



Main Street

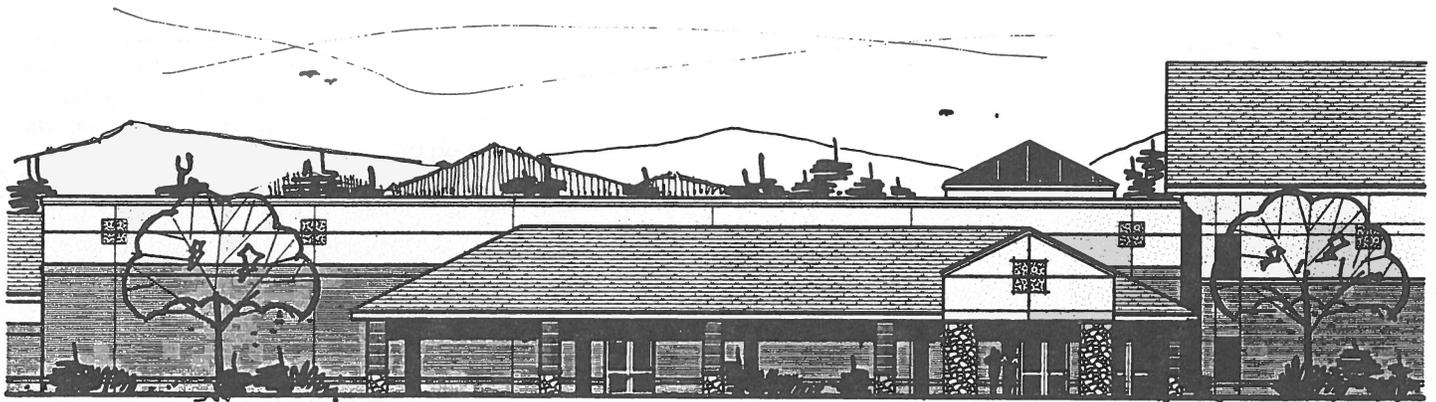
A Monthly Newsmagazine

Volume XVIII Number 4

Alton, New Hampshire - April, 2002

"Priceless"

Proposed Alton/Barnstead High School (Architectural Rendering)



TO BE, OR NOT TO BE ???

TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE

By Kellie Troendle, Recreation Director

The Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring its annual Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 8 (rain date June 9), from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. All residents in Alton are invited to sign up for this town-wide event. This is how it works: if you would like to have a yard sale on June 3, please call 875-0109 before May 16 with your yard sale location. Late sign ups will not be taken due to printing deadlines. When signing up, please be sure to include your complete address with specific directions on how to get there. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide a map with all of the yard sale locations; last year we had over 40 yard sales and the town had a giant yard sale. There is no charge to have your sale listed on the map and no charge to obtain the map. This is just a fun community event. Maps will be available after May 24 at the Parks and Recreation Department, Town Hall, Gilman Library, Bank of NH, and Alton Village 5 & 10.

EARLY SCHOOL DISMISSAL

On Wednesday, April 17, the students at Alton Central School will be dismissed at 1 p.m. A letter will have been sent home to the parents regarding this event, but the school wishes everyone in town to be aware that the buses and children will be out and about early on that day.

ANSWER = "TO BE"

By Bob Longabaugh

After several cliff-hangers the voters of two towns and both the New Hampshire and Federal court systems have determined that the proposed Alton/Barnstead High School can now proceed to the construction phase.

It wasn't without some last-minute suspense, however, as a petition submitted by 17 registered Alton voters required a recount of the Alton vote on March 25. The recount slightly increased both the "yes" and "no" votes, but did not change the outcome. The bond issue was determined to have passed in Alton.

The other half of the equation was Barnstead. It was their "turn" on March 23. Barnstead's "town meeting style" ballot saw 513 "yes" votes comfortably exceeding the 145 "no" votes to fulfill the two-thirds "super-majority" requirement. In the week before the Barnstead meeting, the First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston upheld the NH Supreme Court's ruling that SB2 voting requirements could be different than those that operate under the more traditional requirements, thereby validating Alton's vote of 61 percent.

With the financing approved the Alton and Barnstead school boards will next concentrate on getting the joint high school designed and built. Main Street will, of course, give this process prominent coverage in future issues.



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ADVERTISERS SHOULD READ THIS

Advertisers, please take heed! There is a new deadline for you to get in your copy and payment. It will now be the 10th of the month. This is being done because Main Street's volunteer has found herself unable to "co-edit" and do advertising verification at the same time. Also, when you are submitting "camera ready copy," please be sure that you do NOT fold the paper so as to crease the ad you have created and do NOT place scotch tape over any part of the ad that is to be scanned. Contact the Advertising Manager (875-5397) if you have any questions or concerns.

CORRECTION / CLARIFICATION

Last month's Main Street, in describing (on page 18) the recent property revaluation in Alton, made the statement that "increases as high as 71 percent have been experienced." That was poor reporting. If our reporter had been more accurate, he should have written that "waterfront properties experienced an AVERAGE of 71 percent increases, as reported by the consultant doing the revaluation."

It wasn't long after Main Street appeared in local mailboxes that the phone started ringing "off the hook." The word that came back most loud and clear was that 71 percent was not an accurate description when specific properties were being considered. One respondent cited an increase of 375 percent on their particular property.

Main Street is not bringing up this clarification as an invitation to "can you top this [375 percent]?" Our objective is only to set the record straight that we erred in our original reporting. We should have been much more on the mark in stating that we were reporting an average, and that our data were obtained from the consultant retained by the town to carry out the revaluation.



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK
By Donald E. Parks
Superintendent of Schools

THE SCHOOL BOND PROPOSAL

I thank you all most sincerely for your help, support, and encouragement. It is much appreciated. A special thank you to the whole School Board, and in particular Wayne Fraser and Peter Farrell, who spent countless hours on this proposal.

At the time of this writing we are one-third of the way before a groundbreaking ceremony can occur. The next two steps are for Barnstead to pass the bond proposal and for the federal court to dismiss the McGuire vs. Exeter Case that deals with the discrepancy between SB2 towns that need three-fifths voter support for a bond issue and non-SB2 towns that need two-thirds voter support.

To clear up some of the confusion that arose over the Alton School District's vote on the bond article for the proposed new school, I want to make it official that the bond did pass. School District Clerk, Deborah L. Burton, contacted the Secretary of State's Office on the morning after election to obtain clarification on the outcome of the vote.

When the polls closed, the bond article had received 795 "yes" votes and 508 "no" votes. It was initially determined that the vote (based on 1,331 residents who picked up ballots) had failed because it had not gained the necessary three-fifths, or 60 percent, majority required for passage since only 59.7 percent of the total voters had supported the article. However, it was later determined that the 28 voters who had drawn ballots — but who had not voted on the bond proposal — should not be factored in when determining the percentage favoring the bond article.

When asked on the day after election, Secretary of State William Gardner said "such ballots should not be counted in determining whether a project reached a certain threshold." Gardner further stated the law is not unclear in this area. When just the 1,303 voters who voted on the bond article are considered, their 795 "yes" votes amounts to 61 percent which exceeds the 60 percent necessary for the bond to pass.

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Main Street's Inside Front Page



“LOCH NESS WINNIE” SIGHTED

By R. J. Trevlac

In a bulletin just in from Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Dr. Ima Pfuhl of the Oceanic Development Division of the Boston Area Liquid Lodge (ODDBALL) announced the first confirmed sighting of a fresh water monster. Recently Pfuhl, a marine biologist, led an ODDBALL team of researchers on a search in the waters of Alton Bay. According to Pfuhl, the monster was estimated to be 72 feet long, far surpassing the 30 foot requirement to be rated as a monster.

“This is a highly significant discovery, because up until now monsters were thought to be restricted to salt or brackish waters,” Pfuhl explained. “I urge the residents of Alton Bay and the surrounding community to remain calm,” Pfuhl cautioned. “But it would be prudent to keep pets and small children away from the water until the risk can be assessed.” Pfuhl went on to elaborate that “known monsters are extremely dangerous; however, we have reason to believe that the fresh water environment may actually promote monsters with a friendly disposition.” “We want to test this hypothesis by putting decoys out to see if Alton Bay’s ‘Loch Ness Winnie’ takes the bait” she explained as the reason why she might be seen rummaging around the back alleys of Alton in search of suitable decoys.

At the conclusion of the press conference Dr. Pfuhl departed Woods Hole for Alton Bay with even more ODDBALL scientists to continue their research. Dr. Pfuhl, daughter of Alton’s April and Ernest Pfuhl previously written up in these pages, will be staying with her parents for the duration of the ODDBALL project. If anyone has any information about the monster in the waters of Alton Bay, they are encouraged to call 875-2151 and ask for Ima Pfuhl.

SELECTMEN ORGANIZE

The new Board of Selectmen met on Monday, March 18, and voted in Stephen McMahon as the chair with Don Irvin as vice chair.

The selectmen then volunteered themselves as representatives to the following committees/boards: Conservation — Steve McMahon; Parks and Recreation — Jim Washburn; Planning Board — Don Irvin; Zoning Board of Adjustment — Bill Ryan; Fire Wards — Bill Ryan; Budget Committee — Pat Fuller; and Coalition Representative (committee of donor towns) — Pat Fuller with Jim Washburn as alternate.

“MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN ALTON”

By Pat Merrill

The Alton Historical Society is having its first meeting of 2002 on April 16, 7:30 p.m., at the Gilman Library. We are pleased to announce that Gertrude Griffin and Bob Rollins (brother and sister) will be sharing with us their “Memories of Growing Up in Alton.”

As you may recall, the Historical Society members and friends had the pleasure of listening to three ladies, the “Twombly Sisters,” last year, and we shall be looking forward to hearing further tales of the past from Gertrude Griffin and Bob Rollins.

Refreshments will be served. Come join us!



A LONG LINE AT THE POLLS

By Bob Longabaugh

March’s election day saw Alton voters in longer lines than has been the case in quite some time. Almost half (1,337, or 48 percent) of Alton’s 2,769 registered voters carried out their civic duty on March 12 with those who were at the end of the line at 7 p.m. when the polls closed not getting into the voting booth until quarter to eight.

The big draw, of course, was the school bond issue that received just 13 votes more than the 60 percent required for passage. This result was subsequently called into question by a petition for a recount, which is reported in detail on page 1 of this issue of Main Street. All of the other school articles passed with the simple majorities required, except for Articles XI and XVI. The nixed Article XI would have authorized \$60,000 for an emergency generator at the school while XVI was to replace a tractor/mower that was already provided for elsewhere in the budget.

The persons elected to office on the school ballot were Lawrence Alting for a three-year term on the school board, Terri Noyes as Moderator, Deborah Burton as School District Clerk, and Shirley Young as School District Treasurer. The latter three offices are one-year terms.

The town election, run at the same time, had but one contest with three candidates running for two Selectmen openings. Patricia Fuller and Donald Irvin won the three-year terms. The other winning candidates were Patricia Palmer as Treasurer for one year of a usually longer term; John Kimball as a write-in for a three-year Trustee of the Trust Funds; Shirley Copeland three-year Library Trustee; Stanley Czech three-year Fire Ward; Russell Sample one-year Fire Ward; Mark Northridge two-year Moderator; Tammey Cornelissen three-year Cemetery Trustee; John Conboy three-year Water Commissioner; and MaryBee Longabaugh six-year Supervisor of the Checklist.

The Budget Committee elections comprised a mixture of candidates listed on the ballot and write-ins. John Brooks and Gregory Fuller’s names appeared on the ballot and they both took three-year terms with over 800 votes apiece while Matthew Fuller achieved an equal term with five write-in votes. The one one-year term on the Budget Committee was won by Norman Nardello with six write-in votes. The Planning Board’s three openings were taken by Cynthia Balcus for a three-year term and Donn Brock for the one-year term while Marcella Perry took the remaining three-year term with 41 write-in votes.

All five questions dealing with amendments to the zoning ordinance were approved by the voters.

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TOWN MEETING RESULTS

By Dick Cunningham

The traditional Town Meeting was conducted in Alton on March 13 with 176 registered voters participating. The four-hour meeting was presided over by Town Moderator Mark Northridge while LRPA-TV videotaped it for later showing on cable channel 26. (The videotape will be retained at the Gilman Library where it will be available for checkout.)

The most controversial issue of the evening — the abolition of the Budget Committee — was not even close with the committee being retained in a secret ballot which saw 51 persons voting to abolish while 119 voters cast their ballots to continue. The other petition article, calling for the town to provide the necessary insurance for non-profit organizations to be able to use the town's community centers, was approved by an almost unanimous show of cards.

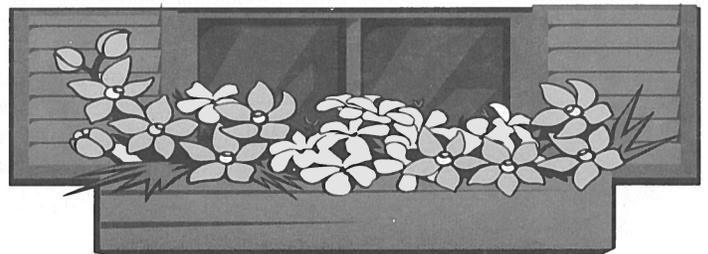
The "big ticket" warrant known as the "sweep article" that appropriates funds for the town's operating budget was approved in an amount less than what the Selectmen sought. They requested \$4,070,830 but the voters present bought into a reduction of \$73,207 recommended by the budget committee. Before the article was finalized Bob Longabaugh was successful in having \$1,340 added for "the videotaping of Selectmen's meetings and similar official town events." The sweep article was finally approved in the amount of \$3,998,963.

Another article that received more discussion than most was Article 10, which would appropriate \$82,500 for refiguring parking and traffic on School and Pine Streets. Highway Agent Ken Roberts explained how he had worked with school and other officials in designing a bus loading apron in front of the school and other changes in drop-off zones with the objective of increasing safety during the busy times of the school day when students are arriving and departing. Several persons spoke in opposition to either the design or the timing of the proposal. A standing vote settled the matter with 74 persons in favor and 70 opposed.

All other spending articles were approved in the amounts requested by the Selectmen, except for Articles 7 and 12. Article 12 was voted down on the recommendation of all concerned because it was no longer needed with the approval of the 10-wheeler dump truck in Article 8. Article 7, the addition of \$100,000 to the Fire Department's Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, was reduced to \$50,000, as recommended by the Budget committee, even though Fire Chief Russ Sample spoke of the need to replace vital equipment on a pre-determined schedule.

KINDERGARTEN SIGN UPS

Is your child going to be age 5 by September 30, 2002? Are you planning to register him/her for kindergarten? If so, please call Sharon Guild or Cindy Loprete at the Alton Central School at 875-7373 to set up your appointment. The Registration and Screening Day will be held on Thursday, May 23, and Friday, May 24, at the Alton Bay Community Center.



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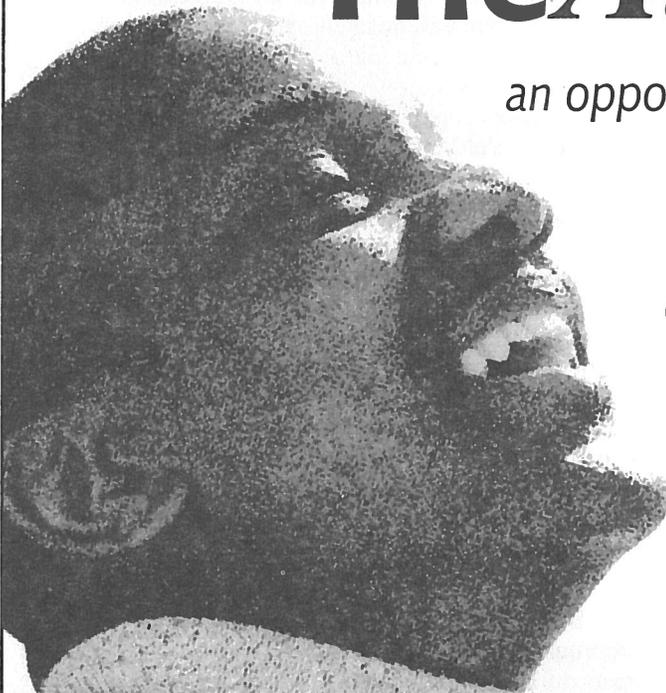
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Alpha

The Christian Churches of Alton

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(see Information Center for worship times)

ALPHA COMES TO ALTON

By Sandy Robinson

The buzz word in Alton these days is definitely ALPHA, but the question is — What is ALPHA? Actually, it is an adventure, a time of learning, sharing, friendship, and fun.

The ALPHA course has been attended by more than three million people worldwide and is now taking the Lakes Region by storm. This course is being offered by numerous Christian churches in the area, Protestant and Catholic alike. It is an 11-week program which is held one night a week and includes a dinner, a video presentation, and a time of small group discussion. It all takes place in a non-threatening environment where no question is too simple or too hostile. Some of the topics which ALPHA addresses are: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I overcome evil?

This is the first time that the three churches of Alton have worked together to sponsor a community-wide outreach of this nature. It is an exciting time in our town's history, as well as a time of spiritual awakening which directly coincides with an intense spiritual awareness of people across the United States, especially since September 11. As grief enveloped the nation people from coast to coast have turned to their local churches for comfort and direction.

Many have expressed interest in exploring the Christian faith in a new way by attending ALPHA courses. It's Christianity 101 but at the same time offers renewal and excitement for the believer. Join us to discover the real meaning of life. Why are we here? Where are we headed? These and many other questions will be discussed at our next ALPHA course beginning April 2, 6:30 p.m., at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center. For reservations call 293-7928, 875-5561, or 875-5418.

CAN DO CAMP WITH CAMP CAN CASH!

By Ellie Snell, Christian Conference Center

What a title!!! What on earth does it mean? Very simply — the men of the Bay Church of Alton Bay who meet together on Saturday mornings have volunteered to take all of the aluminum cans we can gather to the metal recycling place nearby. The proceeds from this endeavor will go to Camp Advenchur, the children's camp on Rand Hill Road operated by the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center.

We are raising money to give added scholarships to those in our community who would like to go but perhaps need help to get there. Therefore, we "can do" camp with the cash we raise from cans. If you wish to get in on the fun, please bring your aluminum cans to the campground next time you come by. We will take care of them from there. If you have questions, please call the Conference Center Office at 875-6161. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Club will be sponsoring a "Grandma's Cupboard" Luncheon on Wednesday, April 10, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Conference Center on Route 11 in Alton Bay.

"Crack Ups To Treasures" is the Special Feature with Charles Schuh, Jr., a china restorer from Dover. Special Speaker, Peggy King of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, will present "Pieces of Doubt and Fear Transformed."

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.

Spring grooming tip: A warm bath and a thorough combing will remove much of the winter's undercoat, thus reducing heavy shedding this season.

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ALTON GARDEN CLUB

By Ruth Nickerson, Secretary

The Alton Garden Club will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, April 23, at 1:30 p.m. at the Gilman Library.

Phyllis Buchanan will be in charge of the program which is a video entitled "Chelsea Gardens."

The committee providing refreshments will be Margaret Birdsey and Shirley Copeland, chairpersons, Doris Selfridge, Poncy Sherburne, Pat Merrill, Mary Tucker, and Judith Huss.

WALLACE APPOINTED TO COUNCIL

Richard Wallace of Alton was recently appointed to the new Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families. This is a new county department which is to promote the well being of children and families through comprehensive planning, advocacy efforts, development of new resources, public education, and the increased involvement of citizens.

Wallace, with his knowledge of computer sciences as well as holistic healing processes, brings a different point of view and alternative thinking in how to help kids cope in today's world.

4-H CLUB ANIMAL PACK

By Emily Donahue, Club Reporter

In February we welcomed our new members and installed our officers during a candle light ceremony. Becky Levesque, 4-H Education Program Coordinator, joined us for this truly special evening.

First- and second-year members were given pins to mark the occasion. Our club now has 27 members enrolled. We are looking forward to a productive year!

Our members are beginning sewing projects and photography. A two-part gardening project will be offered in April and May. If you have a talent or interest you would like to share with our club, come join us at our next meetings (April 3 and 17) at the Gilman Library.

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PHYLLIS DRAPER HONORED

Shown above returning to her seat at Town Meeting on March 13 is Phyllis Draper holding her latest honor in her right hand. The plaque awarded by the town's Selectmen read as follows:

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CONCORD CORNER
 By Senator Rob Boyce
 and Representative Laurie Boyce



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In Concord the "midpoint" of the legislative session has now passed; each chamber has finished their own bills and sent those passing on to the other. The next step is for the Senate to work on the House bills and vice versa. There have been several controversial issues this year, not the least of which is the redistricting of the state legislative districts due to the recent census.

The House has taken two very unusual steps in relation to the education funding situation. First they passed a resolution (HCR14) which declares the Supreme Court to have overstepped their authority in the Claremont cases, and then they voted to repeal the statewide property tax. These are now awaiting action in the Senate.

Several bills addressing the aftermath of 9-11 are in the process as well. One would move the Emergency Management Agency from the Governor's Office into the Department of Safety and then restructure it. Another would change the way the state deals with hazardous materials and create a position of Hazardous Materials Incident Response Coordinator in the Fire Marshal's Office. Yet another would deal with bio-terrorism, such as an anthrax or other biological attack.

The economy and its effect on state revenues is not being avoided. While the actual depth and duration of the economic downturn are under debate, there is very little movement to increase state spending. The fiscal picture should be clearer after most businesses file their tax returns in April.

On a personal note as you read this our son Robert should be newly commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines after having completed Officers Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. Needless to say we are very proud.

As always, if you have questions about the legislature or state government, contact one of us or any of your other representatives (Stan Czech, Dave Russell, or Gordon Bartlett). All of our telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed in the Main Street Information Center, which appears on page 13 of this issue. Additionally, Laurie holds "walk-in" office hours in the Alton Town Hall on the first Friday of every month from 9 - 11 a.m.

ACADEMIC FAIR AT ACS

Alton Central School (ACS) will be celebrating its commitment to excellence with its annual Academic Fair for grades preschool through twelve on Thursday, May 2, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

This event is an occasion for the students to showcase and share many of their accomplishments and projects that they have worked on during the past school year. The students will have an opportunity to display work and projects that reflects the student's commitment to excellence and their endeavor to continue to grow as life-long learners.

The school staff would like to welcome all parents and community members to their Academic Fair. They hope you will take this opportunity to see ACS's students shine!

On May 2 join Alton students at their Academic Fair.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Boat Ramp Closure

The Public Boat Ramp will be closed for loading and unloading on Saturday, May 4 from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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YOU HAVE UNTIL APRIL 5



Alton Central School's Elementary Art Department is displaying the work of their students at Town Hall. The exhibit is open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, until April 5.



LRPA-TV LIGHTS UP CHANNEL 26

By Peter Pijoan, LRPA-TV Coordinator

Last month Lakes Region Public Access Television (LRPA-TV) expanded its program capacity by airing program material on cable channel 26 in addition to its previous coverage on channels

24 and 25. Channel 24 continues as the community "Bulletin Board" showing the calendar of events and announcements for non-profit organizations, schools, and government organizations, as well as the program listings for channels 25 and 26.

LRPA-TV is a "PEG" station, which stands for Public, Education, and Government access television. The division of program material between channels 25 and 26 will be public ("P") programs on channel 25, and education ("E") and government ("G") programs on channel 26. Public programs are those produced by LRPA-TV or volunteers from the 11 consortium communities (Alton being one of them), as well as programs produced outside of the LRPA area that are submitted for broadcasting by the public from consortium communities. Education and Government programs are those produced by LRPA-TV, volunteers, or submitted by the public, educational organizations, or governmental bodies from the 11 consortium communities that deal with education subjects or government matters.

As to "when" to look for Alton material on channel 26, it depends on the day of the week. The days Monday through Friday are assigned to two or more consortium communities for material relative to those communities to be aired. At this time Alton shares Thursday and Friday time slots with Laconia. Government (e.g., Selectmen's meetings) and education (e.g., Alton Central School events) videos from Alton will be cablecast on channel 26 on Thursday evening, Friday early and mid-morning, and early Friday afternoon. The showings during the "wee" hours of the morning are intended to be recorded by VCR's for playback at the viewer's convenience.

Remember, public access television is "YOU" — it's **your** video material that **you** produce, and LRPA-TV puts it on the cable for all to see. Be creative! Spring is a great time for creativity. If you have a question, call p-e-t-e-r at 528-3070 or e-mail <access@lrpa.org> (that's "I" as in "lamp").



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ALTON OUTDOORS
 By Jack Miller

FISHING LEADS THE WAY!

Oh, boy! April! This month is one of my favorite months, along with most fishing enthusiasts.

As April starts the spring season it is also the start of the fishing seasons. April 1 is the opening of the "salmon season" in New Hampshire. This is THE month to fish for landlocked salmon in 14 of the state's clean, cold, big lakes. Lake trout and rainbow trout may also be taken this month as they too become more active when the ice leaves the lakes and food becomes more available. These fish will be looking for spawning smelt in the shallows. Live smelt, shiners, or anything "smelly looking" should catch salmon and trout at this time. Once you hook one, hold on! Salmon and rainbows are "leapers" and "jumpers" and often clear the surface of the water by several feet. I have seen the salmon leap onto the ice edge and also had a few that leaped into my canoe.

At the time of this writing (mid-March) it looks like the Big Lake will be ice-free on opening day. The NH Fish and Game Department predicts a good season with salmon from Winnie averaging 20 inches and weighing 3 1/2 pounds. This is the third year in a row with an abundance of longer and fatter salmon. It should be a glorious year for fishing enthusiasts. I've tied up a dozen of my favorite trolling streamers and am working on other patterns. My rods and reels have been cleaned and checked out. I'm ready!

So, where do I catch salmon in Alton? As any other local will tell you: "In the water!" (Think we give away all our "secret spots"?) I will tell you I have had good success all along the bay's shoreline. Any point or underwater drop-off should hold salmon, though "favorite spots" may change this year due to the low water level and earlier smelt spawning run. Good luck! See you out there!

The NH Fish and Game Department is sponsoring a "Learn Fly-Fishing Program" on April 20 and 21. This is for beginner fly fisherpeople. There are only 30 spots available, so if you are interested, call them at 271-3212 by April 12. They are also holding "Discover Wild NH Day" at their department, 2 Hazen Drive in Concord. This is a great family event with 30 exhibitors and all kinds of activities. It's free and runs from 10 a.m until 3 p.m. on April 27. For more info, call 271-3211, or visit <www.wildlife.state.nh.us>.

If one can spare some time from fishing this month, the outdoor person must get ready for the turkey season. There is plenty to do in Alton's Outdoors; so get out there and do it!

HONORS FOR KENNY, SAMPLE, SPENCER

Michael and Kathy Kenny of Alton, the proud parents of Tarsia Marie Kenny, announce that she made the Dean's List at Wheaton College. She will graduate in May with a degree in Environmental Sciences and Minor in French. She plans to work as an environmental chemist in Rhode Island.

Jaime Sample, daughter of Russell and Jean Sample of Alton Bay, was named to the Dean's List with Honors at Lee University for the fall semester. She is a senior and had a GPA of 4.0 which placed her on the distinguished list.

Sarah Spencer, daughter of Linda Monasky of Alton and Michael Spencer of Binghamton, New York, has been named to the Dean's List of Academic Achievement for the fall term at Elmira College in New York. She is majoring in Human Services and Psychology.

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BIG LAKE HALF MARATHON

By Keith Jordan, Race Director

On Saturday, May 4, the Big Lake Half Marathon is coming to Alton/Alton Bay. The 13.1 mile run will start at Alton Central School and continue on Main Street (Route 11), Route 140 to Letter S Road, back to Route 11, through the Bay to 11D, looping back up to Route 11, and finish in Alton Bay near the Community Center.

It will be a unique event. Aid stations will have themes and compete for prizes and gift certificates, and there will be a post-race concert in Alton Bay for everyone. On Friday evening the Alton Fire and Rescue Department will be putting on a pasta dinner for the athletes and the Alton community as a fund raiser. This will be held at the Central Fire Station on Route 140. The race will offer all first class amenities — finisher's medals, post-race massage, great food, etc. It is an opportunity to draw folks into the area, as well as help out Alton economically. The roster is filling up, as are the accommodations. I am finding great community support.

Mark your calendar so you will be alert for runners from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Brief delays on Route 11 through the Bay should be completed by 9:20 a.m. School Street to the Alton Bay Pavilion is the stretch of Route 11 to avoid at that time. For the finishing festivities the north end of the Bay area parking lot and the boat ramp will be closed until 1 p.m. The Alton Bay Community Center will be used for food, massage, and refreshments. At 12:30 p.m. the awards presentation and a concert by the "Holy Cows" will take place on the bandstand. Everyone is encouraged to come.

Volunteers are still needed for aid stations, awarding medals at the finish line, parking cars, etc. To lend a hand call me at 293-8353. See you at the races!

VNA/HOSPICE GERANIUM SALE

By Alice Calvert and Mary Ann Pollini, Co-Chairmen

Spring is here and gardening time is coming. Our local VNA/Hospice is holding its fourth Annual Geranium Sale just in time for Memorial Day. We will be selling red and pink geraniums (supplied by Sunflower Gardens) in 4-inch pots for \$3.50 each. The plants can be picked up on the lawn of the Bank of New Hampshire from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 18. Prepaid orders would be appreciated and will be accepted through April 20. An order form follows or one may be obtained from Alice Calvert (875-2151), Gilman Library, Alton Town Hall (Pat Rockwood), Bank of New Hampshire, or Alton Bay Lakeview Market. We will have some extra geraniums for sale at the bank on the day of the sale/pick up.

You can leave your form and money at the bank. Please support our VNA/Hospice by ordering geraniums now. You can help us and have a lovely garden too! Thank you.

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Name _____	Phone # _____
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# of Pink Geraniums _____ @ \$3.50	\$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____	
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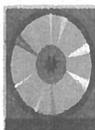
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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

EVENTS

- Sat. March 30 EASTER EGG HUNT, Jones Field, Ages 3 - 8, bad weather, Alton Bay Community Center, 875-0109 for time and age group.
- Mon 1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY
- Wed. 3 4-H CLUB, Animal Pack, Gilman Library, 5 p.m.
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. 5 3RD QUARTER ENDS, Alton Central School
- Sat. 6 COED TRACK & FIELD at Belmont, 10 a.m.
- Sun. 7 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS, 2 a.m. EDT,
Replace Your Smoke-Detector Batteries!
- Mon. 8 BOYS BASEBALL vs. Calvary Christian, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL vs. Calvary Christian, 4 p.m.
- Tue. 9 COED TRACK & FIELD at Gilford Middle HS,
3:30 p.m.
CAREGIVERS OF WOLFEBORO, Library, 4 p.m.,
see story
FRIENDS OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY, Annual meeting
and speaker, Library, 7 p.m., see Checkout
- Wed. 10 CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LUNCH, Conference Center,
11:30 a.m., see story
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Thu. 11 BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC, Pearson Road Community
Center, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
COED TRACK & FIELD at Inter-Lakes, 3:30 p.m.
- Sat. 13 BOYS BASEBALL vs. Lin-Wood Public, 10:30 a.m.
AND 12:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL vs. Lin-Wood Public, 10:30 a.m.
AND 12:30 p.m.
- Mon. 15 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, Library, 6:30 p.m.,
see Checkout
- Tue. 16 BOOK FAIR, Alton Central School, K-8, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
COED TRACK & FIELD at Kingswood Region. 3:30 p.m.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Library, 7:30 p.m., see story
- Wed. 17 BOOK FAIR, Alton Central School, K-8, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
BOYS BASEBALL at Nute Middle HS, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL at Nute Middle HS, 4 p.m.
4-H CLUB, Animal Pack, Gilman Library, 5 p.m.
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Thu. 18 BUDGET COMMITTEE, Organizational Meeting, 7 p.m.,
Town Hall
- Fri. 19 BOYS BASEBALL vs. Pittsfield Middle HS, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL vs. Pittsfield Middle HS, 4 p.m.
- Sat. 20 COED TRACK & FIELD, LGB Invit., Belmont, 10 a.m.
- Mon. 22 SCHOOL VACATION, Alton Central School, until 4/26
- Tue. 23 ALTON GARDEN CLUB, Library, 1:30 p.m., see story
- Wed. 24 BOYS BASEBALL vs. Concord Christian, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL vs. Concord Christian, 4 p.m.
BINGO, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Thu. 25 ASSEMBLE Main Street, American Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Fri. 26 BOYS BASEBALL at Derryfield, 3 p.m. AND 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL at Derryfield, 3 p.m. AND 4:30 p.m.
- Mon. 29 BOYS BASEBALL at Moultonboro Academy, 4 p.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL at Moultonboro Academy, 4 p.m.
- Tue. 30 COED TRACK & FIELD at Sant Bani, 3:30 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.**

CIVIL WAR BUFFS, HELP US OUT

By Pat Rockwood, Gilman Museum

The Gilman Museum is planning to have an exhibit of their Civil War memorabilia for the Open House on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, following the parade and services. The committee is looking for photographs from the Civil War so they can make copies to use in the exhibit. If you have access to any such materials which would be suitable for copying and display, please call me at Town Hall, 875-2161.

BUDGET COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

By Ruth Messier, Chair, Budget Committee

The Budget Committee extends a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the voters who at Town Meeting supported the need for a town Budget Committee. We will do all in our power to honor your faith and confidence in the budgeting process.

There are currently two vacancies on this committee. Anyone who may be interested in serving should contact me or any other member of the Budget Committee. Interested individuals can also attend the next meeting to express their interest in filling a vacancy.

The Budget Committee will hold its organizational meeting Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. Public Input is a regular item on the agenda. The committee welcomes any and all comments or questions from the public.

DOG LICENSES

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

Dog licenses expire on April 30 and are now due for renewal as required by state law. The owner may incur additional costs, such as a civil forfeiture of \$25 plus a late fee of \$1 per month, after May 31.

License fees

Male/Female	\$10.00
Neutered/Spayed	\$ 7.50
1st Animal of Sr. Citizen over 65	\$ 2.00

A current rabies certificate must be presented at the time of licensing (see information below). Please call the Town Clerk's Office 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. if you **no longer** own your dog or have any questions. Our number is 875-2101.

RABIES CLINIC

By Lisa Waterman, Town Clerk

A Rabies Clinic will be held Saturday, April 20, from 12:30 - 2 p.m. at the Alton Central Fire Station on Route 140. New Durham has a time slot of 2:30 - 4 p.m. The cost for the rabies shot is \$8. **Dog licenses** will also be available. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's Office at 875-2101 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m, Monday - Friday.

RINES ROAD PIT REOPENS

Rines Road Pit reopens on April 6 after being closed for the winter months. As usual, it will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

This is the burn pile and stump dump. Only clean wood is accepted, NO paint, stain, varnish, or household trash. Brush is okay up to 5" diameter, less than 5' long. There are fees for stumps, logs, concrete, or asphalt bricks.

Call the Solid Waste Center, 875-5801, if you have any questions. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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 — As of April 6, Sat. and Sun., 8 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- 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., 6:30 p.m., Central Fire Station
- Community Services Program, Sat., 10 a.m. - 12 noon., 875-2273
- Cub Scout Pack 53 — Last Tue., 6:30 p.m., Legion Hall
- Eastern Star — 2nd Tue., when meeting, 875-5211
- 4-H Club, 1st and 3rd Wed., 5 p.m., Gilman Library, 875-5325
- Flying Club — 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., 859-7900
- Friends of the Gilman Library — 2nd Tue. (in season), Library
- Garden Club — 4th Tue. (in season), Congregational Mtg. House
- Happy Hobby Doll Club — 4th Fri., 7 p.m., 364-7413 for directions
- Historical Society — Watch for announcements of programs, Apr. - Oct.; Nov. - Mar., Museum open by request, 569-2629
- Knights of Columbus — 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center
- Lions Club — 1st and 3rd Thu., 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 26 replay following Thursday, 7 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m., Chairman Stephan McMahon,* 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, 524-6536

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

Stephan McMahon, Chairman, 875-6322

Pat Fuller, 875-5546

William Ryan, 875-2112

Don Irvin, 875-2924

James C. Washburn, 364-7413



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LITTER REPORT

By MaryBee Longabaugh

Why do people litter? The trash along our roads certainly does not make it a pleasure to travel along the rural routes in our area.

The report from Prospect Mountain Road came to Main Street in early March. Along a half mile stretch two 30-gallon trash bags were filled. The beer cans were very apparent with Bud leading and Michelob a close second.

The first eight tenths of Alton Mountain Road was recently cleaned up on both sides. Two 30 gallon bags were filled and two others partially filled. The aluminum cans with Bud the most popular and fast food styrofoam, paper cups, and plastic tops were the leaders with glass containers very prevalent.

Anyone else doing trash duty along the road? Want to report your findings? Call 875-5067, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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FICTION

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| Barr, Nevada | Hunting Season |
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| Clancy, T & Stiner, C. | Shadow Warriors |
| DeMille, Nelson | Up Country |
| Evans, Richard Paul | Christmas Box Miracle |
| Graham, Heather | A Season of Miracles |
| Grisham, John | The Summons |
| Inness-Brown, Elizabeth | Burning Marguerite |
| Leonard, Elmore | Tishomingo Blues |
| Perry, Anne | Southampton Row |
| Rendell, Ruth | Adam and Eve and Pinch Me |
| Rice Luanne | Safe Harbor |
| Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor | Conflict of Interest |

NONFICTION

- | | |
|--|--|
| Austin, Miriam | Yoga for Wimps |
| Greene, Bob | Get With the Program! Getting Real |
| Heald, Bruce D. | New Hampshire in the Civil War |
| Ketchell, Robert | Japanese Gardens in a Weekend |
| Monninger, Joseph | A Barn in New England: Making a
Home on Three Acres |
| About Your Weight, Health & Emotional Well Being | |
| Mayo Clinic on Depression | |
| One Nation: America Remembers Sept. 11, 2001 | |
| The 12-Month Gardner: Simple Strategies for Extending Your
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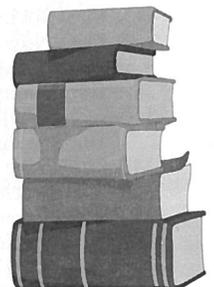
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brown, Sandra | The Switch |
| Clark, Mary Higgins | The Anastasia Syndrome Collection |
| Garwood, Julie | The Wedding |
| Higgins, Jack | The White House Connection |
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IN SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY
By Chief Russ Sample
Alton Fire Department

BURN PERMITS REQUIRED
AS OF MARCH 15

Under state law you must have a permit to burn. The state allows the outside burning of clean wood and brush up to five inches in diameter located in a safe and appropriate location. When receiving the written permit, you may receive a complete guide to safe burning. We have made it possible to apply for a permit Monday through Friday by coming to the Central Fire Station on Route 140. Call 875-0222 to find out our hours. Don't forget that as of March 15 state permits were required for all outside burning.

Onto Other Issues . . .

Recently I reviewed newspaper clippings sent from papers all over New England of a fund-raising swim completed in 1986. Many may remember that day. One was quoted as saying it was my way of encouraging the development of the rescue function within the Alton Fire Rescue Department. It was an endurance swim in memory of my father. I did it to raise funds to obtain the first formal rescue vehicle for the town.

At this year's Town Meeting the Budget Committee recommended reducing the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund request. The money is intended to purchase a combination rescue pumper truck which would replace the one bought in 1986 that is no longer capable of meeting its need. The 1986 unit is overloaded, and it was necessary to relocate it in an outlying station to make room for a second ambulance. It is ironic that the new combination vehicle would replace Engine 5 which was purchased in 1976. At that time it also was questioned, and when the firefighters agreed to raise one third of the cost, it was approved.

Other items of public safety were cut at Town Meeting. You may not have agreed with the amount the department was requesting, but you most likely would if a tragedy impacted you or your neighborhood. We recognize that approval of funds to purchase fire and other department requests takes place within a political climate that is gun shy about what's ahead.

I also feel it is a shame how misinformation affects us all. The School Board stated in a public meeting that the escalating expense of the new SAU office was caused by the Fire Chief's demanding requirements. In actuality I was carrying out the requirements set by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

I share these feelings in order to draw attention to a society that has lost an appreciation for their safety personnel who work on a per call basis so as to hold the line on volunteerism. We are all working to respond to your emergency needs, and we do so on a part-time or call basis.

In Closing . . .

We all thank you for your support at Town Meeting of the forestry utility truck and a rescue tool system. We are reviewing new applicants for membership and encourage each of you who might seek to serve with us to call 875-0222.

DOLL SHOW ONCE AGAIN IN ALTON

By Maureen Parker, Chair, Publicity

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, June 30, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Happy Hobby Doll Club is once again sponsoring its annual summertime doll show and sale. It will be held at the Alton Central School. Admission costs are Adults - \$2 and Children under 12 - \$1. For additional information, send a SASE to Ruth Messier, P. O. Box 994, Alton 03809 or call (603) 875-6750.



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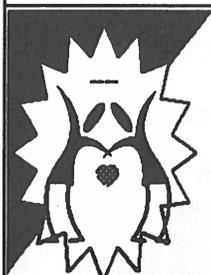
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**STUDENTS CITED FOR HONORS
AND CITIZENSHIP**

The Alton Central School (ACS) has announced the students who have made the Honor Roll and named for Citizenship during the second 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, Taylor Harper, Ethan Henderson, Ashley Herrick, Samantha Hillis, Jason Houghton, Ethan Hunter, Rebecca Krivitsky, Emily Macduff, B.J. Morse, Emelie Morton, Breanna Parandes, Michelle Prior, Matthew Prive, Nicole Perry, Lauren Stearns, Danielle Tidd, Stephanie Waterman, Carter Shelton.

Grade 3 Citizenship: Danielle Beckett, Melissa Brooks, Stephanie Burke, Sarah Clifford, Kelsea Dahood, Ethan Ehler, Hannah Golden, Spencer Goosens, Charles Holt, Emily Jeffrey, Andrew Kim, Kassie Lamper, Andrew Long, Lindsey Malone, Ashley Mann, Stephanie Pryor, Jake Rochette, Falon Rouleau, Gregory Tinkham, Madison Smith, Emily Stone, Brittney Woitowicz.

Grade 4 Citizenship: Sarah Adams, Ashley Barsanti, Scott Brunelle, Allison Cormier, Lindsey Daniels, Joel Dore, Melissa Fortin, Sarah Fraser, Jimmy Goodwin, Kelsey Hopper, Megan Hopper, Brian Jones, Danny Lang, Kelsey Meyerhoff, Lydia Morton, Stephanie Moulton, Brittany O'Neil, Emily Pellowe, Kristen Riendeau, Dack Rouleau, Shabir Shaikh, Aisha Swezey, Kimberly Sykes.

Grade 4 High Honors: Allison Cormier, Stephanie Moulton, Kimberly Sykes.

Grade 4 Honors: Tyler Adabar, Sarah Adams, Ashley Barsanti, Roger Boucher, Scott Brunelle, Zachary Couch, Lindsey Daniels, Joel Dore, Katlyn Farrior, Kaitlyn Fasulo, Melissa Fortin, Sarah Fraser, Kelsey Hopper, Megan Hopper, Mary-Margaret Houghton, Caitlin Hussey, Brian Jones, Kyle Kleeburg, Levi Liedke, Kelsey Meyerhoff, Lydian Mortin, Brittany O'Neil, Emily Pellowe, Edward Rogacki, Dack Rouleau, Aaron Wilkinson.

Grade 5 Citizenship: Vanessa Ainsworth, Casey Beranger, Lyndsay Bishop, Erik Caron, Cory Dudman, Brittany Dwyer, Shannon Eagles, Megan Farrell, Amber Fielding, Samantha Golden, Kim Grant, Colin Hammond, Brendan Hussey, Michael Jensen, Jack LaFreniere, Ashley Lionetta, Vincent Meuse, William MacDuff, Stephanie Roy, Kathy Sykes, Rick Yeaton.

Grade 5 High Honors: Kathleen Sykes.

Grade 5 Honors: Marina Avery, Casey Beranger, Lyndsay Bishop, Erik Caron, Emily Donahue, Cory Dudman, Brittany Dwyer, Shannon Eagles, Megan Farrell, Kimberly Grant, Colin Hammond, Andrea Hillsgrove, Jack LaFreniere, Ashley Lionetta, Vincent Meuse, Ralph Minnick, Thomas Pellowe, Stephanie Roy, Weston Stewart.

Grade 6 Citizenship: Ashley Bailey, Erin Brackley, Tony Castagnaro, Derek Chase, Natasia Drewniak, Courtney Emerson, Emily Folan, Gary Ford, Ryan Gillan, Jessica Harrell, Chelsea Hawkins, Daniel Hopper, Tyler Houghton, Brian Jones, Makina Itchkavich-Levasseur, Jesse Lane, Chris Loprete, Alina Loynd, Karol Mansfield, CJ Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Tricia Perry, Chantel Pearson, Corrine Pearce, Tara Prescott, Wetherley Rouleau, Kaycee Smith, Robyn Shibley, Stephanie Storey, Jason Tanguay, Chad Tenander, Brianna Tidd, Casandra Wainwright, Caitlin Wenzlau, Kelsie Whitney.

Grade 6 High Honors: Tony Castagnaro, Jesse Lane, Amanda Pellowe, Tara Prescott, Wetherley Rouleau, Kaycee Smith, Brianna Tidd, Kelsie Whitney.

Grade 6 Honors: Ashley Bailey, Erin Brackley, Derek Chase, Kelsey Crathern, Meagan DiVito, Courtney Emerson, Gary Ford, Daniel Hopper, Tyler Houghton, Ryan Lougee, Alina Loynd, Karol Mansfield, Chris (CJ) Moulton, Corrine Pearce, Robyn Shibley, Casandra Wainwright, Caitlin Wenzlau.

Grade 7 Citizenship: Jane Farrell, Charlotte French, Kim Hannafin, Ryan Hussey, Caila Kantar, Kelly Main, Melissa Pryor, Sara Scanlon, Suzie Sherwood, Bryce St. Cyr, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Wesley Taggett, Kelsey Tinkham, Ty Tremblay.

Grade 7 High Honors: Jane Farrell, Ryan Hussey, Caila Kantar.

Grade 7 Honors: Bradley Bissell, Ashley Dwyer, Charlotte French, Kimberly Hannafin, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Bryce St. Cyr, Wesley Taggett, Kelsey Tinkham, Ty Tremblay.

Grade 8 Citizenship: Christine Barham, Shannon Cornelissen, Nick DiVito, Chris Frost, Rebecca Golden, Jimmy Grant, Owen Laurion, Jacqueline Piaseczny, Dan Pitman, Amber Richardson, Samantha Smith, Aimee Terravechia, Caitlin Wentworth.

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

Grade 8 Honors: Christine Barham, Allyson Dudman, Ryan Fogell, James Grant, Peter Kaszynski, Daniel Pitman, Patrick Quinn, Amber Richardson, Samantha Smith, Katrina Tidd.

Grade 9 Citizenship: Nathan Alden, Jacob Bemis, Natasha Bickford, Amanda Boudreau, Cory Damm, Kelly Eagles, Anne Farrell, Vanessa Gilbert, Cassandra Golden, Damian Hackett, Heather Hammes, Erin Hannafin, Travis Hillsgrove, Travis Hopper, Elizabeth Husak, Sonya Itchkavich-Levasseur, Christina Jamieson, Brian Kivlehan, Danielle LePouttre, Morgan Locke, Tara Loprete, Whitney Marston, Timothy McManus, Camille Niquette, Travis Parsons, Shayna Randall, David Roberts, Brian Roy, Lyndsey St. Laurent, Kyle Storey, Michael Tidd, Sarah Tinkham.

Grade 9 High Honors: None.

Grade 9 Honors: Amanda Boudreau, Kelly Eagles, Anne Farrell, Vanessa Gilbert, Travis Hopper, Christina Jamieson, Whitney Marston, Brian Roy, Lyndsey St. Laurent.

Grade 10 Citizenship: Michelle Allen-Farrior, Elizabeth Biddle, Lyndsey Caron, Kara Castaldo, Tamara Cornelissen, Elspeth Dana, Carl Dickson, Ryan Donnelly, Amber Johnson, Kristine Kenerson, Lindsay Kenerson, Melissa Kim, Vanessa Lampman, Dylan Laurion, Kyle McAuliffe, Krsity McDaniels, Crista Perkins, Dan Quinn, Meredith Roy, Krista Shibley, Molly Souliere, Ashley Spencer, Laurence Storey, Matt Sydow, Stephanie Tanguay, Isaac Tharpe, Kelsey Yelle.

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

Grade 10 Honors: Tamara Cornelissen, Dylan Laurion, Tonya Prescott, Dan Quinn, Meredith Roy.

Grade 11 Citizenship: Hilary Ballentine, Scott Baumgartner, Katie Brooks, Kendra Brown, Dennis Callahan, Jenn Carr, Millicent Cochran, Jamie Coigley, Ashli Coughlin, Tiffeny Desmarais, Jill Feger, Michael Friedman, Sarah Harper, Stephanie Hillsgrove, Terese Hopper, Kelly Jalbert, Amanda Jones, Siobhan Kivlehan, Sarah Lamothe, Kristen Murray, Matt Ross, Kim Russell, Kelley Scanlon, Zachary Shea, Lindsay Sleeper, David Snell III, Julie St. Sauveur, Amanda Tharpe, Keith Waterman, Erin Wood.

Grade 11 High Honors: Scott Baumgartner.

Grade 11 Honors: Katie Brooks, Dennis Callahan, Jr., Tiffany Desmarais, Jill Feger, Michael Friedman, Sarah Harper, Terese Hopper, Kimberly Russell, Erin Wood.

Grade 12 Citizenship: Kayla Ballentine, Dan Bemis, Scott Blair, Alexia Bomtempo, Megan Brownell, James Cameron, Jessica Chabot, Randi Desmarais, Michael Enright, Shawn Ford, Billy Foxlow, Morgan Fuller, Caleb Gagne, Joseph Gorman, Leanne Kenerson, Mike Kenny, Dana Lang, John McAuliffe, Jon Nicastro, Anthony Nicastro, Jon Owen, Marissa Peterson, Anthony Sanborn, Dave Shibley, Dennis Sweeney, Gina Teolis, Jane Varney, Steven Wood, Jamie Young.

Grade 12 High Honors: Dana Lang.

Grade 12 Honors: David Benedetto, Scott Blair, Alexia Bomtempo, Michael Enright, Joseph Gorman, Anthony Nicastro, Jon Nicastro, Marissa Peterson, Dennis Sweeney, Jane Varney.



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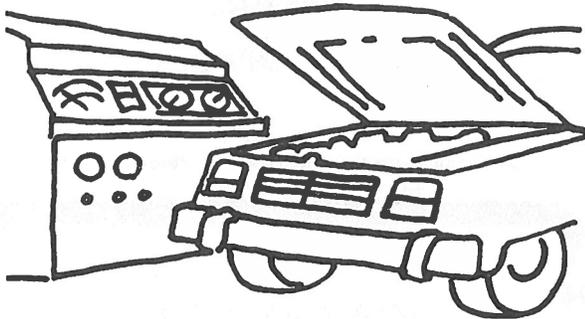
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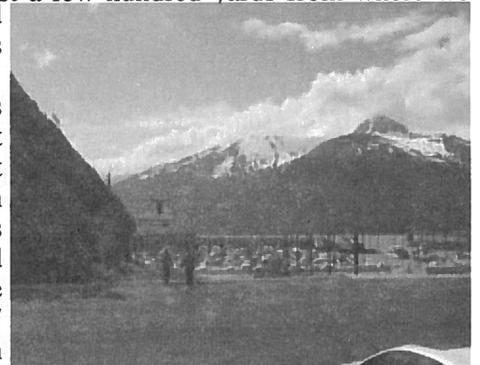
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

What a magnificent drive to Skagway, our first major stop on our 42-day RV caravan to Alaska in the summer of 2000! There were so many lakes and rivers there, with no cottages or condos on them. And mountains! One mountain appeared right after the other and most were snow covered. It seemed so strange in the beginning of July.

Skagway is on the Pacific Ocean - sort of. Actually, it's on an inlet that connects with the ocean. It's also on the Inland Passage, so cruise ships come there all the time. Coming into Skagway, we drove through White Pass, which the men seeking gold in the Klondike had to pass through. It is the lower of two passes in the area, but we just could not imagine how they climbed over these mountains from Skagway to the rivers to take them up to Dawson City where the gold was found. The North West Mounted Police required that every man going through Canada had to bring a year's supply of food and supplies, about a ton - 2,000 pounds! The Mounties would not allow them into Canada unless they had that much. They must have been an unusual kind of person to make that trip.

We camped right on the harbor in Skagway. There were two cruise ships just a few hundred yards from where we were parked, and the view was gorgeous.

Skagway is very "touristy," but fun. It is the oldest incorporated town in Alaska — 1900. Its beginning resulted from the Klondike Gold Rush in 1897 when the population



exploded to about 20,000. Today there are about 800 people living in the town. There are 19 hours of daylight in July and the average temperature is only 67.2.

We went to a show called "Days of '98," which relived the last days of Jefferson "Soapy" Smith, a Skagway con man. It was cute, with lots of singing and dancing. He was an actual person who was killed in a shoot-out in 1898.

We also took a three-hour train ride that went from the center of Skagway to the White Pass Summit. The train climbed 2,865 feet in 20 miles with tour-guide commentary along the way. The tracks followed the trail of 1898 over the pass and it was hard to believe anyone managed it in those days.

The views from the train were spectacular — especially the ones that looked straight down into the valley. Everyone on the left side of the train had the view going up the mountains, and then at the top, as the engine relocated to the other end of the train, everyone had to change seats with those on the right so that they had the view coming down the mountain.

The White Pass and Yukon route was built in 1900 from Skagway to the Yukon by British financing, Canadian contractors, and American engineering — a distance of over 40 miles.

More on our trip in future columns.

You may have questions about our full-time RVing life style. 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.

5TH ANNUAL LAKES REGION SOCCER CLUB

By Peter Clifford

The 2002 spring intramural soccer season will be from May 5 to June 16.

Registration will be held on:

Tuesday, April 2, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Kingswood Youth Center, Main Street, Wolfeboro;

Saturday, April 6, 9 - 11 a.m., Alton Central School

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Kingswood Youth Center, FINAL REGISTRATION.

League fee of \$25 includes registration fee with the NHSA and the USYSA, insurance, referees, and end-of-season medals. Parents are requested to sign up as coaches for the afternoon. The club is hoping to have four teams in each division which will play on half field with small goals. All games will be played Sunday afternoons at Brewster Academy, Wolfeboro.

Division 3 (Grades 3 & 4) 1 - 2 p.m.

Division 2 (Grades 5 & 6) 2 - 3 p.m.

Division 2 (Grades 7 & 8) 3 - 4 p.m.

For further information please contact Melissa Erickson at 520-8603 or me at 875-1533 (day) or 569-6362 (evenings).



HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

By Ken Roberts
Highway Agent



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Days are staying lighter longer, the feeling of spring is in the air, and mud season has begun.

We are working on graveled roads, raking and keeping them as leveled as much as possible. With so many vehicles going over these roads, managing 30 miles is keeping us busy.

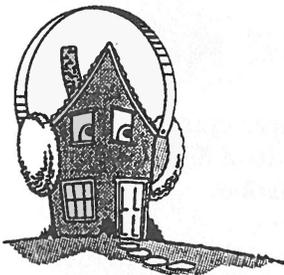
The 6-Ton Limit signs have been posted. Please beware! The pavement has frost coming out that makes it vulnerable to breakage due to the heavy weight. Please call if you are doing a job on the town roads and using a vehicle with a weight over six tons.

I would like to thank Scott Werner from L & C Springs Water Plant on Reed Road off Route 11A, Alton, for the generous donation of drinking water to the Highway Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Alton Fire and Rescue Department. Mr. Werner has also indicated that he is willing to help residents in Alton with drinking water if their well becomes dry. Again, thank you, Mr. Werner for your generous donation and willingness to help the residents in Alton if the water crisis advances further.

This is the time of year that when the snow melts, damage and problems are visible. Please call the Highway Department should you see anything of which we should be made aware. This will help our department make Alton a better place for us all. The number is 875-6808.

The Highway Department says thank you, Alton, for your support at Town Meeting.

Remember, Public Safety Is Our Number #1 Concern!



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THE CHECKOUT DESK

By Holly Brown
Librarian

"HISTORY WRITTEN IN STONE"

It's that time of year again — time for all Friends of the Gilman Library, old and new, to come together in support of our beautiful library. The annual meeting of the Friends will be Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m. in the meeting room at the library. The guest speaker will be Desmond Douglas who will present "History Written in Stone," a program where he will share his collection of rare stones found in this area. All are welcome; admission is free; please join us.

Words alone cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for the Friends. For years this group has given to the library in many ways, i.e., they have 1) played a crucial part in fund raising by holding an annual book and bake sale and by providing book bags and t-shirts for purchase to benefit and promote the library; 2) worked to enhance the beauty and spirit of our library during the holiday season; 3) come together to discuss books, maintain an excellent preschool story hour, and schedule programs for the year; 4) donated time through baking and providing refreshments and/or advertising for programs sponsored by the group; and 5) chosen to support the Friends through a monetary donation.

Being a member of the Friends is a great way to support the library, as well as your community. Would you like to join? It only costs \$2 a year. Remember the old saying — it is so important to take time out of your busy schedule to spend time with friends!

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Monday, April 15, 6:30 p.m., at the library to share their thoughts on *West With the Night* by Beryl Markham. If you would like a copy of the book, please let us know.

VIEWS ON AN ACS FIELD TRIP

By Chris DeFlumeri, ACS Sophomore

My name is Chris DeFlumeri and I am a sophomore at Alton Central School (ACS). On March 5 our English teacher, Ms. Elinor Thorsell, and Ms. Cathy Bond, our Career Coordinator, planned a field trip to MedSource in Laconia for the Class of 2004. Ms. Thorsell and Ms. Bond asked me to write an article about the field trip to tell MainStreet readers what MedSource is, and what was my perception of the trip.

MedSource is a leading provider of medical supplies, devices, and equipment. They provide these medical needs to hospitals for their patients. When we got there, Mr. Mark Feddern showed us some of the things they manufacture, and he actually let us hold and touch them. I thought it was cool for him to let us hold them. He was very good about it because he wanted us to learn and see what kinds of tools and technology there are out there with which we can work. We were putting his work in danger, and it was a risk for him and his company because one of us could have dropped the devices or damaged them. But he trusted us, and trust is expected in a job environment.

After the introduction of the company Mr. Feddern took us on a tour to show and explain to us everything he could. Since it all seemed so serious, the students didn't mess around because it was a working environment. I want to say thank you to Ms. Thorsell and Ms. Bond for taking us on this wonderful trip and also to Mr. Feddern and MedSource for taking us around the company and showing us what a good working environment is really about.



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TO PROTECT AND SERVE
By Detective Glenna Heath
Alton Police Department



WELCOME TO ...

Detective-Corporal Edward Correia, the newest member of the Alton Police Department who joined the ranks in March. Cpl. Correia attended the 58th New Hampshire Police Academy in 1982. The bulk of his career was spent in Dover as a DARE Officer and youth outreach/coordination officer in the Community Services Bureau. Ed will be the SRO at the Alton Central School this September, as well as performing the duties of Division Supervisor for the Support Services Division. Ed is married to his high school sweetheart of 22 years and has a son and daughter.

...AND BEARS, OH MY ...

By MaryBee Longabaugh

It is that time of year again when the bears begin to reappear from hibernation. As snow disappears in the early spring (and this article is being written on March 20 in the middle of a snow storm the likes of which we have not seen in Alton this year), hungry bears start to wake up and leave their winter habitat.

Be aware that the black bear is waking up hungry and the regular bear food is not yet ready. So, where does this bear go? To the bird feeder filled with sunflower seeds that you have forgotten to take down. These animals have a very keen sense of smell, plus an uncanny memory of where the goodies are from the year before.

You need to end your bird feeding by early April, or at least stop for the months of April and May. If you wish to continue, then take your feeders in at night as that is when bears usually visit them. To make life interesting, some bears will visit the feeder during the day so you do need to take the feeder in for two weeks and clean up any seeds that are on the ground. You can consider hanging your feeder above the ground and away from any structure, but from the experience of this writer, that does not deter a determined bear. What I thought was a very strong wind gust that broke the wire and dumped the feeder I have now decided was a very hungry bear, since the evidence shows a yearly return.

Always be sure that you keep your trash and garbage in tight containers so as not to attract the bears and other animals roaming in rural Alton. For good information and the bare facts about our wildlife, you can call the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 271-3211 or visit <www.wildlife.state.nh.us>.

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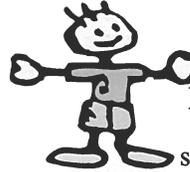
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FOR THE FUN OF IT
By Kellie M. Troendle, CPRP
Recreation Director

DON'T BE FOOLED, APRIL IS FUN

For more information on programs or special events, call 875-0109, or e-mail <altonpnr@worldpath.net>. Register for programs at the Parks and Recreation Department located at the A.V.A.S. Public Park on Route 11.

Pre-School Programs

Programs are designed for children 3 - 5 years of age and are held at the Alton Bay Community Center from 9 - 10:30 a.m. The fee is \$3 per day and programs are limited to eight participants. Please register early.

Games, Games, Games — April 3: Join in the fun as we play cooperative carnival games like the bean bag toss and go bowling. You are sure to learn something new. Snack and craft included. Register by April 1.

Fun At The Beach — April 10: We are ready for summer and want to have fun. We will go fishing in our own wading pool, make a sand craft, and have a picnic snack. April 5 is registration deadline.

Adult Co-Ed Softball League

The Parks and Recreation Department's Co-Ed Adult Softball League will have a team captains meeting to set a season schedule and discuss team rules and regulations on Thursday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Interested teams should contact Parks and Recreation to secure a team slot. Registration fee is \$20 per player which includes a guarantee of 14 games, game balls, umpires for the season and playoffs, and a season-end cookout. All fees, waiver forms, and completed rosters must be turned in at the second captains' meeting on Thursday, May 23. Call 875-0109 to sign up your team to play or to be placed on a list to join a team. The season is scheduled to begin June 10.

Country Line Dancing Lessons

Lessons for adults of all ages are held every Thursday at the Alton Bay Community Center, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Every week learn new dances, meet new people and exercise by dancing. Beginners are welcome. Program fee is \$3 for the season. Lessons will not be held in inclement weather.

Tennis Courts

The Parks and Recreation Department received approval at Town Meeting to reconstruct the town tennis courts. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be placing the project out to bid this month and plans to begin construction in early August. The courts will be closed during the construction process for approximately five to six weeks and will reopen as soon as they are completed.

Thank You To Scott Werner And L & C Springs

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank Scott Werner from L & C Springs in Alton for the donation of bottled spring water for all of our outdoor sports programs and special events, Senior Bingo program, and for our hard-working staff. We appreciate L & C Springs for thinking of our department and our program participants.

Alton Bay Community Center Rental

The Alton Bay Community Center is available for rent for private parties, meetings, and functions. The center has a large meeting room, full kitchen, rest rooms, and a beautiful view of Lake Winnepesaukee. Call 875-0109 for rental information.

Historical Photos

The Parks and Recreation Department is looking for historical photos of the M. S. Mt. Washington boat, Alton Bay, and the Alton Bay Railroad Station. We are planning to copy the photos and display them in frames at the Alton Bay Community Center. If you would like to share your pictures, we will return them after they are copied. Please call Kellie at 875-0109 if you are interested in helping us with our display.

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

1997 FORD CONTOUR, auto transmission, A/C, power door locks, AM/FM cassette, cruise control, antilock brakes, \$3,750. 875-0033.

FIBERGLASS CANOE, Old Town, 17 foot, yellow, \$600 or make offer. 364-6226.

ORBITREK fitness machine, moving must sell, asking \$140; Log Splitter by American, 8hp Kohler, stroke 30," 13 sec cycle, 14T ram, \$700 firm. 875-1322.

CAT CARRIER, \$5; Teddy Bear 2 1/2 feet tall, \$25; TV cart on wheels, \$10; Papasan chair, couch, and matching end table, \$100; Round table, small (25" tall, 29" wide), \$20; Shower seat, \$10; Crutches, \$10; Brass finish floor lamp, \$5; Handmade end table, small, \$5; Chest of drawers, \$20; 7-shelf unit, \$20. Call evenings 875-6119.

FISHING BOOKS AND FLY-TYING BOOKS, new. 346-6226.

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.

ALTON BAY LIFEGUARD POSITION

Part-time, 30 hours per week, June 24 - September 2, 2002. Red Cross Certification required. Applications available at Alton Parks and Recreation Department. EOE.

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**CARD OF THANKS**

We would like to thank the community for their prayers and cards received during our loss of Charlie DeCoff.

/s/The DeCoff Family

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.

April 1 - 5: Mon., Chicken Filet/Gravy; Tue., Italian Sausage or Meatballs; Wed., Creamed Turkey/Broccoli/Cheese; Thu., Sliced Ham or Turkey; Fri., Shepherds Pie.

April 8 - 12: Mon., Salisbury Steak; Tue., Turkey Ala King; Wed., Hot Dog; Thu., Cheese Omelet; Fri., Fish Filet.

April 15 - 19: Mon., Chicken Primavera; Tue., Veal Parmesan/Sauce; Wed., Fish Filet/Lemon; Thu., Stuffed Pork Choppette/Gravy; Fri., Hearty Beef Stew.

April 22 - 26: Mon., Herb Baked Chicken/Gravy; Tue., Baked Ham or Turkey; Wed., American Chop Suey; Thu., Pot Roast/Gravy; Fri., Sliced Turkey/Gravy.

April 29 - May 3: Mon., Italian Sweet Sausage or Meatballs; Tue., Stuffed Veal Roulade; Wed., Chicken Filet/Gravy; Thu., Meat Loaf/Gravy; Fri., Macaroni & Cheese.

IN Main Street FIFTEEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . high school senior Robert Gilmore was selected for the All-State Music Festival Concert Band . . . Connie Quindley's design was selected for the Old Home Week logo . . . Ice-Out occurred at 11:45 a.m. on April 12 . . . Barbara Ciampo was elected president of the Lioness Club . . . Terri Noyes was elected chairman of the School Board . . . Donald Morse was appointed Recreation Director by the Board of Selectmen . . . Thomas Murtagh was elected president of the Lions Club.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . the vacant Alton Bay Inn suffered severe damage in a March two-alarm fire . . . the Alton/Alton Bay Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #11163 celebrated its first anniversary . . . Jaime Lee Sample was honored by the NH House of Representatives for her singing of the National Anthem when the House hosted the President of the United States earlier in 1992 . . . Assistant Librarian Mary Batchelder and her husband departed for Georgia to begin their hike back to NH on the Appalachian Trail . . . Sherman Brown was elected president of the Alton Volunteer Ambulance Service.

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . A budget of 3.4 million was approved at Town Meeting and 4.9 million was approved for the School District . . . Alton residents, Ray Penn and John H. Young, Sr., were honored by the Union Leader for risking their own lives to save others during 1996 . . . the Alton High School Drama group presented Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias* . . . Reuben Wentworth was presented a plaque in recognition of his service to the community upon his retirement from the selectmen . . . Joyce Hopper and Loring Carr were elected to the School Board while William Ryan became the new selectman.

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AND WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

Last month's issue of Main Street ventured where we had never gone before: a "pro and con" article on a purely Alton issue that was controversial. We devoted an unprecedented 20 percent of our March issue on what our editors tried to be a fair representation of both sides of the school bond question that was to be voted upon at the town elections on March 12.

Main Street's Board of Directors now seeks feedback on whether our attempt was successful or not to the community. Were we fair to both sides? And, did we impart information that was helpful to the voters in deciding their ballot? Our readers' reaction to these questions will help guide us on how we handle the next issue of a similar nature that comes before Alton voters.

We now seek our readers guidance in determining what Main Street does when a "pro and con" matter arises again. Won't you *please* take the time to fill in your answers on the coupon below so that we may benefit from your opinion? You can leave the coupon (below) in the Main Street drop box at the Bank of New Hampshire branch on Main Street in Alton or contribute to the cause by putting a 34-cent stamp on an envelope addressed to P.O. Box 210, Alton Bay 03810. Send E-mail replies to <mbelrjtl@earthlink.net> but what your volunteer editors would just as soon do without are phone calls during the dinner hour.

Here's what we'd like very much for you to tell us with respect to our March issue's coverage ...

First, I (we) felt that Main Street's coverage of the school bond issue was (check one):
 Biased in favor of the bond issue ____
 Biased against the bond issue ____
 Reasonably objective ____

Second, Was the information helpful in deciding your vote?:
 Yes ____ No ____

Third, the next time a similar issue comes before Alton voters Main Street should (check one):
 Do the best they can on another "pro and con" article ____
 Just report that a vote will be held, and when/where ____.

Finally, the other advice I 'd like to pass on is ...

[Add extra pages as necessary. We truly want to know your views.]

CAREGIVERS OF WOLFEBORO

Here is another volunteer job for those of you who have some time to offer.

In past issues of this magazine you have read of Caregivers of the Wolfeboro Area. They really need help from Alton for Alton residents. Caregivers will give you a ride to the doctor's office (medical need or treatments), take you shopping, cook a meal, or do some yard work. No personal or physical care is given, just non-emergency needs and at no charge. It is an entirely volunteer organization.

Please call 569-6780 if you can lend a hand, even once in a while. Anyone asking for this service would also use this number. On Tuesday, April 9, at 4 p.m. Shirley Bentley and Jane Quimby will be in the meeting room of the Gilman Library to explain the service, answer your questions, and hopefully sign you up. Anyone with a car can help — bring your little one(s) if need be. You can help someone and make yourself happy too. Caregivers of Wolfeboro is looking for a big turnout on April 9. Please join them!

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