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Main Street

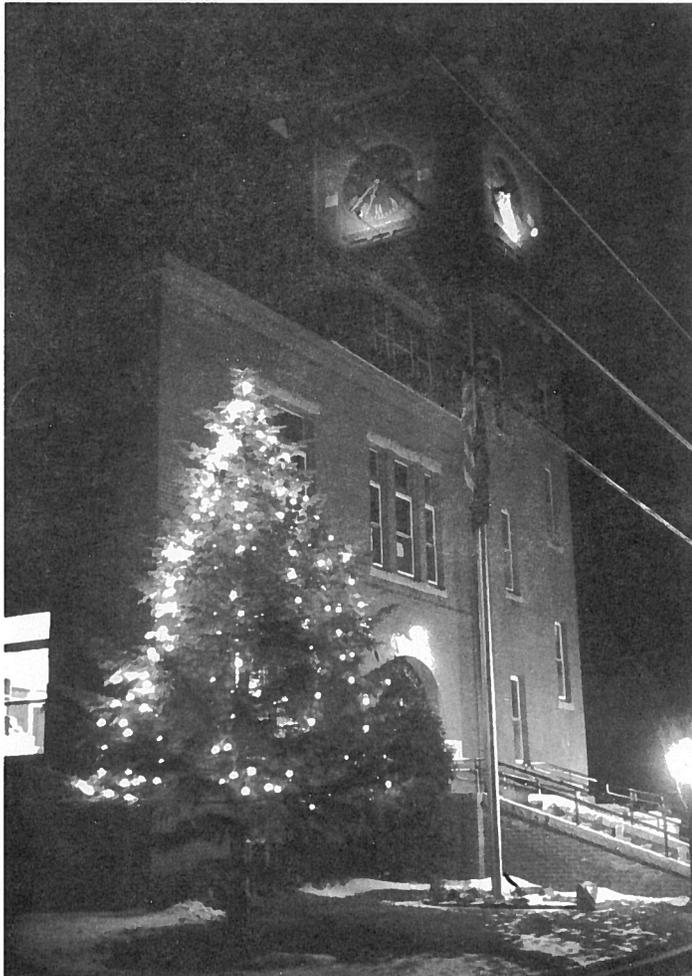
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Alton, New Hampshire - December, 2003

Complimentary

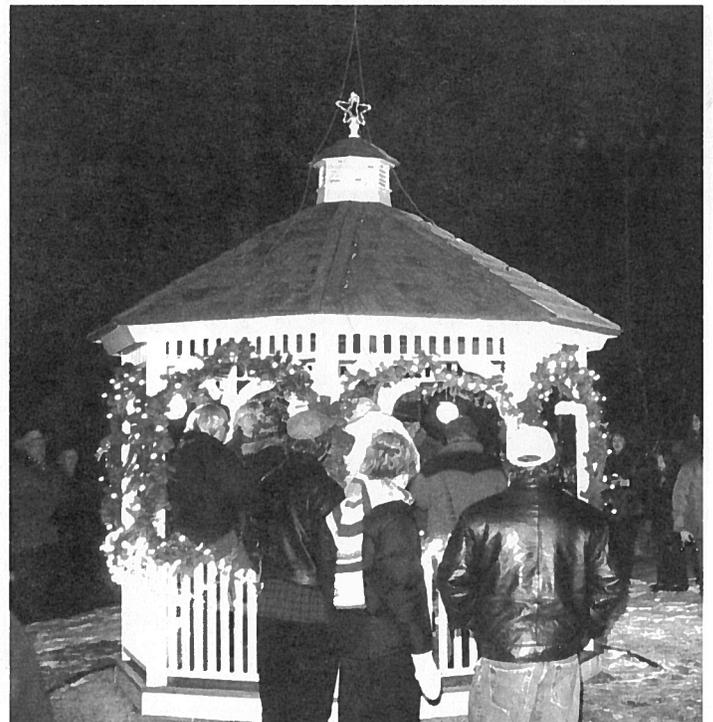
Happy Holidays

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Light-up Night, Saturday, December 6, see page 8 for schedule of events

Photos courtesy Main Street Archives





Main Street

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THANKS FROM "OPERATION BLESSINGS" By Paulette Wentworth, Chairperson

Operation blessings was established 8 years ago to provide needy families of Alton with Thanksgiving food baskets. These baskets contain a turkey and all the "fixins" for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We also provide senior citizens with a fruit basket for their enjoyment.

In 2003 we were able to help as many as 45 families and 12 senior citizens. I am still amazed at the generosity of the townfolks of Alton. We had 32 contributions this year.

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and the time and effort that everyone put into this special project. Thank you to the drivers for delivering these baskets. Your assistance was again a big help and greatly appreciated. Hope to see you next year for another successful endeavor.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, TROOP 53 By Jeff St. Cyr, Patrol Leader

Troop 53 has been very busy the last two months. In October the scouts held their Fall Court of Honor at the Community Church of Alton. Several scouts received rank promotions. Also, scouts from the troop who attended the annual summer camp received the merit badges they earned. Approximately 35 merit badges were presented in all. This past summer the troop traveled to Camp Roosevelt in East Eddington, Maine for their annual summer camp. Congratulations to all who received rank promotions and merit badges.

Also in October, the troop had their Youth Leadership elections, which consists of voting for Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. The new Senior Patrol Leader elected is Life Scout Ben Berry of New Durham. The Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, which is appointed by the SPL, is 1st Class Scout Jonathan Yelle of Alton. The two Patrol Leaders that were elected are Life Scout Jeff St. Cyr of Alton and Life Scout Zach Porter of New Durham. There are also other positions that are needed for a troop to function. The Quartermaster is 1st Class Scout Jordan Yelle of Alton, the Scribe is 2nd Class Scout Zach Whissel of Alton, and the Troop Instructor is Life Scout Josh O'Neil.

The Troop would like to thank all the people in Alton and New Durham who purchased popcorn during our Annual Popcorn Sales Fund Raiser. The troop sold over \$1000.00 of popcorn. The proceeds from the popcorn sales will go to support upcoming troop activities. Thanks are in order for all the people who donated canned goods or money on Halloween night to the start of the troop's Scouting For Food Drive in front of McGrath's Market. Thank you McGrath's for letting us set up a collection table in front of the store.

Any boys in the 6th grade through age 18 are welcome to join Troop 53. We meet Wednesday nights at the Alton Fire Station from 7-830PM. Stop by and check us out.



Jean M. Stone

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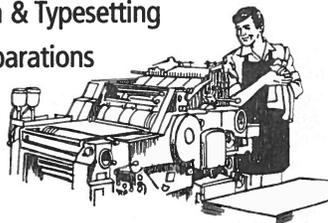
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ALTON COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTIVITIES DECEMBER

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

- Mon 1 Chess, 3-4pm, ACS Cafeteria
 Tue 2 Mock Trial, 3-4pm, ACS HS Library
 Sewing, 3-4pm, ACS Family Consumer Sciences
 Thu 4 Sim City, 3-4:30pm, ACS Mod. 1
 Fri 5 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-9pm, CCOA
 Sun 7 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 Mon 8 Chess, 3-4pm, ACS Cafeteria
 Tue 9 Mock Trial, 3-4 pm, ACS HS Library
 Sewing, 3-4pm, ACS Family Consumer Sciences
 Thu 11 Sim City, 3-4:30pm, ACS Mod. 1
 Fri 12 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-9pm, CCOA
 Sun 14 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 Tue 16 Mock Trial, 3-4pm, ACS HS Library
 Sewing, 3-4pm, ACS Family Consumer Sciences
 Thu 18 Sim City, 3-4:30pm, ACS Mod. 1
 Fri 19 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-9pm, CCOA
 Sun 21 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA.
 Tue 23 Mock Trial, 3-4pm, ACS HS Library
 Sewing, 3-4pm, ACS Family Consumer Sciences
 Sun 28 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 CCOA events open to all community youth.

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

TREE OF MEMORIES

The Holiday Season is time to remember those who have been special in our lives. For the eighth year VNA/Hospice is sponsoring a remembrance gathering. Porcelain doves with a loved ones name will be hung on a tree outside the Town Hall. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 13th at 1pm inside the Town Hall. After music and remarks, each participant may hang their dove on the tree outside.

Purchasing a dove will help support our Hospice program while remembering a loved one. Those who wish to purchase a dove may contact VNA/Hospice at 569-2729 or Alice Calvert at 875-2151. Doves will be available the day of the ceremony as well.



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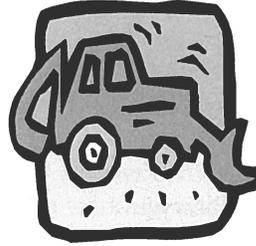
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HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS By Ken Roberts Highway Agent



Winter is here, the wood stoves feel good!
Old Wolfeboro Road has been paved between Route 11, Main Street and Route 28. Sidewalks have been installed. A section of Dudley Road has been paved, thank you for your patience during this time.

We have been out cold patching and cleaning culverts & ditching, grading and raking as usual, as well as chipping dead tree limbs up on Rand Hill Road and Gilman's Corner.

We are getting ready for winter by putting plows and sanders on the trucks and breaking out the studded tires.

Please have a safe winter, and remember public safety is our number one concern

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA

Tuesday, December 9, 2003
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Please join us for delicious home-baked goods, coffee, tea, and punch, and holiday music.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL!



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Bruce Waterman

IN Main Street FIFTEEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Major additions to the Alton Central School were dedicated to four people: Music and Art to the late Laurence Bucher, a former teacher, Physical Education to Dan Francis, a former student, Elementary Resource Center to Mary Batchelder and the Science Center to Ted Bense, a Math and Chemistry teacher... A group of students headed by Lori Boyce have formed a chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD)... Ted Cole was one of ten people in New Hampshire to receive the annual Municipal Association's Volunteer Award. He was cited especially for his outstanding work with planning and implementation of the recycling program and the new facility itself...

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . The Gilman Library unveiled it's proposed expansion plans which almost doubles the size of the present facility... Alton Central School and the Alton/Alton Bay Chamber of Commerce received a Partnership Achievement award from the Governor. They created a program of work /study with students and local businesses...Edna Twombly and her sister, Isabel Fowler, were guests of the pilot of the Space Shuttle, Columbia, when it was launched. The pilot, Lt.Col. Richard Searfoss, was a student in Miss Twombly's Biology class in Portsmouth...

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . December 10th was Penny Jones Day at Alton Town Hall honoring her at a reception and thanking her for twenty-five years as Alton's Town Clerk...After twenty-nine years in the U.S. Postal Service, Bob Witham has made his last run on the route. He Started as substitute carrier in 1969 and became full time carrier in 1975. He and his wife, Kay, plan to spend some time in Florida and the rest of the year here at home... After five terms as Alton's Representative in the New Hampshire House, Alice Ziegra Calvert has chosen not to run...Dr Denise Merritt is again in independent practice in Alton. She was previously affiliated with the Laconia Clinic. Judy Cole, ARNP, (Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner) has been added to the staff.

COMMUNITY CHURCH HOSTS CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Community Church of Alton, Church Street, will be hosting the annual Community Christmas dinner on December 20 at 1pm. This is open to families and individuals who will be spending the Holidays by themselves. Please call 875-5561 or 875-2272 for reservations or if you would need a ride or dinner delivered.

VNA BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS

The VNA-Hospice of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity will hold be holding six blood pressure clinics in December. The Alton Clinic will be held on Thursday, December 11th from 10:30am to noon at the Pearson Road Community Center.

Call the VNA-Hospice for locations of other clinics, at 1-888-242-0655.



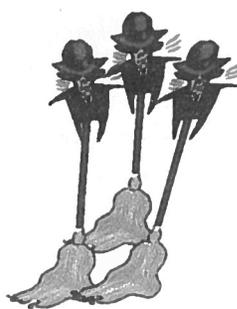
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**ALTON COMMUNITY VISIONS TEAM (ACVT)
AN INVITATION TO JOIN WITH US
By Dick Wallace**

This Team started several months ago as a result of the Alton Community Forum held a year ago to begin addressing the five (5) primary needs of the Community that were identified at the Forum. These needs included Programming and Non-school Activities For Youth, Parenting Education, Transportation, a Community Center and Communication/Cooperation/Coordination of Community Needs. The Team Board meets once a month. The current Board members are Pat Fuller (chairperson), Tamera Cornelissen, Russ Holden, Kellie Troendle and Dick Wallace.

The ACVT adopted four (4) operating guidelines:

- Invite community perceptions of their needs and maintain communications with the community
- Review, evaluate and prioritize community needs
- Set-up, coordinate and supervise sub-committees as required to implement ACVT initiatives
- Assure successful completion of ACVT initiatives

The ACVT Team hopes to broaden its volunteer Board by adding several people from our community who are interested in our work to provide an environment in Alton where children and families can live safely with dignity and respect. We also hope to identify several people we can call on to participate on sub-committees we initiate to accomplish our goals. This quotation probably says it all: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Please take a moment to write a letter to us identifying yourself, the specific talents, training, interests and expertise you would bring to our Board and/or sub-committees. We ask you to also include a short statement about what you hope to accomplish by joining with us. Your letter should be mailed to Pat Fuller, 92 Youngtown Rd. Alton NH 03809.

For additional information or questions please call or e-mail Pat Fuller 875-5546; spindrft@worldpath.net or Dick Wallace 875-8221; pilotrcw@worldpath.net. Thank you for your time and interest in our community work.

**College Admissions/Financial Aid Workshop
Date Correction**

The guidance office of Alton Central School has planned a College Admissions/Financial Aid Workshop on **Tuesday, December 2, 2003** in the Alton Central High School Library. The program is planned for juniors and seniors and their parents. However, all interested students, parents, and community members are invited to attend. Following is a schedule for the program:

College Admissions Process, 6:30 - by Mrs. Marilyn St. Cyr, Guidance Director

Financial Aid Workshop, 7:30 - by Mrs. Beth Cilley, University of New Hampshire, Financial Aid Administrator

Please feel free to attend one or both sessions. If you have any questions, please call the guidance office at 875-0382.

**ALTONS' BOOK CHAT
By Debra Laurion**

At our November meeting we discussed 'Cold Mountain' by Charles Fraizer. This book was set in the Civil War era and it focused on the hardships encountered by wives whose husbands were fighting in the war.

Our next meeting will be December 8th at 6:30pm. The book we will be discussing is 'The Devil's Teardrop' by Jeffrey Deaver. Please pick up a copy at the library if you would like to attend. Please note this is our annual holiday gathering which will be held at Deb Laurions. Please call 875-5488 for directions.

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ANNUAL
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The annual Christmas Party will be held December 13th, at 1pm. Santa will be there to hear all Christmas wishes from children from infant to 12 years old. Treats and gifts for all!



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ALTON OUTDOORS
By Jack Miller

I start off this month with an apology to Main Street readers. Last month I quoted the wrong dates for the deer hunting muzzleloader and firearms seasons. I looked in the 2002-2003 regulations book instead of the 2003-2004 regulations book. It changes each September. Be sure you, too, are looking at the updated issue of the regulations. One mistake in 13 years isn't too bad, is it? Again, I apologize for any confusion this caused.

December 7th ends the firearms deer and bear season in Alton's WMU J2 area. Take note that the bear hunting season in the Northern part of the state was closed November 1st in WMU's A, B, C2, D1 and D2. This emergency closure was needed since by October 23, the take was already double the past 5 year average. This higher than average harvest was mainly caused by a poor mast crop (acorns, beech nuts). Bear needed to travel further than normal and feed closer to agricultural areas, which exposed them more to hunters and automobiles.

December 31st ends the small game season for gray squirrel, pheasant and ruffed grouse. There are lots of gray squirrels in the Alton area which provide a challenge with a 22 rifle. Hunting squirrels is also a good way to introduce a young person to hunting. They make a tasty stew! Having jumped a few "partridge" while deer hunting, I may try to go after them these last few weeks with a shotgun in hand. Ruffed grouse are one of the tastiest birds in the New England area. If you are lucky, you might bag one.

December can be a month to get ready for the ice fishing season which generally starts at ice-in in January. Think of the outdoor person when holiday shopping; new equipment, maps, warm and/or waterproof clothing, footwear, etc. is always appreciated.

See you in Alton's Outdoors next year.



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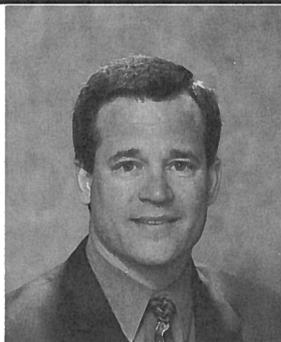
**LAKES REGION CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S
GROUP DECEMBER MEETING**

By Karen Poor

"Searching for the Brass Ring" will be the theme for the December 10th meeting of the Lakes Region Christian Women's Group. A Continental Breakfast will be held at 10am at Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant in Meredith, at a cost of \$8.00.

Special speaker will be Nancy Williams of Salem, NH, who will share her story of the elusive Brass Ring with us. The Special Feature of the day will be Linda Littlefield of Moultonborough, NH, who will share her craft of hand made cards and soap. Child care is provided at Calvary Bible Church, 6 St. James Street, Meredith. Reservations are needed. In the Alton area call Melissa at 776-2224, and in the Gilford area, call Faith at 293-8073. The Lakes Region Christian Women's Group has no formal membership or dues required. It is open to all ladies in our area and our meetings are finished by 11:30am. If you are new to the area or looking for a new avenue of interests, please call the above phone numbers for information. We're looking forward to having you there.

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

Alton Parks and Recreation: Creating Community Through
People, Parks and Programs

**Ho-Ho-Ho
Holiday Senior Bingo**

Join fellow seniors and play novelty Bingo games sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. Bingo will be held on Friday, December 12, 2003 at the Pearson Road Community Center from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Stop by for an afternoon of Holiday themed fun. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded for all games. Program is free to all Alton seniors.

Country Line Dancing Lessons

Country Line Dancing Lessons are held on Thursdays at the Alton Bay Community Center from 1:30pm-3:30pm. Learn a new dance every week and practice your favorite line dances in an organized, group setting. Bring your dancing shoes and water bottle. Line Dancing is a great social experience and program to increase balance, coordination and cardio exercise. Classes will end on December 18, 2003 for the winter season and will resume next spring.

**Yuletide in Alton
Light Up Night**

The Town of Alton is sponsoring its annual "Light Up Night" on Saturday, December 6, 2003 from 5:00pm-7:00pm in downtown Alton. Everyone is welcome to join community members in the celebration of the holiday season. Events include: visit with Santa and children's craft at the Town Hall; Open Houses at the Town Hall, Gilman Museum, Community Church of Alton, Bear Paw Gallery and Edward Jones Investments. Refreshments will be served at stops along the way to the tree lighting event.

Town Hall- The Community Youth Activities group is sponsoring a free special holiday activity at the Alton Town Hall for children in the second floor auditorium. Personalize a holiday ornament with your initial to hang on your tree or give the ornament as a holiday gift, also take home a package of reindeer food to feed Santa's reindeer on Christmas Eve.

On the first floor of the Town Hall stop by and visit with Santa and receive a special treat. While you are at the Town Hall check out the Nutcracker Display in the glass case, 5:00pm-6:45pm.

Gilman Museum- View the holiday exhibit "Toys, Toys, Toys" and see the different types of toys in the Museum collection. Experience a Victorian Alton surrounded by objects from the past and learn something new about the Town you live in. Hot cocoa and goodies will be served, 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Community Church of Alton, Church Street building- Stop by for warm cider and holiday cookies, sing along with the carolers and see the amazing "Paper Village" on display built by Reverend Bolster, 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Edward Jones Investments- Open House at this new community business including refreshments and prizes, 4:00pm-8:00pm.

Bear Paw Gallery- Open House and your chance to view rustic furniture and machine quilts, 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Tree Lighting- The Annual Tree Lighting ceremony sponsored by the Alton Parks and Recreation Department and the holiday caroling led by the Community Church of Alton will be held at Ginny Douglas Park at 7:00pm. Join in this festive, small-town, New England tradition for the celebration of the holidays- it's a true community event.

All activities are free and all ages are invited to attend. For more information please contact the Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

10,000 Steps to a Healthier Life

In June 2002 President George W. Bush announced a fitness campaign encouraging Americans to exercise and be more active. One way to add exercise and fitness into your lifestyle is through walking. Tracking steps walked with a pedometer is a great tool to see how many steps you walk per day and will assist you toward the goal of walking more and being more fit. How many steps should you walk? The average person walks 3,500-5,000 steps per day. The recommendation for individuals to accumulate 10,000 steps per day correlates with the Surgeon General's recommendation of 30 minutes of physical activity daily for most days a week. A reasonable way to increase your activity level would be to add 500-1,000 steps to your daily total on a weekly basis (park your car further away from the building, take stairs instead of the elevator, walk during your lunch break, walk on a treadmill). Research shows that for the average person 10,000 steps is approximately 300 calories or 3 miles. Health benefits of exercise include reduced stress, weight loss, and decreasing obesity related diseases such as coronary disease and diabetes. It is advisable to check with your physician prior to beginning a new program of physical activity. Pedometers can be purchased at your local retail store for under \$10.00.

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TOWN HALL NOTES

By E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator

Our thanks to Operation Blessings, who make sure needy individuals and families are remembered at Thanksgiving with dinners and fruit baskets. We appreciate all the volunteers who helped to co-ordinate this effort. This year 55 families were helped. We thank all of you who made donations to this worthy cause.

The Selectmen's Office is now collecting donations for Mrs Santa Fund. These may be dropped off at the Town Hall Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30. If you are aware of any families who are in need, please contact Pat at the Town Hall 875-2161.

Parks & Recreation is sponsoring the annual Light Up Night on December 6th, everyone is invited to enjoy the downtown events that will take place between 5 and 7 PM. Exact schedules of activities are listed elsewhere in this publication by the Parks and Recreation Director or you may call 875-0109 for more information.

The VNA Hospice Tree of Memories ceremony will be held at the Town Hall on December 13th beginning at 1PM.

Our staff at the Town Hall continues to work on E911 implementation. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns at 875-0207. Your calls will be returned.

Tax bills have been mailed, if you did not receive your bill please contact the Tax Collector at 875-2171.

The Selectmen's Meetings are broadcasted on LRPA-TV. We appreciate the efforts of Greg Fuller who videotapes these meetings and Peter Pijoan and Bob Longabaugh who ensure all the video equipment is in working order.

ALTON'S DANIEL MOULTON DEPLOYED

By Barbara Moulton

Specialist Daniel Moulton of the 501st Airborne, U.S. Army, based at Fort Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska, was recently deployed with his unit to Afghanistan for a six-months tour of duty. They will be joining the 10th Mountain Division, already assigned to the area, until May 2004.

Dan attended Alton Central School and is a 2001 graduate of St. Johnsbury Academy in St. Johnsbury, VT. He is the son of Stanley and Barbara Moulton of Route 140, Alton.

His overseas mailing address is:

Moulton, Daniel, Spc.,
Operation Enduring Freedom
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HALLELUJAH! MESSIAH RETURNS TO WOLFEBORO

The Clearlakes Chorale of Wolfeboro will present George Frideric Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah* on Saturday, December 13th at 8pm at the KRHS Auditorium.

This season's performance will include all 21 pieces in the first part of the oratorio, traditionally known as the "Christmas section," as well as nine additional choruses including of course the glorious "*Hallelujah*" and the soaring "*Amen*."

Tickets are available now at Black's or Stay Tuned in Wolfeboro, or from any Clearlakes Chorale member. For information, e-mail andy_campbell@brewsteracademy.org.

2000 years later, Christianity's biggest competition is still the Lions.



Before you sit down for an afternoon with the Lions, Bears, Dolphins, Rams, Cowboys, or Patriots, come spend an hour with some very nice Christians in the love, worship, and fellowship of Jesus Christ.

The Christian Churches of Alton

The Bay Church ~ The Community Church ~ St. Joan of Arc

(see Information Center for worship times)

FIRE LINES

By Al Johnson, Fire Chief

The month of October was a very busy time for the Fire Department. We have expended 804 hours of service. These hours include fire training, building and wood stove inspections, Firefighter Level 2 classes at the Fire Academy, Risk Watch Training at the Alton Central School, Truck Committee meetings, Forestry Training, critique of the Alton Bay Conference Center building fires, EMS Training, and CPR Recertification. The Department responded to 32 medical calls, 19 fire calls, 2 motor vehicle accidents and 3 service calls.

We are coming into the Holiday season and the department members wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Please be careful when installing holiday decorations. Be sure to keep your Christmas tree well watered, turn off your tree lights when not in use, and most importantly, **CHECK YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS!** The Fire & Rescue Department still has smoke detectors at the Alton Central Station for anyone that needs them.

The Department is still looking for new members in the West and East Alton area; we have received three new applications for Central Station.

Reminder: Fire Permits are required for any outside burning and may be obtained at the Central Fire Station, which is located at 65 Frank Gilman Highway. Per State Law Rules and Regulations contained in RSA 227-L, burning is allowed after 5pm only or during rain. Permits issued during rain are void if the rain stops and you must extinguish your fire at that time. Call 875-0222 for more information.

DATES AND DEADLINES

By Lisa Waterman, Alton Town Clerk

2004 will be a very busy election year. Here are some important dates and deadlines to remember.

1. December 10, 2003 is the last day for the Selectmen to accept petitions to amend Zoning Ordinances.
2. The filing period for anyone interested in a Town Office is January 21-30, 2004. A list of the vacancies will be in the January issue of Main Street.
3. The Supervisors of the Checklist will meet Tuesday, January 20th between the hours of 7:00 and 7:30pm at the Town Hall to accept new voter registrations.
4. The Presidential Primary is January 27, 2004. The election is held at the Fire Station on Route 140 between the hours of 7:00am and 7:00pm.
5. February 3, 2004 is the last day to petition Selectmen for a warrant article.
6. The last day for the Town Clerk to accept new voter registrations for the Town Election is February 27th. The Supervisors of the Checklist will be meeting February 28, 2004 between 11:00 and 11:30am.
7. The town election will be held on Tuesday, March 9th with the Annual Town Meeting the following night. Absentee ballot applications are available at the Town Clerks office for the town and school elections.
8. It's also time to renew your Aquatherm permits. The cost is 50 cents and the permit will expire July 1, 2004

Happy Holidays!!!

Jason



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT By Donald E. Parks

On November 13, 2003, the New Hampshire Department of Education released the names of 140 schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind legislation. A whole district is determined to not have made Adequate Yearly Progress if a single segment of the student population does not pass the adequacy mark on the third, sixth, and tenth grade NHEIAP tests in Math and English Language Arts. Of the 140 schools mentioned, 110 went on the list because they did not make Adequate Yearly Progress for their special education population. Alton had eleven (11) special education students who took the English Language Arts tests in Grade 3 and 6. Two of the students met the adequacy standard and two did not. For this reason, the whole school is classified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress. The following chart shows what the State Performance target is and where Alton students scored.

English Language Arts
Grades 3 & 6,
Performance Target
60% scoring at basic or above
Alton
81% scoring at basic or above

Math
Grades 3 & 6
Performance Target
64% scoring at basic or above
Alton
83% scoring at basic or above

English Language Arts
Grade 10
Performance Target
70% scoring at basic or above
Alton
71% scoring at basic or above

Math
Grade 10
Performance Target
52% scoring at basic or above
Alton
66% scoring at basic or above

From a quick analysis of the chart, it is clear that Alton students scored considerably above the State Performance Target in all areas except Grade 10 English Language. In addition, Alton's attendance ratio (96.1%) and

graduate rate (84.2%) were above the State Performance Targets of 90% and 75% respectively.

I find it ironic that a whole school system is classified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress when two students who have a reading disability cannot pass a reading test. Is this fair to the students who are expected to pass a test when they have a disability that prevents them from reading?

Is this fair to classify a whole district as not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress when its students are ranked in the top three in combined scores for Math and English Language Arts in Grades 3, 6 and 10 compared to other schools in a study done by the Rochester Times? What are your thoughts?

ALTON YOUTH LEAGUE NEWS Lisa Jones, AYL Secretary

The Alton Youth League had a very successful 2003 season. Without the volunteers and sponsors, the league would not run as smoothly – a huge thank you to all of you! Thanks also go out to Rick Sykes for his donation of time and materials to build our new batting cage and to Kathi Hopper for making the yard sale an enormous success.

Congratulations to two minor league girls' softball teams, the American Legion Royals who took first place in the 2003 Suncook Valley Softball Tournament and the Blake Equipment Dodgers who took second.

The AYL Board has already had a meeting to get the ball rolling for the 2004 season. The public is welcomed to attend the meetings. If you would like to see how the league is run, please join us. The board is always looking for new ideas for fundraisers. The next meeting will be held downstairs in the Gilman Library on Sunday, December 7 at 5pm.

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Clubs and Services

Newborn/Maternal Home Visits: Community Health & Hospice Young Family Program nurses provide free home visits for pregnant women who are Medicaid-eligible and also offer a free visit by a Registered Nurse to any parent of a newborn in the greater Lakes Region. The program teaches infant care, what to expect in their child's growth and development, and parenting skills. For more information, contact the Young Family Program at Community Health & Hospice at (603) 524-8444.

Shots For Tots, Teens, and In-Betweens: provides immunizations for children to age 19. For dates and location, contact the Young Family Program at Community Health & Hospice at (603) 524-8444.

"Caring Caregivers" Support Group: a support group for caregivers of the memory-impaired and others in long term caregiving situations. The day group generally meets on the first and third Monday of the month from 10:00 to 11:30am. The evening group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8pm. Regular meetings are held at Community Health & Hospice, 780 North Main Street, Laconia. Please contact Pat Marceau at CH&H (524-8444, ext. 343) for additional information.

Community Health & Hospice welcomes volunteers and provides training in all programs. For more information on volunteer opportunities please contact Bev Nelson, Volunteer Coordinator, at Community Health & Hospice, 780 N. Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246 or call (603) 524-4339, ext. 348 or (toll-free) (800) 244-8549 in New Hampshire.

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tues. 2	College Admissions/Financial Aid Workshops, ACS Library, 6:30pm
Sat. 6	Light Up Night, Alton Downtown, 5-7pm
Sun. 7	Alton Youth League Meeting, Gilman Library, 5pm
Mon. 8	Alton's Book Chat, 'The Devil's Teardrop', Laurion home, 6:30pm
Tues. 9	Holiday Tea, Gilman Library, 2-4pm
Wed. 10	Lakes Region Christian Women's Group Mtg, 10am, Hart's Turkey Farm
Thurs. 11	VNA Blood Pressure Clinic, Pearson Road Community Center, 10:30am-noon
Sat. 13	Amer. Legion Children's Christmas Party, Legion Hall, 1-3pm
Sat. 13	Tree of Memories Ceremony, Town Hall, 1pm
Sat. 13	Clearlakes Choral Society performance of Messiah, 8pm, Kingswood Regional HS.
Sun. 14	Lions Breakfast & Christmas pictures, American Legion, 8am-noon
Sat. 20	Community Church Annual Community Christmas Dinner, 1pm, Community Church
Wed. 31	American Legion New Years Eve Party, American Legion Hall

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

Overeaters Anonymous: Starting July 10, Overeaters Anonymous (OA) will meet weekly on Thursdays at the Alton Bay Community Center on Route 11 from 5:30-6:30 pm. Contact person: Nancy - 875-5875. All are welcome.

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

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

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

ORGANIZATIONS:

Alcoholics Anonymous -- Tue., 8 p.m., Alton Bay Comm. Ctr.
Alton Community Services Prog., Sat., 10 a.m. - 12 noon., 875-2273
Alton Masonic Lodge #75 -- 2nd Thu. except July & Aug., 875-7448
American Legion -- 2nd Mon., 8:30 p.m., Legion Hall, Rte 28
American Legion Auxiliary -- 2nd Mon., 6:30 p.m., Legion Hall
American Legion Jr. Auxiliary -- 1st Wed., 6:30 p.m., Legion Hall
American Legion Family -- 2nd Monday 7:30pm, Legion Hall
Boy Scout Troop 53 -- Wed., 6:30 p.m., Central Fire Station
Cub Scout Pack 53 -- Last Wed., 7 p.m., Legion Hall
4-H Club, see website <www.alton4H.org>
Flying Club -- 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m., 859-7900
Friends of the Gilman Library -- 2nd Tue. (in season), Library
Garden Club -- 4th Tue. (in season), Congregational Mtg. House
Happy Hobby Doll Club -- 4th Fri., 7 p.m., 364-7413 for directions
Historical Society -- Watch for announcements of programs, Apr. - Oct.; Nov. - Mar., Museum open by request, 569-2629
Knights of Columbus -- 1st Wed., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center
Lions Club -- 1st and 3rd Thu., The American Legion, 6:30 p.m.
Moms In Touch -- Tue., 12:30 p.m., 875-2866
Mt. Major Snowmobile Club -- 2nd Tue., 7 p.m., Sr. Center, 875-3858 or <info@mountmajorsnowmobileclub.com>
OES, Warren-Alpha #10, Wolfeboro -- 3rd Tue, 7:30 p.m., 539-7898
Overeaters Anonymous (OA), Thursdays, 5:30, Alton Bay Community Center. Contact person: Nancy - 875-5875.
PTSA. -- 3rd Wed., Alton Central School HS Library, 7 p.m.
Senior Citizens -- 2nd Wed., 1 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center
Sons of the American Legion, 2nd Monday, 6:30pm, Legion Hall
VFW -- 3rd Mon., 7:30 p.m., Pearson Road Community Center

CALL 875-2151 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

Information Center

SCHEDULES

CHURCHES:

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

Bay Church -- 9:30am Sunday School, 11am Worship Service - Guest Speaker; Weds. Prayer meeting - 7pm Services on the grounds of the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center, Rev. Robert H. Hett, Pastor; 875-6765

Community Church -- Sun. Service, 9:30am, Main Street Church Rev. Peter Bolster, Pastor; 875-5561

First Free Will Baptist Church -- Sun. School, 9:45 am; Church, 11 am; Evening Service, 6 pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 pm; Depot St., New Durham; Pastor James Nason

North Barnstead Congregational Church -- Sun. School and Worship Services, 10:30 am, 504 N. Barnstead Rd, Rev. Gray Fitzgerald

St. Katharine Drexel -- Weekend Masses Sat., 8am and 4pm, Sun., 7, 8:30, 10:30 am and 5pm; weekday Masses, Mon. through Fri., 8am; Rev. George

Ham; 875-7191

Wolfboro Bible Fellowship -- Sunday School, 9:30am; Worship Service, 10:30 am; Evening Service, 6pm; Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7 pm; Route 28; Pastor Scott Button

GILMAN LIBRARY: 875-2550

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

SENIOR MEAL SITE: 875-7102

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

SOLID WASTE CENTER: 875-5801

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

Closed Tue., Wed., and Thu.

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

TOWN HALL: 875-2161

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

Building Inspector -- 875-5095 for hours and appts.

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

Planning Director -- 875-5095 for hours and appts.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

GILMAN MUSEUM COMMITTEE -- Meets on call, Chairman Kathy Currier, 875-5095.

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

LEVEY PARK TRUSTEES -- Meets on call, Chairman Dick Jones, 875-3855.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION -- Meets on call, Chairman William Lionetta, 875-0109.

PLANNING BOARD -- 2nd Monday, 7 p.m., Chairman Thomas Hoopes, call 875-5095 for appointment.

SCHOOL BOARD -- 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6 pm, Chairman Lawrence Alting, call 875-7890 for appointment.

SUPERVISORS OF THE CHECKLIST -- Meets on call, Chairman MaryBee Longabaugh, 875-5067.

TRUSTEES OF THE GILMAN LIBRARY -- 3rd Tuesday, 4 pm, Chairman Nancy Jordan, 875-2550.

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

WATER COMMISSION -- 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 9:30am, Water Department Office, Chairman Reuben L. Wentworth, 875-4200

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT -- 1st Thursday, 7 pm, Chairman Richard Quindley, 875-5095.

*DENOTES A CHANGE OF INFORMATION
CALL 875-2151 TO UPDATE THE ABOVE LISTINGS

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

U.S. SENATE

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

John E. Sununu, 111 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510; Phones: (202) 224-2841, (603) 625-5585, Fax: (202) 228-4131; e-mail: mailbox@sununu.senate.gov

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

N.H. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

N.H. SENATE

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

N.H. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Janet Allen, 269-6313

James Pilliod, 524-3047

Gordon Bartlett, 524-6536

David Russell, 364-7449

Laurie Boyce, 875-7371

John Thomas, 528-5112

Charles Clark, 293-9194

Mike Whalley, 875-7266

BELKNAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Christopher D. Boothby, 527-5400

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Pat Fuller, 875-5546

Stephan McMahan, 875-6322

William Ryan, 875-2112

James C. Washburn, 364-7413

Alan Sherwood 293-7041

FROM THE PLANNER'S DESK
By Peer Kraft-Lund

There is a lot going on in the community-planning world of Alton. I am thankful for the opportunity to write about some of what we are doing, but cannot cover all because of the limitation of space. I find the diversity of planning tasks both exciting and challenging. It is rewarding to work with other staff members and Board and Committee members who take on their responsibilities in a professional and an efficient manner. This article is about some the activities I am involved with.

The **Safety Building Committee** has wrapped up their charge of doing a first step analysis of space needs for fire and police. Chuck Weston chaired the committee and supported by an excellent and hardworking committee produced a fine report. My major role was to oversee the demographic study. I was very fortunate to have the technical assistance of Alan Sherwood and others in its development. The study is different from most community demographic studies because it looks at the populations of not just the year round and seasonal residents, but the visitors. It then goes a step further and analyzes the population of the different groups for all four seasons. This study is background material for the Safety building committee and will be a foundation stone in the up-dated master plan.

The **Downtown Revitalization Committee** was dream child of Judy Fry. She expressed to me her frustration that there have been so many studies and design charrettes and not enough being implemented. She saw, as a first project, the area adjacent to the freight station located behind the Town Hall. Visiting the Planning Board with her vision she was given their enthusiastic blessings. Receiving approval from the Selectmen, the committee has met and started their work of fund raising in an energetic manner.

The **Planning Board**, chaired by Tom Hoopes, is made up of a highly qualified, technically diverse group of people. They take their responsibilities very seriously. Meeting at a minimum of once a week, they take on the complicated tasks of real planning. The Master Plan's Vision Chapter is now about to start the hearing process. Also being submitted to the hearing process is a number of zoning amendments. These amendments respond to the master plan's rural vision



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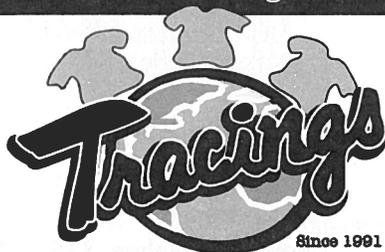
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NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH
By Wanda Harris

November 2003 marks the 25th anniversary of National Hospice Month and, as coordinator of VNA Hospice of Southern Carroll County and Vicinity. I would like to take this opportunity to begin this 4 part series about our Hospice Program. This is a time to learn about choices that you have when faced with a life-threatening illness.

The time to learn about choices in end-of-life care is before you or a loved one must make one of life's toughest decisions. Last year, approximately 885,000 terminally ill patients and their families received Hospice care from 3200 hospice programs in communities throughout the United States. Our community has one of these programs and we cared for more than 70 patients and families.

Hospice, considered the gold standard of care for end-of-life care in this country, uses an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals and trained volunteers to provide pain management, symptom control, psychosocial support and spiritual care to people who are dying and their families. Hospice also provides bereavement support.

It has been reported that, for every person that receives Hospice, it is estimated that there is another person who would greatly benefit from the comprehensive services that Hospice provides. According to J. Donald Schumacher, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization president and CEO, "far too many people wait until they are facing a health crisis in their family to learn about care options. It becomes very difficult to make informed decisions at times like these. The best time to learn about end-of-life care is before it becomes a serious issue."

We often hear questions from our Hospice patients and families, "Why didn't we call Hospice earlier?" This is one of the most frequently heard comments from families.

Predicting the amount of time left for a patient with a life-limiting illness is difficult in the best of situations. No two people respond exactly the same way to medical treatments or the illness itself. Physicians cannot be expected to predict a patient's life expectancy. Far too many people are unaware of the option of Hospice care, which emphasizes a philosophy that deals with quality of life, dignity and purpose instead of quantity of time a person has.

Hospice care is a covered expense under Medicare and most private insurance plans, HMOs and other managed care organizations. While most care is provided in the home, Hospice is also available in most skilled nursing facilities and long-term care centers.

Our program would like to take this opportunity during Hospice month to say that improving care for the dying is a responsibility that we must all share, professionals and consumers alike. We are hopeful that these articles will help to increase your awareness of the importance and availability of Hospice services. For more information you may contact us at 569-1590.



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LAKERS UNITED GIRLS 3V3 THANKFUL FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

By Mike Hillis

The Lakers United Girls 3V3 soccer team would like to thank all the community members who took the time out of their busy schedules to participate in the September car wash fundraiser. The team would also like to thank all the local businesses and community members who have contributed in a variety of ways to support and encourage the team. Your generous donations are helping the team pursue their ultimate goal of becoming the National Champions on the Got Milk 3V3 Soccer Challenge this January in Orlando, Florida. Determination, tenacity and the support of family, friends and community are a definite recipe for success.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation please make checks payable to the Lakes Region Soccer Club, 3V3 Girls Team, and mail C/O Mike Hillis, RR1 Box 237J, Alton, NH 03809.

AMERICAN LEGION CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

By Dick Cunningham

At 11:00 on November 11th, a group of Veterans and Legion Members from Alton Post 72, gathered with Towns People to honor Veterans of all Wars and to pay special tribute to those serving today in Iraq and Afghanistan. Amid the roar of trucks and traffic at Monument Square, a moment of silence and prayers were offered for those who have given their lives and especially those who have made the supreme sacrifice to protect us. The program was led by Legion Post Leaders, shown below from left to right, Finance Officer Warren Leary, Chaplain Paul Mahoney, Historian Scott Carpenter, Auxiliary Chaplain Brenda Bowman, Auxiliary President Charlene Paris, Service Officer Rick Wheeler, Judge Advocate Edgar Russell and Adjutant Brian Schofield.



**PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
VIDEO AVAILABLE
By Kathy O'Blenes**

Principal Russ Holden, has created a video with regards to the new school and the students from Barnstead and Alton, along with questions from the public. Mr. Holden will have a copy in the Gilmanton Library for anyone who would like to view it.

**MT. MAJOR SNOWMOBILE CLUB NEWS
By Paul Murphy**

Perhaps you heard about Governor Craig Benson's initiative to entice winter vacationing in New Hampshire to help the economy. Or maybe you have read the article in the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association's newspaper the "Snow Traveler" about the millions of dollars spent by snowmobilers here in New Hampshire. One thing that is clear is that snowmobiling is considered a mainstay in New Hampshire's economy. If snowmobiling is an iatrical part of our economy and snowmobiling only exists with an attractive network of trails, the landowners that permit these trails on their property could be considered the mainstay of our economy. These trail permissions that we enjoy every year are not rights, we do not have contracts and these permissions are not guaranteed to be their tomorrow, we have to earn them every year. With new real-estate development, changes in landowners from real-estate sales, and the canceling of permission by landowners due to trails on their property being abused, it gets harder to acquire and sustain these permissions. The occasional neighborhood youth causing damage to a field or yard can leave landowners with reservations about permitting trails to stay open on their property. When a person drives a full size truck on a trail damaging bridges and security gates you can rest assured you are one step closer to having permissions revoked leaving a fragmented useless mess of short trails going nowhere. The snowmobile enthusiasts that desire the interconnected network of trails will be sure to drive by our community and ride as well as spend somewhere else. What can we do? If you are a snowmobile rider, please help deter, detect and report any trail abuse and join a snowmobile club if you are not yet a member. If you are a landowner please understand that there are members of Mount Major Snowmobile club here in Alton that consider your permission to be a primary reason why snowmobile enthusiasts do not drive by our community. Thanks again to the landowners that allow us access.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Senior Center in Alton. Please come and join us.

For more information call Joanne, at 603-875-3858 or the Bergeron's at 603-875-6714 our visit our web site at www.mountmajorsnowmobileclub.com.

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Family Christmas Pictures

The Alton/New Durham Lions Club has made arrangement to have Santa Claus available at the Alton American Legion building on December 14, 2003, from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Bring your family for a fine breakfast and pictures with Santa.

Breakfast Buffet:

Adults: \$7.00

Under 12: \$4.00

Pictures:

4x6 prints: \$3.00

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THE LITTLE LAKERS CAN RUN!! By Peter Clifford

At Hampton NH, October 26th, the Hampton Attack Soccer Club hosted the under 11 Girls Championship Jamboree. The top four Seacoast League teams, Rochester City, Lakers United, Hampton Attack, and Rye were invited to play in a season ending jamboree. Every team plays each other once, then the two teams with the most points meet for the finals.

Lakers United vs Rochester City, having played each other twice already this season, this rubber match was a tough game. The City kids were a lot bigger and tried to use their size to there advantage, but it didn't work for them on our team! The Lakers girls shorter only in size, but quicker with their feet, beat City 1-0. Our kids played great and just out ran them to every loose ball. Kendall Graupner scored the lone goal, on a well placed free kick from just out side the eighteen.

Lakers United next played Rye, both very fast teams, and both teams have great defenses. Lakers keeper Megan Pollini had a fantastic game in goal, making some spectacular saves to keep her team in the jamboree. Samantha Hillis, and Danielle Burwell as fullbacks, Kendall Graupner as sweeper and Josie Couch as stopper all had terrific games. The game ended in a tie.

Hampton Attack vs Lakers United; with no rest, the little ladies from lake were on their feet again. This was a back and forth action packed game that tested the will of each player on both teams! Nicole Dwyer, Danielle Tidd, Kirby Beranger and Kelly Jones, sharing midfield time, all had great games, and it ended in another tie!

After everyone had played each other, and all the matches decided by only one goal or a tie, there were two teams with four points, the Lakers and Rye. For the day, Rochester had two and Hampton had none.

The Championship game consisted of two twenty minute halves; with both teams excited and tired the match began. Both teams played well, with scoring chances on both ends of the pitch. Megan Pollini played her best and stopped all shots. Our defenders Hillis, Graupner, and Burwell came up big again, with some great tackles.

Second half saw the same thing, back and forth action and neither team giving in. Near the end, the players on both sides still tried very hard. The game again finished in a tie!

Before the Jamboree started, it was decided that the tie breaker would be a simple relay race! Eleven players sprint half the field and back, against eleven other players. United girls won the race, and now everyone knows that those little Lakers can run !!!

Pictured are Kendall Graupner (l) and Josie Couch (r)



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 (See the complete list at the library)

FICTION

Albom, Mitch	The Five People You Meet in Heaven
Brown, Dan	Angels & Demons
Brown, Sandra	Hello, Darkness
Cornwell, Patricia D.	Blow Fly
Cussler, Clive	Golden Buddha
Evans, Richard Paul	A Perfect Day
Griffin, W.E.B.	The Secret Warriors
Grisham, John	Bleachers
Guterson, David	Our Lady of the Forest
Johansen, Iris	Fatal Tide
Johnson, Spencer	The Present
Kellerman, Faye	The Quality of Mercy
Paretsky, Sara	Blacklist
Parker, Robert B.	Stone Cold
Perry, Anne	No Graves as Yet
Rendell, Ruth	The Babes in the Wood
Roberts, Nora	Remember When
Sparks, Nicholas	The Wedding
Woods, Stuart	Capital Crimes

NONFICTION

Agatston, Arthur S.	The South Beach Diet
Bradley, James	Flyboys
McGraw, Phillip C.	The Ultimate Weight Solution
O'Reilly, Bill	Who's Looking Out For You?
Reagan, Ronald	Dear Americans

BIOGRAPHY

Armstrong, Lance	Every Second Counts
Collins, Judy	Sanity and Grace
Gregory, Julie	Sickened

JUVENILE

Byars, Betsy	The Not-Just-Anybody Family
DiTerlizzi, Tony	Lucinda's Secret
Snicket, Lemony	The Slippery Slope
Winkler, Henry	Day of the Iguana

AUDIO

Higgins, Jack	Midnight Runner
Johansen, Iris	No One to Trust
Roberts, Nora	Sacred Sins
Smith, Dennis	Report from Ground Zero
Waller, Robert James	A Thousand Country Roads

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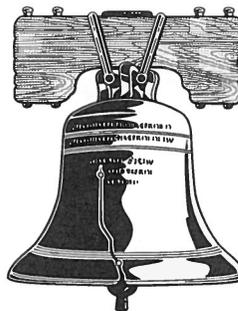
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ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA

The Friends of the Gilman Library will hold their Annual Holiday Tea on Tuesday, December 09, 2003 from 2 PM to 4PM at the Gilman Library. All are welcome to attend. Donations of baked goods are gratefully accepted. If you are interested in donating baked goods, helping to set up or helping to clean up please call or stop in and sign up at the circulation desk. We hope to see you there. Bring a friend!!

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

If you are in need of the perfect gift for that special someone we still have brass bookmarks, books, afghans, memorial bricks, note cards, Village of Alton posters, canvas book bags, t-shirts and Alton Village collectibles available for purchase. If you find it difficult to choose, you can purchase a gift certificate. These gift certificates can also be used to purchase a library card for friends and relatives who are not residents of Alton or Alton Bay but would like to use the services our library provides.

ALTON'S BOOK CHAT

The book discussion group will meet on Monday, December 08, 2003 at 6 :30 PM to share their thoughts on *The Devil's Teardrop* by Jeffrey Deaver. The meeting will be held at Debra Laurion's Home. For the exact location of the December meeting please contact Debra at 875-5488. If you are in need of a copy of the book please let us know.

On behalf of the Friends, the Trustees, the Volunteers and the Library Staff we wish you a very Happy Holiday Season.

MAIN STREET APPRECIATION NIGHT

Once a month, a group of approximately 30 Alton Volunteers of all ages meet to assemble and mail the 3000 plus issues of Alton's Main Street to Alton residents and paid subscribers around the country. Once a year is the Appreciation Night Banquet held after the monthly meeting. This year it was held on October 30th at the American Legion Hall. Chef Andy Schofield and his outstanding crew provided an unbelievable all we could eat Turkey Dinner which included a fabulous salad and two sheet cakes. If you or your family members would like to join our volunteer group, we would love to have you. Call Dick Cunningham at 293-4948 to be included on our volunteer mailing list.

Main Street would like to thank ALL our dedicated volunteers, and wish you and yours a happy Holiday Season!

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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Registration for Kindermusik Programs starting January 5, 2004 will be held December 8th from 3-7pm and December 13th from 10-2pm at the Dance Studio, 141 Main St., Alton. A preview/demonstration of the Kindermusik Programs offered will be held at the Alton Public Library on Wednesday, December 10th during story hour.

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Happy Holidays, Alton!

We have a lot to be thankful for during the holidays because of you — our friends and neighbors here in Alton. It is a pleasure to be part of this community. Enjoy the holiday season.

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We appreciate the community support of all American Legion Family activities and look forward to serving you and working with you again in the coming year.

The KITCHEN is open to the public on Friday and Saturday from 4:00 PM to 8:30 PM serving a variety of dinner entrees as well as sandwiches and snacks. Also, we are serving BREAKFAST every Sunday from 8:00 AM to noon with made-to-order omelets and eggs, ham, bacon, sausage, home fries, gravy & biscuits and all the trimmings.

If you haven't visited us on Saturday afternoons for our MEAT RAFFLE, stop by between 2:00 and 4:00 PM. It's open to the public and you're in for an enjoyable time with friendly people from the community.

The Junior Auxiliary will award membership pins at its regular meeting on December 3 at 6:30.

The Auxiliary is hosting its annual CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY for ALL children of Alton and surrounding communities between the ages of 6 mo. To 12 years old. (This is not just for the needy) Bring the kids and come on down and talk to Santa on Saturday, December 13 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. There will be prizes, goodies, caroling and fun for all.

The American Legion Family is hosting its annual NEW YEARS EVE party on Wednesday, December 31, 2003. Stop by for tickets (\$20 pp) and information. This one sells out fast!

Commander Ray Nadeau reminds all members of the American Legion family to pay their 2004 dues by December 31!

The two primary CHARITABLE GIVING programs sponsored by the American Legion family are the Needy Family program, sponsoring approximately 15 local families with between 45 to 60 children for Christmas gifts and dinner; and the Adopt-a-Vet program, sponsoring 13 Veterans from the Veterans Home in Tilton with Christmas gifts. American Legion families all over the state sponsor these Veterans all during the year, with special emphasis on Christmas.

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BAYOU SWAMP TOUR

One of the last events of our barge caravan down the Mississippi River in the fall of 2001 came after we unloaded our RVs from the barge and drove to Bayou Segnette Campground near New Orleans.

We all boarded a bus and went to a bayou and got on a boat for a bayou swamp tour. The boat operator was very entertaining. He was Cajun, and spoke English with a French accent. The primary language of the Cajun is French, and they strive very hard to maintain their heritage. They all speak French at home, and learn English at school. They are descendants of the Acadian French that were forced out of Nova Scotia and also of the Normandy French who settled here. He also said that many black French people settled here, and they are all referred to as "Creoles".

On the bayou tour, we saw egrets, nutria rats, and cormorants. The nice part is that there was no mosquitoes or extreme humidity while we cruised. A family owned the bayou we were on, and the Cajuns have to lease out parts of it for hunting and fishing. The most interesting part is that they pay for their lease with their bounty - 25 %. And nothing is ever done in writing! It is all done by the honor system, and they've never had a problem. Don't we wish the entire world could be that trustworthy. They live off their bounty from the bayou - shrimp, alligators, deer, and fur pelts from small animals. Some of the older Cajuns live right out in the bayous, in shacks, with only boats for travel. Very remote! Our guide had only been to New Orleans once, for 45 minutes. And this is only 30 minutes from downtown New Orleans! Amazing!

We also decided that there must be a lot of inbreeding, as they don't seem to have much interest in the world outside their French communities.

After our bayou trip, our caravan leaders took us to a restaurant right near there that you would have to think twice about entering. We had a delicious meal with all the local foods - crawfish, jambalaya, gumbo, red beans and rice, and bread pudding. It was delicious

You may have questions about our full-time RVing life style or thoughts for a future column. Please email 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.

The photo at right shows Downtown New Orleans

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ALTON-NEW DURHAM LIONS CLUB NEWS

By Maureen Parker

The Alton-New Durham Lions Club ended the summer season on a high note and wants to thank everyone who made it possible. The 2nd Annual Car Show was a great success thanks to the 49 local businesses who sponsored us and the public who came out and supported us. The category winners were: 1930's Ron & Jeannette Breth of Alton, 1950's Alan Blaskey of Barrington, 1960's Joe Croteau of Loudon, 1970's Don Mitchel of Alton, 1980's Andrea Dumont of Berwick, Me., 1990's Don Best of Alton, Rods and Modified, Gary and Diane Krochmall of Bow, Trucks 1965 & older John Hoyes of Holderness, 1966 & newer bud Ruzinski of Belmont, Asian Motorcycles Alan Ford or Laconia, USA Motorcycles Alton Motorsports of Alton, Best of Show Cars-Alton Motorsports of Alton, Best of Show Trucks-Chris Redmond of Rochester and Best of Show Motorcycles-Alton Motorsports of Alton. Plans are already in the works for next year. Once again, the Alton-New Durham Lions Club thanks everyone for their support.

MOMS IN TOUCH, INC

By Phyllis Brooks

On November 8th I had the privilege of meeting other mothers from Maine to New Jersey who are members of a Moms In Touch, Inc. prayer group. I was blessed to see such a large group from New Hampshire. In our Lakes Region area alone I met ten women who are praying for our children in public and private schools.

From Center Ossipee to Barnstead, God is working in mighty ways. Please join us each Tuesday at 12:30pm for our 'Power Hour' of prayer. Until snow falls, we will meet at Kim Tinkham's home on Route 28A. Please call for directions of if you have any questions about Moms In Touch, Inc. Children are welcome! Call 875-2866 for information.

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