



Alton's

Main Street

Volume XX Number 1

Alton, New Hampshire - January, 2004

Complimentary



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Main Street

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THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY . . . By MaryBee Longabaugh, Chairman Supervisors of the Checklist

. . .will be held on January 27, 2004. To vote in the primary,
or any election for that matter, you must be a registered voter.
Up until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, in the Town Clerk's
Office, you may fill out the Voter Registration Form, showing
a picture ID and proof of residency in Alton. That evening
from 7 - 7:30 p.m. the supervisors will hold office hours for
that same purpose. From January 21 - 26 you can go to the
Town Clerk's Office and fill out the form, but your name will
NOT be on the checklist. You will have to come to the
supervisors' table prior to checking in to vote so that we can
process your form. As always, anyone 18 years or older with
the proper credentials may come in on election day to be
registered. Remember, VOTE on January 27!

HAS YOUR WATER BEEN TESTED?

Recently, water in several Alton wells was found to
be contaminated with arsenic. An unhealthy level of arsenic
is found in approximately 20 percent of private wells. Ar-
senic is known to cause cancer, as well as immunological
disorders, cardiovascular disease, and other diseases. A study
released by the U.S. Geological society in May of 2003 found
that arsenic levels in private wells was more widespread in
New England than previously thought.

In addition to arsenic, well water can also be a source
of radon, fluoride, iron and manganese which leach into the
well from the surrounding bedrock. Bacteria and organic com-
pounds can also be present in well water, making it unsafe to
drink.

Contaminants in well water can often be managed
through filtering. The Environmental Protection Agency rec-
ommends that all prospective home buyers have the water
tested prior to purchase, and that home owners have their
water tested every three to five years. For more information,
see the EPA website pertaining to New England wells at
[http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/
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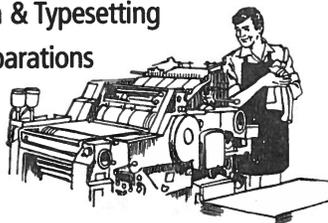
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TOWN/SCHOOL ELECTION VACANCIES By Lisa Waterman, Alton Town Clerk

The Town and School elections will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2004 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Alton Central Fire Station on Route 140. The filing period begins Wednesday, January 21st and ends Friday, January 30th at 5:00 p.m. There is a filing fee of \$1 for an office that receives compensation. You must be an Alton registered voter in order to file for an office. You may register at the Town Clerks office prior to 4:30 on Tuesday, January 20, 2004 or with the Supervisors of the Checklist on January 20th between the hours of 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. You must present a photo ID and proof of physical residence in Alton such as a tax, electric or cable bill which shows both your name and a street address, not a post office box. Absentee ballot applications may be obtained at the town clerks office during business hours.

The Presidential Primary is January 27, 2004 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

Town Elections:

Selectmen for three years (elect 2)
James Washburn, William Ryan

Selectman for one year
Alan Sherwood

Trustee of Trust Funds for three years
Joseph Houle

Library Trustee for three years
C. Eugene Rogers

Fire Ward for three years
Kenneth Roberts

Fire Ward for two years
John Scott

Fire Ward for one year
Richard Quindley

Moderator for two years
Mark Northridge

Cemetery Trustee for three years
Mark Divito

Water Commissioner for three years
Rueben Wentworth

Budget Committee Members for three years (elect 3)
Cydney Johnson, Loring Carr, Norman Nardello

Budget Committee Members for two years (elect 3)
Nina Chambers, Gerald Theodora, Timothy Kinnon

Budget Committee Member for one year
Bradley Smith

Planning Board Members for three years (elect 2)
Thomas Hoopes, Robert Eddy

Supervisor of the Checklist for six years
Shirley Bishop

School District Elections:

School Moderator for one year
Mark Northridge

School Clerk for one year
Linda Roy

School Treasurer for one year
Shirley Lane

School Board Members for three years (elect 2)
Joyce Hopper, Peter Farrell

The School District Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at the Alton Central School. The snow date will be February 7, 2004.



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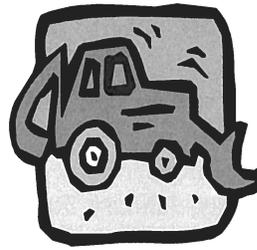
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HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS
By Ken Roberts
Highway Agent



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Welcome to winter, snow has finally arrived. I would like to thank everyone for their patience throughout this year while the town crews were working on projects in town.

I also would like to thank you all for your phone calls. Your calls keep us informed; it is difficult to keep up with 87 miles of roads without your help.

During snow storms, the highway department is out plowing and sanding the roadways. We would like to ask you to please stay back 200 feet from all plow trucks; give them plenty of room, please drive with caution and care, remember they can't stop quickly. Please drive safely.

DON'T FORGET to mark your mail boxes with a bright RED or ORANGE tape, stake anything to indicate the location of your mail boxes, we are not out to get them! We apologize if a mail box gets damaged. It is very difficult at times to see over the wing on the truck, as well as oftentimes poor visibility on the roadway, it is unfortunate, but these things do happen.

LAKES REGION CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING

By Karen Poor

The Lakes Region Christian Women's Group will be holding it's January Meeting at Hart's Turkey Farm Restaurant, Rt.3, Meredith, on Wednesday, January 14th, at 10:00 a.m.. It will be a continental breakfast for a cost of \$8.00.

Our Special Speaker will be Patricia Hansen of Middleton, N.H. who is a "Village Missionary." Patricia will share her stories and experiences with us and the theme will be "Comfort In A Time of Turmoil".

The Special Feature will be Ann Wallace of Meredith, a quilter with the Meredith/Center Harbor Quilter's Guild. Child care will be provided at Calvary Bible Church, 6 St. James Street, in Meredith.

Our group is a non-denominational group of ladies with no formal membership or dues required. Everyone is welcome and we are finished with the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

If your New Year's resolution is to do something meaningful and different in your life, for yourself, this just may be your guide. Reservations are needed. In the Alton area, call Melissa at 776-2224 and in the Gilford area, call Faith at 293-8073



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

. . . The Alton Cub Scouts had one of the highest food collections within the Abenaki District... Senior citizens organize to socialize, have a noon meal and seek participation in community activities... Patricia Pellowe and Charles Hillsgrove were presented with Commendation Bars by Chief Mynczywor for their special services to Alton. Mrs. Pellowe has completed ten years with the Police Department. Officer Hillsgrove showed special alertness when apprehending burglary suspects...

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Police Chief Thomas Mynczywor resigns after thirteen years as head of the Department... Rev Roy Ames became the new Pastor of the Bay Church on the retirement of Rev. Warren Harris... Paula Glidden took first place in Residential category in Holiday Decorating. Commercial category was awarded to Jeff's Diner...

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

. . . Sophomore Zach Christy was picked as the 1998 Tri-County Soccer Player of the Year... Work is proceeding on E911. Street signs are being put on all streets in town. Numbers will be assigned upon completion of the signs... Two new police officers, Christopher Kelby and Aimee Laflamme were added to the Force. Each has come from Exeter. We have nine full time officers with one vacancy to be filled.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING**

The Alton Budget Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed Alton Town Budget ~ FY 2004 on Thursday, February 5th, 2004 @ 6:30 pm @ Alton Town Hall. [If required, a second hearing would be Thurs, Feb 12th at 6:30 pm]

**PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
LOOKING FOR ARTISTIC TALENT
FOR SCHOOL LOGO
By Russell Holden, Principal**

If you have artistic talent and would like to enter a logo for consideration for Prospect Mountain High School, we welcome your ideas.

Prospect Mountain High School has adopted the Timber Wolf for its' logo, and the school colors are black, silver, and white.

We are looking for entries that will help us decide what our Timber Wolf should look like to represent the school. We are asking for anyone that is interested to submit an entry attention to Russell Holden, SAU #72, P.O. Box 120, Alton, NH 03809. The Prospect Mountain High School logo will be chosen from the submitted entries.

Timber Wolf logo entries must be received by January 9, 2004. We do not guarantee your designs will be chosen and all entries become the property of Prospect Mountain High School.

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High Honors/Honor Roll for Quarter 1
Grades 12-4**

12TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Tonya Prescott

12TH GRADE HONORS: Ryan Donnelly, Melanie Katsoulis, Stephanie Levy, Emily Lowthian, Kristy McDaniels, Crista Perkins, Daniel Quinn, Meredith Roy, Matthew Sydow, Lacey Wells-Blair

11TH GRADE HONORS: Travis Hopper, Christina Jamieson, Michael Tidd, Jon Vogel

10TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Ashley Hubbard, Luke LaFreniere, Taylor Peterson, Daniel Pitman, Amber Richardson

10TH GRADE HONORS: Kyle Adabahr, Christine Barham, David Blanchette, Nichole Brackett, Joshua Casoni, Ryan Fogell, Christopher Frost, Rebecca Golden, James Grant, Jacquelyn Piaseczny, Christopher Skinner, Katrina Tidd

9TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Alex Bourdeau, Jeffrey St. Cyr

9TH GRADE HONORS: Caroline Cook, Jeremiah Dea, Nicketa Fife, Caila Kantar, Joshua Liedke, Melissa Pryor, Racheal Ricker, Jake Ridner, Marc Roy, Bryce St. Cyr, Wesley Taggett, Ty Tremblay

8TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Tony Castagnaro, Amanda Pellowe, Brianna Tidd

8TH GRADE HONORS: Stephen (Spike) Biddle, Erin Brackley, Breanna Croteau, Meagan DiVito, Ryan Finethy, Chelsea Hawkins, Daniel Hopper, Jesse Lane, Ryan Lougee, Alina Lloyd, Chris (CJ) Moulton, Abby Rasbridge, Wetherly Rouleau, Stephanie Storey, Kelsie Whitney

7TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Shaida Anderson, Casey Beranger, Lyndsay Bishop, Emily Donahue, Megan Farrell, Danielle Sheehan, Kathleen Sykes

7TH GRADE HONORS: Vanessa Ainsworth, Erick Bourdeau, Erik Caron, Kyle Duca, Brittany Dwyer, Shannon Eagles, Richard Finethy, Kimberly Grant, Colin Hammond, Brendan Hussey, Michael Jensen, Kaitlyn LaCourse, Jack LaFreniere, Ashley Lionetta, Stephanie Roy, Jillian Stackhouse, Michael Stevens, Westen Stewart, Baron Vogel

6TH HIGH HONORS: Ashley Barsanti, Megan Hopper

6TH GRADE HONORS: Tyler Adabahr, Julio Alfanso, Katelyn Armstrong, Dylan Ball, Scott Brunelle, Kayla Carr, Joseph Comeau, Allison Cormier, Holly Couture, Jasmine Croteau, Stephanie Cruz, Lindsey Daniels, Joel Dore, Kaitlyn Fasulo, Melissa Fortin, Sarah Fraser, Kelsey Hopper, Mary-Margaret Houghton, Caitlin Hussey, Levi Liedke, Kristi Maciejewski, Joey Monasky, Lydia Morton, Stephanie Moulton, Brittany O'Neil, Emily Pellowe, Eric Peloquin, Natalia Ramey, Krystal Randall, Edward Rogacki, Jaclyn Saalfrank, Emily Sharpe, Aisha Sweezey, Kimberly Sykes, Kara Turner

5TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Stephanie Burke, Jesse Neff, Laretta Tremblay

5TH GRADE HONORS: Sarah Clifford, Kelsea Dahood, Joshua Dixon, Eric Duca, Tyler Finethy, Carter Golden, Spencer Goosens, Emily Jeffrey, Andrew Kim, Andrew Long, Lindsay Malone, Stephanie Pryor, Desiree Reekie, Jake Rochette, Fallon Rouleau, Gregory Tinkham

4TH GRADE HIGH HONORS: Kirby Beranger, Samantha Hillis, Rebecca Krivitsky, Albert Morse

4TH GRADE HONORS: Kristine Adams, Heaven Aimes, Michael Ainsley, Jennifer Crawley, Erin Donahue, Joshua Dudzik, Nicole Dwyer, Kevin Ennis, Cheyanne Harris, Jason Houghton, Brett Lamper, Joseph LeBlanc, Kyle Lurvey, Emily Macduff, Ashley Malo, Rebecca Meyer, David Monasky, Emilie Morton, Breanna Parandes, Michelle Prior, Lauren Stearns, Amelia Sweezey, Danielle Tidd, Stephanie Waterman

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ALTON OUTDOORS By Jack Miller

Happy New Year to all the outdoor sportsmen and women in the Alton area. I hope the Holidays were good to you.

With the New Year comes new seasons for the outdoor person. January usually brings us the ice fishing season once safe ice is formed. Four inches of "black" ice is safe for one person, BUT, lakes do not freeze to the same thickness all at once. Coves usually freeze first and windy parts of the lakes, or areas with moving currents, freeze last. Less ice to cut through is the benefit of fishing early "ice in". Always check the thickness as you proceed further out from the shoreline. If you do fall through the ice, try kicking your legs and getting yourself parallel to the ice to roll back onto the safe ice. Do this as quickly as possible, before your clothing gets too wet and weighted down.

Fish may still be more active before the lakes get really locked in with thick ice. Rainbow trout are fishable during early ice. Some rainbows cruise shallow waters looking for food, and can often be caught in very shallow water using salmon eggs as bait. They have been stocked in lots of non-lake trout/salmon lakes where six ice fishing devices (tip-ups) may be used, increasing your chances of a bite. Be sure to check the regulations for the body of water that you fish.

For the hunter, there are a few choices this month. Snow shoe hare and cotton tail rabbit are the edible species to hunt this month. Snow shoe hare like swamps and real low, thick brush. They make runs or trails, so still hunting these areas may allow you to locate them. For the quiet hunter, they usually run only a few feet when disturbed, making for an easy target. I jumped two while deer hunting, and they only ran about 8 feet from me and stopped. Of course, I did not have my 22 pistol with me. Be aware, coyotes may be hunting snow shoe hare as well. If you see one, they are huntable year round, with night hunting starting January 1. Be sure to check the regulations.

That should give you enough to do for January. See you out there!

NEWS RELEASE PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL By Russell Holden, Principal

If you currently participate in a home school program or attend a private school, and would like to view the Program of Studies for the new Prospect Mountain High School, please contact the Prospect Mountain High School Principal, Russell Holden, at his office. The number is (603) 875-0366.

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Snowshoeing Events

“Moonlight” Snowshoe Walk- January 10, 2004- 4:45pm meet at trailhead, Snowshoe Walk begins at 5:00pm at the Trask Swamp area on Fort Point Road off of Chestnut Cove Road. Join us for a beginner walk/snowshoe hike with slight inclines, please bring snowshoes and poles and be sure to dress in layers for winter including: gloves, hat, water, snacks, and headlamp or flashlight.

The moon should be bright enough to light the way but an extra lamp is helpful for each person. If there is in-

clement weather the snow date will be January 11, 2004. The estimated time to complete the walk/hike is two hours. The Snowshoe Event is free. Pre-registration is required, please call Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109 for trail directions and to register by January 5, 2004. Participants should be in good physical condition and be able to complete a three-mile hike. Participants under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

“Sunshine” Snowshoe Intermediate Hike- January 31, 2004- 9:45am meet at trailhead, hike begins at 10:00am at Knights Pond, off of Rines Road in East Alton. Please dress for the outdoor weather and be sure to include all of your gear including water and a camera. The estimated time to complete the hike is approximately three hours. The Snowshoe Event is free. Pre-registration is required, please call Alton Parks and Recreation Department at 875-0109 for trail directions and to register by January 16, 2004. Participants should be in good physical condition and be able to complete a six-mile hike on varied terrain. Participants under 15 must be accompanied by an adult.



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Alton Bay Winter Festival

The Annual Winter Festival will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2004 from 1:00pm-3:00pm at the Bandstand on Lake Winnepesaukee, weather permitting. Sign up in advance for the Great Alton Bay Bed Race; call us at 875-0109 to register your team. Challenge the usual contenders with your bed and race to the finish line for great prizes. A five-person team pushes, pulls or slides the bed down the course, its the most popular event of the day. Other events will include: scavenger hunt, snow sculpture contest, snowshoe walk, snow mobile radar run and D.J. Music. Detailed events will be listed in the February Main Street.

Town Beach Committee Update

The Town Beach Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the Committee that meets one time per month. The next meeting is January 6, 2004 at 6:30pm at A.V.A.S. Public Park; residents are invited to attend the meeting or submit their ideas to the Committee for consideration. The Committee is charged with finding possible locations for a new Town Beach. The need for a water front beach facility was determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission as an important component of the Town. Residents interested in donating waterfront parcels for use as a public beach are encouraged to contact the Alton Parks and Recreation Department, 875-0109. The Committee is looking at many options including parcels on the different bodies of water located in Alton and the possibility of receiving grants or land donations in order to provide a public beach area.



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FROM THE PLANNER'S DESK
By Peer Kraft-Lund

ALTON'S BOOK CHAT
By Debra Laurion

In this article, I would like to complete the discussion of committees and boards involved in planning and then begin a conversation with the readers on master planning.

The **Zoning Board of Adjustment** has been referred to as a regulatory safety valve. This board provides relief for a property owner if, because of unique circumstances, specific rights are denied. In my opinion, our Board, co-chaired by Dick Quindley and Keith Chamberlain, takes their legal responsibility very seriously. There is a healthy diversity of opinions among these robe-less judges, but they render those opinions based on fact and seldom on other forces.

I have always found it important to build a planning relationship with **Conservation Commissions**. In the towns I have worked, I found Conservation Commission members to be dedicated to environmental protection, have considerable technical knowledge, and with have a deep fondness for their community. Alton's Commission members are no exception. These hard working volunteers, under the leadership of Earl Bagley, provide an excellent service in protecting wetlands, water quality, and wildlife.

I would now like to talk a bit about the **planning process**. I believe that community planning is about quality control of new development. It is about **us** influencing our "quality of life." It all starts with a Master Plan process. That Plan establishes guidelines, standards, and policies for a town to confront the challenges of the future. To be meaningful and workable, the Master Plan must be citizen driven. The Plan must represent the needs and desires expressed by the town's citizens.

By law, the first chapter of a Master Plan is the **Vision Chapter**. This chapter expresses the "big picture" of what those involved participants have identified for Alton. The Board welcomes all members of the community to come in to the Planning Office and pick up a copy of the 2003 vision statement.

The December meeting at Deb Laurion's house was the annual holiday gathering. We discussed The Devil's Tear-drop by Jeffrey Deaver, a suspense novel that takes place within 24 hours time in Washington, DC.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 12th at 6:30pm at the Gilman Library. The book will be Bel Canto by Ann Patchett. All are welcome to join, just get a copy from the library.



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**18TH ANNUAL ICE-OUT CONTEST
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 28**

For the 18th year, Main Street is giving you the opportunity to win a prize (yet to be determined).

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

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

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

ICE-OUT ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

I predict "ice-out" will occur on:

_____ at _____ am or pm
(date) (time) (circle one)

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

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

By Judith Pellowe

Occasionally, the Board of Directors of Main Street are asked why we are advocating a certain point of view. We strive very hard to present to you information that will help you keep on top of happenings around town, and to present that information in a non-biased manner. The board of directors, and the Main Street publication, does not 'take sides' on any issue.

The purpose of by-lines is to let the reader know the source of the information published. Views expressed in Main Street reflect the opinion of the individual writer and are not necessarily the opinions of the Main Street Board. While we make every effort to publish information that is correct and accurate, we cannot verify all materials submitted.

If you have a story to submit to Main Street, the best way to contact us is by email. Starting immediately, Main Street has a **new email address**. Stories should be submitted to altonms@yahoo.com. Anything submitted for publication must have the name of the author and a phone number where you can be reached if we have questions. We reserve the right to edit any submissions for content and/or length. Not all stories submitted will be published; publication of articles is at the discretion of the Editor and the Main Street Board.

If email is not an option, stories and photographs may be mailed to Main Street, P.O. Box 210, Alton Bay, NH, 03810. Material can also be left at Bank of New Hampshire, in the Main Street box on the back right wall. Again, please be sure to give us a name and phone number. Photographs are welcome; if you want your photo returned, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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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.

January Events

Sun. 4	American Legion Breakfast, 8am-noon
Tues. 6	Town Beach Committee Mtg, 6:30pm, A.V.A.S., Main Street
Weds. 7	Prospect Mountain High School Public Hearing, 6:30pm, ACS
Sat. 10	Moonlight Snowshoe Walk, 4:30pm, see p. 8
Sun. 11	American Legion Breakfast, 8am-noon
Mon. 12	Alton's Book Chat, 6:30pm, Gilman Library, see p. 20
Sat. 17	Ice Skating Party, 4-7pm, Alton Bay
Sun. 18	American Legion Breakfast, 8am-noon
Tues. 20	Register to Vote, see p. 2 & 3
Weds. 21	Town Election Filing Period Begins
Sat. 24	Ice Skating Party, 4-7pm, Alton Bay
Sun. 25	American Legion Breakfast, 8am-noon
Tues. 27	Presidential Primary Voting, 7am-7pm, Route 140 Fire Station
Fri. 30	Town Election Filing Period Ends
Sat. 31	Snowshoe Hike, 9:45am, see p. 8 School Deliberative Session, 1pm, ACS (snow date February 7)

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 Sevices 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

Wolfeboro 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

**GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS INDUCTS
2001 ALTON GRADUATE**

Meghan Kristi St. Cyr of Alton has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was individually honored during a recent ceremony at the University of New Hampshire.

"It is only fitting that a high academic achiever like Meghan be recognized by Golden Key," said Alexander D. Perwich II, Golden Key's Chief Executive Officer. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."

Golden Key International Honour Society was founded more than 25 years ago in Atlanta, Georgia and provides academic recognition to college juniors and seniors in the top 15 percent of their class. The mission of the global, non-profit Society is to build global communities of academic achievers by providing opportunities for individual growth through leadership, career development, networking and service. The Society's values are integrity, inclusiveness and collaboration, innovation, teamwork and respect. Golden Key has 335 chapters in the United States, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand and South Africa. Membership into the Society is by invitation only, to students in all fields of study.

For additional information, visit the Society's web page at www.goldenkey.org or contact Meghan St. Cyr at home: Meghan St. Cyr PO Box 779, Alton, NH 03809.

**ANNOUNCING AN
OLD FASHION ICE SKATING PARTY
JANUARY 17 AND 24, 2004**

The Community Youth Activities (CYA) team will hold its second annual ice-skating party on Saturday January 17th AND 24th 2004 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. for Alton youth and Families. Last year we had great attendance. We had many requests for a repeat performance and for additional ice skating events! In response we have scheduled TWO events this year. This year the events will be held at Alton Bay on the big lake ice conditions permitting. The skating area will be east of the boat ramp using the area where the airplanes park. We will feature:

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- *Bon Fire (if possible)
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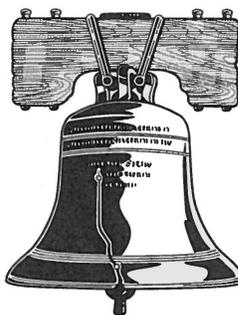
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**COMMUNITY HEALTH & HOSPICE
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By Jackie Bonafide, Director of Development

Although it may feel somewhat uncomfortable to think about now, End of Life Care Planning is a very important way to ensure that your wishes for end of life care will be honored.

If you become incapacitated because of an illness or accident, your wishes may not be carried out and-as importantly-anger and misunderstanding can drive your family apart at a time when they really need to love and support each other. Talking with family about your wishes may be the kindest conversation you'll ever have.

Some people never get the chance to talk with loved ones about End of Life Care. Be thankful you can. At Community Health & Hospice we have staff and volunteers who can talk with you or speak to your civic group, club, or church organization to help you learn more about this important topic. For more information about End of Life Care Planning, call Community Health & Hospice at 524-8444.

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY, POST 72 NEWS
 By Ray Nadeau**

The annual Children's Christmas party at the American Legion was a success thanks to Santa's visit. He came early to see the children and get their wish lists. There were between 85 and 95 children who were real happy to see their special Santa. This event is sponsored by the American Legion Family. A special thanks to all the volunteers who helped!

Chef Andy Scofield invites to you our Sunday breakfast. It is presented from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon and features a full-blown meal with all the trimmings, including eggs and omelets to order! Sunday breakfasts are a family affair and there are plenty of things that appeal to the smaller appetites.

The American Legion Family would like to thank the Knights of Columbus, the Masons and local citizens for their donations to our needy family Christmas Program. It helps us to make a difference in the lives of some of our neighbors who need a little help to have a happier holiday. We were able to give food and clothing to 28 local families with 40 children.

The American Legion Family would like to thank the readers of the Main Street for their enthusiastic support of and participation in community activities and fund raisers the Legion Family has held this past year. We wish every one of you a Happy New Year.

**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS
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**A HOLIDAY RECEPTION
AT THE WHITE HOUSE
By Purr Whalley**

My story begins at the mailbox. I opened a large cream colored envelope with the return address simply "The White House". Inside was a card requesting "the pleasure of our company at a Holiday Reception to be held at the White House". Mike and I had just been invited to our first social event in Washington!! I was excited, to say the least!

My hunt for the perfect dress was fairly painless, even though my usual outfit this time of year leans towards turtle-necks and jeans. Mike's gray suit was pressed, his shirt ironed, and we splurged on a new necktie. We were ready to go!

We arrived in Washington the day of the party. I was like a child on a great adventure. I hadn't been in DC since my grandparents lived there through the mid seventies. I felt nostalgic as we traveled down the streets and I thought about Grampy and Grammy, and how this had been their world for so many years. My grandfather had worked in the Eisenhower Administration and they retired there. I felt their presence in a nice way.

The clock struck six as we arrived at the White House. We passed through security and entered the East Entrance. My "Cinderella Experience" was beginning!

The hall was lined with festive wreaths and ruby red poinsettias. As we approached the Party, we were serenaded by grand holiday music provided by the Marine Corps., all dressed in brilliant red uniforms. It was like standing in the middle of a "Pops" concert, only better.

There were trees decorated with bright and shiny ornaments. They just sparkled. In fact, the whole East Wing sparkled. I felt as though I, too, was sparkling-with my excitement.

I was at the grandest party ever. It was incredible. There were fancy hors d'oeuvres and sweets of every shape and size. Shiny bowls full of food and history were on the tables. Throughout the various decorated rooms were storybook characters, part of this year's holiday theme. Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland, and the "Little Women" were glorious, all created by talented artists. Willy Wonka (all in chocolate) was the centerpiece on the largest of the tables. The gingerbread house was fantastic, with storybook characters made out of colored icing, their size so tiny and their detail so intricate.

I was in a dream and my mind in a whirl. So much color, so much music! Could it get any better?

Then it happened. It did get better. I stopped for a minute and looked past the holiday decorations. There was a painting of George Washington on the wall. It was a handsome painting and suddenly I was humbled. In all the excitement, I had forgotten where I was.

I was at the White House, one of the most famous places in the world. Rich with our history, full of tradition and respect

for our past. As I continued to look around the rooms, there were more famous pieces of art and presidential portraits. Incredible.

Cinderella is now home from the ball, back in her jeans and turtle-neck and getting ready for the holidays. I will never forget my party at the White House. It was glorious in every way. My every expectation was fulfilled. I will also never forget my moment of realization that our country is strong with history and for a very short time, I was a part of it.



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Elaine Anderson, Renae Brunelle, Thomas Decowski, Taylor Dwyer, Julie Emerson, Brandon Frost, Brroklyn Hadley, Dakota Hillsgrove, Andrew Jackson, Anna Jortikka, Matthew Joy, Casey Lang, Daniel McGone, Tim O'Gara, Nicole Oulette, Emily Parker, Austin Perrin, Michaela Perrin, Serra Shepard, Natalie Stackhouse, Alyssa St. Laurent, Natalie Stackhouse, Shayna Sweezy, Rebecca Tinkham, Chelsea Vernal, Cody Yelle

Fourth Grade

Kristine Adams, Kirby Beranger, Josie Couch, Nicole Dwyer, Cheyanne Harris, Samantha Hillis, Jason Houghton, Rebecca Krivitsky, Kyle Lurvey, B.J. Morse, Emilie Morton, Michelle Prior, Martha Rasbridge, Lauren Stearns, Danielle Tidd, Stephanie Waterman

Fifth Grade

Brooke Bastarache, Stephanie Burke, Sarah Clifford, Kelsea Dahood, Joshua Dixon-Snell, Eric Duca, Tyler Dussalt, Ethan Ehler, Tyler Finethy, Hannah Golden, Spencer Goossens, Michelle Johnson, Andrew Kim, Lindsey Malone, Jesse Neff, Stephanie Pryor, Desiree Reekie, Greg Tinkham, Lauretta Tremblay, Brittney Woitowitz

Sixth Grade

Sarah Adams, Julio Alfonso, Dylan Ball, Ashley Barsanti, Kaitlyn Fasulo, Megan Hopper, Steven Johnson, Joseph Monasky, Katelynn O'Toole, Edward Rogacki, Jaclynn Saalfrank, Shabir Shaikh, Aisha Sweezy, Kara Turner, Zachary Whissel

Seventh Grade

Shaída Anderson, Casey Beranger, Lyndsay Bishop, Erick Bourdeau, Michelle Daniels, Emily Donahue, Kyle Duca, Brittany Dwyer, Shannon Eagles, Megan Farrell, Amber Fielding, Katie Gage, Samantha Golden, Kim Grant, Colin Hammond, Chantelle Harris, Andrea Hillsgrove, Brendan Hussey, Mike Jensen, Justin Kantar, Kaitlyn LaCourse, Jack LaFreniere, Ashley Lionetta, Will Macduff, Stephanie Roy, Jill Stackhouse, Kathy Sykes, Baron Vogel, Evan Vogel

Eighth Grade

Megan Beaupre, Ashley Bailey, Spike Biddle, Erin Brackley, Tony Castagnaro, Amber Couture, Breanna Croteau, Phil Daniels, Courtney Emerson, Ryan Finethy, Emily Folan, Dan Hopper, Logan Hopper, Makina Itchkavich-Levasseur, Ryan Kibel, Jeremy Kim, Jesse Lane, Chris Loprete, Alina Loynd, Karol Mansfield, CJ Moulton, Amanda Pellowe, Abby Rasbridge, Wetherly Rouleau, Stephanie Storey, Brianna Tidd, Krystal Vigue, Cassie Wainwright

Ninth Grade

Dottie Jean Bailey, Ryan Ball, Kyle Belanger, Bradley Bissell, Elaine Bothwick, Alex Bourdeau, Caroline Cook, Mara Cook-Hamer, Jessica Covil, Jeremiah Dea, Erin Donnelly, Timothy Drew, Ashley Dwyer, Nicketa Fife, Tyler Fiscus, Nathan Fogell, Charlotte French, Courtney Goodwin, Robin Honnald, Ryan Hussey, Caila Kantar, Daniel Lampman, Joshua Liedtke, Joseph Macdonald, Kelly Main, Donald McGee Jr., Steffan McNeil, Melissa Pryor, Rachael Ricker, Jacob Ridener, Marc Roy, Sara Scanlon, Bryce St. Cyr, Jeffrey St. Cyr, Wesley Taggett, Kelsey Tinkham

Tenth Grade

Kyle Adabahr, Christine Barham, David Blanchette, Nichole Brackette, Joshua Casoni, Stephen DeFlumeri, Nicholas DiVito, Allyson Dudman, Ryan Fogell, Jacob Ford, Christopher Frost, Rebecca Golden, Samantha Goodwin, James Grant, Ashley Hubbard, Luke LaFreniere, Joshua O'Neil, Taylor Peterson, Jacquelyn Piaseczny, Daniel Pitman, Patrick Quinn, Kaitlyn Ray, Amber Richardson, Christelle Sharpe, Preston Sharpe, Jonathan Snell, Aimee Terravechia, Katrina Tidd, Lyndsey Turner, Caitlin Wentworth

Eleventh Grade

Leslie Guertin, Travis Hopper, Christina Jamieson, Brian Kivlehan, Tara Loprete, Whitney Marston, Travis Parsons, David Roberts, Brian Roy, Lyndsey St. Laurent, Kyle Storey, Michael Tidd, Jon Vogel, Ashley Waterman

Twelfth Grade

Elizabeth Biddle, Kara Castaldo, Tamara Cornelissen, Carl Dickson III, Ryan Donnelly, Robyn Ford, Jillian Green, Melanie Katsoulis, Kristine Kenerson, Melissa Kim, Stephanie Levy, Emily Lowthian, Kyle McAuliffe, Kristy McDaniels, Richard Meuse III, Crista Perkins, Tonya Prescott, Daniel Quinn, Meredith Roy, Molly Souliere, Matthew Sydow, Isaac Tharpe.

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WINTER SAFETY By Richard Cunningham

Alton is blessed with an abundance of lakes, ponds and rivers to enjoy in the Winter Months. Skating, Cross Country Skiing, Ice Fishing, Hiking and Snowmobiling on the ice creates fun and memories for all ages. But there are dangers.

Here are some tips from New Hampshire Fish and Game and other outdoor sources to have safe fun. In the early days of Winter wait until there is a long cold spell, preferably a couple of nights with below zero temperatures. Remember that if there is lots of snow on the Ice, that snow insulates and the ice will not freeze as thick as it might without snow. If ice at the shoreline is cracked or squishy, stay off it. Don't go out on the ice during thaws. Wait until a couple of cold nights to reset the strength of the ice.

Ice is thinner where there is moving water. This includes docks and piers with circulators. All circulators must have a permit from the Town Clerk. Check with the Town Clerk's Office if you have questions. Ice is also thinner next to natural heat conductors such as wharves, bridge abutments, islands and objects that protrude through the ice. The rule of thumb for new, clear ice is that there should be a minimum of 4-6 inches of ice to support a few, well-dispersed people; 6-7 inches for small, on-foot group activities, and 8-10 for snowmobilers. (Ice thickness recommendations are based on information from the Cold Regions Research Laboratory in Hanover).

Quick Tips

1. Test the ice;
2. Wind and currents break up ice;
3. Dress in layers;
4. Bring hot drinks and food;
5. Fish, hike, ski, skate, or snowmobile with a buddy;
6. Don't gather in large groups;
7. No fires on the ice;
8. Bring blankets and a first-aid kit;
9. Don't drive cars out on the ice.
10. Avoid areas that are questionable such as large cracks and ice heaves.

Surviving Fall Through Ice:

1. Use your elbows to lift yourself up onto the edge of the hole facing the direction from which you came. Let as much water as possible drain from your clothing.
2. Reach out onto the solid ice as far as possible. Try two additional acts. If it is below freezing and you have gloves on, place your palms down on the ice for a few seconds. Your gloves will freeze to the ice. Or, if you have keys or some metal instrument, use them to help your grip.
3. Kick your feet as though you were swimming and pull yourself up.
4. Once on the ice surface, stay flat and roll away from the hole

As soon as you are safe, find a place where you can get out of your wet clothing.

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ALTON COMMUNITY YOUTH ACTIVITIES
January Calendar of Events

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

- Sun 4 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 Mon 5 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Destination Imagination, 3pm, various Days/End
 Times and Locations depend on coach; con
 sult Ms. Dwyer for details, ACS
 Global Ed, grades 5-6, various Days/Times, consult
 Ms. Dwyer for details, Enrich. Room, ACS
 Thu 8 Sim City, grades 7-8, 3-4:30pm, Enrich. Room, ACS
 Fri 9 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-
 9pm, CCOA
 Sun 11 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 Mon 12 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Thu 15 Sim City, grades 7-8, 3-4:30pm, Enrich. Room, ACS
 Fri 16 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-
 9pm, CCOA
 Dinoman, grade 1-4, 8:30am-2:30pm, Gym, ACS
 Sat 17 Old Fashion Ice Skating Party, Alton Youth & Fami
 lies, 4-7pm, CYA
 Sun 18 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA.
 Mon 19 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library, ACS
 Thu 22 Sim City, grades 7-8, 3-4:30pm, Enrich. Room, ACS
 Merrimack School Debate, grade 6, 9am-
 3pm, Merrimack, NH, ACS
 Fri 23 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-9
 pm, CCOA
 Sat 24 Old Fashion Ice Skating Party, Alton Youth &
 Families, 4-7pm, CYA
 Sun 25 Youth Sunday School Classes, 9:30am, CCOA
 Mon 26 Mock Trial, grades 6-9, 3-4:30pm, HS Library,
 ACS
 Thu 29 Sim City, grades 7-8, 3-4:30pm, Enrich. Room,
 ACS
 Fri 30 Youth Drop-in Center, grades 6-12, 3-6pm, CCOA
 Youth Group Supper and Program, grades 6-12, 6-
 9pm, CCOA

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

GILMAN LIBRARY
NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Karon, Jan
 LaHaye, Tim F.
 Ludlum, Robert
 Morrison, Toni
 Nance, John
 Rice, Anne
 Southard, Duke

Shepherds Abiding
 Babylon Rising
 The Tristan Betrayal
 Love
 Fire Flight
 Blood Canticle
 Agent for Justice

NONFICTION

Better Homes & Gardens Best Bread Machine Recipes
 Hilts, Stuart & Mitchell, Peter The Woodlot Management
 Handbook
 Morsbach, Hans W. Common Sense Forestry

CHILDREN (EASY)

Buehner, Caralyn Snowmen at Night

AUDIO

Brown, Sandra

The Alibi

Charade

In a Class by Itself

Clancy, Tom

Op Center – Line of Control

Cook, Robin

Vector

Coulter, Catherine

The Maze

Crichton, Michael

The Wild Baron

Cussler, Clive

Timeline

Martini, Steve

Fire Ice

Miller, Sue

The Judge

Paretsky, Sara

For Love

Rule, Ann

Tunnel Vision

Steel, Danielle

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PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC HEARING

A second public hearing for the Prospect Mountain High School 2004-2005 operating budget will be held on January 7, 2004 at the Alton Central School, at 6:30 PM. This will be the last opportunity for the public to voice their opinion on the proposed budget which is currently set at \$6,066,440.00, a 35% increase over the original proposed budget of \$4.5 million the public was told it would take to open the school in 2004.

There will be further discussion on some of the issues that were brought up in past meetings. These issues include the wording of the JMA agreement, the cost per pupil of the new school, and the inclusion of an Industrial Arts program. Additionally, the effect of the Prospect Mountain High School budget on the overall Alton town budget and the impact on the K-8 budget will be addressed.

Attend the Joint Budget Committee Meeting on January 7 to get information and express your opinion on these and many other items surrounding the proposed operating budget. Copies of the proposed operating budget are available at the Town Hall and Gilman Library, as well as the Alton Central School website, the Barnstead School website, and the Prospect Mountain High School website. In addition, a video of the last budget hearing is available at the Gilman Library.

VOTE!!

Presidential Primary is January 27!

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ALTON FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT By Chief Alan Johnson

The Alton Fire/Rescue Department would like to wish everyone a healthy New Year.

We'd like to remind residents of a few things. First, now that the heating season is upon us, remember to clean your chimney and have your furnace serviced if you are having any problems. Don't wait until it breaks down on one of the coldest days of the year.

Second, now that the white stuff is on the ground with a blanket of more than 2-3 inches, a burn permit is not required. However, we ask that you call the Central Station at 875-0222 to notify us before starting your fire. We will record your name and location on our active list, that way when your neighbor calls and thinks your home is on fire we will know you are burning brush. Remember, you must never leave a brush pile unattended.

Third, for those residents enjoying fresh Christmas trees, remember to keep it well watered and after the holiday remove it promptly. Fresh, dry Christmas trees can prove to be a serious fire hazard.

Lastly, if you are interested in joining the Fire/Rescue Department, please call or stop by to pick up an application. We are always looking for new members or individuals wishing to contribute to their community.

THE CHECKOUT DESK By Holly Brown Librarian

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part in the annual Friends of the Gilman Library Holiday Tea that took place on December 9. All who attended enjoyed a wonderful variety of delicious baked goods. Members of Mrs. Weymouth's 5th grade class and members of the Alton Central High School Chorus provided entertainment. It was a very special addition to the celebration.

Please note that if you took part in this festive occasion, through donating baked goods, your time, your musical talent, or by joining us your efforts are greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Special thanks go to the members of the Friends of the Gilman Library who took part in the decorating committee this year. Their attention to detail and creative talents not only helped to beautify our library but also helped to get us into the spirit of the holidays.

The Friends of the Gilman Library have proven once again that "Friends make good things happen." Our friends will always have a special place in our hearts. As always, new members and new ideas are always welcome. For information on how you can become a member of this vital organization, please call the library at 875-2550 or stop by the circulation desk.

Also, we want to thank the Alton Garden Club for donating the beautiful wreaths that add that special touch to the entrances at the front and back of the library. They have never failed to make the holidays special.

The book discussion group will meet on Monday, January 12, at 6:30 PM in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room at the Gilman Library. The book of choice is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. If you need a copy of the book please let us know.

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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

SOFAS FOR SALE - Hunter green leather sofa - 7 years old, very clean and good condition - \$550.00; loveseat/recliner taupe with teal & burgundy stripe - very clean & good condition \$175.00. Pix available - cwbarraford@ourtowne.com. Call Cate 776-5522.

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ROUTE 28 SOUTH IMPROVEMENTS By Judith Pellowe

Recently, homeowners living on Route 28 South of the traffic circle received a notice from the State of New Hampshire, Department of Transportation. The notice was to inform homeowners that State surveyors would be out working in the area.

Improvements to Route 28 South are on the New Hampshire Ten Year Plan, and are slated to begin in 2011. However, parts of the highway may be improved earlier. According to Mike Pillsbury, New Hampshire Department of Transportation Project Manager, the current project includes gathering data which may be useful for the projected 2011 improvements, but which will also be used to make more immediate improvements.

"We're going to study high accident areas, bad corners, things like that, to see what can be done now," says Pillsbury. "We'll look at the entire roadway, and speed up the process for spot improvements. Any improvements done in the near future would have to be designed to tie in with the

larger project, so that we don't make spot improvements now and then have to tear them up in a few years."

Pillsbury added that the survey work will be ongoing throughout the winter, and design work will take place during the spring and summer. "By the end of summer, we should have ideas of what improvements can be made soon," Pillsbury stated. "We don't know what the ultimate design will be, but in the long run we could add some shoulders; not big ten foot shoulders, because the impact on wetlands and homes would be too great, but we'll be looking to see what can be done."

The first improvement planned is to replace the bridge over the Merrymeeting River, just South of the traffic circle. A public informational meeting will be held sometime in February. According to Pillsbury, the date for that meeting has not yet been determined. Watch next months issue of Main Street for the date, time, and place.

Ironically, the letter from the State arrived just days after a portion of the newly-paved Route 28 collapsed following heavy rainfall that eroded the soil beneath the road. Crews worked all night to replace the portion that collapsed, and had to cut out a chunk of pavement, excavate, and re-pave.

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