will be offered to registered voters in a matter of days: On Tuesday, March 10, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. two elections will be held in the Town of Alton. Both the School District and Town balloting will occur at the Central Fire Station on Route 140.

What is most unusual about this particular election is that two quite different methods will be followed. For the School District the provisions of the Australian ballot (still referred to, incorrectly, as "SB 2") will be utilized whereby the district deliberative session has already taken place. The Town will follow the traditional method of the election of officers and the Warrant "paper" articles being decided in the voting booth while the other articles are decided at the Town Meeting the following night.

Somewhat ironically the Town written ballot will include the question of whether the Town should go to the Australian ballot (RSA 40:13) in the future while the School District ballot presents the opposite issue of whether the District should return to the "old way." Both require a 3/5 super majority to pass. Last year with 600+ voting the Town fell 16 votes shy of adopting RSA 40:13 while the School District went for it by 4 votes. Interestingly, 47 more voted on the school question than the town's.

The Issues and the Candidates

In addition to filling district officer positions, the school ballot contains ten other articles. These are described in the story on page 11. The town ballot elects officers and lays out ten zoning questions in addition to the RSA 40:13 issue. The next evening's Town Meeting takes up 47 other Warrant Articles as also described on page 11.

See VOTE on page 3.



Main Street

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by

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*** POSTSCRIPT:**

Regular readers of Main Street are likely to notice a fall off in the quality of composition and layout for this issue. The explanation is simple: Rob Boyce, our regular art and layout editor, is on vacation. Consequently this issue reverts to pre-computer methods and was "pasted up" on the Longabaugh's dining room table over a weekend filled with frustration. Also, you will note that, other than the standard logos for reoccurring columnists, there is none of Rob's characteristic clip art inserted in what would otherwise have been un-allocated space. Summary: You never appreciate what you have so much until you don't have it! Hurry back Rob.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO OUR READERS AND—ESPECIALLY—TO OUR AUTHORS

Main Street at this point in time seems to be enjoying too much success. During the last few months we have been receiving more material for publication than we can contain in a single issue. We have to either edit the material we receive to a much shorter length, or postpone its publication if the "news" contained therein can await the next issue.

The Editorial Board of Main Street believes that the paper has reached its practical capacity at 22/24 pages. (Whether 22 or 24 pages depends upon the amount of paid advertising for the issue.) Exceeding 24 pages will put us into another strata of costs relating to postage and the increased likelihood of losing volunteers willing to collate and assemble an increasingly thicker newspaper on the last Thursday of every month.

Equally important, we do not want to increase our rates to advertisers, who are the local enterprises that make it possible to put Main Street in your mailbox every month without cost to you.

Considering all of the above, plus other factors which space does not permit listing, Main Street's Editorial Board has decided that, in order to continue to be "The Voice of Alton" in disseminating meeting notices and timely news of what's going on in our town, the following guidelines are to be observed by the editor in putting together each monthly issue:

- (1) All manuscripts, unless agreed to in a prior consultation with the editor, should not exceed 250 words.
- (2) Submissions will be more successful if written in the typical newspaper style with the most important information first. The essential information should be in the first 150 words inasmuch as the editor will usually shorten a story by deleting text from the bottom up until it fits the available space.
- (3) Articles and stories dealing with happenings scheduled in months following the publication date of Main Street are the most likely to be shortened to the essentials, or publication postponed entirely until the issue just prior to the event.
- (4) All submissions to be considered for publication must contain a name and phone number in order for the editor to be able to consult with the author if it becomes necessary.
- (5) It is desirable for authors/contributors not to wait until the fifteenth of the month to submit their article if it can be ready earlier. The less time pressure the editor is under to prepare the story for publication, the more likely there is to be a satisfactory outcome.

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Main Street's Inside Front Page

TOWN ICE STORM CLEAN UP

The Alton Board of Selectmen announced the following measures to aid residents in the clean up of debris from the ice storm:

1. The Rines Road Pit will be open every day beginning on Saturday, March 28, through Sunday, April 5, from 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. for free brush disposal. The regular schedule will resume on Saturday, April 11 with the hours being 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturdays, and 12 noon - 3 p.m. on Sundays.

2. Residents along Town roads will be allowed to deposit brush along roadsides (off the traveled way and outside of ditchlines) for on-site chipping. It is anticipated that chipping operations will begin when mud season is over and all snow has melted. All wood materials within 15 feet of the road will be chipped and left as is. Removal of chips and subsequent lawn care will be a landowner responsibility if desired. The Town will not be cleaning alongside State Highways.

The above storm clean-up program does have a few restrictions: (a) The Town will not chip logs with a diameter in excess of 5 inches or longer than 5 feet; (b) The Town will not accept logs at the Rines Road Pit with a diameter in excess of 5 inches or longer than 5 feet; (c) The Town respectfully requests that residents not abuse this program and limit their roadside brush deposits to ice storm damages only; and (d) No roadside grinding of stumps will be done, and there is a fee to dispose of stumps at the pit.



Avery Hill Road, January 9, 1998. (Photo by Everson.)

A collection of ice storm photographs by Wendy Everson will be on display in Town Hall this month. Watch for it.

VOTE, continued from page 1.

The candidates for School District offices are:

Two School Board Members for Three Years: Deborah Burton, Robert Loprete, and Richard Quindley.

One School Board Member for One Year: Wayne Fraser.

School District Clerk for One Year: Cynthia A. Duffek.

School District Moderator for One Year: Terri A. Noyes.

School District Treasurer for One Year: Shirley E. Young.

Names appearing on the ballot for Town offices are:

Two Selectman for Three Years: Robert F. Bollinger, Harold M. Bothwick, Jr., Gary A. Fielding, Arnold P. Shibley, and James C. Washburn.

One Selectman for One Year: Robert J.T. Longabaugh, Peter J. Pijoan, and Ernest H. Wentworth.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for Three Years: Joseph R. Houle.

Library Trustee for Three Years: David Countway.

Fire Ward for Three Years: David Jensen.

One Cemetery Trustee for Three Years: Warren B. Harris and Jane Porter.

One Cemetery Trustee for Two Years: Shirley Lane.

One Water Commissioner for Three Years: Sherman H. Brown and Reuben L. Wentworth.

Three Budget Committee Members for Three Years: Virginia Bergeron.

One Budget Committee Member for One Year: No candidates.

Two Planning Board Members for Three Years: Richard G. Canuel and Bonnie Dunbar.

Town Moderator for Two Years: Robert L. Calvert.

Supervisor of the Checklist for Six Years: Lucinda ("Cindy") Miller.

All of the above candidates were given a questionnaire to fill out stating their background and a position statement. The answers for those who returned the form by the deadline will be found on page 12.

THE WINNERS(?) IN THE "POWER OUT" CONTEST

Last month's Main Street announced (page 1) a new "contest" for Alton: How long was your power out? The event that triggered the contest was, of course, the great ice storm of the century that hit Alton for three days, starting on January 7. We invited answers to the question with the dubious prize for the winner (loser?) with the longest hours being chronicled in the history of Alton by being documented in this issue.

From the entries received by the deadline of February 16 it works out to a virtual three-way tie. If one gets down to counting the minutes the distinction of going without power the longest is bestowed on Robert G. Eddy and family on Davis Road, just off Avery Hill Road. They were without power for 210 hours, or just six hours short of nine days.

Very close runners up — only about 4 hours fewer — were Marv and Wendy Everson of Avery Hill Road, and Dianne and Douglas Rojek in their home just off Route 140. So, from the point of view of power outages it appears the ice storm did the most damage in Alton on Avery Hill and its southern slope to Route 140.

This certainly seems that this is an occasion where congratulations are NOT in order to the winners. Our best wish to them is that this was, indeed, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

All children living in Alton who will be five by September 30, 1998, are eligible for Kindergarten next year. If your child fits this description, please call the Alton School at 875-7373 to register your child by March 30.



SENIOR CITIZENS CORNER by Nancy Mooney

**A Sousa MARCH would suit us well
To rouse us into Spring-
But to honor the Irish, we'll do a jig
While Winter goes ker—pling**

Congratulations! For the past two meetings, we have had above average attendance. Your presence is appreciated and does make a difference.

Our trip coordinator, Ginny Myers, is busy planning the many outings we have all come to enjoy. On April 19 a 24-passenger CAP bus will take interested playgoers to the Amesbury Dinner Theater to see GUYS AND DOLLS. You must sign up now, so call Ginny at 875-5713 for reservations. Be sure to read this column for information about other forthcoming trips.

Plan to do some Spring cleaning early and take your unwanted clothes and other items to the Senior Center on Pearson Road now, so that Tony Mariano and his helpers can start organizing for the Seniors' gigantic flea market to be held in July. We thank all for their donations.

We are very grateful once again to the Alton Parks and Recreation Department for providing another entertaining bingo afternoon for the Seniors in late January. We had a lot of fun, and you helped us chase the winter blues.

Ann Hoopes, an Alton school teacher, spoke briefly at our meeting, informing us of the need for volunteers in the school. Seniors will find it a very rewarding use of some of their spare time. Give it a try!

VANESSA LAMPMAN WINS COMPETITION IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Vanessa Lampman, a sixth grade student at Alton Central School, took the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Alton-New Durham Lions Club. In addition to the award certificate Lampman received a free video rental each week for 52 weeks from the Lions Club and Alton Video.

Lampman's poster is among 300,000 entries submitted worldwide in the tenth annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Out of all the posters created by Alton students, Lampman's entry best portrayed the contest's theme, "A World in Harmony."

Lions Club President Richard Gwinn said he was impressed by the amount of effort exhibited by the Alton students. "It's obvious that these young people have strong ideas of what peace means to them. I'm proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions with all of us."

Lampman's poster now advances to round-two district competition where her entry will compete against entries from many other local Peace Poster Contests. Ultimately, one grand prize winner will be selected from 24 international finalists. The grand prize includes a cash award of \$2,500, plus an all-expenses-paid trip for the winner and two family members to New York City for the awards ceremony at the United Nations in March 1998.

VFW ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

The Alton V.F.W. will sponsor a St. Patrick's Day Dinner of Corned Beef and Cabbage. The event will be held at the Pearson Road Community Center on March 21 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. The cost will be \$7 for adults and \$2 for children. Please join us.

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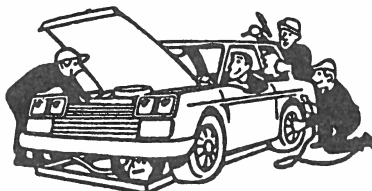


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THE WINNERS!

Celebrating their win in the Great Alton Bay Bed Race at Winter Carnival last month is the Woodcrest team. Their "official" uniforms also earned them points for creativity. (Photo by K. McGrath.)



CONCORD CORNER
by Alice Ziegler Calvert
State Representative

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

I am happy to report that most of the hearings on 1998 House Bills have been held. We're voting (to pass or reject) 1997 "held over for work" bills and starting on the 1998 bills.

Passed in the House and heading to the Senate are bills to: (1) Create a special SAU at the State Prison for eligible inmates to receive special education programs; (2) Create a Homeless Coordinating Council; (3) Put into law current rules relative to appropriate setbacks for docks; (4) Create a committee to update laws relating to fences; (5) Create a committee to study protection of cable television consumers' rates and services.

Senate Bill 66, asking for lifetime gun permits, was amended to give a 60-day grace period on a lapsed permit, after which one would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The House voted to reject bills relative to: (1) A constitutional amendment to give legislators a pay raise (currently \$200 for a 2-year term); (2) Penalties for introduction of milfoil and zebra mussels by seaplanes and boats coming from infested waters; (3) Require seat belts on school buses [this would be a mandate costing New Hampshire \$20 million dollars while NH school buses have an excellent safety record]; (4) Require motorcyclists to wear helmets; and (5) increase the distance firearms can be discharged in the vicinity of dwellings. The Fish and Game Commission is aware of the problem and can change distances through rulemaking.

If you have questions on any of the above, or have other State government matters that you would like to discuss with me, I will be at the Alton Town Hall on March 2 from 3 to 4 p.m. Meanwhile I can be reached at 875-2151.

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**BROKEN BRANCHES AND BROKEN HEARTS
THE AFTERMATH OF THE '98 ICE STORM**

By Peter Farrell, Alton Town Forester

Now that the lights are back on and the roads clear many persons concerns have turned to their trees and forests. The aftermath of the storm is pretty astonishing in some places, and it appears that more tree damage was caused by this single storm than any other since the 1938 hurricane. As with most issues surrounding trees and forests, there is no simple prescription which can be given to remedy all damage situations. Whether your trees are on your front lawn or in a wood lot, applying a few common sense principles can help you avoid making matters any worse. Here is some advice . . .

Be Safe


Do not underestimate the danger that damaged trees may present if you attempt to clean up, trim, or remove them. Even a walk in the woods should be done with great caution, and might best be delayed until the ground is free of ice and snow.

Don't Panic

Even though the damage may appear severe, a hasty judgment about removing trees may be worse than a wait and see approach. Individual trees can lose up to 50 percent to 60 percent of their crowns and still have enough potential for survival. Trees with a broken bole or that have been uprooted will obviously not survive. Survival of those with broken crowns will depend on the severity of the breakage and whether it is located in the central leader or just in side branches. Before giving up on that favorite shade tree, stop and consider giving it a second chance — unless, of course, it is hanging over your house or a power line!

The same careful judgment should be applied to forest properties. Tree stands that appear to be devastated still may have more than an adequate number of healthy stems to warrant leaving the stand alone. The ice took its worst toll on trees which had some form of defect to begin with — such as a rotten bole, a canker, or a forked crown. Many of the damaged trees are small diameter and may not have enough value to warrant salvaging. It is very possible that a poorly planned salvage or cleanup operation can result in greater losses than those caused by the storm. As one US Forest Service specialist said at a recent meeting, it is more important to look at what is remaining, rather than what has been lost. This is good advice for shade tree and wood lot owners alike.

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Get Professional Assistance

If you are uncertain how to approach your tree conditions, seek a professional's advice. A qualified arborist is certified, insured, and equipped to treat your shade tree. For forest properties, you should start by speaking with a licensed forester before making any decision about harvesting. The forester can advise you on the need for an assessment and, if necessary, provide services for harvest layout, marketing, and supervision. The financial and environmental benefit of these services will more than offset their cost. If you do not currently work with a forester, you may contact the county forester for advice on selecting and working with a consultant forester. Finally, your forester can help you choose a logger who is certified, qualified, and equipped to do the necessary work.

Looking beyond our immediate needs and clean up activities, it is impossible for anyone, even the experts, to say what the long-term effects of the storm will be. We know trees and forests ecosystems are resilient, and they generally find a way of recovering with or without human intervention. The dead woody material, and the eventual tree cavities formed as a result of the breakage will provide food and habitat for insects, small mammals, and birds. But we can say with some certainty this was not, overall, a desirable natural event, and it may compound other problems such as gypsy moth caterpillar outbreaks. Inasmuch as we humans may be playing a role in the shift of temperature gradients and subtle weather patterns, we should take careful note of the forest around us. Our chickens may be coming home to roost in many broken tree tops.

* * *

Additional information may be obtained from Sumner Dole, Belknap County Extension Forester, UNH Cooperative Extension, Laconia, 524-1737, or visit the UNH CE web site at: <http://ceinfo.unh.edu>.

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM ENTRANTS

The theme was "Wouldn't It Be Great If?" and over 87 entries were submitted to the panel of judges. This national arts competition of the PTA asked students in grades K-12 to submit works in literature, music, photography, and visual arts. The state competition will be held Friday, March 6 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Mascenic High School in New Ipswich. Representing Alton Central School are: Travis Hopper and Dylan Laurion in literature; Caila Kantar and Scott Baumgartner in musical composition; Edward Rogacki and Erin Wood in photography; Matthew Rojek, Hope Shafer, and Emily Lowthian in visual arts.

The judges for the local competition were: Frank Kiman, artists, of Batchelder Studio in Plymouth; Monica Nagle-Reed, of Bristol, songwriter, performer, and creator of the Art of Living program; and Todd McKinney, performer, songwriter, and local signsmith.

Congratulations and good luck to all the participants. Watch for the *Reflections* exhibition at the Gilman Library.

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), WLNH (98.3FM), WOKQ (97.5FM), WZNN (930AM) and shown on WMUR-TV (Channel 9).

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A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL
 by Thomas D. Parker
 Alton Central School



EVERYDAY CONVERSATIONS DEAL WITH TOUGH SUBJECTS

Being a parent is not an easy task. There are times that you have to deal with some very difficult and sensitive issues with your children. Most of us, as adults, will deal with issues of sexuality with our children in the same way that our parents informed us; some did a good job, some did not do such a good job, and some ignored the topic altogether.

Between steamy afternoon soap operas and MTV videos, parents are right when they worry about the values that their children may be learning about sexuality. However, there are ways to make sure your child learns more positive values. One of the most effective ways is in the ordinary, everyday conversation parents have with their children. Through daily conversation, parents impart values to their children. Here are some values worth including in your conversations:

Learn the difference between fact and fiction. Watch some television with your child. On TV, no one ever seems to contract a sexually transmitted disease or has an unwanted pregnancy. Let your child know that fantasy is much different from reality.

Learn to respect yourself. A child has to have the confidence in himself/herself to say "no" to others. Frequently, a child feels forced into an activity because of their inability to be assertive and stand up for themselves. Young people need to know that it is o.k. to say "I'm not ready" when confronted with a difficult situation. A parent can "role play" a number of situations that will give students an idea of how to do this.

Look to the future. Teens and preteens are too young to be sexually active. They are physically capable of having intercourse, but they are not prepared emotionally or developmentally to deal with the possible results of that activity. Help students look at the future and all of the opportunities that are available for those that don't close the door too early in life.

Raising a child today is difficult. But the issues today's children are facing are more complex than those of earlier generations. It is our responsibility to help them make intelligent decisions based on accurate information. In order to do this, we must truly talk with our children.

NEWS FROM ALTON VFW POST 11163

by Arthur La Pierre

A 24-book set of Encyclopedia of World War II has been donated by Clifford Wooldridge to the Gilman Library of Alton on behalf of the Alton VFW Post 11163. All residents, particularly local veterans, should avail themselves of this information which is greatly detailed with accompanying photos and illustrations.

We thank all of you for your support of the January raffle. A big thanks goes to the businesses who donated the Gift Certificates ("GC"). The prize winners are: 1st: A Cape Cod Getaway for 2 - Arthur of Gilmanton; 2nd: Two Days Gunstock Lift Tickets for 2 - Bob of Alton; 3rd: \$50 Dockside "GC" - Jeff and Larry of Alton; 4th: \$50 Alton Bay Inn "GC" - Thomas of Alton; 5th: \$40 Sandy Point Restaurant "GC" - Todd of Alton; 6th: \$25 Mama Rina's "GC" - Clark of Concord; 7th: \$20 Tai Pan Restaurant "GC" - J. Thomas of Alton. We hope you enjoy.

XX

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 (Not shown.) K 388 058 F4

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EIGHT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NAMED TO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AT ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

One senior and seven juniors were inducted into the National Honor Society in recent ceremonies at Alton Central School. They are senior Jacob Tharpe and juniors Becca Blair, Desiree Crossley, Jennifer Emanouil, Amanda Lambert, Amber Locke, Nadine Vailette, and Anna Varney. The guest speaker was Superintendent Richard Pike who spoke about his own National Honor Society induction. Closing remarks were made by Principal Thomas Parker and each student received a membership card and a yellow rose, the flower of the National Honor Society.

A faculty committee consisting of five members chosen by the principal screens students. To be eligible for membership consideration, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of leadership, service and character.

Leadership is based on the student's participation in two or more community or school activities, or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have been active in three or more service projects in the school and community. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty.

In the photo, above, the new Honor Society members are: (standing left to right) Principal Thomas Parker, Blake Kellar, Jebediah Christy, Tammy Murtagh, Jennifer Merfeld, Tarsia Kenny, Sarah Spencer, and Superintendent Richard Pike; (seated left to right) Jacob Tharpe, Jennifer Emanouil, Amber Locke, Anna Varney, Amanda Lambert, Becca Blair, Desiree Crossley, and Nadine Vailette.

ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL TO PRESENT FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

To celebrate March as Arts in the Schools month, Alton Central School's Fine Arts Department will present a Fine Arts Showcase on the evening of Thursday, March 12. Beginning at 6 p.m. with a reception and art display featuring the works of high school student artists, the evening will proceed with a concert at 6:45 and conclude with the short dramatic production of "Small Actors" by Stephen Gregg at 7:15. The evening promises to be exciting and entertaining and will afford community members the opportunity to support the arts at Alton Central School.

Coordinating the evening for the school will be Elizabeth Lent, drama department, Joan Chase, art department, Roxanne Papp and Mindy Shilansky, music department.

The public is cordially invited to join in the celebration on March 12, starting at 6 p.m. with the last performance going on at 7:15.

LAW OFFICE OF ARTHUR W. HOOVER



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Main Street's Information Center

OF ABOVE AVERAGE IMPORTANCE

CANDIDATES' NIGHT IS MARCH 3

Continuing what has now become an annual custom Main Street will once again be sponsoring Candidates' Night. This is THE opportunity for the voters to hear all the candidates for contested School and Town offices express their views and be questioned by the audience. Candidates running unopposed and who come to the meeting will be introduced.

The date is Tuesday, March 3, and the place is Town Hall. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Mark Northridge will repeat his role of last year as moderator. In an effort to shorten the meeting time the format will be modified somewhat from 1997 in that candidates will be limited to a two-minute opening presentation. The following question period will not be open ended, but rather terminated by the moderator with an eye on the clock and the audience's attention span.

Make yourself an even more informed voter. Come out for this forum and see and hear for yourself what the candidates have to offer their community, if elected. Last year there were more than 80 people in the audience.

DEADLINE FOR STORM ASSISTANCE

Residents of Belknap County who had uninsured property damage or loss as a result of the January ice storm may be eligible for State and Federal disaster assistance, but you must apply. The NH Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Administration have set March 24 as the deadline for applications.

Types of assistance available include temporary housing or repairs, low-interest loans to homeowners, renters and business owners, grants for unmet needs or protective measures, and disaster unemployment assistance. Call 1-800-462-9029 well before the March 24 deadline to find out if your storm loss qualifies.

Reprinted, with permission, from the *Granite State News* issue of February 18, 1998:

E-911 MOVING (AGAIN)

By Cathy Allyn

ALTON — Town Administrator Scott Dunn displayed eight detailed maps outlining new street names and house numbers in line with the N.H. Bureau of Emergency Communications statewide E-911 plan at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on February 16.

The maps, the finished product of the street committee and Dunn, reflect all changes concerning streets in Alton. Fine tuning was performed by Dunn and Fire Chief Russell Jones.

The board accepted the maps, so the next step will be to notify E-911 and begin the process of numbering houses. The state will assign the numbers, and it will be the homeowner's responsibility to post the numbers.

The town will receive five copies of the maps to be distributed to the Town Hall and the following departments: fire, police, ambulance and highway.

MARCH EVENTS

- | | | |
|------|----|---|
| Sun. | 1 | INDOOR SOCCER, Alton School, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. |
| Tue. | 3 | CANDIDATE'S NIGHT, Town Hall, 7 p.m. |
| Wed. | 4 | FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY, Gilman Library, 7 p.m.
BINGO, American Legion, 7 p.m. |
| Thu. | 5 | BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC, Pearson Road Community Center, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon |
| Fri. | 6 | REFLECTIONS, State competition in New Ipswich, see story |
| Sat. | 7 | ALTON SCHOOL WARRANTS INFO MEETING, Alton Central School, 10 a.m.
GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE, Barnstead Troop 2371, McGrath's Food Center, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. |
| Sun. | 8 | INDOOR SOCCER, Alton School, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. |
| Tue. | 10 | TOWN ELECTIONS, Central Fire Station, Rt. 140, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. |
| Wed. | 11 | TOWN MEETING, Alton Central School, 7 p.m.
BINGO, American Legion 7 p.m. |
| Thu. | 12 | SPIN INTO SPRING LUNCHEON, Christian Women's Club, Christian Conference Center, 11:30 a.m.
FINE ARTS SHOWCASE, Alton Central School, 6 p.m., see story |
| Sat. | 14 | GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE, sold at various locations by Alton's Girl Scouts
ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE REGISTRATION, Town Hall 12 noon - 2 p.m., see story
ST. PATTY'S DAY DINNER-DANCE, American Legion, 6 p.m. |
| Sun. | 15 | INDOOR SOCCER, Alton School, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. |
| Tue. | 17 | ST. PATRICK'S DAY |
| Wed. | 18 | BINGO, American Legion, 7 p.m. |
| Fri. | 20 | VERNAL EQUINOX, 2:56 p.m. EST
SPRING HAS ARRIVED!!! |
| Sat. | 21 | VFW ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER, Pearson Road Community Center, 5:30 - 8 p.m. |
| Sun. | 22 | ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE REGISTRATION, Town Hall 12 noon - 2 p.m.
INDOOR SOCCER, Alton School, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. |
| Wed. | 25 | BINGO, American Legion, 7 p.m. |
| Sun. | 29 | INDOOR SOCCER LAST GAMES, Alton School, 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. |

YOUTH ART MONTH

It's here again! March is Youth Art Month and Alton Central School will be showing off its many young artists at the Alton Town Hall.

From Saturday, March 14, through April 10 come, enjoy and reflect in the various forms of art produced by the students at Alton Central School. It is a unique opportunity for the local community to see what we have been creating in kindergarten through 12th grade. The artwork will be on display in the conference room and in the tax collector's office from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

There will be paintings, sculptures, drawings, mixed media, caricatures, reliefs and more! So, stop in and browse for a moment. Let us know what you think on the comment sheet. We hope you will enjoy the creativity and unique visual awareness of our youth and come away refreshed.

TOWN MEETING WILL ADDRESS 48 WARRANT ARTICLES

By Bob Calvert

The Annual Town Meeting begins officially on Tuesday, March 10, at 7 a.m. when the polls open at the Alton Central Fire Station for ballot voting on Article 1. The polls remain open until 7 p.m. Discussion and voting on the other 47 articles takes place in the Alton Central School Gym beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11. Following is an outline of the warrants.

Ballot Issues

Article 1 (Ballot Issues) has three parts: 1(a) - voting on candidates for town offices; 1(b) - ballot bill vote to determine if all issues before the town in future years would be by ballot (RSA 40:13 and also known as "SB-2"); 1(c) - ten zoning questions/amendments.

Money Articles Involving Capital Reserve Funds

Start a Community Center Capital Reserve Fund and put \$8,000 in it; start a Town Beach Capital Reserve Fund and put \$1 in it; start a Fire Station Capital Reserve Fund and put \$5,000 in it; start a Fire Department Radio Capital Reserve Fund and put \$5,000 in it; start a Highway Garage Expansion Capital Reserve Fund and put \$8,000 in it; start a Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund and put \$500,000 in it with an offset of \$112,879 from a Highway Block Grant; add \$70,000 to the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and add \$68,500 to the Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

Spending Appropriations

\$138,000 for reconstruction of Bachelor Drive and Hermit Road to be assessed against the abutters over a 10-year period (2/3 ballot vote required); \$8,402 increase in union contract; \$15,000 for Bay Revitalization (Phase III); \$10,000 for basketball courts; \$30,500 for Police Department 4x4; \$32,000 for Highway Department truck with plow; \$10,000 for library computers; \$10,000 for lawn tractor with snowblower; \$7,500 for Police Department VHS Base Radio Station; \$5,000 for road name signs for E-911 process; \$1 to Alton Historical Society as part of long-term lease to refurbish and relocate the facility; \$1 to purchase and equip a new police boat.

Independent Service Agencies

\$3,000, Community Health and Hospice; \$500, Lakes Region Association; \$5,832, Community Action Program; \$1,500, American Red Cross; \$7,762, VNA-Hospice of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity; \$1,000, New Beginnings (Women's Crisis Center); and \$12,000, Youth Service Bureau (Court Diversion Program).

Overall Operating Budget

Overall operating budget (so-called "sweep article," exclusive of other warrant article amounts) proposed at \$2,585,339.

Appropriations With Offsetting Funds

\$250,000 for new highway grader with \$150,000 to come from Highway Department Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund; \$125,000 for improvements to Town Hall, offset entirely by Clough-Morrell Trust Fund; \$120,981 for reconstruction of Bay Hill Road offset and contingent upon receipt of \$120,981 (Superior Court Award for damages); \$50,000 for repairs to Gilman Museum offset in total by Gilman Museum Trust Fund; \$24,000 for testing, pump upgrading and new treatment equipment at Route 140 well pumping station, offset entirely by water user fees as temporary rate surcharge; \$47,561 for two new full-time police officers for remainder of calendar year - reimbursable by Federal C.O.P.S. grant at 75% 1st year, 50% 2nd year and 25% during the 3rd year; \$217,000 to be added to the operating budget for ice storm damage contingent on estimated \$189,875 offset from emergency disaster assistance funds; and \$12,000 for an expendable Cable TV Trust Fund, offset entirely by TV Cable franchise fees.

Other Articles

Rescind RSA 32:14-23, thereby abolishing the Budget Committee, effective immediately. Authority to subdivide and sell specific town-owned land. Make School Street a one-way street. Dis-

SCHOOL ELECTION DETAILS

By John Duffek

Voters in the Alton School District will go to the polls Tuesday, March 10, to cast their ballots for district officers, as well as ten other articles in this year's warrant.

Prior to the adoption of the ballot bill, usually referred to as "SB 2," those ten articles would have been discussed and voted upon at a School District Meeting. This year, for the first time, the warrant was established during a deliberative session on January 31 where voters had the opportunity to amend the articles presented by the School Board and vote to place the articles on the official warrant. The articles in the warrant will be approved or rejected during the secret ballot on voting day.

Articles I - III

Article I provides an opportunity to vote for those running for School District office. Those positions and candidates are listed on page 1 of this issue of Main Street.

Article II asks voters to raise and appropriate \$8,400,000 for construction of a new high school. This amount includes equipment and furnishings, land acquisition, architectural fees, site development, professional service fees, and other items necessary for the project. The article authorizes the School Board to issue bonds to raise the funds and requires a 2/3 vote for adoption. The article is recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Article III serves as a backup to acquire the land in the event that Article II fails. The School Board has negotiated a purchase price of \$385,000 for 60 acres of land on the Old New Durham Road for the high school project. The article is recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Articles IV - X

Article IV seeks to establish new salaries and compensation for the District officers as follows: Board Chairperson \$2,500; 4 Board Members \$2,000 each; School Treasurer \$1,200; Census Taker \$200; School Clerk \$500 (\$125 per meeting); School Moderator \$500 (\$125 per meeting); Supervisors of the Checklist \$600 (\$50 per person times three); Ballot Clerks \$900 (\$225 per meeting). The total amount recommended by the School Board is \$14,400. The Budget Committee recommended \$7,675.

Article V is for the approval of the school's operating budget, projected to be \$5,258,763 and recommended by the School Board. The Budget Committee recommended \$5,138,510. In the event that this article is not approved, the operating budget will be \$5,173,043 — the amount approved last year.

Articles VI, VII, VIII and IX ask the voters to establish four Capital Reserve Funds: \$15,000 for replacing a water heater, \$15,000 to repair various sections of the roof, \$15,000 to replace the gym floor, and \$20,000 to install a fire suppression system. All are recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee. Article X authorizes the School Board to expend the Capital Reserve Funds established in the preceding four articles.

Return to the Old?

Article XI asks voters to return to the previous School District Meeting procedure where articles would be deliberated and voted upon at the same meeting. A yes vote is in favor of returning to the "old" system. A no vote is in favor of continuing the "new" system, or the "SB 2" format, where articles are deliberated at one meeting and voted upon at the polls on voting day. Adoption of this article requires a 3/5 vote.

Alton residents will vote on Tuesday, March 10, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Alton Central Fire Station on Route 140.

continue a portion of Railroad Avenue and convey to purchaser. Vest management and control of Alton Water Works in Board of Selectmen and abolish Water Commission, effective immediately. Adopt new Conflict of Interest Ordinance with 14 sub-articles. Instruct Representatives to the General Court to oppose statewide property taxes.

E L E C T I O N P U L L - O U T

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Edited by Bob Calvert

When the candidates filed to run for office in the school and town elections they were given a questionnaire and asked to return it to Main Street by February 14. The form called for information on the candidate's background (training and/or experience) and a position statement — in no more than 50 words — on "Why are you seeking this office?"

The information contained in the questionnaires returned by the deadline is reproduced below in random order. When the candidate's position statement exceeded 50 words, editing adjustments have been made of necessity.

SELECTMAN FOR THREE YEARS

ROBERT F. BOLLINGER (875-3573)

Background: College chief financial officer (Vice President for Finance) for 23 years and taught college courses in Business Law, Accounting, Labor Problems and Economics. Self employed Land Development/General Construction and Financial Consulting.

Statement: To utilize my past training and experience to assist the town and find better ways to manage resources. I would like to look for ways to attract business and light industry to help the local job market and find ways to reduce residential real estate taxes. I would like to see additional affordable housing for the elderly.

JAMES C. WASHBURN (364-7413)

Background: 33 years as municipal engineer. Previously a Selectman in Alton and also served on Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Civic Profile project.

Statement: Actions taken now will impact Alton for years. They need to be positive. I will act only after hearing all sides of a question. I want the municipal experience I have to assist Alton in all aspects of its growth.

ARNOLD "PETE" SHIBLEY (875-2849)

Background: Alton resident - 35 years. Selectman (1995-98). Representative to the NH General Court (1991-92). Alton School Board member (1969-80, 1991-97).

Statement: It has been my pleasure to have served the residents of Alton as a Selectman for the past 3 years. If reelected, I'll continue to make decisions based on the Town's overall best interests and continue to work at making our town government effective, efficient and accountable.

HAROLD M. BOTHWICK JR (875-6262)

Background: Past Chairman of Land Use and Development Committee, Past Chairman of the Planning Board and member for several years. Member of Library Building Committee, AA Degree in Business and present President of a Union and Past Manager of a business.

Statement: The only Progressive/Ultra-conservative candidate. You can't stop growth, so it's necessary to promote growth in a direction which fits a rural environment. I must balance my own budget with 6 children, so I expect the same from the town. I'll bring balance between needs of the town and some very good town workers.

SELECTMAN FOR ONE YEAR

PETER J. PIJOAN (875-8894)

Background: Budget Committee, 1996-present and current chairman. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 1997-present. Retired professional engineer specializing in management of large sub-contracts.

Statement: As current chairman of the Budget Committee I have hands-on experience with the operation of Alton government. This coupled with participation on other town committees and Alton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and a flexible part-time work schedule give me experience and opportunity to serve effectively as Selectman.

ROBERT J.T. LONGABAUGH (875-5067)

Background: Thirty-three years experience in community and transportation planning; USNR-Ret. In Alton: Secretary, Housing for the Elderly; Secretary, Town Engineering Needs Study Committee; Library Building Committee (construction phase); Capital Improvements Programming Subcommittee; CAREGIVER; Main Street volunteer.

Statement: As a result of attending over 40 Selectmen's meetings, I have formed many ideas on how to do things even better. First, I would push for evening meetings and public input prior to every vote. Please come to Candidates' Night to hear my other views and let me learn yours.

ERNEST WENTWORTH

Has chosen to withdraw from this race.

CEMETERY TRUSTEE - 3 YEARS

JANE B. PORTER

Background: Cemetery Trustee since 1989.

Statement: I have been a cemetery trustee since 1989, and it has been a rewarding experience. The present trustees have worked very hard to make all our cemeteries places of beauty for our deceased loved ones, and I hope that you will allow me to continue to do so.

WARREN HARRIS (875-6346)

Background: Accountant for large cemetery.

Statement: I have served the town on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Budget Committee. I welcome this further opportunity to be of service to the citizens of Alton. As an active minister, I had many dealings with cemetery personnel.

MODERATOR - 2 YEARS

ROBERT L. CALVERT (875-2151)

Background: National Director of Planning and Communications for the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. Prior service on the Planning Board, Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen in Alton.

Statement: To try to continue the high caliber service of Moderator John Duffek, and to conduct elections and expedite town meetings objectively and within reasonable time limits.

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST - 6 YEARS

LUCINDA "CINDY" MILLER

Background: Included in Statement.

Statement: The office of Supervisor of the Checklist sounds like an interesting position to me. My 30 years experience keeping organized, accurate records for banks, the Alton Elementary School Library and completing tax forms has given me the skills necessary to maintain the town's voting list. I would appreciate your vote.

SCHOOL BOARD FOR THREE YEARS

DEBORAH BURTON

Background: Married 23 years; mother of 3; 1 granddaughter; Budget Committee for 2 years; appointed to School Board for 1 year due to resignations; Parks and Recreation Commissioner for 3 years; Been involved with Cub Scouts, Alton Youth League, Alton School Athletic Boosters Club and Old Home Week Committee (chairman).

Statement: Education will undergo many changes in the near future. We must together look, listen and learn the needs of our school community. We must also be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Alton in that process. I wish to serve my community to the best of my ability.

RICHARD QUINDLEY (875-6173)

Background: Lived in Alton for past 25 years. Have six children who have either graduated from Alton School System or are currently enrolled. Twelve years experience as School Board member. In employment enjoys contact with community members on daily basis and is well aware of their concerns.

Statement: Our school system is currently facing significant issues - overcrowding and a new building proposal. The School Board will be faced with decisions that will have both short term and long range impact on the community. I feel that it is best to have experienced leadership on the School Board.

SCHOOL BOARD FOR ONE YEAR

WAYNE FRASER (875-3327)

Background: Professionally in the field of post-secondary education. Familiar with issues facing Alton School District. Service on the school building committee. Experienced in working with school accreditation and issues surrounding.

Statement: During the 15 years that I have lived in Alton, I have become very interested in serving the community. Because I have 2 young children who will come through the Alton school system, I would like to use my professional experience to serve the Alton School District.



Main Street's Information Center

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

Baha'i Fireside — Thu., 7:30 p.m., Holway Residence, Old New Durham Road

Bay Church — Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Church, 10:45 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. Sunday morning service held at the Moore Chapel, Alton Bay Christian Conference Center, all others at The Bay Church on Rand Hill Road. Rev. Robert H. Hett, Pastor

Community Church — Congregational Meeting House, Oct. - Apr. 11 a.m.; Baptist Meeting House, May and Sep., 11 a.m., June - Aug., 10 a.m., Dr. Peter E. Roussakis, Pastor

First Free Will Baptist Church — Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Church, 11 a.m., Evening Service, 6 p.m., Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m., Depot St., New Durham, Pastor James Nason

St. Joan of Arc — Sat., 5 p.m., Sun., 8 and 11 a.m., Mon. - Sat., except Wed., 8 a.m.; Confessions, Sat., 4 p.m. or by appointment, Fr. Richard Wegman, Pastor

Wolfeboro Bible Fellowship — Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., (Summer 10 a.m.), Evening Service, 6 p.m., Prayer Meeting, Wed., 7 p.m., Route 28, Pastor Scott Button

GILMAN LIBRARY:

Mon. and Wed., Noon to 8 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m. - Noon

SENIOR MEAL SITE:

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

SOLID WASTE CENTER:

Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat., 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sun., Noon, 3 p.m. Closed Tue. and Thu.
Rines Road Pit - Reopens in April

TOWN HALL:

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

Building Inspector — 875-5095 for hours and appts.

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

Planning Director — 875-5095 for hours and appts.

ORGANIZATIONS:

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

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

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

American Legion Jr. Members — 3rd Mon., 6 p.m., Legion Hall

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

Brownie Scout Troop 329, Mon., 5:30 p.m., Alton Sch. Cafe.

Chamber of Commerce Bd. — 1st & 3rd Wed., 8 a.m., 875-5777

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

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

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

Garden Club — 4th Tue. meetings resume in April

Girl Scout Junior Troop 630, Wed., 5:30 p.m., Alton Sch. Cafe

Happy Hobby Doll Club — 4th Fri., 7 p.m., Alton Bay Community Center

Historical Society — 3rd Tue., Apr. - Oct.

Knights of Columbus — 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church Hall

Lions Club — 1st and 3rd Thu., 7 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

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

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

St. Joan of Arc Ladies Guild — Last Thu., 7:30 p.m., Church Hall

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

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

CALL 875-5067 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

ADDRESS COMMITTEE — Meets on call. Chairman Russell Jones, 875-7510.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN — 1st & 3rd Mondays, 8:30 a.m., Chairman Arnold P. Shibley, call 875-2161 for appointment.

BUDGET COMMITTEE — 1st Thursday, 7 p.m., Chairman Peter Pijoan, 875-8894.

CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE — Meets on call, 875-2161.

CEMETERY TRUSTEES — 1st & 3rd Monday, 1 p.m., Chairman Florence Shaw, 875-2220.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION — 1st & 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Chairman Lisa Erickson Harris, 364-6388.

FIRE WARDS — Meet on call. Chief Russell Jones, 875-7510.

GILMAN MUSEUM COMMITTEE — Meets on call. Chairman Ellamarie Carr, 776-4833.

LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM — Meets on call. Chairman Juliet Peverley, 875-7232.

LEVY PARK TRUSTEES — Meet on call. Chairman Jonathan Downing, 875-7243.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION — 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Chairman Jay Sydow, 875-6792.

PLANNING BOARD — 4th Monday, 7 p.m., Chairman James Washburn, call 875-5095 for appointment.

SCHOOL BOARD — 2nd & 4th Monday, 6 p.m., Chairman R. Loring Carr, 776-6003.

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST — Meet on call. Chairman Alice Ziegler Calvert, 875-2151.

TRUSTEES OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY — 3rd Monday, 3:30 p.m., Chairman Ellamarie Carr, 776-4833.

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS — Meet on call. Chairman Joseph R. Houle, 875-7321.

WATER COMMISSION — 2nd & 4th Thursday, 8 a.m., Chairman Sherman Brown, 875-7337. Office, 875-4200.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT — 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m., Chairman Donn Brock, 875-4343.

*DENOTES A CHANGE OF INFORMATION

CALL 875-5067 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. SENATE

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

Judd Gregg, 393 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-2904; Phones (202) 224-3324, (603) 225-7115, Fax (202) 224-4952; e-mail: mailbox@gregg.senate.gov

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

NH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

NH SENATE

Leo Fraser, 225-3664 (w), 435-6626 (h)

NH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Robert Boyce, 875-6066 (w), 875-7371 (h); e-mail: rboyce@worldpath.net

Alice Ziegler Calvert, 875-2151

Paul Golden, 269-4071 (w), 269-5511 (h)

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A RENAISSANCE IN WEST ALTON

By Bill Vose

After years of little use, the Mt. Major Community Center is coming back to life. With an eye to the future, residents of West Alton swung into action last summer and fall to ready the recently acquired Mt. Major Community Center for use for both public and private functions. The community center, purchased from the Town of Alton by the West Alton Fire Association and the newly formed Mt. Major Community Center Association, is located adjacent to the West Alton Fire station on Route 11. Thanks to the handsome new sign designed by Milt Jensen, folks traveling along Route 11 can now easily identify the building.

In the above photo John Farrell (on ladder) and Milt Jensen are seen putting finishing touches on the exterior of the Center.

Active participants in the summer/fall clean-up sessions met again in January to set up officially an association to oversee the continued physical improvements and provide guidelines for rentals of the community center. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Sandy Jackson, president; Bill Vose, vice president; Priscilla Farrell and Kitty Croes, co-secretaries; and Pam Reynolds, treasurer. Members at large include David Merfeld, Dan Downard, and Carol Vose.

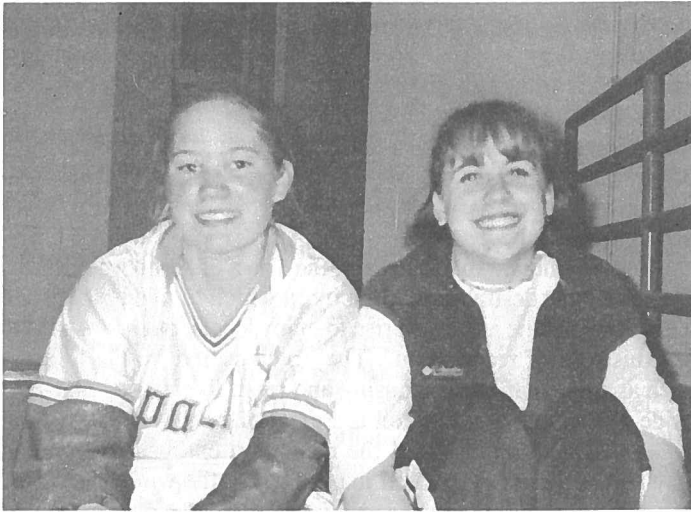
"Our goal is to have a facility available for local residents to use for meetings, dances, yard sales, community suppers, and plays, among other activities," said John Farrell, who was the driving force behind the work sessions attended by a hard-working group of West Alton residents. Other possible uses include book fairs, religious services, Boy and Girl Scout meetings, wedding receptions, aerobic classes, art exhibits, children's story hours, and quilting/sewing classes.

The Mt. Major Community Center offers a large meeting hall with a stage, full kitchen facilities, and rest rooms, with parking available at the West Alton Fire Station.

"The community center has a great deal to offer and I hope our West Alton neighbors take advantage of the opportunities to see and use the center," said Sandy Jackson, newly elected president. "This spring we will be contacting residents of West Alton regarding their interest in using the building," she added. In the meantime additional information may be obtained from Bill Vose at 293-0193.



Main Street's Sports Page



ALTON STUDENTS MAKE JUNIOR OLYMPIC VOLLEYBALL TEAM

by Kathy Alden

After two long weekends of tryouts, Sophomore Korin Egges (pictured on the left) and Freshman Tonya Alden made the Lakes Region Junior Olympic Volleyball team. Their season, which goes from January to May, consists of practices every Sunday and tournaments once a month in Massachusetts. Both students play volleyball for Alton School under coach Kathy Blanchard. Good job, girls, and good luck!



ALTON OUTDOORS

by Jack Miller

SOME CLOSE, OTHERS OPEN . . .

During the month of March the official hunting seasons close. Snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, fox, raccoon, and night hunting for coyote all end March 31. Crow, muskrat, and mink reopen March 1 but also close March 31.

As these seasons close this month, others begin. Smelt "dippin" season runs March 15 through April 30. Smelt run to inlets of streams and sandy shallows of lakes at night to spawn and can be caught with a dip net from sunset to 10 p.m. Once you taste these little fish battered and deep fried, you'll know why someone would stand in freezing water, in the dark, waiting for a "run" and then go through the bother of cleaning them! The outstanding taste IS worth it. As always, be sure to check the regulations because there are only certain specific ponds and lakes where one may dip for smelt.

March is also a month to look forward to the coming seasons. April 1 starts the salmon and trout fishing season so one can use this month to prepare for the opener. Tying flies, changing lines, cleaning gear, and catalog shopping can ease the winter doldrums.

Get off the couch and get out the gear.

YOUTH LEAGUE WARMING UP

Registration for the Alton Youth League (T-Ball, Baseball, and Softball, ages 5 through 12) will take place at the Town Hall on Saturday, March 14, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Registration will also take place on Sunday, March 22, during the same hours. For children registering for the first time a photocopy of a birth certificate is required. The registration fee this year will remain at \$10. Children with birthdays after 8/1/85 and before 8/1/93 are eligible to register. Any child who did not return their uniform from last year is asked to bring it to registration.

This year, as in the past, all children enrolled in the Alton Youth League will be required to sell five raffle tickets. The selling of these raffle tickets is a great way for kids throughout the league to win prizes while at the same time raise money for needed equipment and uniforms. Friends and relatives who buy the \$5 tickets are eligible for cash drawings during the season ranging from \$25 to \$100.

Coaches and Umpires Also Sought

The League is looking for volunteers to help with both coaching and umpiring during the upcoming baseball season. The season ranges from May 4 to June 15. Openings exist from the T-Ball level (ages 5 and 6) up through the major divisions (ages 11 and 12). Clinics will be offered to those interested. Anyone willing to help with umpiring is requested to call Mike Phelan at 875-5503 while those willing to help with coaching are requested to call Gary Dudman at 875-6170.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

Anyone who wishes to publicize an event in the Chamber of Commerce Summer Events Calendar can do so by contacting either: Cecile Chase, Farmington National Bank (Alton Branch) or Ginny Stevenson, Riverside Motel. The deadline is Tuesday, March 31.

ALL NIGHT PARKING BAN REMAINS 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 storms when snow removal or other winter road maintenance is being performed.

The fine is \$10 and vehicles in violation of this ordinance may be towed away at the owner's expense. And that's the way it is at this time of year.

SUPPORT MAIN STREET ADVERTISERS!

The publication of Main Street is made possible by the businesses who advertise each month. The proceeds from advertising pay for printing and mailing Main Street to every U.S. Postal Service address in Alton every month of the year. (A volunteer staff writes and assembles the paper.) If this is something that you would like to see continue, your most meaningful contribution is to support the businesses you see in these pages and mention that you saw their ad in Main Street.



TOWN HALL NOTES
 by Scott Dunn
 Town Administrator



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WE CAN SPEAK

It was my pleasure recently to speak before a group of real estate agents at Maxfield Realty. I never pass up an invitation such as this because it gives me an opportunity to inform people about Town government issues, and I always take back some information about the needs of different citizens. All of your Town officials are available to speak before civic organizations, business meetings or even neighborhood groups and there is never any charge for these services.

In a recent newspaper article, the Town of Alton was rated as the sixth most desirable community in which to live in the State. This should come as no surprise to many locals, but it was nice to see this type of recognition. The Town scored highly in areas such as education, taxes, housing and room to breathe. Statistics aside, the simple fact is Alton is a great place to live!

Somebody forgot to tell the recreation enthusiasts in Alton Bay that El Nino is supposed to be spoiling the winter fun. The bay has been busier than ever with planes and fisherman and snowmobilers, etc. However, because it seems as though winter settled in early this year, I have no qualms about wishing for an early mud season so we can bring on the spring.

But first, 'tis the season to elect town officials and vote on town affairs. Democracy requires participation. See you all at Town Meeting!

ALTON MUSICIANS PERFORM IN LAKES REGION MUSIC FESTIVAL

Ten band and choral students from Alton Central School recently performed in the 1998 Lakes Region Music Festival at Kennett High School. Participating in the choral portion of the program were senior sopranos Sarah Spencer and Amy Teague and sophomore altos Deanna Hillsgrove and Jessica Benedetto. Band members included freshman Deanna Talon, tenor saxophone; senior Tarsia Kenny, clarinet; freshman Meghan St. Cyr, clarinet; senior Tammy Murtagh, clarinet; sophomore Jason Morris, trumpet; and freshman Emily Sydow, flute. Band Director Roxanne Papp and Choral Director Melinda Shilansky accompanied them.

The Lakes Region Music Festival is designed to provide an opportunity for several hundred advanced students to participate in a more challenging environment. Because of this, students are able to perform at a higher level, in a more balanced ensemble and are exposed to a more difficult level of music than they are currently performing in their high school ensembles.

EVENTS AT THE ALTON AMERICAN LEGION
 by Patti McMullen

The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding its annual St. Patty's Day dinner-dance on March 14, 6 p.m. - 12 midnight. There will be corned beef and cabbage, as well as ham with all the fixings, on the menu. D. J. Wayne will play after the meal for your entertainment. The cost is \$7 each for members and guests.

The Dugout Lounge is still being renovated with Dick Rojek supplying his carpentry talents. Welcome to Don Parker as the new Bar Steward. Don is around a good part of every day ensuring that the operation of the lounge is running smoothly. Stop by if you are a member to admire the changes and say hi.

If you are not yet a member of The American Legion and are eligible, pick up an application from Don or a member. We are always looking for new members and ideas. We do have a lot of fun -- Don't be afraid to be a part of it!!!

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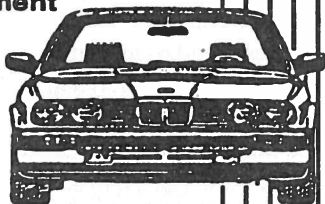


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OWEN LAURION WINS ALTON CENTRAL SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY BEE

Owen Laurion, a fourth grade student at Alton Central School, recently won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee and a chance at a \$25,000 college scholarship. In the photo above Owen is seen being congratulated by Alton Enrichment Coordinator Anne Hoopes.

The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the tenth annual National Geography Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society and Sylvan Learning Centers. According to Enrichment Coordinator Hoopes, Laurion competed against students representing grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

The kick-off for this year's Bee was the week of December 1, with thousands of schools around the United States and in five U.S. territories participating. The school winners, including Laurion, will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete in their state Bee April 3.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON

"Spin Into Spring" will be the theme of a luncheon to be held on March 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Conference Center on Route 11 in Alton Bay. Cindy Caron from Alton will demonstrate her expertise in pottery for the Special Feature, Roberta Scott from North Berwick, Maine, will provide the music. Gloria Miller from East Corinth, Vermont, will be the Special Speaker.

To make reservations for the luncheon and complimentary nursery, please call Helen Harris in Alton at 875-6346 or Thelma Osborne in Laconia at 524-6505 by Wednesday, March 4.

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



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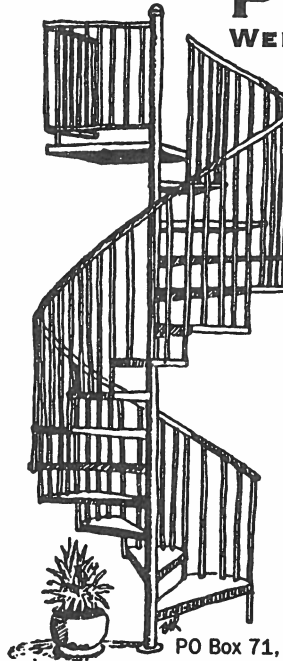
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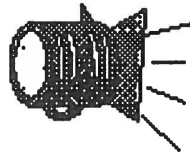


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JOHN RANDALL

SOLID WASTE CENTER EMPLOYEE

John was born at Frisbee Memorial Hospital in Rochester and lived with his family in our neighboring town of New Durham. He attended school there as well.

His work experience includes positions at the New Durham Sawmill, the Milton Sawmill, the New Durham Station Restaurant, and the Edgewood Restaurant. In addition, John has worked at splitting wood and doing odd jobs. He came to work for the Town of Alton at the Solid Waste Center in 1992.

John performs the general duties of a team member at the Center. He has the additional responsibility of taking charge of the Goodwill box located there. He assists people with unloading their contributions and brings containers too large for the box inside the building for safe keeping until they are picked up.

You can usually find John near the Center's entrance giving out information to those who need it as they enter the site. John says, "I'm there to help people as they arrive and direct them to the different areas at the site."

John lives with his wife, Phyllis, in Alton on the New Durham Road. He had two brothers, now deceased. John has a daughter, Lillian, who lives in Concord. During their spare time John and Phyllis enjoy visiting with friends and relatives.

John is most enthusiastic about his job. He says, "I just love it! You couldn't ask for a better boss than Mal (Malcolm Simonds, Solid Waste Center Director, was interviewed in the August, 1997 issue of Main Street) and the crew here is great! We all work together." He added, "I like to help people and the people who come here are such good people and appreciate what we do." (A perfect example of how people appreciate the crew at the Center occurred during our interview when a town resident dropped in to leave a complimentary doughnut and cup of coffee for John!)

When I inquired into John's future plans, he replied, "I'm very happy right here and hope to stay until retirement time."

Our thanks go to John and the whole crew at the Center.

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PATRICIA MERRILL SEES HER DREAM COME TO REALITY

By David Countway, Library Trustee

Patricia Merrill's leadership and vision at the Gilman Library will continue even after she steps down this month as Assistant Librarian. Pat will begin her retirement with the satisfaction that the New Gilman Library is "up and running."

Pat Merrill inspired the whole community of Alton to join in and participate in the planning for the new town library. As you walk through the spacious Adult Wing, Children's Wing, Main Check-Out/Reference area and explore the large new meeting room and kitchen, you begin to appreciate all the leadership that Pat has given to making the Gilman Library the cultural center of the Alton community. Library patrons can now discover the many resources available in a bright and cheerful first-class environment. Provisions were also made to expand the technology and computer resources at the Gilman library in the future, and this was also part of Pat's vision.

Over \$400,000 was privately raised to expand the Gilman Library in addition to the \$250,000 voted at Alton Town Meetings. Pat Merrill inspired the community support for her dream which has become the reality which we all now enjoy. Pat is still "wishing" for a major contribution to the Gilman Library Building Fund to name the Children's Wing.

A heartfelt "Thank You" is hardly enough to recognize Pat Merrill's *outstanding* service to the Alton community and to the Gilman Library. You have our very best wishes as you begin your retirement Pat.

* * *

During the winter months, Librarian Holly Brown and several volunteers have undertaken the careful task of reorganizing and stacking the many resources at the Gilman Library. An Open House for the new library is scheduled to take place later in the Spring after all the furnishings and finishing touches are complete. Watch Main Street for an announcement of the date.



THE CHECKOUT DESK
by Holly Brown
Librarian

NEW LIBRARY . . .

NEW FRIENDS . . . NEW IDEAS . . .

The next Friends of the Gilman Library meeting is scheduled for March 4 at 7 p.m. and will be held in the meeting room at the Gilman Library. This is an exciting time to join The Friends of the Gilman Library if you are not already a member. Our new library is growing in many ways. Plans for the future include automating the entire collection and gaining access to the internet. The Friends have always played an important part in helping us to achieve our goals.

For those of you who have been offering to help make our library the best it can be, being a member of the Friends of the Gilman Library is one of the most important and most effective ways you can support the library. You may be wondering what it means to be a Friend of the Gilman Library and what being a member involves. I encourage you to attend the meeting and see what it is all about. Bring a Friend. Please. Mark your calendar now!

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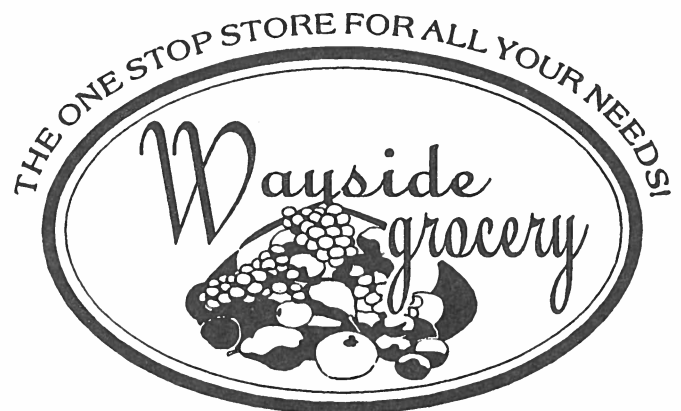
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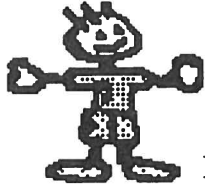
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Sunday 8 am - 7 pm

Main Street, Alton, NH

875-6104



FOR THE FUN OF IT
by Kellie McGrath
Recreation Director

DOINGS IN MARCH

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department believes that we have some worthwhile activities scheduled for March. They are listed below along with a couple of events in April that call for planning ahead.

Body Works with Melanie Tidd, AFAA Certified
Strength training for muscles, heart and body. Summer will be here soon. Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Alton Bay Community Center. \$3/class or \$20/month. Bring hand weights, mat and water. Drop in anytime.

Candy Bar Bingo, Ages 7-14
Saturday, March 28, at the Alton Town Hall from 10 a.m. until noon. Sign up before March 20. Fee: bring one 50-cent candy bar for each card you play.

Karate Lessons, Ages 6-14
Tuesdays, March 3-31, at the Alton Central School Cafeteria, 3 - 4 p.m. \$25 for five weeks. All levels of ability are welcome. Come in and sign up today.

Country Line Dancing Lessons, Adults of All Ages
Tuesdays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 2 - 4 p.m. The fee is \$3 for six months of classes to cover cost of hand-out materials. All levels of ability are welcome. Drop in anytime.

April Events
On Tuesday, April 7, an organized group will be going to the Foxwoods Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut. The bus will be leaving Town Hall at 6 a.m. and leaving Foxwoods at 7 p.m. The per person price is \$29, which includes round trip coach, \$10 food voucher, \$2 Keno and \$3 pull tabs. The trip is limited to 45 and you must register before March 20.

The Easter Egg Hunt dates are Friday, April 10, for the flashlight hunt, ages 8-10, and Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m. for ages 3-7. Both hunts will be at Liberty Tree Park.

NEW AT THE GILMAN LIBRARY

<p>FICTION Carr, Caleb Gibbons, Kaye Gibbons, Kaye Greenberg, Joanne James, P. D. Koontz, Dean Mathiesen, Peter Roberts, Nora Roosevelt, Elliott Spencer, Lavryle</p> <p>NONFICTION Donnellan, Anne M. McCullough, David McMaster, H. R. Rowbotham, Sheila Varney, Marion L.</p> <p>JUVENILE Disney Easterbrook Howe, James Matthews, Rubert Morris, Gilbert Morris, Gilbert Morris, Gilbert Pinckney, Brian Ransome, Arthur Ransome, Arthur Ransome, Arthur</p>	<p>The Angel of Darkness A Virtuous Woman Ellen Foster With the Snow Queen A Certain Justice Fear Nothing Lost Man's River Sea Swept (pb) Murder in the Red Room Then Came Heaven</p> <p>Progress Without Punishment Truman Dereliction of Duty A Century of Women Hart's Location in Crawford Notch</p> <p>Walt Disney's I AM Mickey Mouse Concise Illust. Book of Butterflies Nighty-Nightmare Concise Illust. Book of Dinosaurs The Dixie Widow The Last Confederate The Reluctant Bridegroom The Adventures of Sparrow Boy Coot Club Pigeon Post We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea</p>
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AUDIO CASSETTES - Binchy, Maev, Evening Class
VIDEO CASSETTES - Jungle Book (not animated)
REFERENCE - New Hampshire Register 1998

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, 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. 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 Farmington Bank. Ads must contain a phone number.

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ELECTION DAY VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR MARCH 10

Town Moderator John Duffek is seeking volunteers to staff the polls for the Town and School Elections and the School District Warrant on March 10. Individuals will be needed to check in voters, provide voter assistance and booth supervision, and count ballots at the close of the polls.

Any registered voter interested in helping should call Duffek at 569-4441.

WHAT BUYERS AND SELLERS OF WATERFRONT PROPERTY SHOULD KNOW

A free community service seminar for buyers and sellers of waterfront property will be presented by William E. Evans of the NH Department of Environmental Services and Gary Springs from the Shoreline Protection Agency. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the Century 21 Gemini Realty Office at the Alton Circle. Please call 875-2100 to reserve a seat. Refreshments and free baby-sitting will be available.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Gladys Howe resigned as Town Treasurer after 19 years of service. . . Carolann Simpson and Daniel LaCroix were crowned Queen and King of the Winter Carnival Ball. . . John Conboy and John Irving were appointed chairmen of the Old Home Week Committee. . . the Happy Hobby Doll Club featured Irish dolls at their monthly meeting. . . 33 candidates were running for a variety of school and town posts, 7 of them for Highway Agent.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . The Bicentennial Committee started work on the big celebration to be held in June, 1996 (did you know that the present Town Hall was built and dedicated at the Centennial Celebration in 1896 for a cost of about \$15,000?). . . The Knights of Columbus hosted their annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. . . the Apache Players presented an evening of Shakespeare, several one act plays based on the Bard's works. . . Town Meeting addressed 26 warrant articles and 17 school and town offices were filled on Election Day.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION RE: BLOOD DRIVE



WOW!!! Another great job was turned in by the Alton community at the February 16 bloodmobile. Members of the community came out in force as the Red Cross Blood Services was able to collect 101 pints of blood. Also impressive is that there were 20 first-time donors!

All blood donors should feel extremely proud of the potential lifesaving gift they are giving to others, especially when the need hits close to home as it does in the Alton community. The demand for blood products continues to grow and thankfully so does the generosity of our donors.

Also, thank you, on behalf of the New England American Red Cross Blood Services, to all those who volunteered by putting in countless time and effort to make this drive successful.

A special thank you to the Farmington National Bank, the Alton PTSA and the Alton Central School; see you again when we return to Alton on Monday, July 13.

Scott Chisholm
Blood Services Representative
American Red Cross

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“MADE IN JAPAN”

by **Richard M. Pike**
Superintendent of Schools

In the years following World War II, W. Edwards Deming, an American statistician, proposed a new management theory to American manufacturers who flatly rejected his new ideas. The Japanese, however, who were facing a “do or die” situation with respect to their economy were much better listeners. Under Deming’s leadership, Japanese management directed a new class of workers to make high quality products at an affordable price. This was the birth of “TQM” (Total Quality Management).

Four Principles

It is my belief that some of the following principles of TQM can be applied to the management of schools: (1) Encouraging everyone to work together to develop a student’s competencies, to produce an autonomous citizen capable of functioning constructively in a free economy; (2) Providing the tools to make these goals possible, at the lowest cost and the highest possible quality; (3) Promoting fixing the system, not the blame; and (4) Promoting pride of accomplishment and joy in learning, which to some may sound far-fetched, but in fact can happen in a school system where total quality management practices are in place. TQM is credited with the recovery of Japan. It is now a way of life for U.S. companies such as Motorola, Xerox, and Harley Davidson, just to name a few.

When To Begin?

Some might ask when the proper time would be to introduce total quality management. If Dr. Deming were alive today, his answer would be, “It doesn’t matter when you begin, as long as you start at once.”

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR ELECTIONS

Absentee ballots are available for both the School and Town elections which are being held on March 10. The ballots for the School District election are available from the School District Clerk, Cynthia Duffek, at the Alton Central School. The ballots for the Town election are obtained from the Alton Town Clerk, Gwendolyn Jones, at her office in Town Hall. In both cases applications must be submitted in time to complete the absentee ballot process by March 9.

An application for an absentee ballot must be filled out by each voter. While application forms can be mailed to prospective voters, original signatures are required on the application, so fax applications cannot be accepted. After applying, the actual absentee ballot must be either mailed or handed to the voter. To be counted the ballot has to be returned to either the School District Clerk’s or the Town Clerk’s office — as applicable — by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 9, the day before the election.

On election day residents may register in person at the polls to vote.

SALES SPACE ON VOTING DAY

Voting for Town and School Officers and the School District Warrant will take place from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the Central Fire Station on Route 140 on Tuesday, March 10.

A limited amount of sales space (baked goods, raffle tickets, calendar sales, etc.) for community organizations will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests for space must be submitted to the Town Clerk to insure a reservation.

GET OUT AND VOTE!

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