



Main Street

A Monthly Newsmagazine

Volume XVIII Number 1

Alton, New Hampshire - January, 2002

Complimentary



VOTERS APPROVE JMA

Alton voters went to the polls on December 19 and by a vote of 309 to 239 they approved the Joint Maintenance Agreement (JMA) with the Barnstead School District. The JMA provides for the construction and operation of a joint high school between the two school districts, and it had previously been approved by the Barnstead voters. Look for Main Street's next issue to report on the next steps that the two districts plan to undertake in order to implement the agreement.

On the second ballot question the votes tallied 430 "yeses" to 114 "noes" to accept the donation of approximately 9 acres of land from Addison Cate with the property to be used to expand the adjacent site that the district already owns.

ALTON SPEED LIMIT NOW 30 MPH

On December 3, by action of the Town's Selectmen, the speed limit on all town roads became 30 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. State highways, of course, are another category where the motorist can expect to find higher limits but once off the major byways and on town roads, drivers should not exceed 30 m.p.h. unless a regulatory highway sign informs them differently.

ZONING AMENDMENTS HEARING JAN 8

By David Jescavage, Alton Town Planner

The Alton Planning Board has chosen Tuesday, January 8, for a public hearing on seven proposed zoning amendments to be voted upon at the next Town Meeting. The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the Alton Town Hall. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and offer comments on the proposed amendments.

Three of the seven amendments deal with creating lower density in the Rural (RU) Zone. Another proposed amendment would create an "accessory apartment" as a permitted use in the Rural (RU) Zone. Two proposed amendments deal with word definitions ("Frontage, Street" and "Shoreland Frontage") while the one remaining amendment would create an entirely new section of the zoning ordinance dealing with impact fees.

Persons planning on attending the hearing will be better prepared to participate if they look at the proposals in advance of the meeting. Copies of the full text of the seven proposed amendments are available at the Town Clerk's office and the Land Use and Property Records office in Town Hall. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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by

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AUTHOR IDENTIFIED

On page 4 of the last issue of Main Street we published "A Soldier's 'Night Before Christmas,'" which was attributed by its Internet source to "a Marine stationed in Okinawa." One of Main Street's readers who knows her way around the Internet, Michelle Sharpe, has informed us that <<http://www.snopes2.com>> has the real word on the author of the poem, and it is Major Bruce W. Lovely "with apologies to Clement Moore." Air Force Major Lovely wrote it in 1993 while stationed in Korea, and it was later published in the *Fort Leavenworth Lamp*.

Regardless of the author, all seem to agree that the poem's sentiments were worth pondering at this time of year. Our thanks to Michelle Sharpe for helping us give proper credit where it is due.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Donald E. Parks
Superintendent of Schools



BUDGET REVIEW FOR 2002-2003

Since September the school administration and school board have been preparing and reviewing the proposed 2002-2003 budget. After a number of meetings the school board adopted the budget in the amount of \$6,648,393, which reflects an increase of \$392,067. In terms of the impact on the amount of tax a homeowner will pay, it will result in a 50 cent increase.

Of the \$392,067 increase \$347,121, or 88.41 percent, is due to contractual expenses: salaries, health and dental insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and FICA. Because of a close analysis of our expenditures, we have been able to reduce outlays in the high-cost area of special education by educating some of our students in Alton or at other appropriate settings, hiring our own staff as opposed to contracting services, and reorganizing how the district delivers instruction.

Due to these reductions in the above referenced area and others, the district was able to redirect funds into areas that will improve instruction, i.e., the purchase of additional textbooks so we can start a new math program in Grade 8. The district will start to offer algebra to all 8th graders. A whole new comprehensive writing program, called the "John Collins' Writing Program," will be starting in grades 1-12 in the fall of 2002. It is widely acclaimed and being used successfully in other school districts in New Hampshire.

The school board approved a five-year, long-range plan to keep the district current in the ever changing field of computer technology. We are preparing to spend \$75,000 to upgrade our computers next year. A lot of our computers are old, out-dated, and slow. Also money has been budgeted to adopt a new standardized test for the purpose of evaluating how our students are doing compared to national results. The last update was ten years ago.

The district will be expanding its program in career awareness and school-to-work. As a result of a \$10,000 grant in 2001-2002, which we expect to receive again in 2002-2003, we will have one additional day of a career awareness and school-to-work coordinator to help students become more aware of careers and the opportunity to actually work in an area or to explore a possible career choice. Finally, the district will spend money to continue to improve an aging building. New ceiling tiles, upgrades to the telephone system, and the purchase of a new tractor are proposed.

This year the NH Department of Revenue Administration is requiring all school districts in the state to include in the budget as an expenditure any anticipated use of funds from capital, expendable trusts, and federal funds. This increases the expenditure side of the budget but does not increase the amount of the tax levy because the expenditures are offset by the transfer of revenues to cover the expenditures.

The school board and administration feel this is a responsible budget, allowing the district to continue to meet its goals of academic improvement and accountability. It will be reviewed by the Budget Committee and the hearing is set for January 10. The Deliberative Session is tentatively set for Saturday, February 2, and the vote will be on March 12.

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Main Street's Inside Front Page

HERE'S PATRIOTISM FOR YOU



Continuing their never ending tableau at the Alton Bay "traffic triangle," Jonathan and Nancy Downing replaced the patriotic two-fisted bicycle rider featured on the cover of November's Main Street with the above flag (2) waver, which is more in keeping with the winter season. The Downings benefited from the assistance of John and Mike McManus of the Bayview Canvas Shop who did the shrink wrapping to match the snow on the ground in this photo.

IMPORTANT BUDGET COMMITTEE DATES

Mark your calendar if you wish to hear the Budget Committee review the following town department budgets. These meetings will be held in Town Hall at 7 p.m.

January 3: Water Department and Fire Department (includes Fire Hydrants and Emergency Management).

January 8: Grounds/Maintenance; Recreation Department; Insurance — Employee Benefits and Long and Short Term Debt. Also review of School Warrants.

The following meeting will be held at the Alton Central School at 7 p.m.

January 10: School budget hearing (storm date is January 12), time to be announced.

Notices of hearings are published in the *Laconia Citizen* and posted at Town Hall and the Alton Post Office.

CALVERT REELECTED TO VNA-HOSPICE

The VNA-Hospice of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity (Alton) recently elected officers for the new year at its annual meeting. Reelected to the position of Vice President was Alice Z. Calvert of Alton. She has served on the Board of Directors for the past five years and has chaired their Evaluation Committee. The other officers are from Wolfeboro. They are: President, David Booth; Treasurer, Edward Roundy; and Secretary, Harry Widman.

TAX BILLS GO OUT

By Bob Longabaugh

This is not news to readers of Main Street who are also property owners in Alton. On December 8 mailboxes in town received "greetings" in the form of bills for property taxes. If there is any news in this semiannual event, it is that the reductions in tax rates have been offset by increases in assessments brought about by the town's recently completed property revaluation.

It is, no doubt, more accurate to describe the revaluation as the reason behind the reduction in tax rates.

If you are an owner of waterfront or island properties within Alton's borders, the reduction in the municipal, school, state, and county tax rates is small consolation because the revaluation was most dramatic in these cases — 71 and 51 percent increases, respectively. If your waterfront property was assessed at \$100,000 before the "reval," it's now on the tax roles at \$171,000. On the other hand, those property owners in Alton whose property is neither (a) waterfront, (b) island, or (c) water access, are in the category of no special market influences and their average increase is 30 percent.

Taking the case of a property owner in Alton whose property is well inland, last year he or she paid \$1,879 in taxes on a \$100,000 assessment. This year that \$100,000 assessment has been "revealed" to \$130,000 and the tax bill is \$1,921, or two percent more than the previous year.

The non-mathematical reader can skip this paragraph because it explains how the more typical property taxpayer is paying 42 cents more this year for each thousand dollars of valuation. To start: In 2000 the tax rates per \$1,000 were town \$4.74, school \$5.41, state \$6.57, and county \$2.07, or a total of \$18.79 "per thousand." In 2001 the rates were finalized at town \$4.60, school \$4.11, state \$4.45, and county \$1.62, for a total of \$14.78 "per thousand" — true, significantly less per thousand. BUT, while the right hand was reducing rates, the left hand was increasing assessments — by at least 30 percent. Now, doesn't that "clear as mud" explanation explain why just about everybody's property tax bill is more this year?

We all know about "death and taxes," and in Alton's case the tax part is about 2 percent more this year if your property is without special attributes. (As a frame of reference, the cost of living adjustment that Social Security recipients are now receiving is 2.6 percent.) At the far end, those property owners with waterfronts are very likely to be looking at a tax increase on the order of 34 percent.

ALTON NOW HAS WEATHER OBSERVERS

Alton now has eight certified weather observers: Ed Consentino, Joe Harris, Ben Jones, Bob Longabaugh, Jean and Irving Roberts, and Jim and Fran Washburn. These volunteers attended a two-hour seminar conducted by John Jensenius, chief meteorologist for the National Weather Service forecast office located in Gray, Maine.

Their job is to monitor and report severe weather, such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hail and winter weather conditions of snow accumulations, sleet, and freezing rain. Last year Belknap County had some record inches of snow but was ineligible for any federal assistance because there were no certified weather observers to record the events.

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A CLARIFICATION ON LRPA-TV "WAGES"

By Alan L. MacRae,
LRPA-TV Chairman

The staff and board of the Lakes Region Public Access (LRPA) cablevision channels were pleased to see Main Street's December story by Paul Doane urging volunteers to render a public service of recording civic events in Alton for later cablecasting on LRPA-TV's Channel 25.

While the story was clear that volunteers were sought to carry out the task for the public good, its reference to these same skills being worth \$50 an hour when performed by a private entrepreneur apparently left some Main Street readers with the perception that LRPA-TV actually is paying some people that amount for their services, which is incorrect. LRPA-TV operates on a very frugal budget, funded with an annual grant from Metrocast Cablevision, and from contributions from its member communities. We have one full-time salaried staffer and usually fewer than five part-time persons, and not one is paid more than \$15 an hour. All the paid personnel work in the studio while the video "shoots" done outside the studio are done for no pay.

It may be helpful for taxpayers in the LRPA-TV viewing area to have a full understanding of the station's financial structure. LRPA-TV was started with a seed grant from Community TV Corporation that was a condition in the contract executed by the member communities of the Lakes Region Cable Television Consortium permitting the corporation to string their cable in the communities. As part of the contract Community TV's successor, Metrocast Cablevision, provides an annual grant to LRPA-TV, which, according to the terms of their contract, in 2002 will decrease from \$30,000 to \$15,000. The balance of LRPA-TV's budget comes from contributions from its member communities, based on a per capita formula. Alton's share was 6.9 percent in 2000/01, or \$2,026.25. Conversely, the Town of Alton receives revenue from the cable company in the form of a return of the 3 percent franchise fee that subscribers pay on their cable bills. In 2001 Alton received \$17,062.06 from the more than 1,600 cable subscribers within the town's borders.

LRPA-TV is sometimes asked what a member community gets for its share of the budget (Laconia's share, incidentally, is the largest at 28.2 percent). The basic answer is that member participation puts Channels 24 and 25 on the air with public access programming and not some of the alternatives, such as shopping channels. The budget covers salary and wages for the full-time staff person and part-time studio personnel, payroll taxes and insurance, equipment replacement and repairs, expendable materials (principally videotapes), telephone and postage, and all the other routine costs of running an office.

The studio personnel maintain the community bulletin board on Channel 24 and do all the various tasks to keep Channel 25 alive with interesting and informative video programs. What they do NOT do is go out in the field to capture on videotape all the newsworthy events that are occurring within LRPA-TV's viewing area; we simply do not have the budget or the staff to be able to do that. That is the job left to volunteers and, in a few cases, personnel paid by the municipalities that want to be sure their meetings or events are seen by a larger audience.

I hope that the above clarifies the situation, but if there are any questions unanswered, I hope that Main Street readers will feel free to contact me directly, either by phone at (603) 267-7500 or e-mail at <amacrae@metrocast.net>.

“OPERATION BLESSINGS” AGAIN, A HUGE SUCCESS

By Paulette Wentworth, Alton Town Hall

This is my sixth year on “Operation Blessings,” and every year I am amazed at the generosity of the people in this small town. I want to thank everyone for their donation for this special event.

I would like to give special thanks for the generous contribution that the Alton Community Services and the Police Association gave towards this project and to add the Alton Bay Lakeview Market for ordering the turkeys for me.

A personal note to the folks who deliver the baskets: I could not do this without you. Thanks!



A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU AND YOU AND YOU!!!

By Elf #1, Daryl Czech

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

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

Once again, thank you, thank you, most sincerely!

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S LUNCHEON

The Lakes Region Christian Women’s Club will be sponsoring a “Hearthside Treasures” Luncheon on Wednesday, January 9, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Conference Center on Route 11 in Alton Bay.

“A Heartwarming Message and Melodies” with Marcy Devers Alves of Concord will be the Special Feature and Special Music at the luncheon. She is an accomplished recording artist, composer, and writer. She blends music and words to illustrate her story of how her treasures and wants lost their glow when she was given the treasure of life.

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

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

MOMS IN TOUCH

By Phyllis Brooks

We are still on our knees in prayer even though we do not always have a “blurb” in Main Street. To accommodate all the moms who desire to attend (this year we have five), we are going to try meeting at 11:30 a.m. instead of 1 p.m. each Tuesday until further notice. We will continue to meet in my home on Stockbridge Corner Road, and we have no problem praying around the little ones.

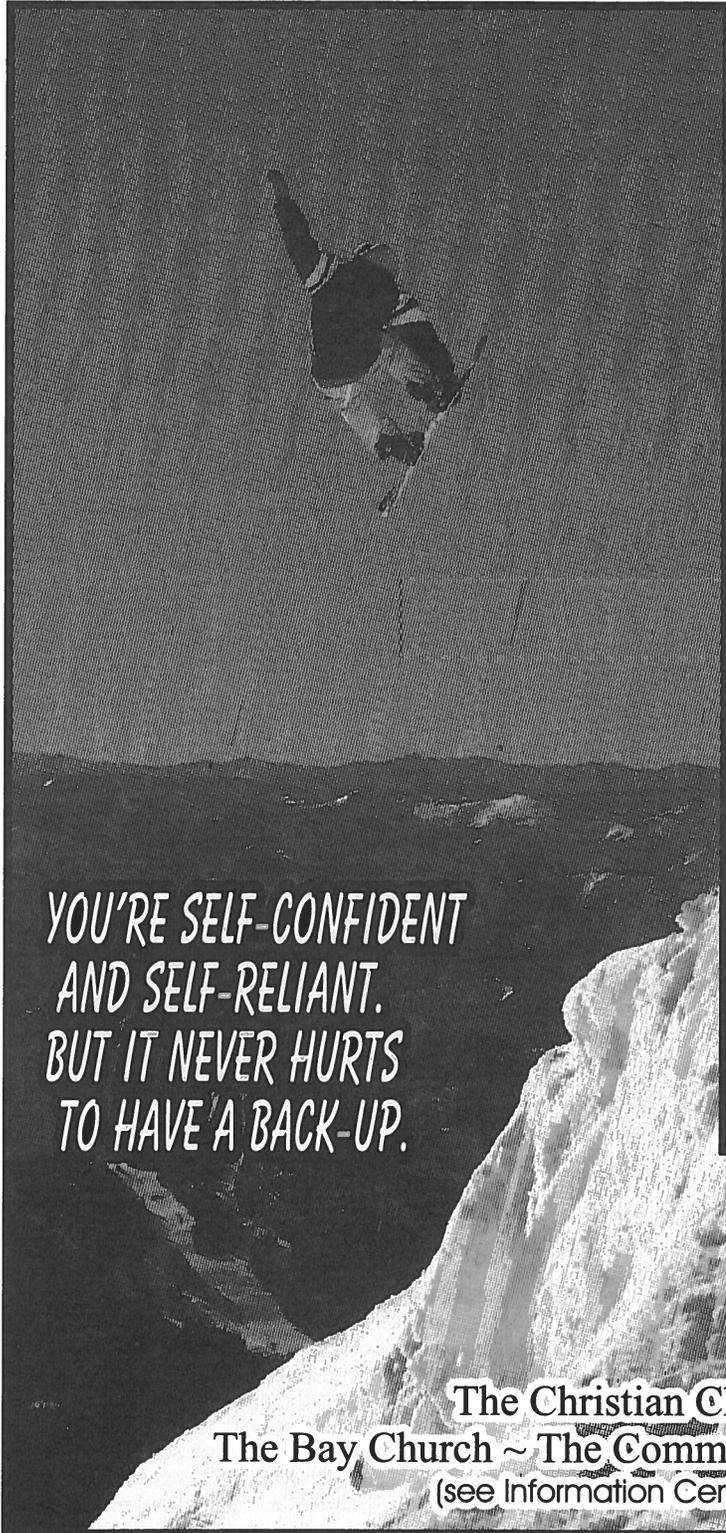
Please note that we will NOT meet January 1. Feel free to contact me at 875-2866 for more information about joining our group. Remember, we are a non-denominational group of moms praying for our children and their school, and we have NO political agenda. Happy New Year to all of you.

You fearlessly push yourself to all kinds of achievements. So why do you find church so formidable? After all, Jesus Christ knows something about extremes himself. And he’s waiting to show you some truly awesome things.

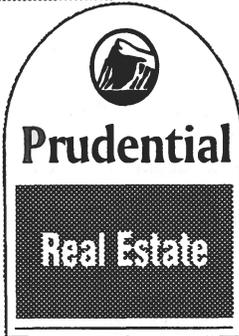
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HISTORIC ALTON

Editors' note: In last August's Main Street (page 16) it was described how Ms. Merrill's Grade 11 history class at Alton Central School had prepared papers on various aspects of Alton's history. Below, slightly edited to meet Main Street standards, is the fourth of what we plan publishing as space permits.

EDUCATION IN THE EARLY 1900's

By Dennis Sweeney II

Up until about the early 1900's Alton's school systems were progressing very slowly. The early schools were poorly handled. For example, they weren't constructed very well; they had very poor heating systems; and the teaching was not handled well. Progress began in the early 1900's at which time the schools had two terms: fall and spring. Each of these terms was about ten weeks long.

If anyone wanted to attend high school, they would have to travel to either Farmington or Pittsfield. They were the closest towns with a high school. However, Isaac Copp, who was one of the first teachers to teach in the 1868 village schoolhouse, saw the need that there should be a high school closer than that so he pursued this. In 1900 he was instrumental in establishing what is now known as Alton High School. Mrs. Charles H. McDuffee and Channing Folsom taught the first high school classes at the new high school. Channing Folsom was also the New Hampshire State Commissioner of Education in which he recognized the high school. In the new high school at this time there were 27 weeks of grammar school and a ten-week program on a higher level of education.

The first two graduates of Alton High School in 1904 were George F. Hall and John P. Hurd. In 1907 the school had 30 weeks of grammar. Also, the spring term was 11 weeks and the fall term had 19 weeks. The town report of 1908 states: "School consolidation would benefit students greatly and would lower the taxes." Eventually requirements got strict and made it that students had to get report cards, school registers, and also an adequate system of record keeping. Also in 1908 three schools were closed. The reason for this I don't know. In 1909 there was no graduating class.

Then between 1911-12 the first fire at Alton's new high school broke out. This was also the more serious of the two. The fire was put out quickly and the damage was repaired quite quickly. In 1912 Miss Annie A. Wheeler established the music department of Alton High School. She taught in the music department until she retired in 1948. In this period of time she was the teacher who taught the longest out of any teachers in public schools in our community.

In 1916 Miss Agnes Thompson was the first to teach English and the language of French. This same year also had the beginning of Alton's lunch program. This gave benefit to people who traveled to school from a distance, especially for the students, mainly the boys who had to do farm work in the morning, so didn't have time to eat. A lunch at the school was only two cents.

In 1919 the school had its only woman principal. Her name was Katherine K. Waldron and she served for five years. Then a great change in 1921 brought Alton's first nurse to the school. Her name was Miss Greg, and she managed well, which the town report said that year. Also during this year two rooms were added; they were the Home Economics Room and the Senior Class Room. At this time with the new additions the school could now hold up to 134 students.

The second fire that Alton had was in 1930. This was the least serious of the two. It happened in the basement of the main building, and only three weeks after a blaze broke out in the shoe company in the center of town. The fire in the shoe company caused two deaths and caused more injuries. At the school the fire was put out immediately because of the quickness of the Alton Fire Department.

The first Winter Carnival was started in the school in 1936. The first King and Queen were George H. Wallace and Vera Edwards. Events such as skiing, snowshoeing, and ice skating were held and some events have been carried up to the present Winter Carnival.

Alton's school has come a long way from when it started. Even though Alton is a small town, it has a high school, which is part of the elementary and middle school. This is great for all the children who live in the town. Making the high school made many parents excited for their children.

WAVE IT PROUD, BUT WAVE IT RIGHT...

It is important to show patriotism, but it is also important to follow the U. S. Flag Code when displaying the Stars and Stripes.

Staff display: When displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag (the white stars on the field of blue) should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff (one half the distance from top and bottom; to reach that position the flag is first hoisted to the peak and then lowered).

Display without a staff: When displayed horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (this would be the left to an observer looking at the flag). In a window the flag should be displayed the same way as viewed from the street. When suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

Night display: A flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. Proper illumination includes a light placed specifically to illuminate the flag or a light source — such as a porch or street light — sufficient to make the flag recognizable as such by a casual observer.

Display with other flags: When other flags are flown on the same halyard as a U. S. Flag, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from the adjacent staffs, the U. S. Flag should be hoisted first and lowered last, with no other flag above it or to the flag's own right.

This information was obtained from the December 2001 "American Legion Magazine" and submitted by a "patriotic citizen" who requested anonymity.

**THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR OUTDOORS**

Happy New Year and Happy Outdoor Seasons to all.

January 1 is the opening day of the 2002 river and stream fishing season. With the lack of ice this might be a good spot to start the new year. Be sure to check the regulations as you go out. Be VERY careful as ice and snow at river's edge can be especially dangerous. The fishing may be slow (not many bites) as the lethargic fish do not move a lot. Your fishing technique should follow suit. Slow moving flies and lures may entice a fish to strike.

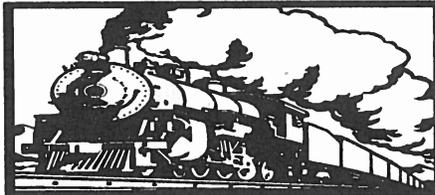
Most outdoor people look at January as the start of the ice fishing season. The key word here, of course, is ICE. So far it has been too warm to form ice, and numerous mighty cold days are needed to produce safe ice — 3 inches thick or better for an individual person.

Unfortunately, there is a fish consumption advisory by the state Fish and Game Department for Crystal Lake in Gilmanton. They advise everyone to avoid eating any bass or pickerel taken from this lake due to a high mercury content. It is assumed this pollution was caused by the "Iron Works" of years ago where toxins are now leaching from the ground. This same advisory is given for May Pond and Ashuelot Pond in Washington.

For the hunter snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, fox, and raccoon hunting seasons are open through this month. Coyotes may still be hunted too, and I remind everyone that shooting a coyote could improve the deer herd. Start watching for the dates of various hunting and/or fishing and/or gun shows. Attending these helps stave off the winter doldrums.

See you out there!

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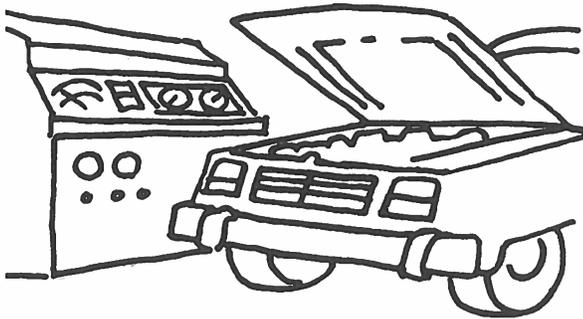
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Main Street NEIGHBORHOOD REPORTER A VOLUNTEER JOB

It's been suggested that Main Street might cover activities and people in each section of town. To do this we need willing reporters to gather newsworthy items in their section of town. East Alton, South Alton, Alton Village, Alton Bay, West Alton, and Gilmanton Road area would be covered.

There won't necessarily be an article every month. Articles need not be lengthy. Reporters need not be journalists, just enjoy writing.

We would like to have one or two volunteers from each area of town. How about it? It can be fun and interesting. Write to Main Street, P. O. Box 210, Alton Bay, New Hampshire 03810 or call Alice Calvert at 875-2151.



CAUTION ON THE ICE By Eric Aldrich, NH Fish and Game Department

This is the season for ice fishing, ice-skating, and other winter sports that may find us wondering if it's safe to venture onto a frozen pond or lake. What follows are a few guidelines for ice safety that could save your life.

Wait For A Long Cold Spell

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

* If ice at the shoreline is cracked or squishy, stay off. Don't go on the ice during thaws. Avoid honeycombed ice, dark snow, and dark ice.

* Ice is generally thinner where there is moving water, such as at inlets and outlets, around wharves, bridge abutments, islands, and objects that protrude through the ice.

13 Quick Tips

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

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

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LIVE THE LIFE
By Cindy & John Duffek



THE JOYS OF "SHUN-PIKING"

We tend to avoid the hustle and bustle of interstate highways as we travel in our RV. We would rather enjoy the slower pace offered by the back roads and experience the interesting smaller towns.

One day as we motored across Canada from New Brunswick to British Columbia on our way to Alaska we came upon White River, a small town in Ontario that has a

large statue of Winnie the Pooh prominently displayed next to the highway. Wondering about this local attraction we inquired at the town's information center and found out that White River, Ontario, claims to be the birthplace of Winnie the Pooh.



During the First World War, Captain Harry Colebourn, a Canadian soldier from White River, purchased a bear for \$20. He named his pet "Winnipeg" and took it with him overseas. It became known as Winnie. When Captain Colebourn's regiment was called to the front lines in France, Winnie was donated to the London Zoo where she became the main attraction and a favorite of A. A. Milne's son, Christopher Robin. The bear gave her name to the story "Winnie the Pooh" and A. A. Milne, along with Ernest H. Shepherd, gave Winnie the Pooh to the world.

Consequently, White River enjoys its fame as the birthplace of a famous storybook character and honors Winnie the Pooh with its very own statue.

You may have questions about our full-time RV-ing lifestyle or thoughts for a future column. Please e-mail us at <Livingourlife@aol.com>.

Henry David Thoreau said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined." The two of us agree.



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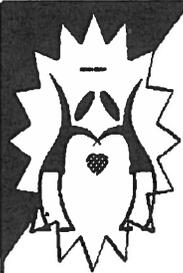


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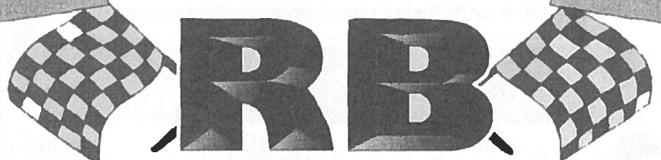
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ALTON POLICE ON THE JOB

By Bob Longabaugh

Local residents reading the other print media covering the Alton area may be under the impression that our town is experiencing a crime wave. It is correct that the number of burglaries and break-ins is up from similar time periods in recent years, but what is less known is the success of the Alton Police Department in solving the crimes.

For instance, an indictment has been returned in the case of the burglary on Bowman Road and by the time this January Main Street arrives in Alton mailboxes, the County Attorney should have acted on the evidence presented by the Alton police concerning the series of break-ins on Fernhill Drive.

One successful bit of police work almost has a happy ending as these things go. Starting on November 20 local police began receiving reports of small explosions occurring in several commercial parking lots in Gilford. On November 24, after one such explosion in the Shop n' Save parking lot, Alton's Officer Joseph Vetanze made a motor vehicle stop that caused him to pursue a particular line of questioning. Further probes led Officer Vetanze to materials that could be used in the making of explosive devices. The materials were everyday household chemicals, but with knowledge obtained from the internet they can be combined in such a way within a small container and sealed so that an explosion will occur.

As a result of the motor vehicle stop and subsequent investigation by local police, two Alton 17-year olds were charged and several more juveniles were linked to the incidents. The "almost happy ending" comes about because the Alton police report that the youths have now recognized their poor judgment in experimenting with ways of making big "bangs," and the parents involved are being very cooperative in setting things straight.

HUGGINS HOSPITAL ADDS MD's

The staff of Huggins Hospital recently welcomed eight new physicians to their staff. They are: Dr. Christina Anderson, Dr. David Colville, Dr. William Crawford, Dr. Linda Haller, Dr. Mark Kelly, Dr. Robert Knoll, Dr. Andri Olafsson and Dr. Eugene Solod.

Christina Anderson, M.D. and William Crawford, M. D. both specialize in Family Medicine, while David Colville, M.D. is board certified in Internal Medicine and Nephrology. Linda Haller, M.D. is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Mark Kelly, M. D. specializes in otolaryngology with special interest in sinus disease, sleep disorders, and hearing problems. Robert Knoll, M. D. is board certified in Diagnostic Radiology; Andri Olafsson, M. D. specializes in General Surgery; and Eugene Solod, M. D. will be in the Anesthesia Department.



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Main Street's Information Center

JANUARY EVENTS

- Tue. 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY, Have you made your resolutions?
 Wed. 2 BOYS BASKETBALL at Nute, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Nute, 7 p.m.
 BINGO, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. 4 BOYS BASKETBALL at Lin-Wood, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Lin-Wood, 7 p.m.
 Tue. 8 ZONING AMENDMENTS HEARING, Town Hall,
 7 p.m., see story
 Wed. 9 CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCH, Conference Center,
 11:30 a.m., see story
 BINGO, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
 Thu. 10 BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC, Pearson Road Community
 Center, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
 SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING, Alton Central
 School, 7 p.m.
 Fri. 11 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Calvary Christian, 5:30 p.m.
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Calvary Christian, 7 p.m.
 Mon. 14 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Library, 6:30 p.m.,
 see Checkout
 Tue. 15 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Laconia Christian, 5:30 p.m.
 BOYS BASKETBALL at Laconia Christian, 7 p.m.
 Wed. 16 BINGO, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. 18 BOYS BASKETBALL at Portsmouth Christian, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Portsmouth Christian, 7 p.m.
 Mon. 21 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
 Tue. 22 SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST, Voter Registration,
 Town Hall, 7 p.m., see Election Information
 Wed. 23 FILING PERIOD BEGINS, Town and School Offices
 BINGO, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
 Thu. 24 ASSEMBLE Main Street, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. 25 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Laconia Christian, 5:30 p.m.
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Laconia Christian, 7 p.m.
 Tue. 29 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Lin-Wood, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Lin-Wood, 7 p.m.
 Wed. 30 BINGO, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
 Thu. 31 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Concord Christian, 7 p.m.
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Concord Christian, 7 p.m.

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

RENEWAL INFORMATION

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The 2002 dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. Your current license expires April 30. To renew your dog's license, you will need to bring a current rabies certificate. The fees are \$10 for a dog that is not neutered, \$7.50 for a neutered dog, and \$2 for an owner over 65 years of age for the first dog. The above information also applies to owners of new dogs.

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

NOTICE FROM ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Be aware that the following could be found on your vehicle: "YOUR VEHICLE IS IN VIOLATION OF ALTON TOWN ORDINANCE 9.2.D.1 WHICH STATES: 'It shall be unlawful for any person to cause a motor vehicle or trailer to be parked or stopped on any public highway or municipal road within the Town of Alton during the period November 15 through April 1 between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. or at any other time during snow storms when snow removal maintenance is being performed by the Alton Highway Department.' SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS COULD RESULT IN THE TOWING OF YOUR VEHICLE AT YOUR EXPENSE."

ELECTION INFORMATION FOR 2002

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The town and school elections will be held Tuesday, March 12 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Anyone interested in filing for an office must be a registered voter in the Town of Alton. The filing period begins Wednesday, January 23 and ends Friday, February 1 at 5 p.m. You may file at the Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. There is a filing fee of \$1 for an office which receives compensation. If you are not a registered voter, you may fill out the Voter Registration Card prior to Tuesday, January 22, in the Town Clerk's Office or with the Supervisors of the Checklist on January 22, from 7 - 8 p.m. in Town Hall. You must present a photo ID and proof of physical residence in Alton, such as a tax, electric, or cable bill, which shows both your name and a street/road name, not a post office box. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office during business hours.

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

Town Elections

- Selectman for three years (elect 2)
(Reuben Wentworth, Donald Irvin)
- Treasurer for one year
(Patricia Palmer)
- Trustee of Trust Funds for three years
(Shirley Copeland)
- Library Trustee for three years
(Shirley Copeland)
- Fire Ward for three years
(Richard Quindley)
- Fire Ward for one year
(Vacancy)
- Moderator for two years
(Mark Northridge)
- Cemetery Trustee for three years
(Paulette Brooks)
- Water Commissioner for three years
(John Conboy)
- Budget Committee Member for three years (elect 3)
(Gregory Fuller, Shelby Husak, Scott Swezey)
- Budget Committee Member for two years
(G. Matthew Fuller)
- Planning Board Member for three years (elect 2)
(Donn Brock, Dorothy Wentworth)
- Planning Board Member for one year
(Vacancy)
- Supervisor of the Checklist for six years
(MaryBee Longabaugh)
- School District Elections
- School Moderator for one year
(Terri Noyes)
- School Clerk for one year
(Ruth Messier)
- School Treasurer for one year
(Shirley Young)
- School Board Member for three years
(Lawrence Alting)

The School District Deliberative Session will be held on February 2 at 1 p.m., Alton Central School. The snow date will be February 9.

THE "BIG LAKE" IS REALLY DOWN

By Bob Longabaugh

For most Alton residents this will not be news, but for those who do not see Lake Winnepesaukee as they go about their lives, it may be of interest that the "Big Lake" is at its lowest level since the winter of 1964/65. When Lake Winnepesaukee is "full" during the summer, its water level is at 504.32 feet above sea level. On December 17 when Main Street inquired of Bob Fay, operator of the Lakeport dam that regulates the lake level, it was reported that the lake stood at 501.70 feet, or just about 31 and a half inches below the level that is considered "full." The lack of rain since August is the principal reason for the lowness of the lake.

Low as this might be, however, back in 1964/65 the water level was six inches less. At the other extreme it wasn't that long ago, in June of 1998, that the Big Lake was one big headache for dock owners because the water level was lapping at 12 inches over "full."



THE CHECKOUT DESK
By Holly Brown
Librarian

THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the annual Friends of the Gilman Library Holiday Tea on December 4. All who attended enjoyed a wonderful variety of delicious baked goods. Members of the Alton Central School Band, Amanda Jones, Katie Brooks, Kristin Murray, and Kristi Roberts, provided the entertainment that was a very special addition to the celebration. We are very pleased to say that this year we welcomed well over 100 people to our Holiday Tea.

Please know that if you were able to take part in this festive occasion, through donating baked goods, your time, your musical talent, or just by joining us, your efforts were greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again next year, and don't forget to bring a friend. Thanks go to the members of the Friends of the Gilman Library who took part in the decorating committee. Their attention to detail and creative talents not only helped beautify our library but also helped us get into the spirit of the holidays. This group has proven, once again, that "Friends Make Good Things Happen." Our Friends will always have a special place in our hearts, and they welcome new members and new ideas. For information on how you can be part of this vital organization, call the library at 875-2550 or stop by the circulation desk.

Special thanks to the Alton Garden Club for donating the beautiful wreaths. They add that extra holiday touch to the main entrances at the front and rear of the library. That group has never failed to make the holidays special.

Many of our patrons enjoy reading, discussing, and learning about the Civil War. It is our pleasure to include the PBS Home Video Civil War Series in our video collection. This set, created by Ken Burns, is a very welcome addition and was donated to the library by the Alton Quilters Club and Friends of the Gilman Library. Be sure to check it out.

The Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m. in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. The book of choice is entitled *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. If you are in need of a copy of the book, please let us know.

On behalf of all of us here at the Gilman Library, Have A Very Happy New Year!



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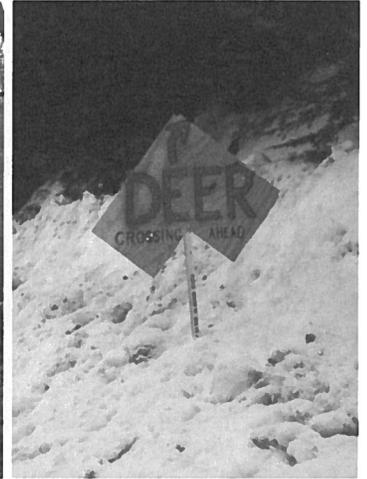
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When a person goes before the Department of Motor Vehicle's examiner to take the test for a driver's license, a question that might be asked is what does the cautionary sign on the left, above, tell you?

But this Main Street quiz is different. Our question is: To which one of the above signs are you more likely to pay attention?

The sign on the right appeared on Rand Hill Road near Spring Street last winter. It came about when a local driver rounded the semi-blind curve at twilight only to come face to face with a good sized doe. The deer-automobile collision was avoided but a check with Alton's Highway Agent the next morning revealed that the driver's experience was just one of many at this location. When it was suggested that a deer crossing warning sign might be a good thing at this spot, the agent agreed but went on to point out that such a road sign would have to be authorized by the Alton selectmen.

A major difficulty was that the selectmen would not be meeting for another thirteen days and then additional time would be needed to order and receive the necessary signs. Meanwhile the deer (and the antelope?) would continue to play, and motorists would still be in the dark — even at twilight.

The local resident, an impatient cuss, took matters into his own hands and fabricated and put up the sign on the right, above. Two weeks later the selectmen acted and the sign on the left was erected this past December.

D.A.R. AWARD TO PETERSON

By Marilyn St. Cyr, ACS Guidance Director

Marissa Peterson, a senior at Alton Central School (ACS), was chosen to be the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) Good Citizen of Alton Central High School for this year. Marissa was selected by the faculty and by the senior class for this honor.

Marissa, along with the D.A.R. Good Citizens from other New Hampshire communities, was invited to the D.A.R. Good Citizens Luncheon in Concord on December 7. The students toured the N.H. State House and N.H. Historical Museum. Marissa was sponsored by the Winnepesaukee Chapter of the D.A.R.

CORRECTION TO

"A BRIEF PICTURE OF THE PAST"

In the December issue of Main Street, page 20, it was stated that "local postmaster and painter Bob Rollins paint[ed] the rowboats..." Bob Rollins contacted the editors of Main Street and stated that he was never postmaster and he did not paint the rowboats yellow and orange (although he did do painting for Victoria Pier at other times).



TOWN HALL NOTES

By Pamela Arnold
Town Administrator

ALTON — A GREAT TOWN!

With a successful year behind us the town is winding up another year of providing outstanding service to its citizens. We would not be as successful as we are, however, were it not for the dedicated employees we have. I have had the pleasure of working with them for a year now, and I can vouch for the fact that this group, regardless of whether they work for the Police Department or the library, really works together to accomplish a great deal. I am impressed and proud.

The next few years are going to be a challenge for us as we deal with issues that are recurring and typical but also with those that have been brought about as a result of September 11. I believe that the employees, volunteers, and elected officials will find there is strength in numbers and that we will surpass each year's previous achievements. I look forward to working with each of you in the next year and many years to come. Thank you.



HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

By Ken Roberts
Highway Agent

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I'd like to take the time to remind you that there are 89 miles of roads in town, which with nine pieces of equipment takes approximately four to five hours to complete each route. Depending on the severity of the storm, we continue to keep going over each route until it stops snowing; then we switch to salting and sanding. It takes 24 hours to salt and sand all roads in town providing the storm has stopped. We cannot sand or salt the roads while it is raining because it would wash away as fast as we spread it.

We ask for your consideration during these storms for your safety as well as the safety of the drivers. Please keep back 200 feet while the vehicles are performing their emergency operations. Remember, we are on the way!

Please flag your mail boxes with bright colors so the truck drivers can see them which will help keep them from getting accidentally hit.

Another reminder is that there is a Town Ordinance stating that anyone leaving snow out on the roadway will be fined \$100. Property owners should not leave snow out in the road after snow plowing operations have been completed.

All vehicles must be off the roads from November 15 through April 1 between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. or at any other time during a snow storm when snow removal operations are being performed by the Alton Highway Department. Vehicles will be towed at owner's expense.

The crew took advantage of the good weather in December to grade roads and clear and chip ditch lines and culverts. Also accomplished was the road repair (underground drainage) on Bay Hill Road. We apologize for the inconvenience that caused.

We would appreciate your patience and cooperation during the winter season. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time should you notice anything we may have missed. Call us at 875-6808 or e-mail <altonhighway@metrocst.net>. Thank you and have a safe and prosperous winter season.

As Always, Public Safety Is Our #1 Concern

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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SCHOOL BUS ETIQUETTE

By Amanda Eason

Editors' note: The following story first appeared in the December, 1999, Main Street. Now seems an appropriate time of year to repeat its message.

Winter is upon us and with it slippery roads. As a parent and school bus driver, I would like to offer some ideas to students and parents on bus safety.

School busses carry 70 to 84 children, all under the supervision of one adult. The 40' x 8' frame has to navigate tight areas under all conditions, often with inches to spare, and only a narrow view through mirrors. Snowbanks, low-hanging branches, or a mis-hung mailbox become obstacles to maneuver around. That's outside the bus. What about the 70+ kids inside the bus?

Unlike delivery or dump trucks or 18-wheelers, the load is alive and kicking and ready to break all the rules for the sake of, well, breaking the rules. Kids and rules, rules and kids — the two go together like vinegar and oil. The two together make a tasty dressing; but separate we still have sour vinegar and slick oil — and separate they will. Drivers constantly remind students: stay seated, no eating on the bus, and follow the bus safety rules.

Safety is the first reason for any rules posted on a bus. Staying seated and facing forward keeps children protected in the event of a collision, plus a moving bus is disorienting and physically strenuous when working against inertia, swaying, and braking of the vehicle, not to mention distracting the driver. Open food is not allowed because of cleanliness and possible choking hazards. A lollipop hanging in a child's mouth can be pushed into the throat by any number of events, a danger less likely to happen in a more stable situation.

A less known safety problem is behavior at the bus stop. A driver cannot see the 10-foot space around the sides of the bus or directly in front. A student running alongside isn't likely to be seen. (I know; as a kid I missed the bus, ran up to get the driver's attention as she took off — but she never saw me.) Students who approach the bus before it comes to a full stop run many risks. The driver of a passenger car may try to whip around the right side to get past in the breakdown lane, even at a stop. Children can be run over or in winter may not be able to get out of the way if the bus begins to slip; they should wait for the "thumbs up" signal before crossing.

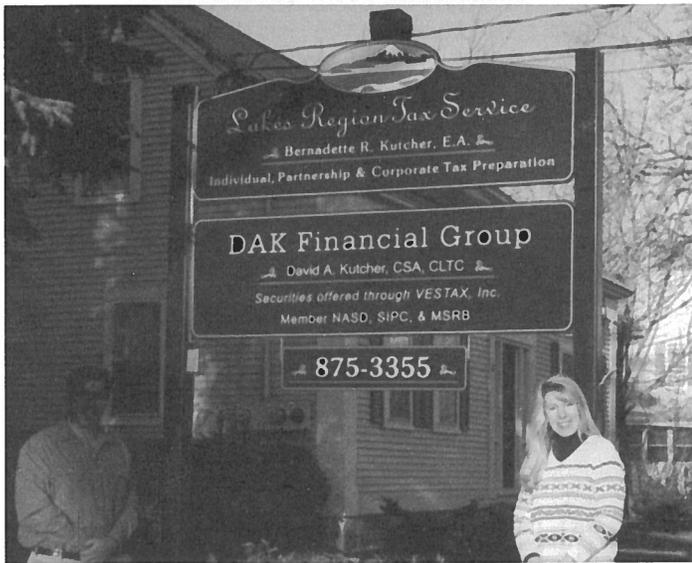
It's difficult to get kids to understand that rules are designed for safety. Ask a student to face forward; likely you will get a glare and a grudging swing around — for a short time. It is virtually impossible to enforce no food allowed. On a crowded afternoon bus kids want to spread out and switch seats as spaces become open. An uncooperative student endangers every student on the bus. The driver must avert attention from the road to the student mirror and the child. Every second the driver's eyes are off the road the environment around the bus may change with a loss of reaction time. Many bus drivers pull over to the side of the road to deal with problems.

Driving a school bus is a very "busy" situation. Lots of kids, a large vehicle, and outside traffic all add up for a challenging trip. Always remember: Drive Safely!

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FICTION

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Block, Lawrence | Hope to Die |
| Chevalier, Tracy | Falling Angels |
| Gabaldon, Diana | The Fiery Cross |
| Grisham, John | Skipping Christmas |
| Hamilton, Laurell | Narcissus in Chains |
| Harrod, Eagles, Cynthia | Blood Sinister |
| O'Brian, Patrick | Master & Commander |
| Parker, Robert | Death in Paradise |
| Patterson, James | Violets are Blue |
| Rice, Anne | Blood & Gold |



LARGE PRINT

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Steel, Danielle | The Kiss |
|-----------------|----------|

NONFICTION

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Bolles, Richard N. | What Color is Your Parachute? |
| Brazelton, T. Berry, M. D. | Touchpoints Three to Six: Your Child's Behavioral & Emotional Development |
| Gillespie, Angus K. | Twin Towers: The Life of New York City's World Trade Center |
| Kennedy, Caroline | The Best Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis |

CHILDREN

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Stephens, Rebecca | Everest (Eyewitness Book) |
| Yee, Wong Herbert | Fireman Small, Fire Down Below |

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STUDENTS CITED FOR HONORS AND CITIZENSHIP

The Alton Central School (ACS) has announced the students who have made the Honor Roll and named for Citizenship during the first quarter of the 2001-2002 academic year. High Honors requires a grade of at least 92 in all subjects, Honors, a grade of at least 83, and Citizenship is based on attendance, no discipline, and no failing grades.

Grade 2 Citizenship: Kristine Adams, Kirby Beranger, Renea Brunelle, Josie Couch, Nicole Dwyer, Kevin Ennis, Alex Giani, Taylor Harper, Ethan Anderson, Ashley Herrick, Samantha Hillis, Jason Houghton, Ethan Hunter, Rebecca Krivitsky, Emily Macduff, William Macdonald, B.J. Morse, Emelie Morton, Breanna Parandes, Michelle Prior, Matthew Prive, Nicole Perry, Lauren Stearns, Danielle Tidd, Stephanie Waterman.

Grade 3 Citizenship: Stephanie Burke, Kelsea Dahood, Ethan Ehler, Hannah Golden, Spencer Goosens, Charles Holt, Emily Jeffrey, Andrew Kim, Andrew Long, Lindsey Malone, Ashley Mann, Stephanie Pryor, Jake Rochette, Falon Rouleau, Josh Snell.

Grade 4 Citizenship: Ashley Barsanti, Allison Cormier, Zachary Couch, Holly Couture, Lindsey Daniels, Joel Dore, Kaitlyn Fasulo, Katlyn Farior, Melissa Fortin, Sarah Fraser, Jimmy Goodwin, Kelsey Hopper, Megan Hopper, Mary Margaret Houghton, Brian Jones, Danny Lang, Jacqueline LaBlanc, Levi Liedke, Kelsey Meyerhoff, Stephanie Moulton, Brittany O'Neil, Kristen Riendeau, Kyle Rondeau, Aisha Sweezey, Kimberly Sykes, Kara Turner, Kayla Wyatt.

Grade 4 High Honors: Megan Hopper.

Grade 4 Honors: Tyler Adabar, Sarah Adams, Ashley Barsanti, Scott Brunelle, Allison Cormier, Zachary Couch, Lindsey Daniels, Joel Dore, Melissa Fortin, Sarah Fraser, Kelsey Hopper, Mary-Margaret Houghton, Caitlin Hussey, Brian Jones, Kyle Kleeburg, Levi Liedke, Kelsey Meyerhoff, Stephanie Moulton, Emily Pellowe, Edward Rogacki, Dack Rouleau, Aisha Sweezey, Kimberly Sykes, Aaron Wilkinson.

Grade 5 Citizenship: Shaida Anderson, Casey Beranger, Lyndsay Bishop, Erik Caron, Cory Dudman, Brittany Dwyer, Shannon Eagles, Megan Farrell, Amber Fielding, Ricky Finethy, Katie Gage, Kim Grant, Brendan Hussey, Michael Jensen, Justin Kantar, Coty Maciejewski, Ralph Minick, Stephanie Roy, Kathy Sykes, Paul Woodbury.

Grade 5 High Honors: Casey Beranger.

Grade 5 Honors: Shaida Anderson, Marina Avery, Lyndsay Bishop, Erik Caron, Shanelle Chagnon, Joshua Crosman, Patrick Dea, Emily Donahue, Cory Dudman, Brittany Dwyer, Shannon Eagles, Megan Farrell, Kimberly Grant, Colin Hammond, Justin Kantar, Jack LaFreniere, Ashley Lionetta, William Macduff, Coty Maciejewski, Thomas Pellowe, Stephanie Roy, Weston Stewart, Kathleen Sykes.

Grade 6 Citizenship: Ashley Bailey, Stephen (Spike) Biddle, Erin Brackley, Tony Castagnaro, Derek Chase, Joey Desbian, Meagan DiVito, Leisha Donnelly, Natasia Drewniak, Courtney Emerson, Emily Folan, Ryan Gillan, Jessica Harrell, Chelsea Hawkins, Daniel Hopper, Logan Hopper, Brian Jones, Makina I-Levasseur, Jesse Lane, Chris Loprete, Ryan Lougee, Alina Lynd, Carol Mansfield, CJ Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Tricia Perry, Corrine Pearce, Tara Prescott, Wetherley Rouleau, Robyn Shibley, Caitlin Wenzlau, Kelsie Whitney.

Grade 6 High Honors: Tony Castagnaro, Jesse Lane, Brianna Tidd, Caitlin Wenzlau.

Grade 6 Honors: Ashley Bailey, Erin Brackley, Derek Chase, Kelsey Crathern, Meagan DiVito, Leisha Donnelly, Courtney Emerson, Emily Folan, Ryan Gillan, Chelsea Hawkins, Daniel Hopper, Logan Hopper, Tyler Houghton, Chris Loprete, Ryan Lougee, Alina Lynd, Chris (CJ) Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Tara Prescott, Wetherley Rouleau, Robyn Shibley, Jason Tanguay, Krystal Vigue, Casandra Wainwright, Kelsie Whitney, Jonathan Yelle.

Grade 7 Citizenship: Dottie-Jean Bailey, Hannah Barnet, Brad Bissell, Ashley Dwyer, Jane Farrell, Ashley Finethy, Charlotte French, Kim Hannafin, Ryan Hussey, Caila Kantar, Kelly Main,

Donny McGee, Melissa Pryor, Jake Ridener, Sara Scanlon, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Julie Thoroughgood, Kelsey Tinkham, Ty Tremblay.

Grade 7 High Honors: Jane Farrell, Caila Kantar, Ty Tremblay.

Grade 7 Honors: Bradley Bissell, Ashley Finethy, Nathan Fogell, Charlotte French, Kimberly Hannafin, Ryan Hussey, Melissa Pryor, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Bryce St. Cyr, Kelsey Tinkham.

Grade 8 Citizenship: Adam Johnson, Lindsey Turner, Jackie Piaseczny, Caitlyn Wentworth, Ryan Fogell, Rebecca Golden, Josh Casoni, Shannon Cornelissen, Christine Barnham, Dan Pitman, Amber Richardson, Josh O'Neil, Nick DiVito, Katrina Tidd, Luke LaFreniere, Aimee Terravechia, Chris Frost, Owen Laurion, Jimmy Grant, Taylor Peterson, Peter Kaszynski.

Grade 8 High Honors: Luke LaFreniere, Owen Laurion, Taylor Peterson.

Grade 8 Honors: Christine Barham, Jamie Bilodeau, Allyson Dudman, Ryan Fogell, James Grant, Peter Kaszynski, Daniel Pitman, Patrick Quinn, Aimee Terravechia, Katrina Tidd.

Grade 9 Citizenship: Nathan Alden, Jacob Bemis, Natasha Bickford, Amanda Boudreau, Brittany Chapman, Crystal Cleasby, Cory Damm, Kelly Eagles, Anne Farrell, Vanessa Gilbert, Cassandra Golden, Scott Goyette, Leslie Guertin, Damian Hackett, Heather Hammes, Erin Hannafin, Travis Hopper, Elizabeth Husak, Sonya Itchkavich-Levasseur, Christina Jamieson, Brian Kivlehan, Danielle LePouttre, Morgan Locke, Tara Loprete, Whitney Marston, David McMahon, Timothy McManus, Camille Niquette, Brandon Pellowe, Shayna Randall, David Roberts, Brian Roy, Scott Sanders, Andrea Sell, Lyndsey St. Laurent, Michael Tidd, Sarah Tinkham, Ashley Waterman.

Grade 9 High Honors: Christina Jamieson.

Grade 9 Honors: Amanda Boudreau, Kelly Eagles, Anne Farrell, Vanessa Gilbert, Heather Hammes, Erin Hannafin, Travis Hopper, Shayna Randall, Lyndsey St. Laurent, Sarah Tinkham.

Grade 10 Citizenship: Michelle Allen-Farrior, Elizabeth Biddle, Lindsey Caron, Kara Castaldo, Tamara Cornelissen, Elspeth Dana, Chris DeFlumeri, Carl Dickson, Ryan Donnelly, Robyn Ford, Anthony Godbout, Jessie Gunn, Kristine Kenerson, Lindsay Kenerson, Melissa Kim, Dylan Laurion, Kristy Lefebvre, Kyle McAuliffe, Krsity McDaniels, Richard Meuse, Nicole Miner, Crista Perkins, Eric Prescott, Tonya Prescott, Dan Quinn, Meredith Roy, Chris Ryan, Krista Shibley, Molly Souliere, Ashley Spencer, Matt Sydow, Stephanie Tanguay, Isaac Tharpe, Kelsey Yelle.

Grade 10 High Honors: Lyndsey Caron, Dan Quinn, Krista Shibley, Stephanie Tanguay.

Grade 10 Honors: Tamara Cornelissen, Ryan Donnelly, Dylan Laurion, Tonya Prescott, Meredith Roy, Matt Sydow.

Grade 11 Citizenship: Jordan Anahonok, Dave Bailey, Hilary Ballentine, Scott Baumgartner, Katie Brooks, Kendra Brown, Dennis Callahan, Jenn Carr, Millicent Cochran, Jamie Coigley, Mathew Cook-Hamer, Ashli Coughlin, Joshua Dearnley, Tiffeny Desmarais, Jill Feger, Michael Friedman, Sarah Harper, Stephanie Hillsgrove, Terese Hopper, Kelly Jalbert, Amanda Jones, Andrew Kenerson, Siobhan Kivlehan, Josh LaBrecque, Sarah LaMothe, Jessica Lannon, Stephanie Lannon, Dan Laurin, Kristen Murray, Matt Ross, Kimberly Russell, Kelley Scanlon, Zachary Shea, David Snell III, Julie St. Sauveur, Amanda Tharpe, Erin Wood.

Grade 11 Honors: Scott Baumgartner, Dennis Callahan, Jr., Jennifer Carr, Ashli Coughlin, Michael Friedman, Terese Hopper, Amanda Jones, Sarah Lamothe, Kelley Scanlon, Erin Wood.

Grade 12 Citizenship: Kayla Ballentine, Dan Bemis, Scott Blair, Alexia Bomtempo, Megan Brownell, James Cameron, Joshua Carr, Jessica Chabot, Randi Desmarais, Michael Enright, Shawn Ford, Morgan Fuller, Caleb Gagne, Ben Jensen, Leanne Kenerson, Dana Lang, John McAuliffe, Jon Nicastro, Anthony Nicastro, Jon Owen, Marissa Peterson, Kristie Roberts, Anthony Sanborn, Dennis Sweeney, Jane Varney, Steven Wood, Jamie Young.

Grade 12 High Honors: David Benedetto, Marissa Peterson.

Grade 12 Honors: Kayla Ballentine, Scott Blair, Alexia Bomtempo, Dana Lang, Anthony Nicastro, Jon Nicastro, Gina Teolis, Jane Varney.

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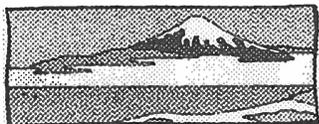
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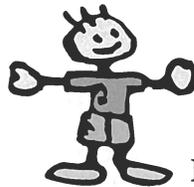
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Editors' note: The staff of Main Street is delighted to welcome back Kellie Troendle, who returned to her position of Alton's Director of Parks and Recreation/Maintenance and Grounds on December 10.



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

IN JANUARY IT'S SO NICE...

Pre-School Programs

All programs are held at the Alton Bay Community Center from 9 - 10:30 a.m. for ages 3 - 5. The fee is \$3 per session per child. Registration is limited so register early at the Alton Parks and Recreation Department, or call 875-0109.

Games, Games, Games: January 16 — Join in the fun as we learn how to play cooperative games. Try your hand-eye coordination skills with bowling and the bean bag toss. Burn off some energy and solve the puzzle to the hidden clues. Register by January 11.

The Pre-School Gourmet: January 23 — Each participant will be a chef for the day. Chefs will create their own cookbook and experiment in the kitchen with fun and easy-to-make snacks. Register by January 18.

The Little Pre-Fessor: January 30 — If your child is curious, they will love this hands on science class as we explore the fun things you can do with everyday household items. Register by January 25.

Country Line Dancing Lessons

For adults of all ages. Great exercise and opportunity to meet new dancers; beginners are welcome. Lessons are held on Thursdays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., weather permitting. Call 875-0109 for the next session dates.

Senior Citizen BINGO

Friday, January 25 from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Pearson Road Community Center. Seniors are invited to participate in this fun event. Play traditional and novelty BINGO games. Refreshments will be served. Prizes will be awarded. Program is free to all Alton seniors compliments of the Parks and Recreation Department. Bring a smile and a fun attitude.

Winter Festival

The scheduled date is Sunday, February 17 from 1 - 3 p.m. on Lake Winnepesaukee, Alton Bay. Events will include DJ music, Great Alton Bay Bed Race, Radar Run, Scavenger Hunt, Games, and much more. The Alton-New Durham Lions Club is sponsoring "Cro-Puckey" from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. It is free but donations are being accepted.

For more information on these or other programs, call 875-0109.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR SALE

ARIEN SNOW BLOWER - \$200 good shape. Rob 875-7371.

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

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

FOR RENT
1 Bedroom Furnished House
Waterfront in Alton Bay
\$650/month, No Utilities.
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IN Main Street
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Pamela Andrade was named Administrative Assistant to Town Administrator Terry Clifford and Diantha Moulton replaced Sue McKenna as Assessing Clerk . . . a building expansion boom was reported by Building Inspector Steve Dana . . . Main Street sponsored its first Ice Out Contest . . . the Old Home Week Committee was offering a \$50 Savings Bond to the winner of the contest to provide the theme of the 1987 event.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . the new Alton Solid Waste Transfer Station was scheduled to begin operation . . . Alton Central School Grades 7 and 8 teacher Brian Davidson was named Conservation Educator of the Year by the NH Association of Conservation Districts . . . the filing period opened for elections with 21 town and school offices to be voted on in March . . . a "bag and tag" user fee program for trash disposal was being considered by the Alton Selectmen . . . Young Astronauts Danielle Decatur and Alec O'Meara, along with Chapter Advisor Rolf Dutzmann, participated in an out-reach program at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium . . . the fourth grade students in Lawrice Ballentine's and Richard Kirby's classes collected over \$100 for the Alton Fireflies holiday fund.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Winners, Brad Bissell, Silver medal, Merrill Stone, Gold, Jon Choquette, Gold, Josh Ahlin, Silver, Josh Simonton, Silver, and David Roberts, 4th place, participated in the Bowling Special Olympics in Manchester . . . the K of C sponsored a Youth Free Throw Championship at the New Durham School . . . Three Alton residents were elected to the VNA-Hospice Board of Directors for the year — they were Robert Calvert, Denise Merritt, MD, and Alice Ziegler . . . Heather Swabowicz, a 1993 graduate of Alton Central High School, was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Division II All America team.

CARDS OF THANKS

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) would like to thank Parker Marine for allowing us to use their letters to publicize our events in October and December. The Craft Fair was a great success in mid-October. Then in December they gave us the letters to let the town's people know about the holiday party which went very well. We will surely be asking for the privilege again.

/s/Thank you, PTSA Members

The Boyce family would, once again, like to thank the people and businesses in Alton for their support for the Walk by the Sea. The Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire raised over \$38,000 with the Boyces being the fourth largest fund raiser, bringing in a little over \$1,000. It happened because of your great support. Thanks a lot and see you next fall.

/s/The Boyces

SENIOR MEALS

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

January 1 - 4: Tue., Happy New Year (closed); Wed., Cheese Omelet; Thu., Sliced Turkey/Gravy; Fri., Codfish Cakes/Sauce.

January 7 - 11: Mon., Chicken Cordon Bleu or Chicken/Gravy; Tue., Stuffed Peppers; Wed., Veal Roulade/Gravy; Thu., Macaroni & Cheese; Fri., Baked Meat Loaf/Onion Gravy.

January 14- 18: Mon., Sliced Ham/Sauce or Chicken; Tue., Tuna Casserole; Wed., Roast Turkey/Gravy; Thu., Stuffed Cabbage; Fri., Fish Filet.

January 21 - 25: Mon., Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (closed); Tue., Pub Burger; Wed., BBQ Chicken; Thu., American Chop Suey; Fri., Pork Sausage/Onion Gravy.

January 28 - February 1: Mon., Breaded Veal Cutlet/Gravy; Tue., Baked Chicken; Wed., BBQ Riblet; Thu., Stuffed Shells/Meat Sauce; Fri., Creamed Chipped Beef.

ADULT WALKING PROGRAM

The Alton Central School is continuing its walking program, which began in 1997. It takes place inside the school where it is both warm and safe. You can walk in the afternoons from 3 - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, when school is in session. Participants walk at their own pace. You must register at the Main Office on each visit. For more information please call 875-7500.

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL AND DECALS

For those of you who do not grind up your Christmas tree for mulch, the Solid Waste Center (SWC) is once again accepting them. There will be a designated spot for them. See the information page for the days and times the center is open.

Remember, you need your decal displayed. You can buy them only at the SWC for the price of \$1 each.

SOME CHANGES IN RADIO STATIONS

There have been a few changes in the radio stations that broadcast the *official* school closing announcements for Alton Central School. In 2002 the Alton information will be 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).

**16TH ANNUAL ICE-OUT CONTEST
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28**

For the 16th year, Main Street is giving you the opportunity to win a dinner for two. This year's winner and guest will dine at the New Durham Railway Station on Route 11 South.

This is an annual contest won by the person who comes closest to the date of "ice-out" in Lake Winnepesaukee as decided by the official ice watchers around the "Big Lake." Last year "ice-out" occurred at 6:50 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2. The earliest date was March 28, 1921, and the latest, May 12, 1888, the first year there was an organized contest. Records date from 1887.

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

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

ICE-OUT ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

I predict "ice-out" will occur on:

_____ at _____ a.m. or p.m.
(date) (time) (circle one)

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

KNOW YOUR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



From left to right, Top Row: Michael Caverly, truck driver for the snowplow route on the west side of South Alton; Jeff Roberts, the newest truck driver with the route in East Alton; Harry Smith, truck driver for the route on the east side of South Alton; Louie DiVito, heavy equipment operator for snow removal in the center of town; Clark Stoddard, highway foreman; Francine Bonfanti Widerstrom, office administrator; Bottom Row: Ken Roberts, highway agent; Rodney Waterman, light equipment operator and operator of the 1-ton all over town; Bill Ferris, truck driver having for a route the roads of Alton Mountain; and Mark DiVito, grader operator plowing the roads in town.

"Prevent Ice Damage To Your Dock"

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