



Main Street

A Monthly Newsmagazine

Volume XVIII Number 2

Alton, New Hampshire - February, 2002

Complimentary



WINTER FESTIVAL ON FEBRUARY 17

By Kellie Troendle, Recreation Director

The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring its annual Winter Festival on Sunday, February 17, from 1 until 3:30 p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand on Lake Winnepesaukee, weather permitting. The schedule of events includes: D.J. Top 40 Music starting at 1 p.m., free; Family Scavenger Hunt — 1:30 p.m., free; Gunstock ski passes and other prizes awarded; Parade of Beds at 2:45 p.m.— show off your bed by taking a stroll down the race course; The Great Alton Bay Bed Race — 3 p.m., free; Gunstock tubing passes awarded to the first place team; Mt. Major Snowmobile Club Radar Run — 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., \$5 for two runs, prizes awarded to division winners; Lions Club CroPuckey — 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., it's a version of miniature golf played on the ice, donations will be accepted.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the Gunstock Ski Area for donating Tubing and Skiing Passes to Gunstock for our prizes.

Come down to Alton Bay and join in the fun. For more information call 875-0109, or <altonpnr@worldpath.net>.

GETTING TO THE HOSPITAL IN A HURRY

By Bob Longabaugh

Alton residents and visitors can take a small measure of relief in knowing that should they require emergency medical service (EMS), the town's Fire/Rescue Department now has a state-of-the-art ambulance to augment the department's expert personnel in coming to their aid. Shown above is the 2001 Medicmaster ambulance made by American LaFrance and Freightliner Speciality Vehicle that arrived from Oklahoma last month. It is scheduled to be in service by the time this *Main Street* arrives in readers' mailboxes.

Alton's cadre of 17 well-trained and dedicated EMS personnel have been hampered in doing all that they are capable of until now due to aging and less-than-modern equipment. No more. Alton now has an ambulance befitting the 21st Century.

Features of the new Medicmaster include communication capabilities to link the vehicle with the destination hospital both by voice and data links, advanced life support equipment, and compartmentalization that makes stowage of essential medical equipment easily accessible when seconds count.

Continued on page 17



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by

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CORPORAL HOLLY MOVES ON

Corporal Steven T. Holly, who joined the Alton Police Department in 1995, left the department last month to become a Sergeant in the Barnstead P.D. In his new appointment he will be second in command in Barnstead.

During his time in Alton he wrote Main Street's "To Protect and Serve" column until May, 2000, and was intensively involved with the public safety programs at Alton Central School. In particular he was well known for his role in the youth night basketball program sponsored by the police department. Most will agree that Barnstead's gain is Alton's loss.

LEGION'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

By Dick Cunningham, Legion Post #72

Alton residents might like to know that they have one of the top American Legion Posts in New Hampshire when it comes to community involvement. Our Claude R. Batchelder Post #72 has over 200 Legion members, plus the Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, and Junior Auxiliary. These people donate hundreds of hours to make Alton a better place to live and also raise thousands of dollars to support our community.

What follows is just a partial list of the activities that the post has engaged in over the past year:

* Nine American Legion scholarships from Post 72; eight additional scholarships available from the State of NH through Post 72;

* Sponsorship of: Little League, Boy Scouts, and Special Olympics;

* Volunteer for Blue Grass Festival and other local/state events;

* Food drives;

* Pancake breakfasts, special dinners;

* Yard/Craft sales/raffles;

* Provide American flags for the community and local cemeteries;

* Plant and maintain the grounds of Monument Square;

* Conduct the annual Memorial Day parade and ceremonies;

* Assist area veterans and the elderly in getting to doctor appointments, doing shopping, and running errands;

* Support and cooperate with local charities (VNA, Battered Women's shelter, etc.);

* Conduct bingo and send birthday and holiday cards year round to veterans in Veterans' home and hospital (with Junior Auxiliary);

* Conduct and chaperone teen dances;

* Conduct free CPR classes and certifications;

* At Christmas: family gift and food program, including toys, for the needy; adopt-a-Vet program; children's community Christmas Party with Santa; and lead community caroling for selected neighborhoods, including senior citizen's homes;

* Holiday raffles (turkeys, hams, complete dinners) during Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving holiday periods.

Perhaps, after reflecting on the above list, one might conclude that Post 72 is playing a significant role in making Alton a great place to call home.



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Main Street



Main Street's Inside Front Page

JOINT HIGH SCHOOL PLAN INTRODUCED

By Wayne D. Fraser, Alton School Board

Last month the plans for the proposed new joint high school between Alton and Barnstead were introduced to the community by the school board at a public forum.

The forum began with a brief recap of how the two communities arrived at the decision to propose a Joint Maintenance Agreement to allow the school to serve both communities without forming a cooperative school district. Equal ownership of the building and equal division of capital expenses, as well as equal governance of the school, were highlighted, as was the equitable division of operational costs.

Another key element of bringing the two districts together was both school boards are being responsive to what their communities have indicated to them would be a favorable solution to educational space needs.

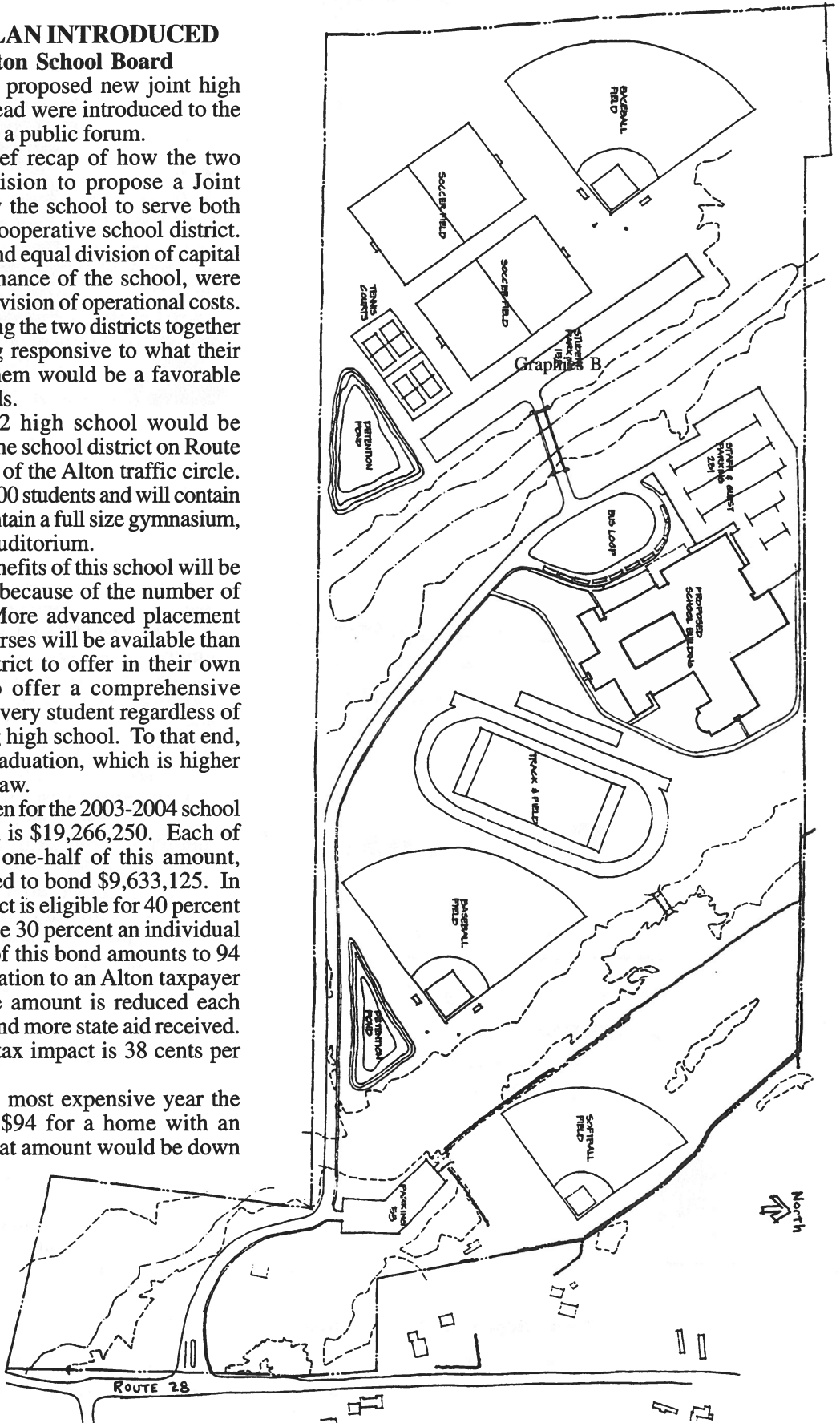
The proposed Grades 9 - 12 high school would be constructed on the site owned by the school district on Route 28, approximately one mile south of the Alton traffic circle. The school will have a capacity of 800 students and will contain 142,000 square feet. It will also contain a full size gymnasium, cafeteria, library, and a 600-seat auditorium.

One of the most significant benefits of this school will be the enhanced curriculum offered because of the number of students attending the school. More advanced placement courses and a wider variety of courses will be available than would be practical for either district to offer in their own smaller school. The plan is to offer a comprehensive curriculum to serve the needs of every student regardless of what their plans may be following high school. To that end, 25 credits will be required for graduation, which is higher than the 19 3/4 required by state law.

Plans call for the building to open for the 2003-2004 school year. The total cost of the school is \$19,266,250. Each of the school districts would bond one-half of this amount, meaning Alton voters will be asked to bond \$9,633,125. In addition to that savings, each district is eligible for 40 percent state reimbursement rather than the 30 percent an individual district would receive. The cost of this bond amounts to 94 cents per thousand dollars of valuation to an Alton taxpayer in the most expensive year. The amount is reduced each year as more principal is paid off and more state aid received. In the final year of the bond the tax impact is 38 cents per thousand.

Simply put this means in the most expensive year the school construction would cost \$94 for a home with an assessed value of \$100,000 and that amount would be down to \$38 on the same home in the final year.

Both school boards believe this proposal will benefit both communities educationally; at the same time it is responsible to the taxpayers. Please, attend the School Deliberative Session at 1 p.m. on February 2 in the Alton Central School gymnasium. Be an informed voter on March 12.



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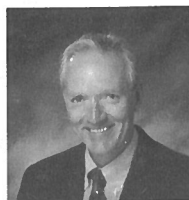
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ALTON'S FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

By Russ Sample, Alton Fire Chief

It was with GREAT pride that I presented Alton's Firefighter of the Year Award to Lieutenant/EMT-I Edward Consentino, in the middle with his wife Christine on the left. On every opportunity Ed has given with no regard for anything in return to meet the fire service and emergency medical needs of those calling upon Alton's Fire/Rescue Department.

In the year 2001 Ed accumulated our department's highest number of documented hours of emergency service and training. This was his way of preparing to meet each different and unique need that he might be called upon to do when the alarm sounded. Last year, however, was no different than most of his other 18 years of tenure with the department. Occasionally, in a particular year he would be neck-and-neck with several others in the number of hours logged on emergency service, but over the long haul of many years, the picture is clear that Ed has been there the most when the call to service has been sounded.

Ed has served both the ambulance service and the fire department simultaneously, as others have. The distinction with this gentleman, however, is that in my 27 years of public service I have seen few work as diligently as Ed to train and retrain, all the while encouraging others to do the same.

The point that every good man is usually due to an even better woman applies especially well with the Consentinos. It takes a special person to "roll with the punches" when her partner in business, as well as marriage, is called away at all hours of the business day — as well as the night — to render community service so unselfishly. To Christine Consentino we say "Thank You" as well.

The Town of Alton is special to each of us in different ways, but I'd like all to appreciate that Alton has been made a safer place to live thanks especially to the Consentino family. They also make available their Alton 5 & 10 parking lot each year for the department's fund-raising Christmas tree sale.

The above recognition to one person who has served his community so extraordinarily well should not take away from the gratitude that is due the other families with public safety personnel serving Alton. As has become so vividly true in recent months, no greater love has man than he who gives his life in service for those in need.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE

The New Durham Girl Scout Troop 475 will be selling cookies on Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Alton Circle Grocery. Cookies are at last year's price of \$3 a box.

ALTON COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

By **Dorthea Wentworth, Alternate Director**

The Alton Community Services has enlarged their space. Our new hours are 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Saturday mornings. The telephone number is 875-CARE (2273).

If you are having trouble with your light bill, fuel, or rent, please see us before you get that disconnect, shut off, or eviction notice.

We are here to help YOU.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Club will be sponsoring a "Gifts of Love" luncheon on Wednesday, February 13, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Conference Center on Route 11 in Alton Bay.

"Love Tokens" is the Special Feature with Winni Glunta from Kaffee Haus Tirol in Gilford. "Is Your Life Stressed, Strung Out?" will be presented by the Special Speaker, Carole Casey of Barrington. Carole tells how she found her life's main gift.

Reservations for the lunch and the 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.

TREE OF MEMORIES THANK YOU

By **Alice Calvert**

On December 8 in front of Alton Town Hall, 49 doves were hung on the Tree of Memories. Indoors we were slightly cramped, but the many families and friends appreciated the thoughtful words of Rev. Peter Bolster and the music by an Alton Central School choral group.

Until the end of February anyone wishing their doves may pick them up from the Town Clerk at Town Hall.

VNA/Hospice thanks all those who chose to remember.

LOSS OF LOVE

By **Charlotte Perreault**

When I met my love my heart was so full
Of all the hopes and dreams he'd make come true
I gave him my heart which I thought he'd keep
And would cause me laughter, not the tears I weep.

He made me an earnest promise of being forever true
As he looked in my eyes and said "I love you"
But thru the years it seems he somehow forgot
What the hopes and dreams were we both had sought.

And so now as I sit here alone and sad
Good memories are getting lost among the bad
Every beat of my heart I feel the loss of love
No one knows my pain except the Lord above.

This loss of love was not meant to be
He was always supposed to be in love with me
But now we each go our separate ways
I wonder if I will ever find a new love someday.

Submitted by Betty Tarlton of Alton

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FICTION

- Allende, Isabel
- Baldacci, David
- Bernhardt, William
- Brown, Rita Mae
- Clark, M.H. & Clark, C.H.
- Dailey, Janet
- D'Amato, Barbara
- Mystery
- Follet, Ken
- Krentz, Jayne Ann
- Oates, Joyce Carol
- Pilcher, Robin
- Weld, William
- Woods, Stuart

- Portrait in Sepia
- Last Man Standing
- Natural Suspect
- Alma Mater
- He Sees You When You're Sleeping
- A Capital Holiday
- Hard Road:A Cat Marsala

- Jackdaws
- Smoke in Mirrors
- Beasts
- Starting Over
- Stillwater
- Orchid Blues

NONFICTION

- Bergen, Peter L.
- Bennett, William J.
- Fogle, Bruce
- Rule, Ann

- Holy War, Inc.
- Broken Hearth:Reversing the Moral Collapse of the American Family
- Know Your Cat
- Every Breath You Take:A True Story of Obsession, Revenge & Murder

CHILDREN

- Bourgeois, Paulette
- Stewart, Dawn L.

- Franklin Goes to the Hospital
- Harriet's Horrible Hair Day

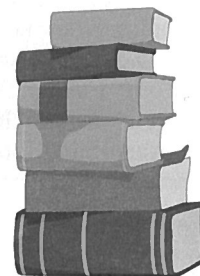
AUDIO CASSETTES

- Cornwell, Patricia
- Patterson, James

- The Last Precinct
- First to Die

VIDEO CASSETTES

- How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- Nine to Five
- Quigley Down Under
- Masada, Parts I, II, III, & IV
- Never Let Me Go
- Pearl Harbor
- Reagan, An American President



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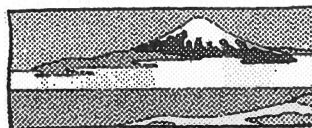


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**“FLY-IN”
UP IN THE AIR**

As Main Street goes to press in late January, the Alton Bay Flying Club remains undecided on whether to proceed with arrangements for their annual February “Fly-In” event. There is a history of more than 20 years where pilots from around the northeastern United States make special flights to be able to land on the ice in Alton Bay. In one of the years where a log book was maintained there were 256 entries by visiting pilots.

The 2001 Fly-In was a non-event as 40 - 50 m.p.h. winds across the bay kept aircraft from landing on the ice runway. This year the very dubious ice conditions make the club wary of starting the arrangements to accommodate the scores of private pilots and their aircraft that would be expected if Fly-In were to be scheduled.



**ALTON OUTDOORS
By Jack Miller**

THE MIDDLE OF WINTER

Here it is, the middle of winter; what is the outdoors person to do? Well, the answer is that there is plenty to do this month!

For starters, there is some ice fishing — *provided there is safe ice*. The smaller ponds and lakes WERE freezing and forming the necessary 4 - 6 inches of black ice before the mid-January snow hit. The snow, however, acts as an insulator. We will need a lot more cold freezing weather to form really good thick ice. The larger lakes and those with lots of wind will freeze last. Is it too early to think spring?

For the hunter snowshoe hare, fox, mink, muskrat, and raccoon are huntable this month. There is also still a good population of coyote in the Alton area. Night hunting for coyote, which began January 1, runs through February. Written landowner permission is necessary to hunt coyote at night. Making a howling sound may entice a response, giving you an idea where to hunt. Fresh snow shows good tracks to point you where you might be successful. Good luck.

For those who want a look into the seasons to come, there are many hunting and fishing shows to break the winter doldrums. January 31 - February 3 is the Eastern Fishing and Outdoor Exposition at the Worcester Centrum in Worcester, Massachusetts. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$3 for children. These shows are places to see new gear, try it out, and usually get some good deals too.

You can always get into Alton’s outdoors this month with skis, snow shoes, or snowmobiles; take your pick!

See you out there.

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NEW 4-H CLUB FORMS IN ALTON
 By **Emily Donahue, Club Reporter**
 With the new year comes a new 4-H club, "The Animal Pack." The officers are: President, Cassandra Golden; Vice President, Susan Sherwood; Secretary, Abby Rasbridge; and Club Reporter, Emily Donahue.
 Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Gilman Library from 5 - 6 p.m. We will keep you up to date with the club's progress and activities. If you have questions, call club leaders Heather Donahue (875-5325) or Susan Morrison (569-9751). Children ages 5 - 18 can enroll in 4-H any time.
 This month the meeting dates are February 6 and 20.

FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS!
 By **Laurie Boyce, ACS Volunteer Coordinator**
 You have once again won the Blue Ribbon Award for the great job you did as volunteers at the Alton Central School (ACS) during the 2000-2001 school year. You put in over 6,900 hours of volunteer service doing anything and everything you were asked.
 Monday through Friday, February 4 - 8, is New Hampshire Volunteer Appreciation Week, and all the active volunteers will receive an invitation for a free lunch in the school cafeteria (school lunches are really good) as a Thank You.
 I personally would like to thank you for the fantastic job you did last year and are doing this year also.

BE PART OF Main Street
 Anyone interested in participating in Main Street is encouraged to call co-editors MaryBee or Bob Longabaugh at 875-5067. The staff is always looking for people to get involved whether it be as a reporter, collator, or someone thinking they might wish to become an editor down the line. We can give you the necessary hands-on experience.
 No talent will be turned away! Reporters for general and feature stories are needed, as well as liaisons with the various neighborhoods (see story on page 18).
Urgently Needed This Month
 The most immediate need is for collators and staplers to help put the next issue together at the American Legion Hall on Route 28, north of the Alton traffic circle. Come join us on Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. We have plenty of room for more people to join our group. It is a good opportunity to see your neighbors or meet new friends. The biggest plus is that you are doing Alton a community service.

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JANUARY'S SIGN OF THE TIMES



Characterizing the warm winter that Alton has been experiencing, this sign did not deter the ice fisherman last month.

ZONING CHANGES PROPOSED

By David Jescavage, AICP, Town Planner

After a public hearing on January 8, the Alton Planning Board reviewed and approved five proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance. The proposed amendments would: increase the minimum lot size in the Rural (RU) Zone from one acre to two acres; delete two dwellings on the same lot and duplexes as permitted uses in the Rural (RU) Zone; clarify the definitions for "street frontage" and "shoreland frontage"; allow a one-bedroom "accessory apartment" in the Rural (RU) Zone; and establish an impact fee provision.

The amendments will be voted on by ballot at the March Town Meeting. Copies of the amendments are available at the Town Clerk's office, the Land Use and Property Records office, and the Gilman Library.

SPRING TREE AND SHRUB SALE

It may not seem like the time to be thinking of planting, but if you wish to take advantage of the annual fund-raising program of the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD), get in touch with them now. They offer young trees (deciduous, nut, and fruit), evergreens, shrubs, and berries of many varieties, and much more.

Orders must be received by the first week of March. To obtain your order form, call 527-5880 or 527-9146. As of mid-January the 2002 brochure was not available. Call now and they will mail one to you as soon as it is ready. Don't delay. You may miss out on a good deal.

ALL NIGHT PARKING BAN IN EFFECT THROUGH APRIL 1

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

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



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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By Donald E. Parks
Superintendent of Schools



NEW BUILDING INFORMATION

The Alton School District has held a Public Forum and formal Bond Hearing on the proposed new Alton/Barnstead High School. After attending these presentations and discussing the proposal, some concerns and questions were raised about the new building and the existing building.

The cost of the building and Alton's share. Alton's 50 percent share of the total building cost is \$9,633,125. I have received feedback that there is confusion about Alton's share of the total amount of the proposed new building. Some people think that Alton will be paying the total cost which is \$19,266,250. No, Alton pays one half.

How much state aid will Alton receive? Forty percent of \$9,633,125, or \$3,853,250, leaving a net cost to Alton of \$5,779,875.

If the new proposed high school is built, will the existing building still be overcrowded? The answer is no. The existing building would have 11 vacant classrooms available for use. Currently the district has five sections of Grades 7 and 8 classes located in three modulares. If those five sections were brought back into the building, there would still be six classrooms available for growth. Depending on the growth in student population — and it is difficult to predict it accurately — the district ought to be able to handle new students for the foreseeable future.

Would my son/daughter be able to play on athletic teams because of the placement of the high school into a higher classification by the NH Interscholastic Athletic Association due to its size? The answer is yes. Because of its larger size, there would be an increase in the number of athletic programs, which would allow for greater choice and participation. For example, field hockey could be offered as a new sport in the fall. This new team would provide playing opportunities for another 15-20 students.

Will the new proposed high school be a better deal financially and educationally than the one proposed by Alton in 1998? Yes. Financially, the 1998 proposed high school would have cost \$8,015,000 for 78,200 square feet serving 350 students with three athletic fields and no track. That same school today would cost about \$11,500,000 due to inflation. Under the current proposal, Alton's share for a 142,000 square foot building will be \$9,633,125. The new proposed school is bigger, allowing for greater instructional offerings and doubling the athletic fields, plus a track.

The net cost savings to the taxpayer will be more than just the difference between the cost of the two buildings because the building aid from the State of NH is higher (40%) when two districts build a school together as opposed to building a school as a single school district (30%).

With respect to educational advantages there will be a significant difference in the offerings because more students will be enrolled in courses that could not be offered in a small school. For example, in English a number of electives could be offered, such as Expository Writing, Shakespeare's Greatest Plays, Notetaking, Modern American Writers, British Literature Since 1860, etc., and in the sciences, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science, Genetics, Advance Placement Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Earth Science. The only limiting factors would be imagination and, of course, money.

I hope these explanations help to answer some of your questions and address your concerns.



Main Street's Information Center

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- Fri., 1 LAST DAY TO FILE FOR TOWN/SCHOOL OFFICE
- Sat. 2 DELIBERATIVE SESSION FOR SCHOOL, Alton Central School, 1 p.m.
- Tue. 5 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Moultonboro Academy, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL at Moultonboro Academy, 7 p.m.
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT WARRANT ARTICLE PETITION
- Wed. 6 4-H CLUB, Gilman Library, 5 p.m., see story
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. 8 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Nute Middle HS, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL at Nute Middle HS, 7 p.m.
- Sun. 10 SWEETHEART PANCAKE BREAKFAST, American Legion, 8 - 11 a.m., \$4.50
- Mon. 11 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Library, 6:30 p.m., see Checkout
- Wed. 13 CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCH, Conference Center, 11:30 a.m., see story
BOYS BASKETBALL at Sunapee Middle HS, 7 p.m.
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Thu. 14 VALENTINE'S DAY
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC, Pearson Road Community Center, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- Fri. 15 BOYS BASKETBALL at Pittsfield Middle HS, 7 p.m.
VALENTINE DANCE, American Legion Hall, 8 p.m. - 12 midnight
- Sun. 17 WINTER FESTIVAL, Alton Bay, 1 - 3:30 p.m., see story
- Mon. 18 PRESIDENTS' DAY
- Wed. 20 4-H CLUB, Gilman Library, 5 p.m., see story
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Tue. 26 ASSEMBLE Main Street, American Legion Post, 6:30 p.m.
- Wed. 27 BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 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.**

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 4

Mark your calendar for the winter blood drive which will take place this year on Friday, March 4. All the information of time and place will be in the March issue of Main Street.

CANDIDATES NIGHT SET FOR MARCH 5

Main Street will once again be sponsoring a program which offers the candidates for school and town offices an opportunity to appear in an open forum. There they will be asked to present their positions on why they are the best persons for the elected job they seek. To provide that extra assurance that the voters are making the wise decision, the candidates will be asked to field questions from the audience. This will be a second chance for the candidates to convince you — the voter — on who deserves your vote.

Put Tuesday, March 5, on your calendar. Attend Candidates Night in the Music Room at the Alton Central School at 7 p.m.

TOWN AND SCHOOL ELECTIONS

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

The election for town and school offices, zoning amendments; and school bond issue will be held on Tuesday, March 12, at the Alton Central Fire Station on Route 140 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It is not too late to file for an office as the deadline is 5 p.m. on Friday, February 1, at the Town Clerk's Office.

Absentee ballot applications for both elections are available at the Town Clerk's Office. You must be on the voter checklist to receive an absentee ballot or file for candidacy. Town absentee ballots will be available approximately February 20 and must be mailed or delivered in person by the voter. The last day to register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office is March 1 or with the Supervisors of the Checklist on Saturday, March 2, or on election day.

February 5 is the last day voters can submit a petition for a warrant article for the town election. Make sure the signers: 1) are registered voters of Alton; 2) sign their legal voting name; 3) print legibly so the Supervisors can read the name; and 4) there are more than enough names in case any are rejected for the above reasons.

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

MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE

By Richard Cunningham

The Claude Batchelder Post 72 of the American Legion would like to invite any Alton community, volunteer, non-profit group searching for a facility in which to hold a meeting or event to use their meeting hall without charge. Post 72 is located on Route 28, north of the Alton circle. (It was formerly the Edgewood Restaurant and then Every Buddies.)

Although they use their meeting hall frequently, they want to open it to the community when it is free. The space is separated from their secured lounge area. Contact Ray Nadeau, Commander, at 875-3461, if you are interested.

This is just another example of commitment to the community by Post 72.

DOG LICENSES

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

New dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. Your current license expires on April 30. Please bring a rabies certificate and a neutered, spayed certificate, if applicable. If you NO LONGER have your dog or have any questions, please call 875-2101 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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.



Main Street's Information Center

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

- Baha'i Fireside — Thu., 7:30 p.m., Holway Residence, Old New Durham Road
- Bay Church — Sun. School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Services, 10:45 a.m. in the Conference Center Chapel; ALPHA Pilot Group, Sun., 6 p.m. Call 875-6765 for schedule of Wed. night activities; Rev. Robert H. Hett, Pastor; Rev. John Fogell, Assoc. Pastor
- Community Church — Sun. School, 9:45 a.m.; Sun. Services, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; nursery available on premises; Congregational Meeting House, Church St.; Rev. Peter Bolster, Pastor
- First Free Will Baptist Church — Sun. School, 9:45 a.m.; Church, 11 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; Depot St., New Durham; Pastor James Nason
- St. Joan of Arc — Weekend Masses at Baptist Meeting House on Main Street; Services, Sat., 4 p.m. and Sun., 8 a.m.; Weekday Masses, Tue. and Thu., 8 a.m. and Communion Services Mon., Wed. and Fri., 8 a.m. in Rectory Chapel; Fr. George Robichaud, Pastor, 875-7191. Sun. Mass St. Paul's in Barnstead, 10 a.m.
- Wolfeboro Bible Fellowship — Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Evening Service, 6 p.m.; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.; Route 28; Pastor Scott Button

GILMAN LIBRARY: 875-2550

Tue. and Thu., 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Wed. and Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; closed Sun. and Mon.

SENIOR MEAL SITE: 875-7102

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

SOLID WASTE CENTER: 875-5801

Sun., Mon., Fri., and Sat., 7 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Closed Tue., Wed., and Thu.

Rines Road Pit — Closed until April 2002

TOWN HALL: 875-2161

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

Building Inspector — 875-5095 for hours and appts.

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

Planning Director — 875-5095 for hours and appts.

ORGANIZATIONS:

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

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

American Legion Auxiliary — 3rd Mon., 7 p.m., Legion Hall

American Legion Jr. Auxiliary — 1st Tue., 6 p.m., Legion Hall

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

Community Services Program, Sat., 2 - 4 p.m., 875-2273

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

4-H Club, 1st and 3rd Wed., 5 p.m., Gilman Library, 875-5325

Friends of the Gilman Library — 2nd Tue. (in season), Library

Garden Club — 4th Tue. (in season), Congregational Mtg. House

Happy Hobby Doll Club — 4th Fri., 7 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

Historical Society — Watch for announcements of programs, Apr. - Oct.; Nov. - Mar., Museum open by request, 569-2629

Knights of Columbus — 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

Lions Club — 1st and 3rd Thu., Foxy Johnnie's Restaurant, New Durham, 6:30 p.m.

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

Moms In Touch — Tue., 1 p.m., 875-2866

Mt. Major Snowmobile Club — 3rd Tue. (Oct.-Mar.), 7 p.m., New Durham Railway Station, 875-3858

P.T.S.A. — 3rd Wed., Alton Central School HS Library, 7 p.m.

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

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

CALL 875-5067 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- BOARD OF SELECTMEN — 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6 p.m.; Cable Channel 25 replay following Thursday, 7 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m., Chairman James C. Washburn, call 875-2161 for appointment.
- BUDGET COMMITTEE — 3rd Thursday (twice a week in "budget season"), 7 p.m., Chairman Ruth Messier, 875-6750
- CEMETERY TRUSTEES — Meetings posted at Town Hall and Post Office, Chairman Shirley Lane, 875-5864.
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION — 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Co-Chairs, Earl Bagley and Cindy Balcius, 875-5095.
- FIRE WARDS — 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Central Fire Station, Chairman Richard Quindley, 875-2910
- GILMAN MUSEUM COMMITTEE — Meets on call, Chairman Bill Crocker, 875-2161.
- LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM — Meets on call, Chairman Juliet Peverley, 875-7232.
- LEVEY PARK TRUSTEES — Meet on call, Chairman Dick Jones, 875-3855.
- PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION — Meets on call, Chairman William Lionetta, 875-0109.
- PLANNING BOARD — 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Chairman Tom Varney, call 875-5095 for appointment.*
- SCHOOL BOARD — 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6 p.m., Chairman Joyce Hopper, 776-8733
- SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST — Meets on call, Chairman MaryBee Longabaugh, 875-5067.
- TRUSTEES OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY — 3rd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Chairman Nancy Jordan, 875-2550.*
- TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS — Meets on call, Chairman Joseph R. Houle, 875-7321.
- WATER COMMISSION — 2nd & 4th Thursday, 8:30 a.m., Water Department Office, Chairman Reuben L. Wentworth, 875-4200
- ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT — 1st Thursday, 7 p.m., Chairman Fran Washburn, 875-5095.

*DENOTES A CHANGE OF INFORMATION

CALL 875-5067 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. SENATE

Robert C. Smith, 307 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510-2903; Phones: (800) 922-2230, (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

N.H. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

N.H. SENATE

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

N.H. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Gordon Bartlett, 524-1220 (w), 524-6536 (h)
Laurie Boyce, 875-7371, e-mail: ljboyce@metrocast.net; "walk-in" office hours 1st Friday of the month, Town Hall, 9 - 11 a.m.

Stanley Czech, 875-3815, e-mail: sdczech@worldpath.net

Dave Russell, 364-7449, Fax: 7448, e-mail: russells@worldpath.net

BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Christopher D. Boothby, 527-5400

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

James C. Washburn, Chairman, 364-7413

Don Irvin, 875-2161

William Ryan, 875-2112

Stephan McMahon, 875-6322

Reuben Wentworth, 875-3388





CONCORD CORNER
By Senator Rob Boyce
and Representative Laurie Boyce

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislature is back in session with many of the same issues and some new ones. The most intriguing may well be something called HCR14. The resolution, which passed the House and is now in the Senate, declares that the Supreme Court was wrong in the Claremont decisions. While this does not have any binding effect on the court, it clearly articulates the issue of the separation of powers: only the Legislature can create laws and levy taxes. The Court can review laws but cannot tell the legislature what to do. Rarely does a legislative body stand up and state that a court has erred — so this could be a historic event. The effect of this is yet to be seen, but those who spearheaded it have a repeal of the statewide property tax in their sights.

Another unusual activity is the redistricting of the House, Senate, and other elective districts. This happens after each census and will determine the districts for the next ten years. One proposed change for Alton is that currently we share three House members with Barnstead and Gilmanton. If the House plan currently on track passes, we will share just two with Barnstead. There will also be a “floaterial” district with one member that we will share with several other towns — but fewer than the current floaterial which includes most of the county.

One theme that will probably continue throughout the session is thrift. We, along with the rest of the country, are facing a recession and shortages in our tax revenues. Although it looks as if we may fare better than other states, we will not have any excess to spend. In fact the Governor has already asked her department heads to trim six million from their budgets but the shortfall may well be five times that. Anyone seeking more spending will have to identify a source of that money first — not an altogether bad situation really. When we talk to legislators from other states, we find that our problems, measured in tens of millions, are dwarfed by their deficits in the billions. Some of these states had huge surpluses a year or two ago and went on a spending spree; now they wish they had been more frugal. Our not having an income tax probably saved us; we didn’t have the huge surpluses, but we also don’t now have huge deficits.

One of the benefits of being legislators (in addition to the \$100 per year pay) is that we often get invited to special events. For instance we recently were invited to ride Dean Kamen’s Segway. We both were able to quickly get the hang of it. IT is an intriguing device, but probably is not going to be found in great numbers in rural areas like Alton. In urban areas it may be a handy alternative to taxis and busses for short distances. Another event was a reception where we got to meet (again) President Bush before his recent speech at UNH.

On a personal note, our son Robbie (we may have to stop calling him that now) has just gone to Officer Candidate School for the Marines; we, of course, have mixed emotions but are very proud of him.

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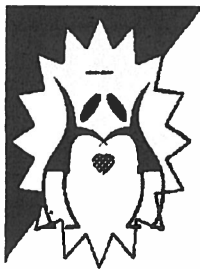


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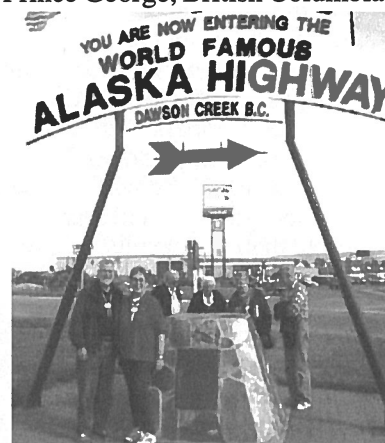


A trip to Alaska was always high on our priority of things to do in retirement. So the summer of 2000 found us on the trip of our lives.

We joined a caravan trip sponsored by Good Sam, an organization that provides various services to RVers. There were 46 of us in 24 rigs with a Wagonmaster couple and a Tail Gunner couple to provide direction and assistance.

Lots of folks like to travel without the constraints of an organized tour. We opted for the caravan to minimize the logistics of the trip, such as campground reservations, sights to see, tours to take, and roads to travel. Next time we'll probably go on our own. We met our group on July 3 in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, site of milepost "0," the beginning of the Alaska Highway. Exactly 4,748 miles and 42 days later we arrived in Prince George, British Columbia, our final destination.

Our caravan was an "open" caravan, which means that we didn't travel down the road as one group. Each rig had to leave the campground each day by 9 a.m. and could not check in to the next one before 2 p.m. The Wagonmasters left early, around 6 a.m., and went directly to the next campground to get ready for the arrival of the rest of the caravan. The Tail Gunners left at 9 a.m., after everyone else was gone. Bringing up the rear that way if anyone had problems, they would come along to assist. Most of us partnered with one or two couples for stops along the way and chatting about the sights over our CB's.



A must for anyone planning a trip to Alaska is a book called "Milepost," published annually with details of every mile of every road in Alaska including scenic areas, commercial activities, and the best places to view wildlife.

We mentioned earlier that we met everyone on July 3, and one person in our group decided that it was only appropriate that we celebrate our nation's birth on July 4 with a fireworks display. He and a few others went to the local office of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to seek permission. Before they were through they had met with the mayor, the town administrator, and the fire chief. All gave their permission.

The fireworks were purchased and we all gathered at the town park with local citizens who heard about the "Big Event" and representatives of the local police and fire departments. They even brought a fire truck. Do you have any idea how insignificant a hundred dollars worth of fireworks can seem after all those preparations? Even the biggest ones were little more than "pffft — pop." But we all had a grand time and felt very patriotic. We brought our boom box and played a CD of patriotic music before and during the display. Of course, the locals thought our rendition of "America" was their song, "God Save the Queen."

More on our trip in future columns.

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



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THIS IS "HYSTORICAL 101"

From the Internet

Reputed Answers In A 6th Grade History Test
(Continued from the August Issue 2001)

11. The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter.

12. Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hote. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Then his wife died and he wrote Paradise Regained.

13. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Thomas Jefferson, a Virgin, and Benjamin Franklin were two singers of the Declaration of Independence. Franklin discovered electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand." Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

14. Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest Precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves by signing the Emasculation Proclamation. On the night of April 14, 1865, Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors in a moving picture show. They believe the assassin was John Wilkes Booth, a supposedly insane actor. This ruined Booth's career.

15. Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between, he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German half Italian and half English. He was very large.



HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS
By Ken Roberts
Highway Agent

LET IT SNOW

Happy 2002. Winter has begun. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! We were spoiled with the warm weather just weeks ago. Now winter is here, the cold is holding, and the trucks are rolling. Alton made it on the TV. By mid-January we had 7 inches of snow.

I would like you to know that across from the Highway Garage there is sand available for the residents of Alton. The Town Ordinance allows two (2) 5-gallon buckets per storm. This ruling comes from the Board of Selectmen.

Bay Hill Road has been completed up to Viewland Camp Ground. The culverts were installed, as well as all the underground drainage and catch basins. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Just a safety reminder: When meeting a plow truck on town roads, please yield or even stop when following the vehicle. Please, stay back at least 200 feet. Example: If a six wheeler fully loaded weighing about 18 tons starts to slide BACKWARDS, you will have a problem. That is why you do not want to follow too closely.

Plow routes take approximately six hours and that is if everything goes according to plan. Sanding routes take about eight to ten hours. If we have an ice storm, we have to go back over sanding every road. This takes approximately 20 hours. While it is raining we do not spread sand except for emergency vehicles because as fast as you put it down, the sand washes away or freezes over.

We hope you have a safe and happy winter.

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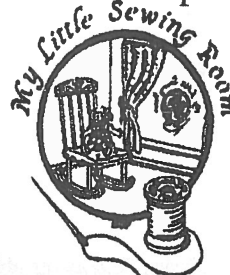
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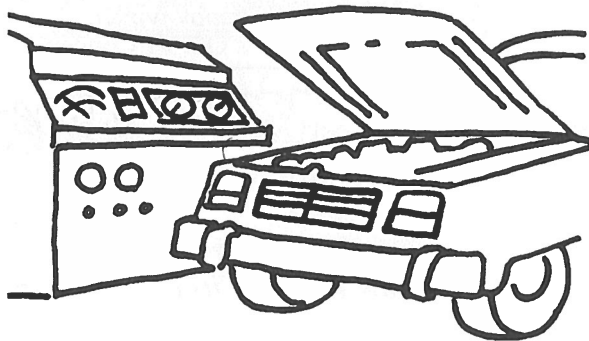
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MEET YOUR "ALTON WWII VET"

By Robert G. Eddy, Commander, VFW Post 11163

John P. Brooks was 18 years old when he volunteered to serve in the Army. He was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division for two years. He was in the first unit landing at Normandy and continued through northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and central Europe. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, plus six or more other medals. Last fall the Belgium Consular awarded him their medal at a meeting in Vermont.

John is an officer and Past Commander of our Alton VFW Post 11163. You can see him on the days he helps out with the "Meals on Wheels" at the Pearson Road Community Center. He now serves the community just as he served his country during WWII. I consider it an honor working with him on the VFW projects.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

It is that time of the year when the lakes and ponds are supposedly solid ice, meaning we can walk or snowmobile out on those expanses. It is important for us as adults to make sure that our children don't venture out on these lakes and ponds until we have determined that it is safe. The best way to do this is to use an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness. Make sure you do this as you venture further out on to the ice, for the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake you are on. The Cold Region Research Laboratory in Hanover states that as a "rule of thumb" there should be a minimum of six inches of hard ice before individual foot travel takes place. There should be eight to ten inches of hard ice before snowmachine or ATV travel begins.

Never allow children to just go out by themselves on the ice. There are always areas of danger on these ponds and lakes. Any area where there is current, such as inlets and outlets, the ice will be dangerously thin. Areas where there are spring holes will also have thin ice. If an object is imbedded in the ice such as a rock, the ice around the rock will be thinner due to the rock's absorption of the sun's warmth. Other areas for caution are around bridges, docks and between islands in close proximity to each other. Never allow children to venture out on to the ice on rivers and streams because of the current.

Because of the extreme cold temperature of the water during winter months, a person has very few minutes to get out of the water and into a warm environment before he/she becomes hypothermic. You should instruct your children in the proper method of getting out of the water and back on to safe ice. This is done by placing their arms on to the ice and kicking their legs in a motion similar to swimming, which gets them horizontal to the ice. They should continue kicking until they can slide on to the ice. They should then **roll** away from the hole and on to safe ice. They should not stand and walk away from the hole because of the likelihood of again falling through the ice.

In the event a person witnesses someone fall through the ice, that person should **never** attempt to rescue the individual by walking out to the hole. They should get a rope, branch, ladder or some other item that they can extend to the person in the water and then pull them up on to the ice. Rescue personnel should be alerted as soon as possible by placing a call, dialing 911.

Continued from Page 1

Best of all, according to Alton Fire Chief Russ Sample, the new ambulance was paid for by accumulated fees for service so that no taxpayer dollars were needed for its acquisition.

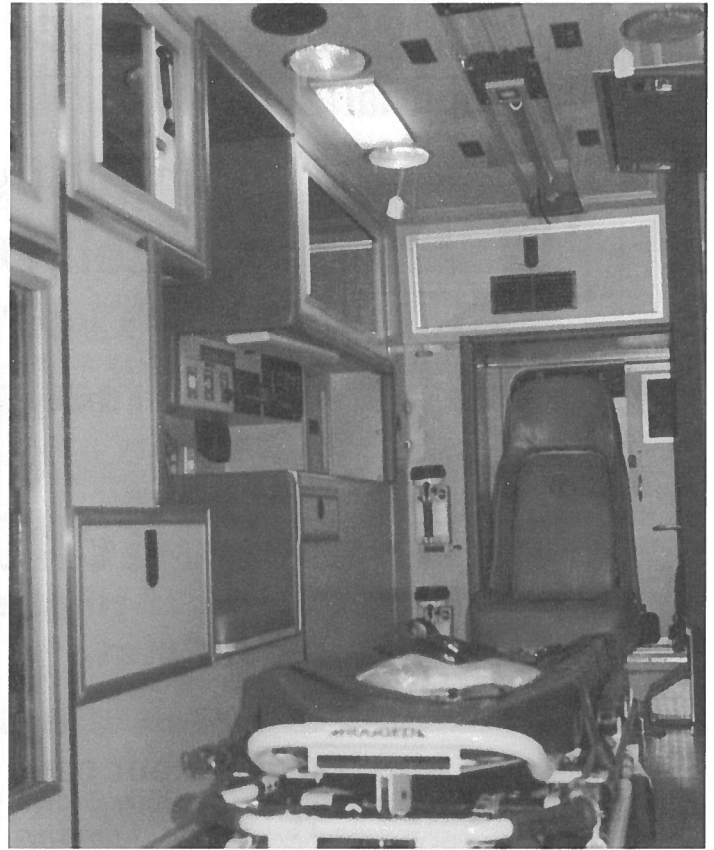
Chief Sample points out that the Medicmaster equips the Alton department with an EMS capability ranging from basic medical transport to advance life support, plus an ability to operate better in situations involving more than one person needing medical attention.

When medical attention becomes an emergency and 911 is dialed, what can the caller expect in the way of aid? For one, the dispatcher on the other end of the 911 connection will stay on the line rendering experienced instructions on what to do while the ambulance is in route. Alton's track record is that the ambulance, with at least two trained persons, will be at the location requesting aid in less than 11 minutes from the time the call was made. What is now different from even last year is that transport to the hospital will be in a facility that comes close to being a hospital on wheels (see photo at right).

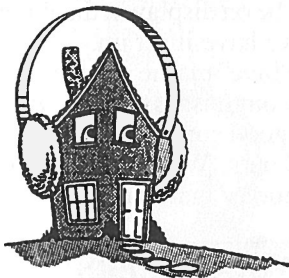
There is another factor that can greatly affect the above sequence of events. Fire Chief Russ Sample wants to remind persons living on private roads how important it is at this time of year to keep their road open and sanded so that emergency vehicles can get through. There have been a few cases lately where the crucial response time has been increased due to difficult road conditions.

Before leaving the subject the reader might like to know just who the 17 individuals are doing such an outstanding service to our community to be on call whenever needed for a medical emergency. In alphabetical order they are Alan Barrett (EMT-I), Richard Brown (EMT), Craig Brusetti (First Responder), Michael Caverly (EMT), Edward Consentino (EMT-I), Derek Damon (First Responder), Mary Jane Dascoli (EMT), Gary Hannafin (EMT), Sharon Hannafin (EMT-I), David Jensen (EMT-I), Christopher Johnson (EMT), Laurie Johnson (EMT), Scott Johnson (EMT), Stark Liedtke (EMT-I), Russell Sample (EMT), Benjamin Warshaw (First Responder), and Scott Williams (EMT). The EMS of the Alton Fire/Rescue Department is under the direction of Lieutenant S. Hannafin.

Chief Sample is planning on holding an Open House so that townspeople can take a close-up look at the new ambulance. Call the department's non-emergency number, 875-0222, to learn when the event is being scheduled. The chief also wants to express his appreciation for the ongoing support the department receives from residents. He mentioned that the best compliment is always a "thank you." The greatest boon is when people step forward to help.



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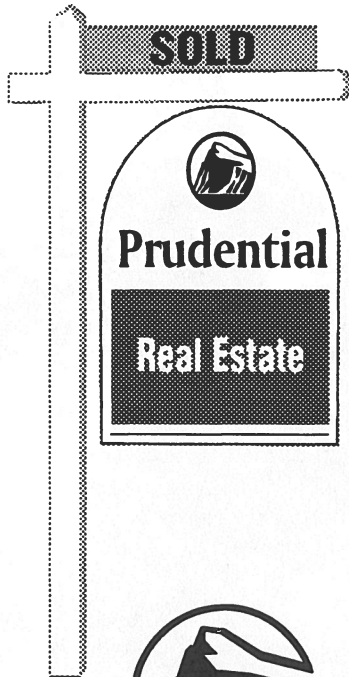
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THE CHECKOUT DESK
By Holly Brown
Librarian

LOVE OF BOOKS FEBRUARY 12 - 16

In honor of Valentine's Day the Gilman Library will "celebrate our love of books" for the week of February 12 - 16. Let a good book warm your heart. We will celebrate in two ways: 1) there will be a special book sale where you fill a plastic bag for just \$1 or purchase a canvas book bag for \$5 and fill it free of charge; 2) we will accept all overdue books free of late fees. Please join us in this celebration.

Just in time for Valentine's Day the library is raffling off an AM/FM Cassette Stereo Boombox! The boombox is metallic purple and comes with a convenient carrying strap. It will be on display at the circulation desk. Tickets are two for \$1 and may be purchased at the circulation desk. All proceeds go to the Gilman Library and will be used to purchase new audiotapes and/or books. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, February 13. Good luck!

The Book Discussion Group will meet in the Agnes Thompson Room on February 11 at 6:30 p.m. to share thoughts on *Fried Green Tomatoes* by Fannie Flagg. Everyone is welcome to attend. To get a copy of the book, call us at 875-2550 or stop by the circulation desk.

Just a reminder that there will be no preschool story hour while the Alton Central School is on vacation or closed due to inclement weather. In the event that the Gilman Library must close due to weather conditions, we will have our announcement on the stations listed on page 20.

The Trustees of the Gilman Library hold their meetings at the library every third Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. There will be no meeting in February and in March they will meet on March 26. The public is welcome to attend.

At some time during February the architect's plans for the proposed school building will be on display in the library. Please call ahead to make sure we have it set up.

Can you spare those "Shop 'n Save" plastic grocery bags? During this time of year our supply diminishes quickly. Please feel free to leave bags that are in good condition in the book drop or at the desk during library hours. We really appreciate your efforts to help us keep all library materials in the best possible condition.

NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEERS

By Richard Cunningham

If you like to write and have knowledge of your neighborhood, Main Street would like you to "share the news" about your neighborhood with the rest of Alton. Suggested neighborhoods are East Alton, Alton Bay, West Alton, Alton Mountain, Alton Village, and South Alton. If you want to designate other neighborhoods, we welcome any defined neighborhood.

Articles of interest can be personal accomplishments of college students, armed forces, sports, arts, senior citizens, travelers, former residents, local fund raisers, joint neighborhood activities, and just about anything that would interest the rest of us and make us proud to live in Alton.

Send a letter of interest to Dick Cunningham, R. R. 4, Box 271, Laconia, 03246 or call 293-4948.

Editors' Note: Refer to Main Street May 2001 cover story for storm damages and July 1999 "I Am A Building" for the past history.

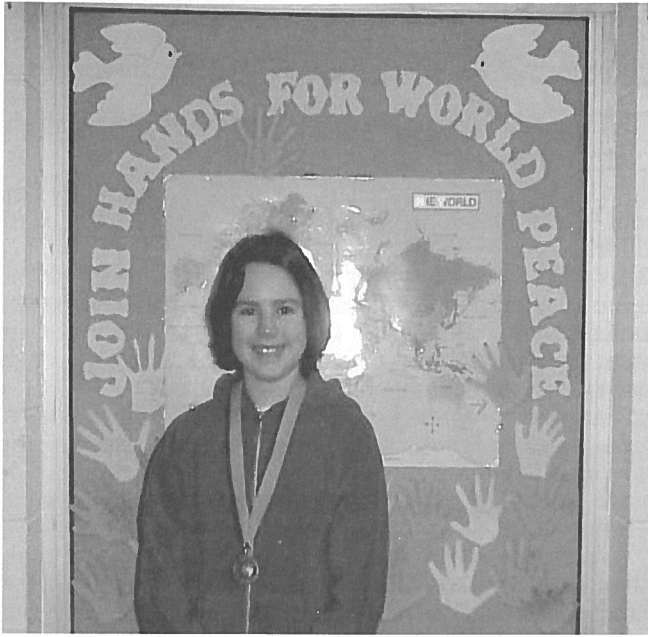
BAY VIEW PAVILION HAS BEEN REPAIRED

By Daryl Hoitt, Owner

No doubt you have seen the repairs going on down at the bay. The Bay View Pavilion is almost restored once again. If one thinks back to last winter, we are reminded of the heavy storms we received. Storm after storm dumped heavy snows on many area buildings, some of them collapsing under the weight. We in Alton were not spared as the great historical building on our beautiful bay gave way to the winter destruction.

As the heavy snows slid off the roof, the cement block waterside foundation wall buckled, pulling with it half the new deck and ripping the metal roof. By the time spring thaw came around, the building had to be kept closed for public safety. Construction was finally started, and now you can see the work that was done to repair that humongous roof.

Construction codes have changed over time, and the new foundation wall is much stronger with reinforcements within. A new gravel floor has been spread in the walkway in the basement and new windows placed in that lower area looking out at the water. The deck has been rebuilt, and the remaining deck has been bolstered with additional bolting through the structural beams of the building. New wiring through the boat docks has been added as well. So all in all, though a season was lost, the Bay View Pavilion is stronger than ever before.

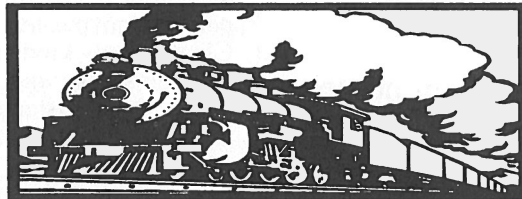


DONAHUE WINS GEOGRAPHIC BEE

By Laura Dwyer, ACS Enrichment Director

Last month Emily Donahue (shown above), a fifth grade student at Alton Central School (ACS), won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee. Emily had to answer oral questions on geography in the first round of the 14th annual event. The next challenge is a written test where up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory become eligible to compete in their state bee in April. Congratulations and best of luck to Emily in the next round.

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THE SHIFTERS (BAND)	FEB. 8TH & 9TH
D.J. JAE~POUNDZ OF SOUNDZ	FEB. 14TH
C-4 BAND	FEB. 15TH & 16TH
D.J. JAE~POUNDZ OF SOUNDZ	FEB. 21ST, 22ND & 23RD
KARAOKE (DJ)	FEB. 28TH

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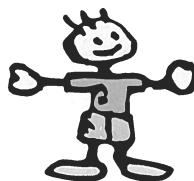
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FOR THE FUN OF IT
By Kellie M. Troendle, CPRP
Recreation Director

FEBRUARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

All programs are held at the Alton Bay Community Center from 9 - 10:30 a.m., \$3 per day. Programs are designed for children ages 3 - 5. Registration forms are available at the Parks and Recreation Department outdoor kiosk or contact Kellie at <altonpnr@worldpath.net> or 875-0109 to have one mailed to you. We have a drop slot at our office for after-hours registration drop off. Please register early; program space is limited to eight children.

Snow Day - Snow Fun, February 6: We will play outside in the snow and make snow pictures, snow sculptures, and snowmen. We'll enjoy warm cocoa and a delicious snack inside. Please dress warmly for the outside fun. Register by February 4.

Valentine's Day Party, February 13: We will make a Valentine's Mailbox. Each participant will receive a list of names in advance so they can bring valentines already made to the party. We will decorate festive heart shaped cookies and play cooperative games. Register by February 6.

Memory Lane, February 20: Join in the fun as we make a scrapbook in which to hold your special memories. We will also make a picture frame for that photo of someone special. Register by February 11.

For Adults of All Ages

Country Line Dancing Lessons are great exercise and an 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 or 875-6750 for the next session dates.

THE GREAT ALTON BAY BED RACE

Be a part of Winter Festival fun (see front page story) and enter a bed for the Great Alton Bay Bed Race. A 5-person team pushes, pulls, or slides their bed to the finish line. Cleats of any kind are prohibited.

Gunstock tubing passes will be awarded to the first place team. Pre-register your bed by 2:30 p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand on February 17.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE OUTDOORS

How about an outdoor volunteer job? Alton Parks and Recreation Department has a variety of chores needing help. Under the guidance of Kellie Troendle, Director, this group meets once a month for about two hours.

They plan their activities and check the needs for events to come. There are seasonal events, as well as ongoing recreation programs. Twice a year, spring and fall, on the trail through the Alton Town Forest maintenance is performed. It's great exercise and a very important job.

Contact Kellie at 875-0109 to see what you can do to help. Whether planning events, supervising an event, or working on the trails, this important group can use your participation.

SCHOOL CLOSED TODAY?

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

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

1999 SUZUKI RM250X DIRT BIKE, excellent condition, used very little, completely stock, never raced, runs great, asking \$3,450 or BO. 875-2165.

1993 FORD CROWN VIC, 82K, good condition, \$3,200. 875-2152.

1991 DODGE SPIRIT, A/C, cruise, cloth interior, air bag, 4-door, runs great, must sell, \$1,200 or BO; GE 8,000 btu A/C, used one summer, \$100; 31" Color TV, PIP, video/audio plugs in front, remote, \$175; Patio Set: table, 4 chairs, pads, umbrella, \$75; VCR, \$20; Wheel Barrow, \$5; Small Seed/Sand Spreader, \$5; Rosignall skis w/solomon bindings, poles, \$50. 293-4267.

CATAMARAN, 16 foot, sloop rig/with trailer, sails in great condition, needs a little TLC, \$300 or BO. 875-8687.

FOUR TIRES, 235/65 R17 Radials, Continental tires on beautiful gray aluminum rims, excellent condition, low miles, \$250 for all; Upright Freezer, excellent condition, \$50; Pickup Truck Cap, good shape, \$75. 875-5444.

INTERNET/E-MAIL READY, used computer, includes monitor, keyboard, mouse, and pre-installed software, great birthday gift, \$250. 875-4658.

WHIRLPOOL, no frost, refrigerator, freezer on the bottom, runs great, about 16 years old, color white, outside dimensions 32 1/2W x 28D x 66H, you pick up, \$25. Leave message, 776-7750.

FREEZER, Montgomery Ward, almond, outside dimensions 24W x 27D x 57H, runs great, do not know the age, you pick it up, \$25. Leave message 776-7750

MAGIC CHEF Electric Stove and Dishwasher, \$75 each. 875-2152.

WANTED

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.

BOAT SLIP on Winnepesaukee, Alton-Gilford area, for 24-foot boat. 875-3670.

DOCK SPACE TO LEASE for the 2002 summer season, Alton Bay area. 875-7432

HELPWANTED

**Alton Parks and Recreation Department
Maintenance Laborer**

Full time, year round, with benefits. Duties include: shoveling, plowing, mowing, raking, landscaping, rubbish removal, building and park maintenance. Valid NH driver's license required. Applications are available at the Parks and Recreation Department, 875-0109. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

Main Street CONGRATULATIONS

The Board of Directors and staff of Main Street send their congratulations to Joe Harris and Lisa Erickson-Harris on the birth of their son. Joe is a member of the Board of Directors and also a staff writer for the news magazine. Our best to the three of them.

CARDS OF THANKS

With a great deal of friendship and gratitude, we would like to thank you all for all the good wishes, which were extended to us, during our most recent illnesses. We are truly grateful for your friendships and thoughts.

/s/Francis and Diantha Moulton

The American Legion Auxiliary would like to thank all the organizations for their generous donations that helped to make our Christmas projects successful. The children's Christmas party had between 75 and 85 children visit with Santa. We would like to thank Santa for making his special trip again this year for the children of Alton. The families who received food baskets, toys, and clothing consisted of 42 children within 20 families. Thank again to everyone.

/s/Millie Pierce, Unit 72 Secretary

LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER

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

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

February 4 - 8: Mon., Chicken Fillet/Gravy; Tue., Italian Sausage/Sauce; Wed., Creamed Turkey; Thu., Sliced Ham/Sauce or Turkey; Fri., Shepherds Pie.

February 11 - 15: Mon., Salisbury Steak/Gravy; Tue., Beef Stew; Wed., Kielbasa or Hot Dog; Thu., Pot Roast/Gravy; Fri., Crunchy Fish Filet.

February 18 - 22: Mon. Presidents' Day, Closed; Tue., Meatballs/Gravy; Wed., Manicotti/Meat Sauce; Thu., Fish & Cheese Filet; Fri., Roast Pork Loin/Gravy.

February 25 - March 1: Mon., Stuffed Cabbage; Tue., Codfish Cakes/Sauce; Wed., Cheese Omelet; Thu., Herb Chicken/Gravy; Fri., BBQ Riblet.

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

. . . A public hearing was held to present plans for the new police station . . . Diedra Magnifico's entry, "Alton - A Town For All Seasons" was selected as the theme for the 1987 Old Home Week . . . Mark Thomas and Kori Hillsgrove were chosen King and Queen of the Carnival Ball.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . In a campaign swing through New Hampshire Barbara Bush made a stop at Alton Town Hall . . . Preparations were under way at the Alton Central School gymnasium to hold the 57th Annual Carnival Ball "A Winter Fantasy" . . . Ice fishermen were being cautioned that there was a new active aircraft runway ON Alton Bay . . . Sarah Wyatt was cited for winning the State 1991 Knights of Columbus foul shooting contest . . . The Alton Water Department moved its office to the American Legion Hall on Main Street . . . The Alton Transfer Station had its grand opening on February 3.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . The M/S Mount Washington cut its Alton cruise schedule down to one day a week . . . National Honor Society inductees were Elizabeth Knowlton, Jebediah Christy, Blake Kellar, Tarsia Kenny, Jennifer Merfeld, and Tammy Murtagh . . . the American Legion Auxiliary formed the Junior Auxiliary for girls ages 8 - 13 years . . . Daniel Moulton, Grade 8 at Alton Central School, won the school-level competition of the National Geography Bee . . . Stan and Daryl Czech visited Alton, England.

16TH ANNUAL ICE-OUT CONTEST DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28

There's still time for you to enter the 16th annual ice-out contest. Main Street will still accept one form per household/ address postmarked no later than February 28, and the prize to the winner for this year is a dinner for two at the New Durham Railway Station, Route 11 South.

This is an annual contest won by the person who comes the closest to the date of "ice-out" as decided by the official ice watchers around the "Big Lake." Last year "ice-out" occurred at 6:50 p.m., 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, pinpoints the exact date and time when the last large section of ice disappears from Lake Winnepesaukee.

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

ICE-OUT ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

I predict "ice-out" will occur on:

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

Mail this completed entry form to:
P.O. Box 210, Alton Bay 03810
by February 28, 2002

STAY CLEAR OF THE ICE RUNWAY

Residents and visitors to Alton alike are reminded that the aircraft runway on the ice in Alton Bay at this time of year is an official facility licensed both by the Federal Aviation Administration and the State of New Hampshire. For safety of life and limb persons should stay clear of the runway, the same as you would not place yourself in the path of landing planes at a commercial airport.

While safety is paramount, the economics can be stiff as well with fines of up to \$1,000 being levied for trespassing on an aircraft runway.

TIS' THE SEASON FOR SNOWMOBILING!

By Joanne Shibley, Club Treasurer

The Mt. Major Snowmobile Club is hoping for another great year of snowmobiling. Look for our new web site to be completed by February. Our web address is <www.mountmajorsnowmobileclub.com>. Visit the web site to find out about trail conditions, club events, membership, and T-shirts, hats, and maps, etc. If you have questions, they can be e-mailed to <info@mountmajorsnowmobileclub.com>, mailed to P. O. Box 208, Alton Bay, 03810, or call 875-3858.

If you are not currently a member and do use the trails, PLEASE join today! Membership dues go directly into trail improvements, bridges, and grooming equipment. Watch for our new "2002 groomer" on the trails. Also, if you would like to volunteer for trail work, please contact us — there is always plenty of trail maintenance to be done.

Trail maps can be purchased at various locations around town (Parker Marine, Olde Bay Diner, Hillcrest, Alton Bay Lakeview Market, East Alton Store, etc.). Enjoy the snow and remember to drive courteously! Also, many thanks to all the landowners who have cooperated so graciously for allowing us access to their lands.

Merrymeeting River Resort



With snow all around us, enjoy the season with snowmobiling, skiing, and skating, or spend the day ice fishing on Alton Bay....

A family mobile home resort featuring seasonal and year round homes

Your Hosts:
The White Family - Don, Sandy, Eric & Jean Horn
One mile from Alton circle on Rte 11 East 859.4811
Drop by and See what's for sale.

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Mary Jane Dascoli

**Notary Public
Justice of the Peace**



**Alton Fire/Rescue Dept.
Secretary/EMT
Box 472 Alton, NH 03809**

**Office: (603)875-0222
Home: (603)776-5971**



Main Street

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