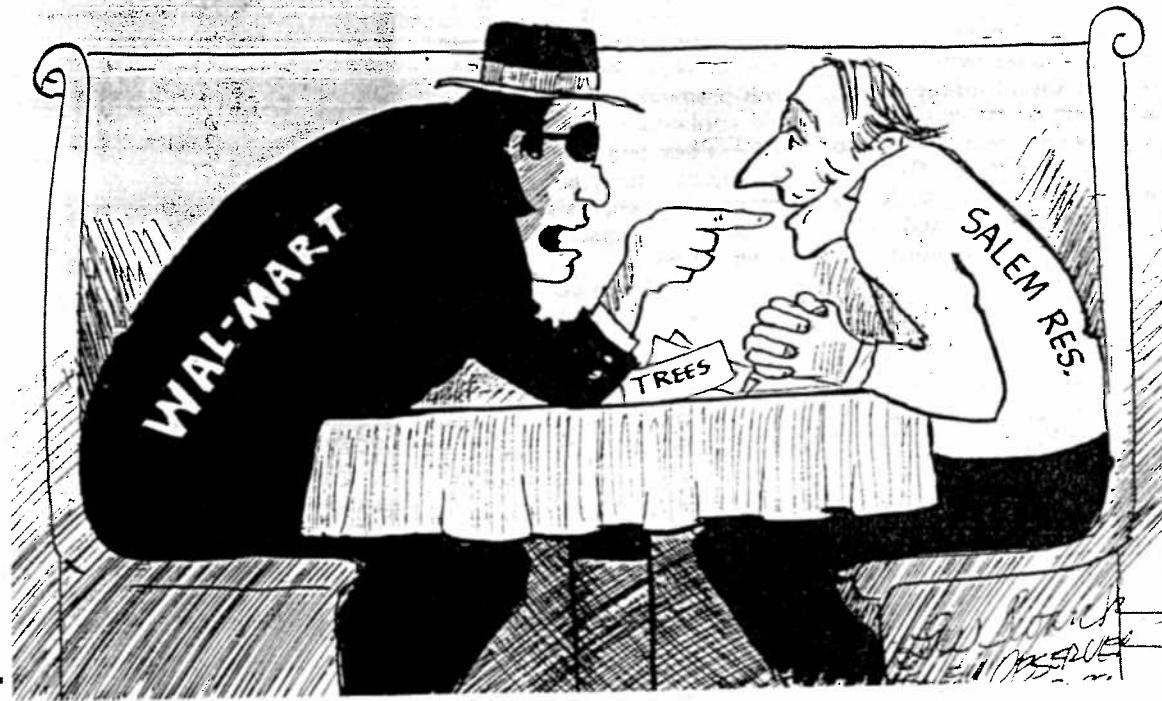


2/11/99

YOUR SON CAN EVEN PLAY IN MY
NEW BASEBALL PARK !



2/11/99

Wal-Mart/supermarket combo creeps closer

Planning board grants partial approval to grocery store site plan

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — The planning board played host to the fourth installment of the Wal-Mart series Feb. 4; the last such meeting was held in September.

This time, discussion was nearly as wide ranging as the area being discussed: from the intersection of Routes 28 and 97 to the intersection of Routes 111 and 111A.

But by the end of the night, the board members felt as though they had made significant progress and scheduled what could be the final hearing regarding Wal-Mart's plan to add a full-service supermarket to its existing site off Route 28.

"I think the most controversial stuff we've pretty much settled," said Robert Ellis, the selectmen's representative to the planning board. Ellis noted that one more meeting should wrap things up: "It should be short and sweet."

Prior to the planning board hearing, Wal-Mart's expansion plans were approved by several other government agencies. The traffic plans were reviewed and accepted by the state, with final approval coming on the day of the hearing. Salem's engineering and public works departments had previously given conditional approval to the plan.

"Most of the staff concerns have been addressed," Planning Director Ross Moldoff explained.

While the staff's concerns may have been alleviated, residents and abutters still had plenty to be concerned about.

Traffic, lighting, crime, noise and unsightliness were all cited by residents who spoke at the hearing.

to a four-way intersection. Although such a project makes sense, the state has plans to construct a Route 111 bypass in 2002 and so any major reconstruction would be a waste of money for," Pernaw said.

Windham Planning Director Al Turner was present at the meeting with a request from his town's government. Turner requested that Wal-Mart's delivery trucks use exit 2 off I-93 rather than 3. Turner argued that since the majority of the improvements are being done on Route 28, the trucks should use that road to get to the store, not Route 111. Turner was told by board members that the request was unreasonable.

I think you've got much more projects than what you have dollars for," Pernaw said.

In addition to approving the traffic mitigation plan, the board approved a motion that will allow abutters their choice of fencing, trees or both to separate their property from the Wal-Mart complex. Wal-Mart must pay up to \$60,000 total, divided among the direct abutters, on trees and fencing.

Discussion was continued to Feb. 23, at which time the board is expected to grant conditional approval to the entire project.

Through a variety of motions and discussions, the board members tackled the problems one by one until only minor matters remained.

"I believe we're satisfied with what's shown on the plan," Moldoff said.

The plan includes details of the landscaping that will be done. According to Wal-Mart representative Margaret Bowles, the final site will have twice the number of trees required.

"It will be a big improvement over existing conditions," Moldoff said.

In addition, Wal-Mart will pay for a recreational field and deed it to the town, if the town so desires.

The largest portion of the hearing was dedicated to the discussion of traffic impacts from the proposed expansion.

Total cost of the transportation mitigation (including the improvements made when the original building went in) comes to \$1.3 million.

"That's a substantial, substantial amount of mitigation on the part of Wal-Mart," said Bowles.

But for some, that still isn't enough.

"In terms of 'front-door improvements,' quite frankly, there isn't a lot there," said Stephen Pernaw, the town's consultant on

the matter. "Front door improvements" are improvements to the entrance driveway to the store.

The planning board approved the road improvements portion of the plan, but not without some dissent. The plan calls for a partial widening of Route 28, but no improvements to be made to Route 111. Nor does it include the addition of another turn lane at the exit from the store.

Planning board members debated the effects that such a situation could have on traffic from the depot to exit 3 off I-93.

Influencing the board member's decisions was the knowledge that Video Update could be expanding its site in the near future.

"I can envision that whole section up there, for the next five years that something's going to be dug up or worked on every year," Ellis said. "That doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me. If we can get it done [all at once], we should get it done."

The board members discussed options that ranged from widening 28 all the way to Video Update, to barring Old Rockingham Road traffic from making a left turn at the end of that road to redoing the entire Route 111/28 intersection

■ See WAL-MART

Page 3



SERVING SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

PEBBLEBROOK ROAD

1641 PEBBLEBROOK ROAD
SALEM TOWN OFFICE
33 RIVERMOUTH DR
SALEM NH 03079-3314

501-2222

Wal-Mart will have to wait

No decision regarding expansion plan, approval could come next month

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — It has been nearly a year since the first meeting and there is still no resolution regarding Wal-Mart's proposal for a 75,000 square ft addition to the existing retail store.

The "addition" would actually be a free-standing grocery store. Also part of the plan is for both stores to operate 24 hours per day.

The planning board reviewed Wal-Mart's plan for the addition Tuesday night without reaching a decision. It was the fifth planning board meeting on the proposed expansion; the first was way back in April of 1998. The fourth meeting on the site plan was just two weeks ago and board members felt at that time that the discussion would be wrapped up with a fifth meeting. But it wasn't meant to be.

"The [planning board] discussed 24-hour operation with no resolution," said Planning Director Ross Moldoff. "They discussed lighting with no resolution. They asked a lot of questions."

With only a few outstanding issues left to be resolved, the board members figured to grant condi-

"They expect to come back and finish it off March 11. Of course, that's what was supposed to happen [Tuesday] night."

— Ross Moldoff
Planning Director

tional approval to the plan Tuesday night. But when Wal-Mart representatives showed up with traffic plans that were too vague for the board members liking, that approval was delayed.

"We need to approve a plan with a definite beginning and a definite ending," said Steve Pernaw of Versent LLC, a traffic consultant to the town.

Discussion about traffic consumed

the majority of the evening. It was one of the few areas where the board took action.

The board reversed its position on a traffic issue previously discussed. After hearing new traffic figures regarding the intersection of Routes 111 and 28 and from Old Rockingham Road and North Policy, the board voted to extend

the median on Route 111 on the west side of Route 28. This will prevent traffic from taking a left out of Old Rockingham Road.

The more substantive change will be the addition of another lane on Route 111 in that area. Apparently, the state had plans to add a left turn lane on 111 west-bound for traffic turning onto North Policy. Wal-Mart's engineers had suggested an additional eastbound lane on 111 from North Policy to Route 28.

Planning board members would like to see both, if possible.

"I want to make darn sure that we maximize the improvements on 111 between 28 and North Policy," said Planning Board Chairman James Keller.

The board tabled a motion to require Wal-Mart to add that east-bound lane until the March 11 meeting. Wal-Mart's engineers have until then to develop a plan and figure a cost for such a project.

■ See WAL-MART

Page 2

News Briefs

Candidates Night scheduled

SALEM — The GFWC Salem Junior Women's Club has scheduled its 17th annual Candidates Night Forum on Wednesday, March 3, at the Salem High School Media Center. The program will run from 7:30 to 9 p.m. and will be televised on cable channel 17 (CTV17).

This annual community service program gives Salem voters an opportunity to meet the candidates currently running for office in the town and school district elections in March.

As in the past, the program will begin with a short prepared statement by each of the candidates. After this there will be a question and answer period during which the audience may ask individual candidates their opinion on various town and school district issues.

DMV may relocate

the beginning of winter break. For the younger children American Cancer Society which teaches students to a hat, and stop on the sun ice. The older students and their normal desks and is on beach towels and deck
Observer/Wendy Heckman

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into the Year 2000,
this town," he said. "I'd like a bud-
get committee that made sure we
weren't getting ripped off, not just
going in there and nitpicking."

WAL-MART, From Page 1

"We absolutely should have Wal-
Mart make [the addition of another
lane on Route 111] part of the plan
and get it done," said Robert Ellis,
the selectmen's representative on
the planning board

A traffic study brought to the
board's attention got the members
thinking that more had to be done.
Pernaw noted that according to the
numbers, Route 111 should proba-
bly be four or five lanes at that
point, but that just isn't possible.

"The heck with the numbers,
this is a big step in the right direc-
tion," Pernaw said.

The discussion was continued to
March 11, but that might not work
for the board. By the time
Tuesday's discussion was over,
there was no time to hear any of
the other plans on the agenda for
that night. The same thing could
happen on March 11 and the
board does not want the same peo-
ple waiting again.

"They expect to come back and
finish it off March 11," Moldoff
said. "Of course, that's what was
supposed to happen [Tuesday]
night."

Steve Eifler
893-4356

ATTENTION VETERANS
We're looking for a few
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It took 10 years to find, but MVP Sports lands Salem site

◆ Finding retail space on Route 28 was difficult for a low-Wilmington-based sporting goods store.

By Courtney Claire Brigham
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — The difficulty of finding retail space on South Broadway is no secret in the local real estate industry.

For MVP Sports, however, the quest for a lease has spanned 10 years, including six failed real estate deals. Douglas S. Barron, president and CEO of the Wilmington-based sporting goods store, said in the time he has spent looking for retail space in Salem, he has opened 14 stores in Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. The only other communities with the same dearth of space have been in urban neighborhoods around Boston, such as Dorchester, he said.

A decade later, Mr. Barron's time in Salem real estate offices may be

almost over. Just recently, he signed a lease to open a store in the Village Shoppes development, located across from Home Depot, just north of the intersection of Route 28 and Kelly Road. Five additional stores are planned for the 170,000-square-foot project, including Best Buy, CompUSA, The Big Party Linens' Things and Michael's Crafts, according to Ross A. Moldoff, Salem's planning director.

Spending so much time and effort searching for a retail site in town may sound odd to the typical Salem shopper, but to national retail companies, landing a prime spot on Route 28 means high traffic and big sales. According to Mr. Moldoff, traffic in the commercial district averages more than 30,000 cars each day — many of them filled with Massachusetts residents making a

trip over the border to cash in on the tax-free shopping.

And these are not cars filled with window shoppers. Many of the national chain stores located on Route 28 rank in the top 10 of their company for annual sales figures, according to Christopher B. Goodnow, owner of Goodnow Real Estate Services in Salem. Route 28 stores draw two to three times the number of customers they would in other locations, making the strip "tremendously popular" among retail developers, he said.

"They are extremely aggressive to get into this marketplace," Mr. Goodnow said. "They average very high dollars per square foot."

They also pay top dollar in rent per square foot. A lease for a spot in the prime shopping area south of Rockingham Boulevard runs \$12 to \$20 per square foot. In less popular districts, such as North Broadway, the price tag is \$8 to \$13 per square foot.

"It is difficult for them to get into that area, no question about it," Mr. Goodnow said. "(But) if they have to wait for that 'Class A' location, they do."

For MVP Sports, 10 years may prove worth the wait. Without a full-line sporting goods store anywhere in Salem — despite the number of sports-oriented families in the Merrimack Valley — Mr. Barron is confident there is a big market for MVP Sports. MVP carries equipment for camping, fishing, skiing and skating, among other sporting goods items.

The Village Shoppes plaza sparked controversy three years ago when the planning board initially rejected the development proposal. But the following year developers of the plaza, Rosen Associates of Miami, Fla., successfully challenged the board's decision in court.

"When the store is actually up and ready, I'll pop a bottle of champagne," Mr. Barron said.

1/21/99

Stampede closes home market

1/24/99

◆ Fourteen new houses are already shut out for 1999 and on a waiting list for next year.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Want to build a new home in Salem? Unless you already have a building permit, you'll have

to wait until the year 2000. Salem only allows 130 new homes to be built in a year, and the permits for all but one have been snatched up, mostly by developers.

SALEM'S 130-HOME CAP

10 are reserved for those with a subdivision of just one or two homes.

120 are up for grabs to all.

20 is the maximum number of permits a developer can take out for a subdivision in one year.

"It's a very natural survival instinct. It's the same

as Salem, and the permits for all but one have been snatched up, whether it's Beanie Babies or Furbies. When there is a

perceived limit to what is available, people get nervous," said developer Laurence N. Belair, who owns Captain's Village Development of Salem and serves as Salem's town moderator.

Two years ago, townspeople voted in the 130 limit. They did it so the town's schools, police, fire and other services could keep up with the growing population in their Massachusetts border town of nearly 30,000 located off Interstate 93.

Last year — the first year of the cap — the permits ran out in October. Those who lost out, combined with those fearing the

Please see SALEM, Page C5

Salem: 1999 building permits already snatched up

Continued from Page C1

Ten of the 130 permits are reserved for the "little guy," those building a single home, not part of a multi-house subdivision.

"There were somewhere in the vicinity of 70 already waiting (on the list) when we opened on Jan. 4,"

Chief Building Official Sam Zaninini said of the first business day after the New Year's holiday. Those who had lost out in 1998 had been put on a waiting list in the order they came in.

Some builders took out the allowed 20 permit maximum, or close to it. Others, like Mr. Belair, only took out a handful this year. Mr. Belair got seven permits.

Permits will not have started building all of them by the time the permits expire in six months.

Town officials agreed that it seemed like some took out more than usual just in case they needed them.

Community Development Director James Turse said less than 10 developers have the majority of the 130 permits for 1999.

Mr. Belair was on the committee that picked 130 as the cap number, after considering that 108 homes are built in Salem on average each year. The average was based on the past decade.

Mr. Belair expects that some of the developers who took out many

permits will be building five homes in the new Roulston Woods subdivision off Route 111 near Wickson's Corner, close to the Hampstead line.

Last year, the permits ran out and he did not get three he needed. This year he acted early and took out 10.

While he understands the town's need to control growth, he said there needs to be a better, fairer way to dole out the permits.

Mr. Turse and his staff are already working on ideas for the Planning Board to consider making that happen.

Richard Pelletier of Mesiti Development Corporation in Tewksbury, Mass., said his company is about 40 percent done with the 67-home

Autumn Woods subdivision off Route 111 near Wickson's Corner, close to the Hampstead line.

Last year, the permits ran out and he did not get three he needed. This year he acted early and took out 10.

Because he was still waiting for some state approvals on his lots — requirements for getting a town permit — he could not get in on the rush.

"I lost out ... I got bit by my own bug," he said. "No one ever thought it would work out like this."

Current permit holders

MPG Realty Corp./Mesiti Development	— 10
Old Silver Farm Corp.	— 20
Hampshire Ventures Inc.	— 17
Ken Ready	— 14
Serenity Homes	— 14
DHB Inc.	— 11
Elmo Development	— 9
Captain's Village Development Corp.	— 7
Kasher Corp.	— 5
Riverside Contracting	— 2
Richard Michael Inc.	— 1
John Gross	— 1
Arlene and Robert Ritter	— 1
Robert Nagri	— 1
Mangan Development Corp.	— 1
Nowhere Construction	— 1
Richard and Sheila Rogers	— 1
Rocco DeLuca Jr.	— 1
Charlie and Robyn Beshara	— 1
LBT Realty Trust	— 1
Joseph Armano	— 1
Tim and Rebecca Wolfe	— 1
Michael C. Schwab	— 1
Pat DiStefano	— 1
Dan DiPirro	— 1
Harley Lane LLC	— 1

The best intentions

go awry

THE ISSUE

There are no more building permits for 1999 available in Salem, N.H.

OUR VIEW

By setting an artificial limit on their number, town leaders unwittingly turned them into a hot commodity.

From Salem, N.H., comes a good example of what happens when well-meaning people tinker with the normal function of markets.

Salem is a town of about 30,000 people that is growing rapidly. In fact, the town has grown so rapidly that town leaders were worried about the ability of police, fire and educational services to keep up with the burgeoning population.

So, with the encouragement of town leadership, citizens voted two years ago to enact a cap on the number of building permits that would be issued each year. Since a building permit is needed to begin any construction, the belief was that such a limit would control the number of new homes built and so restrict population growth.

At the time the vote was taken, the average number of new homes built each year over the past decade was 108. So town planners recommended what they thought would be a generous permit limit — 130.

Last year, the first year under the new limit, the permits were all taken by October.

This year, they were gone by the third week of January.

Many builders took out the maximum of 20 permits each even though they have no concrete plans to build that many homes. Some builders who need permits for homes ready to be built have been shut out. One builder is suing the town.

In economic terms, what town leaders unwittingly did was create a scarce resource — the building permits. Where both scarcity and demand exist, there will be competition.

"It's a very natural instinct," said Laurence N. Belair, a developer who is also town moderator. "It's the same whether it's Beanie Babies or Furbies. When there is a perceived limit to what is available, people get nervous."

No one is quite sure what will happen in six months, when any unused permits expire. Will the builders who now hold them be able to renew them? Or will they go to the next person on the waiting list? Will some builders begin constructing homes that they otherwise would not have, out of fear of being unable to get a permit in the future?

What is clear is that in its effort to control growth, Salem has set up a system that is not working well. Town leaders need to reexamine the building permit limit and come up with a more workable solution to present to voters.

1/30/99
EAGLE TAB

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Wal-Mart pledges to ease traffic

Salem store advances its expansion proposal

◆ The national retail giant is a few steps closer to opening a 24-hour supermarket in Salem.

By Courtney Brigham

Eagle-Tribune Writer

5

SALEM, N.H. — Wal-Mart officials last night pledged to spend close to \$800,000 to ease traffic congestion and create a landscaped screen between the site of their proposed supermarket and the neighborhood.

Following a 4 1/2-hour negotiating session, the Planning Board voted to continue the hearing on Feb. 23. Issues left to resolve include the store's site plan and permission to stay open around-the-clock.

The national retailer is seeking Planning

◆ *"We need instant privacy."*

Kenneth B. Sidoti, Old Rockingham Road resident

officials agreed to spend \$713,000 on adding turning and traffic lanes, traffic lights and changing signal timing.

Margaret E. Bowles, Wal-Mart's lawyer, said the company should not take the blame or pay for all the noise problems related to Route 28. The traffic hazards are a result of a combination of all the commercial developments, she said.

"It is a substantial amount on the part of Wal-Mart," Ms. Bowles said.

Windham Planning and Development Director Alfred F. Turner Jr. said Wal-Mart's delivery trucks need to be restricted to using Exit 2 to ease the traffic congestion created by those travelling through his town to shop at the Salem retail store.

The Planning Board did not include Mr. Turner's suggestion on its list of conditions.

yards facing the Wal-Mart store. The project will give residents a choice of Canadian hemlock trees, an 8-foot stockade fence or both.

Michael R. Graham, of Old Rockingham Road, said Wal-Mart should offer more — possibly larger trees and bigger fences — to make up for the noise and lighting problems the store expansion will create. He said his family does not use their back porch or spend time in the backyard because of the store.

"The \$60,000 are a joke," Mr. Graham said. "I think it should be 10 times that amount." Kenneth B. Sidoti, of Old Rockingham Road, asked for a 16-foot high wall shaded with trees.

"We need instant privacy," Mr. Sidoti said. Meanwhile, the biggest improvements Wal-Mart proposed last night were related to easing traffic at intersections surrounding Route 28 and Old Rockingham Road. Company officials agreed to earmark \$60,000 for the 12 properties that have back-

TRIBBING FOR DOLLARS

Second impression charms planning board

Developer returns with new and improved plan for low-income elderly housing

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Yet another developer has entered the race to build Salem's first elderly housing complex and an earlier entrant found new hope last week as the planning board continued to listen to proposals.

Since the town approved a new elderly housing district overlay a year ago, several developers have presented conceptual plans for either assisted living or independent living complexes. So far, none have been approved by the board, but at least one of the three current developers is expected to build Salem's first such complex. All three have chosen downtown Main Street locations for their developments:

Benchmark Assisted Living has a plan to build a top-of-the-line assisted living complex came first, but only by a few minutes. During a conceptual discussion of the plan recently, the planning board reacted very favorably toward this plan.

That same night, 262 Main Street LLC presented plans for an independent-living, low-income elderly housing development just down the street. At the time, the planning board urged LLC to redesign the plan because it was too large for the residential neighborhood.

The newest entrant is SK Properties, who presented a conceptual plan for an assisted living facility to the planning board just over a week ago. The board took no action regarding the plan.

Affordable Housing Communi-

ties of New England President Chris Goodnow, the man behind 262 Main Street LLC, returned to the planning board meeting Feb. 9 with a revised plan that was received much better by the planning board.

"The planning board is more favorable toward this plan," said Salem Planning Director Ross Moldoff. "They did what we wanted and moved it back."

The new plan calls for the building to be moved back from the road from 50 feet to over 250 feet at its closest point. The lot has been reduced in size to allow for the house at 268 Main Street to remain standing.

In addition, the original 53,000 square-foot building has been split into two smaller buildings of 21,000 and 31,000.

"We've really made some tremendous progress," Goodnow said. "I think there was a number of issues that came up in the initial meeting that we tried to address."

Still, there are abutters who have objections. Goodnow said they are in the minority.

"The community at-large is very positive about wanting to provide affordable housing to seniors," Goodnow said. The majority of the residents see this as a benefit to the town. Is that 100 percent of the residents? No. But there is a tremendous need for this."

Goodnow said the fact that the Salem Housing Authority has a 90-person waiting list shows the need

for a development such as the one he is proposing.

The day after his second presentation to the planning board, Goodnow said that a resident called him asking to add his mother to the waiting list at 262 Main Street despite the fact that in a best case scenario, the facility would not open until March or April of 2000.

"We are a substantive distance away," Goodnow said, "but this shows that there is still an unmet need out there."

The 262 Main Street complex would provide independent living to low- and moderate-level income seniors. The majority of the units would be rented at \$500 per month. The location offers easy walking distance to the Kelley Library, the Boys and Girls Club and the Three Seasons Cafe.

"It provides seniors an opportunity to participate in society on a restricted budget," Goodnow said.

Goodnow estimated that it would be six weeks before he is ready to present an actual site plan to the planning board.

Secret donor chips in for center

◆ Townspeople are curious to know the identity of the mysterious donor who is offering \$315,000 toward a new senior center.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — A secret benefactor has offered to give Salem \$315,000 toward building a new senior center this year.

That money, combined with a potential \$1 million federal grant, would mean the new 10,774-square-foot center could be built this year without any local tax dollars.

The news, announced at Town Meeting yesterday by former Selectman David P. Tilton, resulted in a roar of applause for the mysterious donor.

Mr. Tilton said the family "wishes to remain anonymous at this time." He said the donor wanted to do something for the community and contacted him about giving a gift to the town.

"They want to give \$315,000 to build the senior center this year if the town gets the million dollar grant . . . no strings attached," he said.

It seems no one but Mr. Tilton and Town Moderator Laurence N. Belair knows the gift-giver's identity — and they are not telling.

"I have no idea who it is, but I'd love to know," said Senior Center Director Sally Sweet. "I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart."

Mrs. Sweet said she knew nothing about the donation until Mr. Tilton announced it during the meeting.

"I was dumbfounded for a minute," she said. "It's so generous. . . . I don't know anyone with that kind of money."

Mr. Tilton said the family has a long history in town.

"It's a family that has been here longer than I have, and that's a long time," said Mr. Tilton, 67, who has

lived in Salem since he was 4.

The new, one-story senior center is proposed for land behind the Municipal Office on Geremonty Drive. It would replace the often-crowded center on Lawrence Road, which a recent study showed has half the space that is needed. It also has limited handicapped access and a sub-standard kitchen.

Salem applied for the \$1 million grant from the Housing and Urban Development Department last year and was turned down. This year it reapplied and — until the surprise gift was revealed yesterday — was seeking the additional \$315,000 from taxpayers to show a good-faith effort toward building it.

If the senior center project gets the grant and moves forward, the anonymous gift will save the average homeowner about \$23 on their tax bill.

The average home with a market value of \$133,000 is assessed at \$60,000 for tax purposes. Salem charges its taxes based on 45 percent of a home's value. The \$315,000 would have had a tax impact of 38 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Despite the gift, which is in securities, Town Meeting still had to appropriate the money yesterday in order to be able to legally spend it.

Among its other business, Town Meeting:

Spent \$527,128 on a new ladder truck for the Fire Department. The new aerial ladder will replace the 15-year-old tower truck bought in the late 1980s.

Fire Chief John R. Nadeau said refurbishing the existing, often broken-down ladder truck would cost \$300,000. He said Salem would buy the new truck through a federal government bid, saving about \$75,000.

Increased the number of elected Budget Committee members from six to seven to reduce the chance for a tie vote. That brings the total number to nine, counting the two appointed representatives from selectmen and the School Board. The new person will be elected next March.

Took on the \$29,562 cost of two police officers for the rest of the year. For the past three years, the officers have been paid with a grant that is now expiring. In order to keep two others on a similar grant, the town had to absorb the cost of the expiring ones.

Spent \$32,000 to scrape, repair and paint the outside of three historic town buildings in time for the town's 250th birthday. The buildings are the Old Town Hall, the Alice Hail Memorial Library and the Old Hose House.

Gave three percent raises to employees at Kelley Library.

Spent \$763,600 to reconstruct 5,000 feet of Shannon Road, from Hooker Farm Road to the town's transfer station, and design the reconstruction of an additional 5,800 feet.

Spent \$580,113 to pave several streets, including Clinton Street, Darryl Lane, Dyson Drive, Dennis Drive, Gloria Road, Longwood Road, Lucille Avenue, Marianna Avenue/Extension, Sullivan Avenue, Veronica Avenue and Wildwood Road. It also includes money for water system improvements.

Spent \$125,649 to shim and pave Wheeler Avenue and Butler Street.

Spent \$188,000 to repair Millville Dam.

Put \$621,841 aside for winter weather clean up, including plowing, sanding and salting. The figure is the average of what the town spent during the past four years.

DEFEAT



Carl Russo/Eagle-Tribune

Carl Russo/Eagle-Tribune
vart is consoled by team manager Colby Boppel during
they play Manchester West. One of the many fans
hind the Lancer bench. Manchester West will play for
on the game, Page 22.

3/17/99

Salem's town manager calls it quits

◆ Community Development Director James Turse has been named acting town manager.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Town Manager Stephen J. Daly has quit his \$88,000-a-year-job.

Selectmen Chairman Robert Ellis said the town manager's immediate departure was a "mutual decision" between the board and Mr. Daly.

"We had a little discussion before Town Meeting. Steve was hired to reorganize the town and get us to where we are today," Mr. Ellis said.

Mr. Ellis said Mr. Daly, who has been town manager since April 1995, has done that. He said it is now time for Salem to move on with a new town manager.

"We determined his type of management skills weren't what we needed anymore," Mr. Ellis said.

Selectmen spoke to Mr. Daly about their wanting him to leave during a secret meeting Monday night. Mr. Daly, who lives in North Reading, Mass., turned in a resignation letter then and there, effective immediately.

Mr. Daly will receive a severance package, but selectmen so far have refused to say how much.

Mr. Daly's home telephone number is not published, and he did not return calls made to his personal pager.

Selectman Charles "Chuck" Morse said Mr. Daly's forte is taking on big-scale tasks and projects. Dealing with day-to-day town issues and communicating with Salem's 250 town employees is not, he said.

"Steve did a very good job at a lot of things," Mr. Morse said. "He put us miles ahead in technology, and he created a strong management force."

Community Development Direc-

tor James Turse, a member of the management force, has been named acting town manager.

When asked if the parting of ways came because of friction between Mr. Daly and selectmen, Mr. Ellis said it did not.

"There wasn't any real disagreement," he said. "We're pleased with how he ran the town. He did a

good job."

Both Mr. Ellis and Mr. Morse said Salem now needs a manager with better communication skills.

"The board wants to improve communication between employees and managers and to improve service to the public," Mr. Morse said.

Mr. Ellis said he did not believe Mr. Daly has a new job lined up. Mr. Morse said the board has no problem with giving Mr. Daly a positive job recommendation.

The secret meeting was attended by four of Salem's five selectmen: Mr. Ellis, Mr. Morse, Everett P. McBride Jr. and Philip A. Smith. Selectman Thomas Eden was absent for medical reasons.

Mr. Smith, who was elected last week to his first term, walked out before the vote to accept Mr. Daly's resignation. He said he left the meeting because he disagreed with what was happening.

"I told them how I felt and left," Mr. Smith said. He would not give details on the discussion, but did say he thought Mr. Daly had done a good job.

"I'm only one man's opinion . . . And I'm the new kid on the block," he said.

Mr. Daly was town administrator in North Reading for 5½ years before coming to Salem. He left

Please see SALEM, Page 2

RI its neighbor

♦ Some severely handicapped children have been given a six-month reprieve on a move to "mainstream" them out of the Andover treatment center that serves them.

By Marjory Sherman
Eagle-Tribune Writer

An Andover treatment center for children with the most severe handicaps has been saved from extinction, at least temporarily. Dr. Howard K. Koh of Andover,

commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, yesterday offered a six-month extension for the day treatment program at the Professional Center for Handicapped Children.

The extension buys time until June 2000 for leaders of the Andover Center, and similar programs in Springfield, Pittsfield and Canton, to work with health officials and legislators to find a solution.

The commissioner's decision came after parents, school leaders and legislators cried foul over a move to cut money for the day program because it does not follow federal rules requiring programs be open to all children, handicapped or

not. Parents of the severely disabled children at the Professional Center worry that the federal regulation calling for "natural" settings is a misguided attempt to mainstream children who do not belong in a mixed setting.

Many of the 27 children in the Andover program have multiple disorders, such as cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, seizure disorders, compromised immune systems, and rare metabolic disorders. Ten of the children, ages 1 to 7, have feeding tubes; 20 use braces of various types; 17 need special wheelchairs or equipment to help them stand.

Continued from Page 1

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SALEM

3/17/99

Wal-Mart 24-hour giant OK'd

♦ Wal-Mart will add a supermarket to its Route 28 store and have the entire "supercenter" open 24 hours a day.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Shoppers will soon be able to go to Wal-Mart on Route 28 day or night and buy everything from beef and vegetables to clothes and motor oil.

The retail giant's plans to add a supermarket and keep the entire store open 24 hours a day was approved by the Planning Board last night.

Still, it could be at least a year or more before the "supercenter," as Wal-Mart calls it, is set to open, Wal-Mart's lawyer Margaret E. Bowles said last night.

Wal-Mart must complete more than \$700,000 in road improvements, including widening Route 28 and making a left-turn lane onto North Policy Street from Route 111, before it starts construction of the 75,000-square-foot addition.

Wal-Mart also must create a recreation field for the town on the Wal-Mart property and meet 16 other conditions set by the board.

Wal-Mart is located a few miles from Exit 3 off Interstate 93 near Windham.

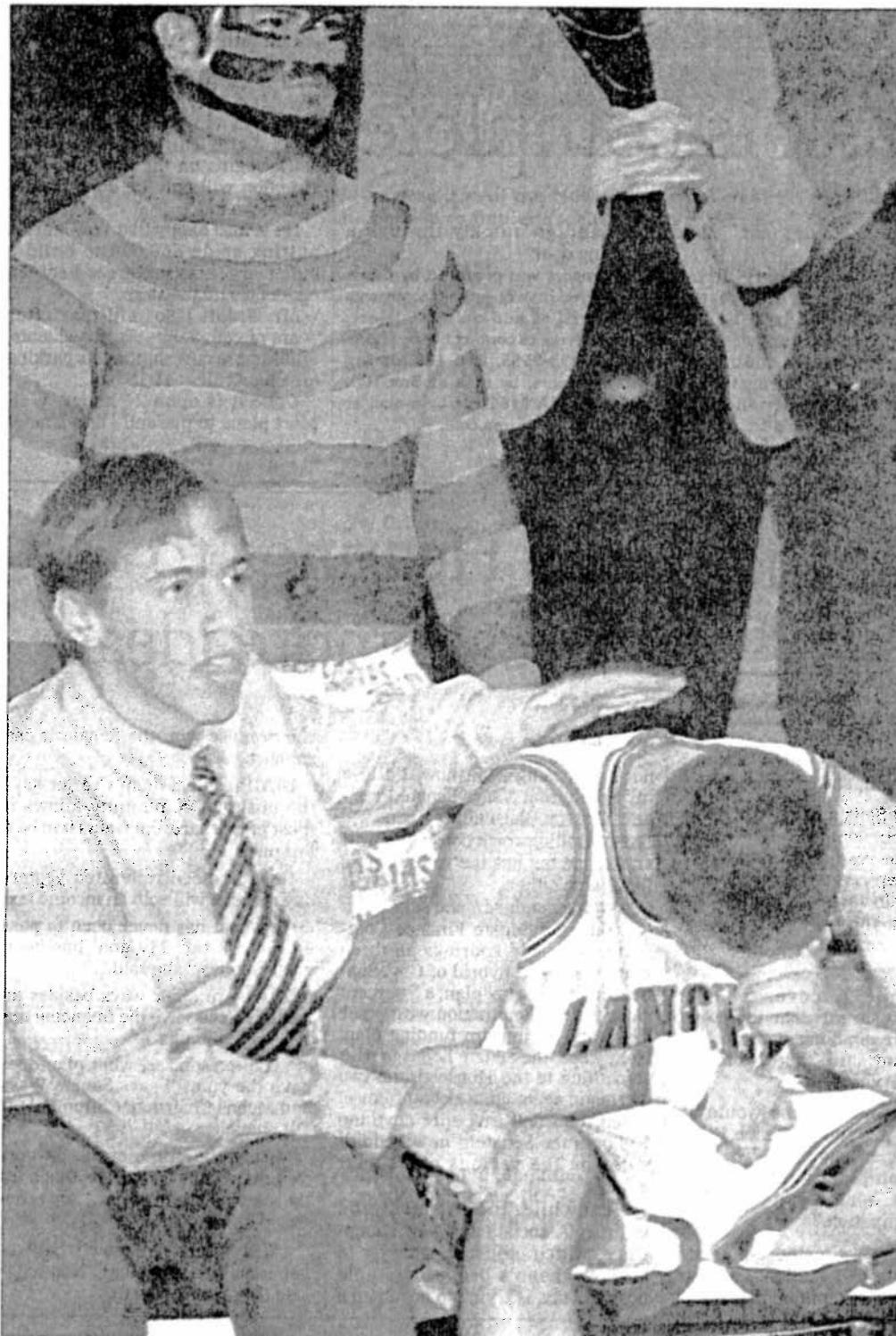
Last night's approval — which came after nearly 5½ hours of debate — ended what had turned into a yearlong process. Wal-Mart's first hearing before the board was April 28, 1998.

Planning Board Chairman James Keller credited the board with taking its time in addressing the concerns of Wal-Mart, its neighbors and the town.

"We had some nine meetings along the way ... That indicates we

Please see **STORE**, Page 2

TOURNAMENT DEFEAT



Carl Russi

Londonderry boys basketball standout Ken Stewart is consoled by team manager Colby Bopp the final seconds of last night's 54-45 state tourney loss to Manchester West. One of the many painted in Londonderry's colors stands sadly behind the Lancer bench. Manchester West will the state title at 1 p.m. Saturday at UNH. More on the game, Page 22.

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Parents of the severely disabled children at the Professional Center worry that the federal regulation calling for "natural" settings is a misguided attempt to mainstream children who do not belong in a mixed setting.

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Parents are concerned that rambunctious toddlers and preschoolers in day care or Head Start programs could accidentally pull out feeding tubes and tracheostomy tubes, set off seizures with excessive noise, or expose fragile children to viruses. They worry about the trauma to children exposed to others with frequent seizures and vomiting who require suctioning.

Despite a public outcry, officials at the Department of Public Health continue to maintain that their interpretation of the 1997 Individuals With Disabilities in Education Act requires that they disband segregated programs that cater only to handicapped children.

is task is complete

"unning better. He did that," Mr. Ellis said.

Mr. Daly succeeded Barry Brenner, who served nearly five years. Mr. Brenner, who left to be Lebanon's city manager, was the longest-serving town manager alem had since 1978. During the 11 years before Mr. Brenner and Mr. Daly, town managers seemed to

come and go quickly through a revolving door.

This report was prepared by Dawn Souza. If you have questions, comments or material to add on this subject, please feel free to contact her by phone at (603) 893-9555, Ext. 188, during business hours, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842 or by e-mail at dsouza@eagletribune.com.

s betting

Salisbury Selectman Charles F. Early sees it as the economic salvation that will reverse years of losses. New Hampshire Selectman Free-
lan Condon said it will place too much strain on the town's water system, plant and roads.

About 60 Salisbury residents and businessmen, donning bright yellow sashes that read "Salisbury Voted 'No,'" a reference to two votes residents took in favor of casinos, sat patiently in the back of the room, waiting for hours to show their sup-

Tax: Hearings to assess 3 more ideas

Continued from Page 1

nor's proposing right now, I'd lose my Senate seat," says Senate President Clesson Blaisdell, D-Keene.

Sen. Hollingsworth doesn't know if an income tax has the votes to pass the Senate either.

"But it's not dead," she says.

Today, the Senate Finance Com-

Store: Wal-Mart had faced fierce opposition from its neighbors

Continued from Page 1

haven't rushed," Mr. Keller said.

Wal-Mart faced fierce opposition from neighbors, most of whom live on Old Rockingham Road, across from the store. As Wal-Mart made concessions over the past few months, the crowd of detractors thinned out, with just a handful of neighbors present last night.

Kenneth B. Sidoti, whose lives directly across from Wal-Mart, said he was satisfied with the outcome. Wal-Mart has restricted hours for deliveries and parking lot cleaning to between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. When work begins on the addition, construction will only be done from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

He is also happy that Wal-Mart is putting aside \$60,000 to build a buffer of fences and trees between residents and the store.

Mr. Sidoti also said that after years of complaints from residents, Wal-Mart is now shutting its parking area lights off at 11:15 p.m.

Once it is open 24 hours, Wal-Mart plans to put anti-glare shades

on its lights nearest Route 28 and to shut off the lights in its outermost parking lot after 11 p.m. The outer parking area is not expected to be needed by late-night shoppers.

"If they carry through with everything, there won't be any problems. ... It's all about trust now," Mr. Sidoti said.

This report was prepared by Dawn Souza. If you have questions, comments or material to add on this subject, please feel free to contact her by phone at (603) 893-9555, Ext. 188, during business hours, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842 or by e-mail at dsouza@eagletribune.com.

THE LOTTERY

MASSACHUSETTS

	Daily Lottery
March 16	8227
Payoffs/exact order	
All 4 digits	\$3,857
First or last 3 digits	\$540
Any 2 digits	\$46
Any 1 digit	\$5
Payoffs/any order	
All 4 digits	\$321
First 3 digits	\$180
Last 3 digits	\$180

Previous numbers

March 15	8848	March 12	2254
March 14	9920	March 11	6247
March 13	0539	March 10	6368

Megabucks

March 12	4-20-21-28-31-34
March 10	3-6-7-9-10-39

Mass Cash

March 16	2-13-17-18-23
March 12	3-5-7-27-31

Mass Millions

March 15	20-23-26-28-34-46
Bonus number:	3

The Big Game

March 16	6-11-19-33-40
Big Money Ball:	19

March 12	22-32-37-38-41
Big Money Ball:	3

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Salem skating center offers much more

By Leah Gladu
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Ice skating need not be restricted to winter.

The new Icenter, located in Salem, offers every type of skating year round and is open to the public.

The idea for the ice center was born when two fathers of youth hockey players, J. Michael Sapiente and Michael M. Vigneau, both of Windham, decided

southern New Hampshire needed better skating facilities.

On June 27, the Icenter opened its doors to the public, offering figure skating, hockey, and much more. The center has both Olympic and National Hockey League arenas, an athletic training center, three food service venues, an arcade and a pro shop.

Response to the center has been amazing, according to Sapiente, who is president of V&S Entertainment, the company he started with Vigneau to build the center.

"It's really been embraced as a fun place to go, not just a skating rink," he said. "Our goal is to provide sports and family entertainment."

And at \$5 for 90 minutes of skating, it's affordable for families to learn to skate together. For those that don't have skates, the center rents them, and preschoolers skate for free.

Sapiente plans to use the center to bring different things to the area that will appeal to people of all ages, including concerts, wrestling, fund-raisers, trade shows, political functions, boxing, ice shows, conventions, corporate functions, family shows, parties and corporate hockey challenges. He also hopes to have figure skating and hockey programs geared toward children.

"This is just wide open to the public for anything," he said. "It's really a multitude of things for people to do."

On Aug. 28, the center will host a Bruins fanfest, which Sapiente hopes will raise \$10,000 for muscular dystrophy. He expects it to be well-attended, since there are approximately

1 million people within 30 miles of the center.

"We're trying to appeal to a very large market," Sapiente said.

Irish students take trip to foster peace

They'd never looked one another in the eye; they'd never stepped foot on one another's streets; they'd never even met.

But Wednesday, eight Protestant and eight Catholic students from Belfast, ranging from age 13 to 16, came to New Hampshire with the Program for Global Harmony, a Manchester-based organization that tries to coordinate peacefulness between groups.

The president and co-founder of the group, Karen Kelly, said she has been to Belfast three times and got a taste of their lifestyles.

"They live a whole different kind of existence than we do," she said, adding that bringing students here "is a wonderful opportunity for them to break through stereotypes."

When the students arrived, they

were placed with host families. The schedule called for them to take a cruise on Lake Sunapee, visit an Indian museum and have a cookout with all their hosts. Then, they are off to Camp Coniston in Croydon for a week filled with activities. At the end of their stay, the students will create a peace-oriented mural that will be dedicated next Sunday in New London.

Global Harmony has already coordinated the creation of murals in 40 communities in 12 different countries. However, having the students come to the states is something new for the organization, Kelly said.

"This is a real expansion of what we do," she said.

Because it will be the first time in the United States for many of the students, Kelly said she thinks they may be more excited and nervous about coming here than they are about interacting with one another.

The students' trip is being sponsored by the New London Baptist Church, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in New London and St. Andrew Episcopal in New London.

Local station is losing out to shopping channel

■ CABLE

Continued from Page NH 1

■ CABLE

The couple also sells advertising.

Chants

Continued from Page NH 1



■ See DAILY DESIGNS Page 2

Jim Turse
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Bob Ellis
Manager
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Salem's streak... Page 12

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3/18/99

Supermart approved

Wal-Mart to add grocery store, 24-hour operation

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The members of Salem's Planning Board still had too many objections to Wal-Mart's expansion plan to approve it Tuesday night.

Approval had to wait until Wednesday morning as the proceedings dragged on past midnight.

Despite all the haggling, it was with a unanimous vote that the board granted conditional approval to the plan during the wee hours of March 17.

The approval means that Wal-Mart can move forward with its plan to add a grocery store to its existing site off Route 28. The plan calls for 24-hour operation for both stores.

The planning board members put a number of restrictions on the approval; some 18 conditions must be met before an occupancy permit will be issued.

But finally, after numerous meetings and plan changes, the two sides were able to reach an agreement. Board Chairman James Keller is pleased with the end result.

"This board has gone to great lengths to take abutter concerns into consideration," Keller said. "I think it's unfair to categorize this board as a board that tried to rush

this through. We had nine hearings over close to a year. I thank everyone for indulging us."

Among the conditions that must be met before the new store can open: a road improvement plan totaling \$1 million.

The town will contribute approximately \$240,000 toward this ambitious plan in the form of impact fees and the North Broadway Trust Fund. The town may be reimbursed for \$85,000 of that by Video Update as the developers of that site are required to pay for a portion of the improvement project.

Board members had to choose between a state-designed, state-funded plan and Wal-Mart's plan for upgrading the roads in the area. The state's plan is more extensive, particularly at the intersection of Routes 28 and 111.

"Do you want to take the sure thing and have some interim improvements out there or do you want to essentially leave it in the state's hands and have Wal-Mart write out a check?" asked Planning Director Ross Moldoff. According to Moldoff, the town's traffic consultant said it would be better to

■ See SUPERMART Page 2

by Steve Eifler
SALEM -
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Girls Club
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and her husband
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Generous voters love saying yes

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Salem voters were in a good mood Saturday, approving 34 of the 40 articles set before them at the final segment of Town Meeting on March 13. Will they still be smiling when their tax bills arrive later in the year?

The generous nature of the voters means that this year's tax rate is up to \$19.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value, an 82-cent increase over last year.

That number could be reduced significantly, however. That rate was calculated using a total budget figure that includes \$315,000 to go toward the new senior center.

An anonymous donor has agreed to pay that entire amount (see related story on page 2), but the town cannot take any chances.

there are surprises, there are good surprises," said former Town Manager Steve Daly.

Among the largest items approved by the voters were \$621,841 for winter weather management and \$527,128 for a new ladder truck for the fire department.

The ladder truck is the most expensive vehicle in the fleet. It is also the only one in town, so reliability is a concern. The vehicle is a 1984 model; they are supposed to have a 15-year life expectancy.

The current truck will be sold to another department for \$90,000.

Moderator Larry Belair presented Fire Chief John Nadeau with a model fire truck after the article was approved.

Voters also approved three relat-

In This

Bridal.....
Classified.....
Dockets.....
Editorial.....
Elsie.....
Legals.....
Obituaries.....
Palham.....
Real Estate.....
School.....
Sports.....
Things to Do.....
Windham.....

• 2000

DAILY RESIGNS

others first."

"The selectmen are going to take some time with that search," Turse said. "They have the confidence in me to continue to manage the town effectively. These are key positions that we need to fill."

Ellis said that having three key positions open at the same time will not slow the town significantly.

"It doesn't hurt us very much," he said. "We have people doing those jobs. The people it hurts the most are the ones pulling double duty. But they are capable people."

Turse has filled in as Salem's Town Manager in the past. Turse, Bernard, and Fire Chief John Nadeau have all taken turns filling in for Daly during his vacations and at various other times.

For Turse, the additional work could hamper his efforts as the town's community development director.

"We have quite a few things in the fire over there," Turse said. "They're real important things to the community that we need to keep our eyes on."

The town issued a brief press release noting that Daly has resigned and Turse was appointed his successor. The release goes on to say that Daly served the town ably in his four-plus years.

"Mr. Daly successfully contributed to the growth and restructuring of the town with his man-

SUPERMART

From Page 1

agement style, introduction of state-of-the-art technology and professional customer service," the statement reads. "We wish him well. The board of selectmen will be working with Jim to establish a long-term management plan for this transition."

Daly could not be reached for comment for this story. Since his resignation is effective immediately, he was not at his office Tuesday. His secretary, Maureen Witley, was also unavailable for comment. By coincidence, she was out on Tuesday also, attending a leadership conference.

Turse, meanwhile, was very busy Tuesday adjusting to his new position.

"It's been a crazy 24 hours," he said.

The board members feel they

"get something done out there; don't wait."

The board took his advice, approving the Wal-Mart plan. Wal-Mart representatives told the board they expect completion of the road improvements by late spring of next year. The board agreed to waive Wal-Mart's \$202,000 impact fee due to the extent of the proposed road improvement plan.

In addition, all the lights in the parking lot, existing and new, will be redesigned with enclosed lamps and the roadside lights will also be shaded so that they shine away from Route 28.

One abutter described the drive-way to Wal-Mart as a "runway," saying it looks like "where you land to go to Wal-Mart."

The board members feel they

have "mitigated" that by requiring that the height of each light pole in the driveway be lowered by a minimum of 10 feet. That change may require Wal-Mart to add another pole, but the overall effect should be less glare for the residents across Route 28.

Some of those lights will be on all the time - the board agreed that 24-hour operation will be permitted, but not without some debate. "All-night operation would be a complete disaster," said board member Frank DeCesare.

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is off the table, Salem will have a flight risk," Gould said. Police arrested Egan and charged him with providing false reports and resisting detention.

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Youth escapes from police during storm

From Page 1

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the opportunity. In a flash, he was out the door and across the street, hiding in the woods behind Toys R Us. It was just after midnight on March 15.

"He was not in a real secure area," said Capt. Alan Gould of the Salem Police Department.

"Basically, at the time, we thought he was just a kid we were holding for his parents to come and pick up."

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The driver from a short

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GANLEY AWARD

Salem Observer

16 PAGES

SERVING SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE MARCH 18, 1999 50 CENTS

Strike three: Daly resigns

Town Manager Steve Daly becomes the third high-ranking town employee to resign since November; Jim Turse named as his temporary replacement

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — Salem has lost its third significant government official in the last four months.

Town Manager Steve Daly joins former public works director Ray King and Finance Director Fran Bernard who will be leaving in April on the list of ex-employees of the town of Salem.

After more than four years as the town's manager, Daly tendered his resignation Monday night, March 15, effective immediately. In the meantime, Community Development Director Jim Turse has been appointed as acting town manager.

Daly informed the selectmen of his resignation after Monday's board meeting which lasted only a few minutes. The selectmen had gathered to elect new officers. Chairman Bob Ellis, re-elected to that post Monday night, said Daly's resignation to resign was more of a mutual decision.

"We had vague discussions about it over the last three to four weeks," he said. "It was not a big surprise. Steve was hired to do a particular job. He did it very successfully. But as a town, we have reached a point where we're ready to move on."

When asked to elaborate, Ellis said that the town is looking for a different kind of town manager.

"Steve did not fit into the type of management position we are looking for," Ellis said. "Steve was brought in to reorganize the town. That's his forte. Now that that's done, we're looking for a different

type of manager, one who's better able to handle day-to-day operations of the town."

While Ellis and the board apparently feel that Daly cannot take the town where it is headed, the selectmen did have words of praise of their faithful servant.

"There's absolutely no question

he did a good job," Ellis said. "We're happy with his performance. He did an excellent job for us."

Daly's erstwhile replacement was not aware of the hows or whys, only that he has been thrust into the most visible office in Salem's town government virtually overnight.

"I'm not aware of the circumstances that led up to [the resignation]," Turse said. "I still have a lot to learn about what's going on."

Turse met with the town department heads Tuesday morning to apprise them of the situation.

Acting Public Works Director Rodney Barlett was among the first to learn of Turse's temporary elevation, a situation similar to his own.

According to both Turse and Ellis, the town is in no rush to find a more permanent replacement for Daly.

"We have a couple of positions we have to fill," Ellis said. "We don't expect to do any active searching [for a town manager] for a month or so. We figure to fill the

■ **See DALY RESIGNS Page 2**



Steve Daly



Jim Turse

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— Bob Ellis
Selectmen Chairman

Sabatini named

News Briefs

DAILY RESIGNS.....

others first."

"The selectmen are going to take some time with that search," Turse said. "They have the confidence in me to continue to manage the town effectively. These are key positions that we need to fill."

Ellis said that having three key positions open at the same time will not slow the town significantly.

"It doesn't hurt us very much," he said. "We have people doing those jobs. The people it hurts the most are the ones pulling double duty. But they are capable people." Turse has filled in as Salem's Town Manager in the past. Turse, Bernard, and Fire Chief John Vadeau have all taken turns filling in for Daly during his vacations and at various other times.

For Turse, the additional work could hamper his efforts as the town's community development director.

"We have quite a few things in the fire over there," Turse said. "They're real important things to the community that we need to keep our eyes on."

The town issued a brief press release noting that Daly has signed and Turse was appointed as his successor. The release goes on to say that Daly served the town in his four-plus years.

"Mr. Daly successfully contributed to the growth and restructuring of the town with his man-

agement style, introduction of state-of-the-art technology and professional customer service," the statement reads. "We wish him well. The board of selectmen will be working with Jim to establish a long-term management plan for this transition."

Daly could not be reached for comment for this story. Since his resignation is effective immediately, he was not at his office Tuesday. His secretary, Maureen Willey, was also unavailable for comment. By coincidence, she was out on Tuesday also, attending a leadership conference.

Turse, meanwhile, was very busy Tuesday adjusting to his new position.

"It's been a crazy 24 hours," he said.

"We have quite a few things in the fire over there," Turse said. "They're real important things to the community that we need to

pack of beer. At first, Egan provided police with a false identity and address and awaited his release.

Police soon learned that Egan, whose last known address is in Brockton, Mass. and who claims he is currently homeless, was lying about his name because he was wanted in Massachusetts.

According to police, during the questioning, the officer left Egan alone for a moment and he seized

"get something done out there; don't wait."

The board took his advice, approving the Wal-Mart plan. Wal-Mart representatives told the board they expect completion of the road improvements by late spring of next year. The board agreed to waive Wal-Mart's \$202,000 impact fee due to the extent of the proposed road improvement plan.

In addition, all the lights in the parking lot, existing and new, will be redesigned with enclosed lamps and the roadside lights will also be shaded so that they shine away from Route 28.

One abutter described the driveway to Wal-Mart as a "runway," saying it looks like "where you land to go to Wal-Mart."

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have "mitigated" that by requiring that the height of each light pole in the driveway be lowered by a minimum of 10 feet. That change may require Wal-Mart to add another pole, but the overall effect should be less glare for the residents across Route 28.

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SUPERMART.....

From Page 1

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Only one of the other four minors in the car faces any charges; the others were released to their parents without incident.

Youth escapes from police during storm

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - With police about to solve the identity of a youth taken into their custody as part of a round

time questioning regarding some underage possession of alcohol, the suspect escaped the station and tried to hide in the woods across the street during the snowstorm on Sunday night.

Police took John Egan, 20, into custody Sunday night when he was in a car full of minors and a 30-

pack of beer. At first, Egan provided police with a false identity and address and awaited his release.

Police soon learned that Egan, whose last known address is in Brockton, Mass. and who claims he is currently homeless, was lying about his name because he was wanted in Massachusetts.

According to police, during the questioning, the officer left Egan alone for a moment and he seized

the opportunity. In a flash, he was out the door and across the street, hiding in the woods behind Toys R Us. It was just after midnight on March 15.

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ANLEY AWARD.....

Reddy's gift to town: 54 open acres

3/25/99

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — The town received some pleasant news Monday night when it learned that it would be receiving a gift of 54 acres of land that the conservation commission had previously considered buying.

Reddy Homebuilders, a local developer, agreed to gift a 54-acre parcel of land to the town free of charge. The conservation commission has been interested in the lot for some time; Reddy's decision to give it to the town for nothing came as a surprise.

The land is located near Route 111, at the end of Green Haven Road at the Windham, border.

"I think it's great to receive a gift like this," said Selectman Phil Smith.

A significant portion of the land is covered by wetlands and is virtually undevelopable; the conservation commission will maintain the land as a open space for use by the general public.

The gift is not a done deal at this time; the selectmen agreed to accept the gift contingent upon a walk-through inspection by town staff.

"You never know what you're going to find out there," said Planning Director Ross Moldoff. It will be Moldoff's responsibility to ensure that there are no significant environmental or contamination problems with the land before the town accepts it.

The gift comes with no strings attached, according to Moldoff; Reddy expects no relief from impact fees in return.

Reddy has also deeded the town an easement for access to the land and may develop walking paths on the lot before the transaction is completed.

3/26/99

Salem given open space

◆ Before Salem accepts 54 acres off Route 111 as a gift, town staff will inspect it to be sure there are no problems on it.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — A tract of land off Route 111 where blue heron birds once nested will soon be owned by the town.

The 54 acres is a gift from Reddy Home Builders of Salem, which is building a 10-home subdivision on adjacent land.

"A lot of it is a prime wetlands area . . . but there is upland area too," Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said.

Mr. Moldoff said the town tried to get state money to buy the land back in the late 1980s, but it fell through. Salem wanted the property as conservation land because it was one of the state's top three nesting spots for blue heron at the time.

The birds appear to be gone, but some of the nests remain high in the trees, Mr. Moldoff said.

The area will have a walking path in a small section of it and two or three gravel parking spots.

"The homebuilder will extend the walking path into a loop. It will only be a 1/4- or 1/2-mile trail, but it will make for a nice walk," Mr. Moldoff said.

It will be open to the public, but

Mr. Moldoff expects it will mostly be frequented by people who live in the neighborhood.

The land is off Route 111 and will be able to be reached by the future extension of Greenhaven Road. The property backs up to the Windham town line.

"The Conservation Commission very much wanted to have the land under town ownership to protect it. And it links up other parcels," he said.

A 15-acre piece of town-owned land and 60 privately-owned acres with a "conservation easement" on it are connected by the new land. The conservation easement restricts the land from being developed, Mr. Moldoff said.

"In total, that's about 130 acres of continuous conservation land," Mr. Moldoff said.

Mr. Moldoff said the gift was given to fulfill the open space required for Ready Home Builders' subdivision. However, the 54 acres is more than what was required.

Conservation Commission Chairman Theodore W. Hatem said having the land will help continue the commission's effort to maintain green space in town.

"It really is for the future generation, so there won't be wall-to-wall development," Mr. Hatem said.

Selectmen this week conditionally approved accepting the land as a gift.

Town staff will walk the land to be sure there are no problems with it first, selectmen said.

Please see GIFT, Page 14

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMPLETE NEWSPAPER

► Families begin court ordeal, Page 11
► NHL honors Olympians / Page 23

The Eagle Tribune

WEDNESDAY
March 31, 1999

100 YEARS
of FAMILY OWNERSHIP

A Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper

♦
Vol. 277, No. 77
36 pages 50 cents

Salem 'angels' step forward

♦ A husband and wife have kept the town buzzing about their anonymous gift to Salem's senior citizens.

By Sally Gilman
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Salem's "angels" are a husband and wife who decided one morning to do something nice for the town's senior citizens. To Russell F. and Roberta F. Ingram, something nice was a \$315,000 gift to help build a new senior center behind Town Hall.

This morning, the Ingmans ended more than two weeks of mystery and stepped forward to reveal they were the donors.

"We just feel fortunate to be able to do this," said Mr. Ingram, 74.

"What better legacy than to help the seniors in town," said Mrs. Ingram, 71.

♦ "Our older residents deserve the best,"

Russell F. Ingram



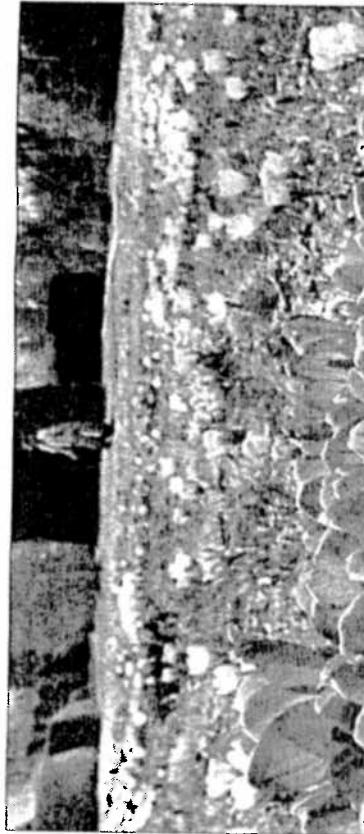
Cheryl Somers/Eagle-Tribune

The town has been buzzing about the gift since former Selectman David P. Tilton announced it on the floor of Town Meeting on March 13. The Ingmans wanted to remain anonymous until details of the nonprofit trust were finalized. Mr. Tilton said townspeople have been pestering him to divulge the identity of the "angel." He persuaded the Ingmans to come forward this morning.

"This is a wonderful thing they are doing, and I want everyone to know about it," Mr. Tilton said. The Ingmans grew up in Salem, graduated from elementary school and Woodbury High. Mrs. Ingram is the former Roberta McClary.

Please see GIFT, Page 2

Utter chaos grips Kosovo



A FIELD OF SPRINGTIME

More lawmakers ready to take chance on gambling

♦ Some House lawmakers are looking more favorably on video gambling as the pressure mounts to raise money for schools.

By Liz Anderson
Eagle-Tribune Writer

Elks clubs hit in

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Ice rink is future convention center

By Dawn M. Sousa
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — A massive new building on Lowell Road in Salem is aimed at bringing sports and entertainment into the new millennium. Inside is are two ice rinks, function rooms, an arcade, restaurants,

Please see RINK, Page E10

pro shop and more.

It is called the Icenter and it owners, J. Michael Sapienti and Michael J. Vigne, both of Windham, say it will be about a lot more than hockey. Figure skating, public skating, big special events and conventions are

Continued from Page E9

all part of the plan. Mr. Sapienti said: "That is the rule we laid down from the beginning." Mr. Sapienti said, "It was the only way I'd do it. I didn't want it to be a hockey machine."

He sees the Icenter as more of a megaplex than a place with just two ice rinks. "It's frustrating when people say our building looks like a Wal-Mart with two sheets of ice in it," Mr.

"We expect to draw people from Manchester down to Whirrington, (Mass.) We've got almost a million people in the area."

J. Michael Sapienti

Sapienti said: "That's not what we're all about." Wrestling matches, concerts, the Ice Capades, the Harlem Globetrotters and lots of conventions are all

things the owners want to bring to Salem. The ice can easily be covered up with flooring to make way for events that are not ice-related. He said the flower show has called

Continued from Page E10

aside for public skating. Mr. Sapienti said: "There are ice plans to host skating nights for teenagers, complete with music and discounted senior citizen skating events."

He said those coming to skate should not expect a cold drafty arena.

"This is going to be a place that people are going to look forward to bringing their kids to for games and practices," he said.

A full-service pro shop, called Face Off, will cater to figure skaters and hockey players. It will also have skate sharpening and rentals.

who campaigned for the Salem High hockey team, said the Icenter will draw lots of people to town, which will benefit other business. She is also pleased to have a new place in town for her children to go to.

The Haverhill Figure Skating Club, Salem Youth Hockey and Salem High's new hockey team will call the Icenter home. Many other hockey groups are rapidly securing ice time.

Salem High's hockey team and the Icenter, both brand new, will be starting out together. Salem voters supported the creation of a hockey team at the polls last month.

Besides skating and big events, the Icenter will also lend itself to other things. There will be function rooms for people to rent for anniversaries, family parties and company events. The Icenter will offer catering, with The Colosseum Italian restaurant of Salem having already signed on as a caterer.

There are three smaller rooms on the lower level that will be used for children's birthday parties. Mr. Sapienti said the children can go skating or use the arcade there as part of the fun.

When it opens in late June, Mr. Sapienti said the Icenter will be a \$9.4 million project.

Debra L. Wilmarth, one of those

from Boston inquiring about the space as has a group that runs cat shows. The rink owners are also looking into having a state-a-thon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Politics may also find a home at the Icenter. Mr. Sapienti envisions presidential candidates holding rallies and money raisers there. "It's the perfect place, being in Salem," he said. "You'll get people from two states to come."

Mr. Sapienti expects to draw

french fries, will have its seating overlooking one of the rinks. Mr. Sapienti said he and his business partner wanted to make the Icenter a first-class place.

"We put in a \$100,000 sound system . . . At other places, they'll be awarding little Johnny something and you can't even hear them say his last name," Mr. Sapienti said. "These are the kinds of things we wanted to do right."

He said a lot of time has been put

Please see RINK, Page E11

patrons from a 30-mile radius of Salem. "We expect to draw people from Manchester down to Wilmington, (Mass.)" Mr. Sapienti said. "We've got almost a million people in the area."

The Icenter will have a Taco Bell, Dunkin' Donuts and a cafeteria-style restaurant with upscale soups and sandwiches called The Olympic Grille.

The Olympic Grille, which will

also have traditional rink fare like french fries, will have its seating overlooking one of the rinks. Mr. Sapienti said he and his business partner wanted to make the Icenter a first-class place.

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Please see RINK, Page E11

Editorials

Season of roadwork

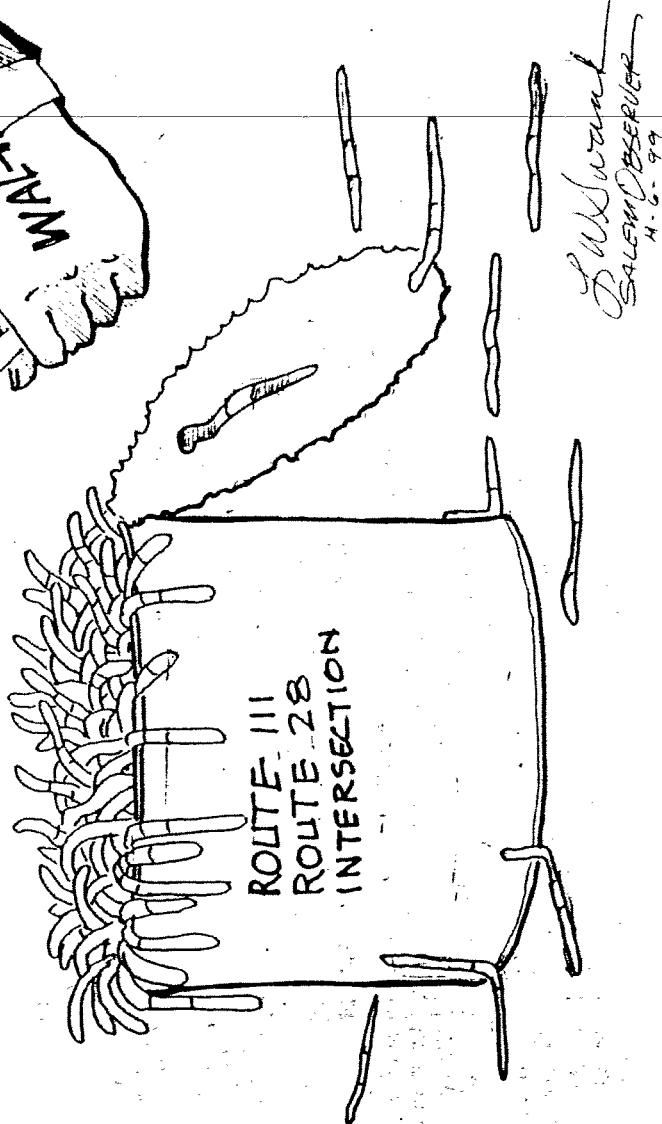
Spring is here again and along with the good weather, the buds on the trees and the chirping of the peeper frogs, spring brings something else: road construction. Of all the projects planned for this year, the most significant one could be Wal-Mart's impressive upgrade of the intersection of Routes 111 and 28.

Our real concern is Lake Street. This fifth entrance to the intersection really makes a mess of things. Drivers unfamiliar with the intersection can be confused by their choices when they cross 28, leftish or rightish.

Wal-Mart's plans include signage that could help alleviate this problem - or complicate matters even further. We hesitate to call on the state as a savior in any matter - see Claremont - but it seems that this intersection will always be a problem until the state steps in.

For once, we are actually looking forward to a road construction project: the Route 111 Bypass is just a few years down the road. Help is on the way - if only it could find its way through the traffic snarl.

...TOLD YOU SO !!!



4/12/99

The gift of people who care

THE ISSUE

Caring individuals are stepping forward with financial gifts to their communities.

OUR VIEW

People who care deeply about their hometowns is one of the things that make living in New England so wonderful.

It's comforting to know there are angels among us. Salem was touched by two recently. Russell F. and Roberta F. Ingram made a \$315,000 gift to help build a new senior center in town, behind Town Hall.

Their generous gift was announced at Town Meeting on March 13, but the Ingrooms identities were a guarded secret until details of the nonprofit trust were finalized.

The town now awaits word on a \$1 million grant to build the center.

"We just felt fortunate to be able to do this," said Mr. Ingram, 74.

Likewise, the Salem community also should feel fortunate, and it should help do whatever it takes to make the Ingrooms desire come true.

Our seniors deserve it, after all.

The present center, run in an old schoolhouse on Lawrence Road, is short on space, the kitchen is out of date and there is never enough parking.

The Ingrooms gift will not only benefit today's seniors, but it will ensure that baby boomers have a roomy recreational spot to go to in their golden years.

Salem should be proud that the Ingrooms chose it to receive the money.

The couple, who lived 42 years in Colebrook, N.H., before returning to Salem six years ago to retire, obviously have fond memories of the town. They grew up in Salem, graduated from the elementary school and Woodbury High.

Now that the Ingrooms identity has been revealed there is just one more "angel" donor in the area to be discovered.

In Chester, a mystery gift-giver surprised school meeting voters by offering to give the town \$300,000 to renovate the old elementary school for use as town offices and a police station.

The donation will make townspeople's long-standing desire to convert the old elementary school a reality.

The town has been buzzing about the gift ever since Selectmen Andrew Hadik announced it on March 17.

In times when the world is faced with war, crime and homelessness, it is wonderful that there are people willing to reach out to their communities in such big ways.

4/15/99 Observer

Making their mark

Benchmark's new assisted living facility could leave a big impression on the Main Street area

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Get ready for a big change on Main Street.

The planning board granted conditional approval to Benchmark's plan for an assisted living facility on the corner of Main Street and Geremonty Drive. The 48,000 square-foot building would be, in a word, big.

Bigger than Big Bird. Bigger than Elvis. There were even comparisons to the Empire State Building.

"It's still so very big," said board member Maria Hamilton. "I was hoping the architecture would do the trick."

"Nobody can tell me it's not a big building," said board member Dick Gregory. "I don't know if you can hide it."

But other board members saw it differently.

"I don't care if it's a big building," said board member Frank DeCesare. "They're going to do big things there."

"Considering the size of the building, they've done a very good job of minimizing it from a visual standpoint," said board member Keith Wolters. "I like what I see."

Perhaps the best argument came from Benchmark's representatives at the meeting. Technically, the building could be twice as big as

it is and still be within the town's legal limits. And despite the size of the building, it is expected to have a minimal impact on traffic.

"It is not a major traffic generator," said the town's traffic consultant, Steve Pirnaw. "The impact is really small."

After much discussion, the board granted conditional approval for the plan. Conditions include a review of sight distances from the driveway and a driveway connection to the Boys and Girls Club parking lot. A review of Benchmark's proposed easements must also be performed.

Benchmark will grant a portion of the lot to the town to be used for a future widening of Main Street. In the meantime, a sidewalk will be installed on the land, far enough from the road that it will not have to be moved even with the widening project.

Board members were divided over Benchmark's request to waive the minimum setback requirement. Considering the size of the building, some board members felt it should have been further back than the minimum requirement of 50 feet from the road, not less than that.

A portion of the front porch intrudes upon that setback zone.

The board voted 3-2 to allow the waiver of the setback requirement.

Town to contribute \$250k to Route 28 improvements

Impact fee money will supplement Wal-Mart's project costs

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Just as trees and and-forth deliberation, finally granting money on a project that would have been paid for by someone else in the near future.

Part of the project calls for a turn lane on Route 28 at the site of Video Update. The cost of that lane was to be paid by Video Update in the future - and may still be. In the meantime, the town will pick up the tab and hope it can get repaid later.

The planning board members left that such a significant project would have to be mitigated by an equally substantial road improvement project.

Wal-Mart countered with a plan that was acceptable to the planning board, but Bob Ellis wanted more. Ellis is the chairman of the board of selectmen and also the selectmen's representative on the planning board. He pushed for even more significant improvements.

As a result, the town will be paying for some of the work to be done. The problem is that it may be

spending money on a project that would have been paid for by someone else in the near future.

Part of the project calls for a turn lane on Route 28 at the site of Video Update. The cost of that lane was to be paid by Video Update in the future - and may still be. In the meantime, the town will pick up the tab and hope it can get repaid later.

The planning board members left that such a significant project would have to be mitigated by an equally substantial road improvement project.

Wal-Mart countered with a plan that was acceptable to the planning board, but Bob Ellis wanted more. Ellis is the chairman of the board of selectmen and also the selectmen's representative on the planning board. He pushed for even more significant improvements.

As a result, the town will be paying for some of the work to be done. The problem is that it may be

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IMPACT FEES

From Page 1

when they come back to us," he said. The breakdown of the money is as follows:

Regardless, the money being spent isn't tax money. The town's \$250,000 contribution will be paid entirely through impact fees.

The impact fees are not tax money and cannot be used to offset the tax rate. They are fees paid to the town by businesses on Route 28 based on their potential impacts on the area.

Impact fees have "expiration dates." If the town does not use them within a few years, they disappear. The \$250,000 will be paid with the impact fees closest to expiration first.

That irked Selectman Phil Smith. Smith was the lone vote against the motion to appropriate the \$250,000 because some of those soon-to-expire impact fees were earmarked for projects on South Broadway.

"It's a nice plan, what they're doing, but I think the money should be divided evenly along Route 28," said Selectman Everett McBride.

The town's contribution will pay for both ends of a nonturnbound lane on Route 28, while Wal-Mart would be picking up the bill for the middle

See IMPACT FEES Page 2

News Briefs

New hours at Salem DMV

CONCORD - New Hampshire Director of Motor Vehicles Virginia C. Beecher announces a change in the hours of operation for the Salem motor vehicle registration substation located in

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by S. S.

• \$135,000 for a portion of a northbound lane on Route 28 to Breckenridge Plaza

• \$50,000 for a northbound lane on 28 from Video Update to Wal-Mart

• \$40,000 for a southbound left turn lane from 28 into Video Update

• \$22,500 for engineering and design costs

• \$2,500 to cover cost over-runs, if any

The prices are based on current costs. By the time the project actually begins this fall or next spring, the numbers could be significantly higher. Wal-Mart would certainly like to have more than a \$2,500 margin for engineers, but that won't happen.

"I think us contributing a quarter-million dollars should get the job done," said McBride. "I'm not gonna give them any more money because if I do, they'll find a way to spend it." "There's not that much more money in the trust fund," said Selectman Chuck Morse.

Assist

Retail plaza boils down to traffic

- ♦ A proposed retail plaza would be built in part of an existing food warehouse.

By Bill Murphy
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Concerns over traffic congestion are holding up town approval of a proposed retail plaza on Route 28.

Rosen Associates, a Miami development company, has proposed building a six-store, 211,000-square-foot retail plaza on Route 28 near Kelley Road.

Three stores would be located in what is now a food warehouse. Two buildings would be constructed, housing three more stores, said Frank Hekimian, a lawyer representing Rosen.

Planning Board member Gary Rowe said he is worried that traffic attracted to the plaza may clog up South Broadway (Route 28) and Kelley Road.

The proposal "needs a lot of work. One of the things that they have to resolve is the traffic situation," Mr. Rowe said. "They're going to have to demonstrate that there will not be substantial traffic on Kelley Road."

Rosen has told the board only 1 percent of shoppers would use Kelley Road.

Mr. Rowe said a much higher percentage of shoppers would use Kelley Road to cut over to the Mall at Rockingham Park.

"The Planning Board won't let in something that will make traffic worse on Route 28," Mr. Hekimian said. "If it doesn't work from a traffic perspective, Rosen won't want to go in there."

Sports Authority, a national sports equipment chain, is among the potential clients that have eyed the site, Mr. Hekimian said.

No fast food restaurant, he said, has shown interest.

Rosen has proposed having Route 28 traffic enter on Hagop Road, which intersects with Route 28 at the Home Depot light.

A more sophisticated light would be installed to regulate the increased traffic flow and turns.

In addition, an entrance would be built at Kelley Road.

Mary Tatoyian, 29 Kelley Road, and several neighbors said they oppose the plaza because of added traffic.

Mrs. Tatoyian said the 1,000 space parking lot would be located across from her house, causing car lights to shine in her windows.

"I am definitely against it," Mrs. Tatoyian said. "The traffic is horrendous as it is."

Town Planner Ross Moldoff said Rosen has projected that 11,000 cars would travel to the plaza daily.

Mr. Hekimian said that Rosen has not projected anywhere near 11,000 cars, calling the figure nonsense.

"It's this kind of misinformation that makes this development look so bad," Mr. Hekimian said.

With the warehouse on the market, he said, the town should consider that retail will most likely take over the space.

The board will review preliminary site plans May 10.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Salem won't give up on senior center

♦ Salem will reapply this fall for a \$1 million grant for a senior center.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer
SALEM, N.H. — A new senior center will not be built in town this year. Salem has failed to win a \$1 million grant

Hampshire communities seeking Community Development Block Grant money. The money is offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is the second time Salem has failed to win a grant for the proposed 10,774-square-foot center. When Salem was turned down last year,

Town Planner Ross Moldoff said the competition was fierce. He explained that each town is ranked in a variety of categories, including its financial need. Because Salem is not considered a poor town, it does not score high points in that category. What Salem does have, however, is a need

for more senior center space. A study done last year showed the existing center on Lawrence Road needs twice as much space to ease crowding and keep up with the growing senior population. This time around, town officials were hop-

Please see SALEM, Page 10

Salem: Third time the charm?

Continued from Page 9

ing a \$315,000 donation toward the project from longtime residents Russell F. and Roberta F. Ingham would add to Salem's chances. The money showed a good-faith effort on the town's part to get the center done.

Acting Town Manager E. James Turse said that money will remain in a trust while Salem re-applies for the grant for a third time.

The application will be turned in this fall, with word expected in December.

Mr. Ellis said Salem did better in this round than in 1998, when it came in 22nd or 23rd. He said Salem seems to be on the right track.

"We're going to gear up for next fall and apply again," Mr. Ellis said.

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INSIDE
Obituaries, 14

Eagle-Tribune sponsors ice arena

By Courtney Claire Brigham
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — One of two ice rinks inside a \$9 million complex that will play host to local hockey games and national rock concerts is being sponsored by The Eagle-Tribune and will be named The Eagle-Tribune Olympic Arena.

"We are absolutely thrilled that The Eagle-Tribune partnered with us," said J. Michael Sapienti, president of the Icenter. "They are going to give us a lot of exposure."

The Eagle-Tribune has committed \$75,000 to the project, which will total 94,206 square feet and, in addition to the rinks, will include a fitness center, arcade, pro shop and party rooms.

4/29/99

"It is a win-win situation," said Walter E. Rogers, The Eagle-Tribune's marketing director.

"In keeping with our commitment to New Hampshire and being a border paper servicing two states, I thought there was a lot of value to it."

Project owners anticipate that The Eagle-Tribune Olympic Arena will be home to national rock concerts, wrestling matches and ice-skating exhibitions. It will open in June.

The \$9.5 million Icenter is on Route 38, Lowell Road, just beyond Hedgehog Park.

Owners Mr. Sapienti and Michael M. Vilque, both of Windham, say that the center will become a draw for national sporting and entertainment events because Boston music venues and The Tweeter Center for the Performing Arts in Mans-

field are a big distance for Merrimack Valley residents to travel.

"There is so much demand," he said.

The arena will have 1,800 permanent seats for ice events, as well as a moveable flooring system that allows for an additional 1,400 seats. A 50-foot staircase and large entrance will be the gateway to the center, with a light blue, dark blue and gray color motif.

Also connected to the arena will be an upscale restaurant called The Olympic Grille, a Taco Bell restaurant and various food kiosks. Both will be available for catered events at the arena's VIP suite and the private party room.

Please see ARENA, Page 2

Arena: Sponsored by Eagle-Tribune

Continued from Page 1

"We really tried to do this right," Mr. Sapienti said. "You don't get a shot at doing something like this too often."

The Eagle-Tribune Olympic Arena plans to host two special events each month. A dozen of the events will likely be alternative rock concerts, with bands such as Green Day, Offspring and Collective Soul, according to Mr. Sapienti. Other acts might include country western singers such as Waylon Jennings or Willie Nelson.

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Toppled trees speak for themselves

SHERRY WOOD



You've heard about sore losers. Let me introduce you to a sore winner.

His name is Richard Wickson. He owns a piece of property on Route 111 in North Salem,

N.H., that has long been the source of neighborhood gnashing of teeth.

In March, the town of Salem had its day in court, arguing Mr. Wickson's stockpiling of dirt on the empty lot on Ermer Road should not be allowed without Planning Board approval, and maybe a variance.

Mr. Wickson's lawyer, James J. Troisi, told Superior Court Judge Gillian L. Abramson that his client's family has been keeping piles of dirt on the property since the 1950s.

Mr. Wickson won. On April 8, the judge ruled in his favor.

Neighbor Brenda J. Chretien, 26, who has lived next door to the land all her life and testified that horses and apple trees — not piles of dirt — used to be on the site, was stunned by the judge's decision.

But not as stunned as she was in the early morning of April 17.

Around 7 a.m., the sound of a chain saw woke Mrs. Chretien and her husband Thomas, who had finally fallen asleep after nursing their 17-month-old daughter through an ear infection. They looked out the window to see Mr. Wickson, wearing headphones and helmet, sawing down the row of 40-year-old trees along the stone wall between the Chretien and Wickson properties.

"My husband Tom went out there with no shoes, in his underwear and T-shirt," Mrs. Chretien said. "He asked him to come back later, but he just kept cutting."

The Chretiens called police, who told them since the trees were on Mr. Wickson's land, there was nothing to be done.

It took Mr. Wickson 20 minutes to saw through a dozen trees — three pines and nine oaks. He cut the trees at chest level and left them where they lay. He also called police, at 8:54 a.m., to say Mr. Chretien had hit him with a branch.

"Officer Terry Padvaikas did an investigation, and she determined there was no assault," Capt. John P. Boudreau said.

When I reached Mr. Wickson through his pager number as Sky Nine flight operation chief at WMUR-TV in Manchester, N.H., the helicopter pilot and land excavator said he could not talk to me.

"I really can't discuss it with the court case pending and the assault and battery charge," he said.

His lawyer, Mr. Troisi, said he did not know if Mr. Wickson plans to pursue the assault charge civilly.

But he did say his client will aggressively pursue the case against his use of the land, which the town of Salem decided last week to appeal to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

"I see it as a waste of taxpayer money for the town to pursue this action any further," Mr. Troisi said.

Salem Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff disagrees. Since 1990, the town has been writing complaint letters to Mr. Wickson about stockpiling on the land, which in the mid-1980s was rezoned from rural to limited community village shopping district. Salem has tried repeatedly to work with Mr. Wickson, Mr. Moldoff said, but finally gave up and took him to court.

"If we win on appeal, we may ask Mr. Wickson to plant some trees out there," Mr. Moldoff said.

Town lawyer Diane M. Gorrow emphasized that Mr. Wickson was within his rights to cut the trees. But she said she was struck by the fact that in court, Mr. Wickson spoke again and again of what a good neighbor he has been, limiting his stockpiling close to Route 111, away from the neighbors.

"Then lo and behold after he wins the case he cuts down the trees," Ms. Gorrow said.

Read Mark E. Vogler's column in this space tomorrow. Sherry Wood's next column will run Thursday. You can call her at (978) 685-1000, write her care of The Eagle-Tribune, P.O. Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842 or e-mail her at swood@eagletribune.com.

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Overlay District" to the property. That designation allows senior housing to be built in zones that otherwise do not allow it. The Planning Board voted 4-2 against changing the zone during a public hearing this week. Members Richard Gregory and Keith Wolters wanted to apply the special district and allow the plans to proceed. Chairman James Keller and members Mr. Ellis, David Bridge and Francis DeCesare were against it. The building's size and height, its limited access to sidewalks and other reasons were cited by the dissenters. Mr. Ellis and Mr. DeCesare said the project may be better suited

for other parts of town. But lawyer Arnold T. Croft of Salem pointed to the large assisted living complex recently approved by the board for a site just a few doors down from his proposed site. Benchmark Assisted Living will be located on the corner of Main Street and Geremonty Drive.

Mr. Croft, who was there presenting the plans with Christopher Goodnow, said he realized his project was different, but was looking for "fairness and consistency" from the board. Benchmark's assisted living project is a permitted use under Town Center District zoning, unlike the senior apartments.

He also pointed out that the board had made suggestions on the apart-

ment plans during non-binding "conceptual discussions" on them. A major change, moving the building back from the street, was done prior to coming to the hearing.

Following the board's vote, Mr. Croft said he was "not happy" with the decision. He declined to comment on whether Affordable Housing Communities of New England would appeal.

This report was prepared by Dawn Souza. If you have questions, comments or material to add on this subject, please feel free to contact her by phone at (603) 893-9555, Ext. 188, during business hours, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842 or by e-mail at dsouza@eagletribune.com.

SALEM

5/13/99

Planners kill housing for elders

♦ Planning Board members say a proposed apartment building for senior citizens does not fit on Main Street.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Plans for a senior citizen apartment building on Main Street are dead.

The Planning Board has refused to allow the 56-unit project to be built at 162-268 Main St., saying it is "not appropriate" for the area.

"It's the right project for all the right reasons, but in the wrong location," Planning Board member Robert Ellis said.

The 50,000-square-foot apartment building would have provided one- and two-bedroom apartments for senior citizens with household incomes ranging from \$10,000 to \$24,000. It was proposed by Affordable Housing Communities of New England, a Salem-based development company.

**"It's the right project
for all the right reasons,
but in the wrong
location."**

Robert Ellis
Planning Board member

Please see SALEM, Page 12

Developer denied by board

Elderly housing project deemed inappropriate for site

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — The second time around, things didn't go quite as smoothly.

Faced with making a decision regarding the second of several elderly housing developments, the planning board reversed their earlier stance and gave the 262 Main Street project a stamp of disapproval.

Earlier in the year, the board approved a similar-size project, Benchmark Assisted Living, on an abutting property. But 262 Main Street was not as lucky.

The board members voted 4-2 that the project was not suitable for the senior housing district overlay.

The district overlay is the reason that several proposals for elderly housing or assisted living projects were submitted to the town recently. The 262 Main Street project was one of several trying to locate in the Kelley Library area under the overlay rules.

The board decided that the project is not appropriate for the overlay district and did not continue their review.

"They felt it was not appropriate for the district overlay," said Planning Director Ross Moldoff, speaking of the planning board members. "I think the planning

board thought it is too big a building for that location. They [262 Main Street] can redesign the project or move it to another location."

The board never made a motion to deny the project, which leaves the developers with an unclear choice. A denial can be appealed to the superior court within 30 days; but will the court see the board's decision as a denial?

"I'm currently reviewing my options," said Chris Goodnow, president of Affordable Housing Communities of New England and principal of 262 Main Street LLC. "I will examine them all."

Goodnow is obviously displeased with the board's decision.

"When I entered this process, I entered with the idea of being treated in a consistent and fair manner," Goodnow said. "I'm still waiting. If this site is not appropriate for affordable housing, then no site is appropriate for affordable housing."

Moldoff said the overlay ordinance is an unusual ordinance in that the board is the sole authority for approval of projects that fall under the overlay rules.

"It provides an unusual amount of flexibility for the planning board," Moldoff said. "They have a lot more discretion. The law calls for them to determine the character, suitability

and appropriateness of the project. Character is difficult to define."

Moldoff said the ordinance allows for "subjective" judging and that reasoning allowed the board to take the action they did.

"There is a multitude of other southern New Hampshire communities that would kill for this kind of housing," Goodnow said.

Goodnow said there is a 90-person waiting list of potential residents for such a facility.

"I believe a clear message was sent. The message is that reducing that list is not a priority of the board," Goodnow said. "I fundamentally disagree with that."

The plan was first presented to the board in February. Since then, the plan has been revised, the buildings reduced in size and then the board determined that it was not appropriate. The site abuts Salemhaven, which is slightly larger, and the property where Benchmark, which is approximately the same size, will be built.

Wider 5/99 1-93 may gobble homes

♦ The public will soon get its first look at the planning of a wider Interstate 93.

By Liz Anderson
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — The state may have to buy businesses, and possibly homes, to widen Interstate 93 in Salem and Windham.

The state is looking to widen the highway from two to three or four lanes in each direction, from the Massachusetts border to Manchester.

By July or August, state officials plan to begin holding a series of informational meetings

for area residents to discuss the project's status.

It will be fall before design questions are answered — such as where the state may look to take property, said David J. "Jeff" Brillhart, manager of the project for the state Department of Transportation.

A likely location is around the interchanges, he said.

Mr. Brillhart said it appears that the first three exits of the highway — Exits 1 and 2 in Salem and Exit 3 in Windham — "look like they need some serious redoing" in connection with the highway work.

That could require the state to buy land from existing businesses and homes.

The two more northern exits, 4 and 5 in Londonderry, are "in better shape" land-wise, he said.

The state is about one year into 2 1/2 years of planning for the project. It is fine-tuning traffic figures and has finished identifying environmental concerns along the highway route, Mr. Brillhart said.

Actual construction is scheduled to begin in 2002.

Mr. Brillhart said much of the past year has been spent taking a fresh look at and updating environmental studies done in the early 1990s.

That has included identifying the location of wetlands, hazardous materials and even historical sites the state will need to consider as it forms its road designs, he said.

Among the things consultants have looked at are a swamp in the median north of Exit 1 in Salem, the proximity of Canobie Lake and Cobbets Pond to the highway in Windham, and the remains of an old road and house foundations, also in Windham.

Meanwhile, the state is also working on ironing out bugs in a computerized traffic model that will be used in the planning, Mr. Brillhart said.

That means making sure the state's numbers match up with those in studies on a regional and local basis, such as a previously-done Rockingham Planning Commission study of the Route 111 interchange.

The state is looking to widen the highway from two to three or four lanes in each direction.

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Companies continue to choose to expand into the Granite State because of our business-friendly environment.

Salem plant closing no sign N.H. is cooling

By George M. Bald
Special to The Eagle-Tribune

In the wake of Compaq's recent decision to close its Salem, N.H., plant, some have asked whether the state is doing enough to attract and keep business.

The short answer is yes.

With the consolidation of Compaq, Tandem and Digital Facilities worldwide, Compaq announced in the second quarter of 1998 that it would lay off 5,000 manufacturing employees worldwide, including 900 in New Hampshire. New Hampshire couldn't forestall what was an international business decision on the part of one of its companies.

Layoffs are devastating for both employees and communities and this case is no different. But we are already working to help the employees find new jobs and help the community find a new use for Compaq's Salem facilities.

While Compaq's news was disappointing, we must remember there are still several thousand Compaq employees in Nashua and that the overall state of New Hampshire's economy has never been better.

New Hampshire has come a long way since 1991 when, at the depths of recession, we lost 59,000 jobs, or 11.1 percent of our total work force. Eight years later, we have not only regained the lost jobs, we've added another 33,000. We are the only New England state to have more manufacturing jobs than at the beginning of the decade.

Our qualified work force, business-friendly environment, low tax burden and outstanding quality of life have all contributed to our success.

Recent trends are even more encouraging: New Hampshire has

the highest concentration of high-tech workers, according to a recent study by the American Electronics Association. Our highly skilled work force has led to the proliferation of more than 1,000 software companies. Large companies, such as Fidelity Investments and Oxford Health Plans, have moved to New Hampshire. Wages have never been higher. New Hampshire leads the nation in productivity increases in the past 20 years and the state boasts one of the highest numbers of patents per employee.

Existing companies thrive and other companies continue to choose to expand into the Granite State because of our business-friendly environment. New Hampshire's government is small and accessible. Through our business retention and expansion efforts, which began in earnest in 1991, we regularly work with businesses to provide support, information and services.

The state's International Trade Resource Center helps companies develop new markets for their products and New Hampshire's exports continue to grow each year. The 1998 export statistics show that New Hampshire exports increased 9.5 percent over 1997, the national average was a 1 percent decrease.

New Hampshire's positive tax climate is, by far, one of its strongest

No, we do not provide the tax incentives and abatements that other states do; nor do we ever want to.

study by the American Electronics Association. Our highly skilled work force has led to the proliferation of more than 1,000 software companies. Large companies, such as Fidelity Investments and Oxford Health Plans, have moved to New Hampshire. Wages have never been higher. New Hampshire leads the nation in productivity increases in the past 20 years and the state boasts one of the highest numbers of

incentives and abatements that other states do; nor do we ever want to. When the abatements offered by other states run out, companies are faced with a tax burden much higher than what they would find in New Hampshire. But we do offer companies incentives such as the Training Challenge Grant Program, which reimburses businesses for half the cost of training new employees and retraining existing employees; the Industrial Research Center's Technical Assistance program; a variety of financing programs; and numerous business assistance programs.

We aggressively market the State of New Hampshire, and all that it offers, as a desirable business location. We spread the word about the New Hampshire Advantage through national trade publications, trade shows, trade missions and the Internet.

But the New Hampshire Advantage

forested state in the nation, we have been able to achieve a balance between economic development and protecting the natural resources that our state offers.

New Hampshire can be proud of its stunning recovery since the recession years. Our New Hampshire Advantage - a top-notch work force, a business friendly environment, low taxes, and an outstanding quality of life - is alive, well and working.

George M. Bald is commissioner of New Hampshire's Department of Resources and Economic Development.

HOW TO WRITE LETTERS

In order to help you get your message across, we offer these tips for writing letters:

Every letter should have one theme. State it clearly and early.

Typewritten letters make our job easier. You may mail them, fax them or send them via e-mail.

Submissions must be under 300 words.

We edit letters for liberal, taste, brevity and clarity.

Each letter must include a full name,

address and telephone number for verification, not publication.

Send letters to:

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The Eagle-Tribune
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Letters may also be sent to:
(978) 687-6045. The first address is:
letters@eagletribune.com

All submissions, including e-mail, must include a telephone number for verification.

OFFERED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS EDUCATIONAL FINANCING AUTHORITY

Editorials

Comings and goings

No offense to Jim Turse, Salem's new town manager, but what the heck is going on atop Salem's leadership ladder?

If former Town Manager Steve Daly was brought in to reorganize Salem's government, as the selectmen have contended, then he has done his job.

His resignation in March is one of four department head positions that have changed since last November. Jim Turse takes over from Daly, leaving the town without a community development director. Reorganization, indeed. Daly continues to do his job more than two months after he resigned from it.

A breakup every once in awhile is a good thing. Stability breeds stagnation, but such rapid and impactful changes can lead to chaos.

Selectmen Chairman Bob Ellis said that it hasn't been a problem for the selectmen to work with a different public works director, a new town manager and a different finance director and lose the community development director over the last six months.

Perhaps Ellis is correct, but if Salem continues to change its leadership at its current pace, there will eventually be a problem.

Salem needs to take steps to ensure that this disturbing trend doesn't continue. While each of the four officials who recently left the town's employ had different reasons for doing so, Salem must work to make itself more attractive to its employees.

It's official: Jim Turse named town manager

'Acting' dropped from title after nearly three months

by Steve Eiffer

SALEM — Spring is the season of rebirth and changes. Both have happened at the top of Salem's governmental ladder this season.

The latest move was made by the selectmen, who offered the position of town manager to Jim Turse. Turse accepted; he had been the acting town manager for approximately 10 weeks.

Turse succeeds Steve Daly, who resigned from the position in late March. The selectmen said that Daly's resignation was a mutual agreement because the town was moving in another direction.

Daly was brought in to restructure the town's government and, having carried out that task, ended his contract with the town. Selectmen Chairman Bob Ellis said at the time that the town was looking for a different kind of manager.

"We were looking for someone who was more of an everyday town manager," Ellis said. "Turse seems to be the right person for the job."

Turse, previously the town's community development director and for the last two months filling

both positions, dropped both the "acting" from the town manager title and the community development director title altogether as of June 1.

The town has yet to decide upon a replacement for the latter position. The selectmen filled one hole, but created another.

Ellis said the selectmen will wait to discuss the matter with Finance Director Jeff Towne, himself a recent hire, before moving forward with a search for a new community development director.

"We will be filling that position. We absolutely have to fill it," Ellis said. "We'll talk with [Towne] before we make some kind of decision about when to start the search."

Turse's move marks the fourth significant change in Salem's town

government in the last six months. • Then-public works director Ray King announced that he was leaving last November, and has since been replaced by Rodney Bartlett.

• Finance Director Fran Bernard announced in March that she would be leaving the town. Jeff Towne was brought in to fill that position last month.

• Daly resigned in March and has now taken over.

• And Turse's move creates a vacancy at the head of the community development department that has not been filled yet.

Surprisingly, all these changes have not caused any significant problems for the selectmen or the town operations. That's because

■ See TURSE Page 2

the replacements were already familiar with the town when they came aboard.

"It hasn't been as bad as I thought it might be," Ellis said. "We've been very fortunate. Had we hired someone not familiar with the town, we might have had more problems. Actually, it has been a fairly easy transition."

Turse was credited with helping to smooth that transition. Ellis and the other selectmen appear eager to continue working with him.

"He's on top of all the problems. It seems he's always the first to know," Ellis said.

Turse came to Salem in October of 1997 after a stint as the director of housing and community development for Honolulu. He became Salem's first — and to this point only — director of community development. From there, he moved to town manager, a position described by his predecessor as a "servant to the selectmen."

The selectmen can't wait to work with him; Ellis had high words of praise for his new "servant."

"He's got a real good sense of what people need," Ellis said. "He communicates very well with the people that work with him. He's very interested in maintaining lines of communication with the residents and has done an excellent job from that standpoint."

Turse is a former Marine with post-graduate degrees in management from American University and the Naval War College. He received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Connecticut.

He is married to Cindy and together they have two college-aged children.

The town prepared a release to announce Turse's hiring and the high praise continued: "Salem is very fortunate to acquire a person with Jim's experience, skill and ability," the release read. "We've enjoyed getting to know him and appreciate his work as community development director."

Turse will earn approximately \$75,000 per year in his new position and stands to receive a raise in December. Daly was making nearly \$90,000 at the time he resigned.

ON ITS LAURELS?

Is N.H. complacent in economic development approach?

**Compaq
closing
highlights
concern**

The recent decision by Compaq Computer Corp. to close its Salem plant has prompted some people in the business community to criticize what they see as the state's complacency when it comes to attracting and retaining industry.

Compaq announced last week it would close the former Digital Equipment Corp. plant in six to nine months, cutting 900 jobs. The plant built Alpha computers, sales of which have dropped 12 percent since

Compaq bought Digital last summer.

The company is consolidating its North American manufacturing at plants in Fremont, Calif., and Houston.

The Salem plant's closing highlights a long-term problem with the way New Hampshire treats businesses.

"This is a state that refuses to pay for roads and schools. There is no state budget to do anything," said Roger Kay, a research manager at International Data Corp. in Framingham, Mass. "Why should they be surprised that Compaq is leaving? There are no incentives."

Aside from the state's lack of an income or sales tax, critics say the state offers a paltry menu of incentives to businesses considering a move to New Hampshire.

"It is easy for us to rest on our laurels here," said Brian Gottlob, vice president of the Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire. "It doesn't take more than a few headlines like Compaq for things to snap back."

Although New Hampshire created several business initiative programs in the 1990s, those programs have expired and have yet to be replaced with new ways to encourage business growth, said Gottlob.

But the state's lack of an income tax and close proximity to Boston means it does not need to give incentives or market to companies, said Ross Moldoff, Salem's planning director.

"We start out at the front end not loading up with taxes to begin with," he said. "That is why we don't do incentives. Salem is unlike most places in the country. We don't do a lot to attract industrial companies. Many times they are calling us."

6/24/99 More work on tap near Exit 2

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The planning board granted conditional approval last week to a project that could lead to some significant changes at the intersection of Route 97 and North Policy Road.

The board signed off on a 46,500 square-foot office building to be built on Northeastern Boulevard, the road off North Policy where Compaq is located.

The office building will add traffic to an already complicated intersection. Northeastern Boulevard is relatively close to the intersection of North Policy with Route 97. As a result, the planning board members required that some road improvements be made as part of the final plan.

After four meetings to review the plan and hours of discussion regarding the traffic situation, the board settled on a compromise solution. While a complete reconstruction of the intersection with a bypass from North Policy was discussed, the final solution was much less drastic.

The board will require Powers Builders, the applicant for the office building, to make two separate road improvements. The first upgrade will take place on North

Policy Road where a second right-turn only lane will be added to the intersection with Route 97. This will allow traffic exiting Northeastern Boulevard to queue up in two lanes rather than one.

The second improvement will be made on Route 97 itself. Another lane will be added on Route 97 east so that traffic merging from Interstate-93 will have an easier time getting on to 97.

The total cost of both improvements is expected to be somewhere in the area of \$85,000.

"We think that these two improvements will help when it is needed the most - in the all-important morning commute peak hours," said Salem Planning Director Ross Moldoff.

Moldoff went on to say that the planning board members are faced with tough decisions on projects like this.

"This is a good, clean industry type of company, the type of business and building you want in Salem. Basically, it is very positive from a tax standpoint. But the traffic problems - the board tries to seek a balance," Moldoff said.

"Like a lot of other projects, this is in an area dedicated to this type of business, but there are already a lot of traffic problems there."

No tenant has been announced for the building, although First USA Paymentech has shown an interest in leasing space there, according to Brad Richards of Powers Building.

"We're waiting for another couple of things to happen [before agreeing on a tenant] because it is only a conditional approval at this point," Richards said.

Deputy DeCicchini opened it, and Trooper Mary McCauley of the Massachusetts State Police.

Although Wediko also offers clinical services in Boston, the note referenced the New Hampshire camp, a school for

students and even checked the sand on the lakefront beach. The approximately 40 buildings on campus are part of a 65-acre site. Much of the rest of the 450-acre land is heavily wooded, and authorities weren't able to come through

the school also operates a diagnostic treatment program for about 40 youngsters during the regular academic year. The most recent session ended the week before the note arrived.

Because the investigation is continuing, McCauley wouldn't give details of the incident is. We're the note. Of the summer, 50 were

Icenter marks grand opening

By KATE MUNRO
Union Leader Correspondent

SALEM — The new Icenter in Salem, with an Olympic-sized arena, arcade, restaurants and gym, will hold two full days of grand opening ceremonies beginning today.

Events include skating demonstrations, a mini-carnival for children, with artists and clowns, and a Bruins Legends vs. N.H. State Police hockey game at 7 this evening.

The \$9 million ice arena and entertainment center, off Exit 1 on Route 38, was developed by Windham neighbors J. Michael Sapieni and Michael M. Vigue. The pair decided to go into business together after driving their children to far-away ice rinks in Massachusetts.

The partners received Fleet Bank financing and help from an investment partner, Ron Donati, of California. The 100,000-square-foot center took two years to build.

Mike Andrews, the promotions manager for the center, said, "It stands for ice and entertainment. We hope to have concerts, wrestling, boxing, conventions and expos, maybe even a circus."

The center has a large docking station in the back, an acoustic roof for concerts, a function room, three party rooms for children, an arcade and a VIP sky box suite.

On the hockey side, the Icenter has a synthetic room for goalie practice and a gym.

Taco Bell and Dunkin' Donuts have fast-food shops there, and there is a larger restaurant called the Olympic Grille, that holds 50 to 60 people.

The Olympic arena holds 1,800 people, making it the largest concert arena in Southern New Hampshire.

The opening events include:

Saturday

- 10 a.m. to noon: Strength and conditioning presentations for figure skaters, youth hockey players and high school and college players
- 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.: training goaltenders on synthetic ice presentation
- noon and 3 p.m.: caricature artists, clowns, face painting and more
- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Haverhill/Salem Figure Skating Club demonstrations
- 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.: Top-Gun Hockey Team tryouts on both arenas
- 7 p.m.: Bruins Legends vs. N.H. State Police fundraiser hockey game



PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY'S Wells Kerr House, used now as a dean's residence, will be moved early tomorrow for the third time in its 216-year history. This time it will journey from Tan Lane, where it has been since 1916, to a site on Elliot Street a quarter-mile away. Peg Warner Photo

1st Exeter Academy building moving with current owners

By PEG WARNER
Union Leader Correspondent

EXETER — Usually when people move, the house stays behind.

Not so for Jack Herney, dean of faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy. He and his wife, Susan, the school's associate director of admissions, are taking theirs with them.

Actually, the Colonial home known as the Wells Kerr House is an academy building used as a dean's residence, four of whom have lived there since it was converted for that use in 1944. It was named in 1953 for a dean who retired that year, and an ell was added to the rear.

The building, now on stilts pending its quarter-mile trek at 5 a.m. tomorrow, has been the Herney home for four years on Tan Lane and will continue to be so on Elliot Street, a more residential area although some academy buildings are nearby. The move is to make way for a \$38 million, 73,000-square-foot science building.

The Wells Kerr House also is historically significant to the in-

sitution. It served for 11 years as the first and only academy building. From its construction in 1763 until 1794, Exeter students learned in its four "recitation rooms," each with its own fireplace, all served by a single central chimney.

When it outlived its usefulness as a class space, it was relegated to duty as a farmhouse and moved a mile away. The second move, in 1916, brought it to Tan Lane, where it has nested among brick buildings that house classes, musical performances, the infirmary and the school's grill.

For Herney, the move brings mixed feelings.

The Tan Lane location, he said, is "nearly perfect" — in part because it allowed a 30-second walk to his office. The new site will benefit his wife, he said, who will have her turn at a short sprint to work.

The Tan Lane spot, the only residence on that street, also was in a heavily-traveled area that enabled the couple to wave at students walking by their picture window.

But it also came with down-

sides, including the trucks left idling outside the grill during early-morning deliveries to the snack bar, and the annual prom, when buses transporting the students out of town would return to drop them off in the wee hours.

It was even more public than he first knew, said Herney, who learned during a visit to another office that it afforded a view into one of the bathrooms.

"In its present location, there wasn't a room that wasn't visible from some public building," he said.

Preparing for the move also brought surprises, he said. The couple has become accustomed during the summer months, when they stay in Ogunquit, Maine, to being able to stop off to take a shower, change clothes or do laundry. This year, they had to bring three months' worth of belongings to Maine. The rest is in storage.

And they've found a Laundromat not far from the school.

"It didn't occur to us... until a week before the move, 'Where are we going to do our laundry?'" said Herney.

Report: Mass. fails to protect domestic violence victims

By JEAN McMILLAN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Domestic violence victims in Massachusetts are in greater danger because the state hasn't taken part in a national program to keep guns out of the hands of batterers, a legislative report charged Thursday.

"We know this is a tragedy waiting to happen. It could potentially be prevented," said Sen. Cheryl Jacques, D-Needham, chair of the Senate Post Audit and Oversight Committee, which released the report.

Jacques said there were 40,000 restraining orders issued in Massachusetts each year and nearly 40 percent of all domestic violence murders in Massachusetts were committed with a gun.

Massachusetts state Sen. Cheryl Jacques said there's nothing stopping domestic abusers from buying guns in nearby states because the state does not submit its database of abusers, who cannot buy guns in the Bay State, to the FBI's National Instant Check System.

Administration has failed to have their information included in the FBI's National Instant Check System, there's nothing stopping abusers from driving to a nearby state and buying a gun.

Swift was in Springfield to

"We have a system in place that works," she said.

Jacques pointed to the case of Elizabeth Holland, a Quincy woman who was allegedly shot by her estranged husband, who had bought a gun from a New Hampshire store.

The federal mandate went into effect just weeks after police said Daniel Holland broke into his wife's home and shot her eight times.

"The gun provision being discussed today could not have saved Elizabeth Holland, as it was enacted too late," said Nancy Scannell of Jane Doe Inc., an advocacy group for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sixth senior housing project sought

A special district proposed by voters has resulted in a string of senior housing developments pitching projects in Salem.

Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A sixth senior housing project is being proposed in town. The latest calls for 16 units to be built in a tree-filled section of East Drive. However, he said since it is

Broadway in North Salem, between Jamil Lane and Route 111. Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said the plans show four U-shaped buildings, each with four units inside. The buildings would be one-story tall and each unit would be about 1,500 square feet.

Mr. Moldoff said the project, proposed by landowner Mildred Stanley, is scheduled for a preliminary discussion with the Planning Board tonight in the Knightly Meeting Room at Town Hall on Geremonty Drive. However, he said since it is

the seventh item on the agenda, the board may continue it to the July 27 meeting if time runs out.

The Stanley project is the latest in a string of senior housing projects proposed for town. In March 1998, voters approved the Senior Housing Overlay District, which allows the Planning Board to OK senior projects in any zone in town. Previously, there was no zone in town that allowed such projects.

In the year and a half since then,

expressed an interest. So far, only one of the five brought before the Planning Board is moving forward.

Benchmark Assisted Living of Wellesley, Mass., was approved for a 65-unit assisted-living complex on Main Street, just east of the Salem Boys & Girls Club.

Affordable Housing Communities of New England did not get Planning Board approval for its plans to build 54 senior citizen apartments at 262-

270 Main Street. The board denied applying the special senior overlay housing district, thus killing the project for that location.

Atria of Kentucky withdrew its plans to build 90 assisted-living and 23 independent-living units on land behind the Municipal Office leading out to Lawrence Road.

A third proposal for Main Street, for an area near Kelley Library, came before the Planning Board for one meeting, but has yet to schedule a return to pursue an approval.

Another project planned for Town Farm and Shannon roads was with-

7/14/99

Turse making quick return to community development

♦ Health problems have prompted E. James Turse to ask for his former, less demanding job back.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — After only four months on the job, Town Manager E. James Turse is stepping down for health reasons. But is he not going far.

Mr. Turse will resume the role of community development director, which he held for about a year and a half prior to taking the top job. Selectmen Chairman Robert Ellis said a recently-discovered health problem prompted Mr. Turse to ask for his old job back. The community development director job is less demanding with better hours and fewer responsibilities, he said. "We are allowing him to go. We've given our preliminary OK," Mr. Ellis said of the selectmen. "We don't want to lose Jim. We are not interested in seeing him go anywhere but Salem."

He said Mr. Turse did a fantastic job as community development director, which is what prompted selectmen to make him manager in the first place.

He said Mr. Turse has also been doing a top-rate job as manager.

Mr. Turse became acting manager when Town Manager Stephen J. Daly quit in March. He was hired officially June 1.

Once he resumes his old duties, Mr. Turse's



E. James Turse

Please see **MANAGER**, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

\$75,000 town manager salary will drop back down to his old community development director pay, Mr. Ellis said.

However, until a replacement is found, Mr. Turse will continue being town manager, but will be helped out by Mr. Ellis.

"I'm going to help take some of the burden off," he said.

Selectmen have not met to discuss how they will go about filling the town manager's job, but Mr. Ellis expects there will be some kind of a search.

"But that's up to the board, we haven't made that decision yet," he said.

Mr. Turse could not be reached for comment.

Editorials

Something for nothing

Selectman Chuck Morse praised the merits of "free money" at this year's Town Meeting. Earlier this week, the town was presented with a way to obtain some money for free — and another chance is expected next month.

The first opportunity for free money came in the form of a request from the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation for support in the REDC's efforts to obtain a grant. The cost to Salem in obtaining the grant? Manpower only, no money needed. The potential return? As much as \$1.5 million in additional tax income as the grant money would be used to lure a business to Compaq's soon-to-be-vacated site on Northeastern Boulevard.

The second free-money proposal will come from a source familiar to Salem residents: Pennichuck Water Co. representatives will likely request that the town allow them use Salem's pipes to funnel Methuen, Mass. water to Windham. Again, the cost would be minimal — no money would be requested, but there would be additional maintenance needed on the town's water system. Again, the potential return is significant.

Like Selectman Morse, we support 'free money.' Salem should leap at the chance to get some. The last time Pennichuck made a request of Salem, it was denied — and rightfully so, as we are now faced with a water shortage. This time, the town should agree.

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, JULY 15		
Seniors Dinner	4 p.m.	70 Butler Street
Salem Taxpayers Association	7 p.m.	Kelley Library
Salem Derry Elks Bingo	7 p.m.	Rockingham Park
Disabled American Veterans	8 p.m.	Legion Hall
FRIDAY, JULY 16		
Drop-In Story Hour	10 a.m.	Kelley Library
Salem Methuen Rotary	12:15 p.m.	LaChandelle
Boys and Girls Club Bingo	7 p.m.	Rockingham Park
Eastern Star	7:30 p.m.	Masonic Hall
SATURDAY, JULY 17		
Coupon Swap	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.	Kelley Library
Caregiver's Raffle	2 p.m.	New England Dragway
SUNDAY, JULY 18		
Boys and Girls Club Bingo	6:30 p.m.	Rockingham Park
MONDAY, JULY 19		
Town Museum Open	2 to 5 p.m.	Town Museum
Kiwanis	6:30 p.m.	Samantha's
Salem Crossing Condo #2 Assoc.	7 p.m.	Kelley Library



Legislators work, of course or under the S the House Ch without air co that could be t report).

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Beaver's I explained, is forested lan Meredith. It is northerly end Lake Winn

Town takes steps to replace Compaq

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The town took the first small step toward replacing Compaq's contributions to Salem's economy during Monday night's board of selectmen meeting.

Rockingham Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Marie Capello appeared in front of the board to request support for the REDC's plan to work on replacing Compaq.

Compaq, the computer giant, announced this spring that they would be closing their Salem plant, located on Northeastern Boulevard. The plant employs more than 900 people on a full-time basis.

REDC is a regional, private, non-profit organization dedicated to bringing industry to New Hampshire. Capello offered REDC's services in helping to find a tenant willing to move to Salem. It shouldn't be much of a problem; Exit 2 is a desirable location.

"Do we want [businesses] to come?" asked Town Manager Jim Turse. "People are generally supportive of good commercial development. They provide good, high-paying jobs with very little demand on town services. So yes, we want them to come."

While the town might want industry to come locate in Salem, the companies might not want to, Turse said. Exit 2, as desirable a location as it is, is lacking adequate infrastructure.

"They are not going to want to

come without infrastructure," he said. "We need to look at the potential of the whole thing."

To that end, Capello and the REDC are looking into the possibility of a \$70,000 grant to be used to lure businesses to Salem. The money would be used to study the Compaq site and determine what it can be used for after the computer company vacates.

In order to apply for the grant, REDC needs information from the town and Compaq, mostly from Compaq.

"We need lots of information and matching funds from Compaq," Capello said. "They have been a little hesitant about giving us information, but time is of the essence."

Compaq has been playing it "close to the vest," according to Capello, due to the fact that its own plans may not be completely set.

REDC is interested in helping to offset the loss of those 900 jobs.

"We'll do the best job we possibly can to keep all those folks here and attract another right kind of company for Salem," Capello said.

Capello and REDC asked the selectmen for support of the best kind - non-monetary. Capello believes that no money will come out of Salem's coffers, only Compaq's.

The selectmen, hearing that, voted 5-0 to allow Capello to go forward with the application. The application must be completed by September.

Capello said that with the grant money, it should be easy to redesign Compaq's lot for another company.

"I think a lot of [companies] want to come here," she said. "I think the worst thing I have heard about Salem is that there's not enough space [for all the businesses that want to be here]."

Swap: Tot-aid for senior center

7/20/99

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — If the state gives the town \$1 million for a new senior center, selectmen will allow a Head Start program to move into the old building for free.

That is Salem's latest offering in its quest to secure a community block grant for its senior citizen project. It is the town's third time applying, having been rejected twice before.

The Head Start program, a national initiative, prepares young, low-income children for school by educating them and getting their parents involved. It was first introduced in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said the Head Start program would not pay rent, but would take care of utilities and maintenance at the Lawrence Road building once the new senior center is built.

The new center is planned for town-owned land behind the Municipal Office on Geremonty Drive.

For Salem, the "creative re-use" of the old building could "sweeten the pot" and increase the town's scoring on the grant application, Town Manager E. James Turse said.

That is exactly what Salem needs, he said.

Considered a "rich" town, Salem does not score very high on the general application with regards to financial need, Mr. Moldoff said. He said that section of the application deals with things such as the percentage of residents earning below a certain income.

That, combined with a large field of "poorer" communities as competition, has kept Salem from receiving the \$1 million in past years.

In addition, Mr. Moldoff said many communities are seeking money for more basic needs, like water and sewerage systems.

The last time it applied, Salem attempted to show its commitment to the project with a \$315,000 donation to use toward the center. It was given as a gift to Salem by residents Russell F. and Roberta F. Ingram.

Mr. Moldoff is hoping the addition of Head Start to that will propel the town to a grant.

Besides doing something to target low-income families, the town's offering of free rent to Head Start can be considered a monetary match toward the new building, he said.

Selectmen agreed last night to let the Head Start program idea be put into the grant application, which is due

"Nothing happens if we don't get the grant."

**Planner Ross A. Moldoff
about the money the
town wants to build
senior center.**

Monday.

"Nothing happens if we don't get the grant," Mr. Moldoff said.

To become a reality, Head Start, which is run through Rockingham County Community Action program, would also need to secure its own money to run the program.

A required public hearing on the entire application is set for Aug. 2. Although after the deadline, the application will note the hearing was set.

The grant money comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the New Hampshire Office of State Planning.

This report was prepared by Dawn Souza. If you have questions, comments or material to add on this subject, please feel free to contact her by phone at (603) 893-9555, Ext. 2188, during business hours, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842 or by e-mail at dsouza@eagletribune.com.

UND JT US

Salem buying historic Depot station

Despite the sale, lawyer James A. Sayer will continue to run his practice out of the office, which he has owned for more than 40 years.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The town will soon own another piece of the Depot.

The historic Depot station on Main Street, home to James A. Sayer's law office for more than 40 years, is being bought by the town for an undisclosed price.

It is a key piece of land in the town's plan to widen the Depot to ease traffic congestion, Town Manager E. James Turse said. The Depot area, where Route 28 and Main Street meet, has long been plagued by traffic.

Engineers say improving the flow of cars will require a widened roadway. For the past few years, selectmen have been buying land in the area as it becomes available. Selectmen say

the more land Salem buys now, the fewer land takings there will be when the widening starts.

"It's a lot easier to buy land from a willing seller," Mr. Turse said. Mr. Sayer, a longtime Salem lawyer who is in his late 80s, will continue to work out of his Depot

office until either he decides to leave or the widening project starts. His office is located on Main Street just west of Route 28.

Mr. Turse said Mr. Sayer will not pay rent, but will take care of his utility expenses.

Preliminary engineering in the Depot area is under way, with construction slated by the Department of Transportation for 2005, Mr. Turse said.

Mr. Sayers' building is a historic one, having once been a busy train station in what was once the center of town. Mr. Sayer bought it for his law practice in the mid-1950s.

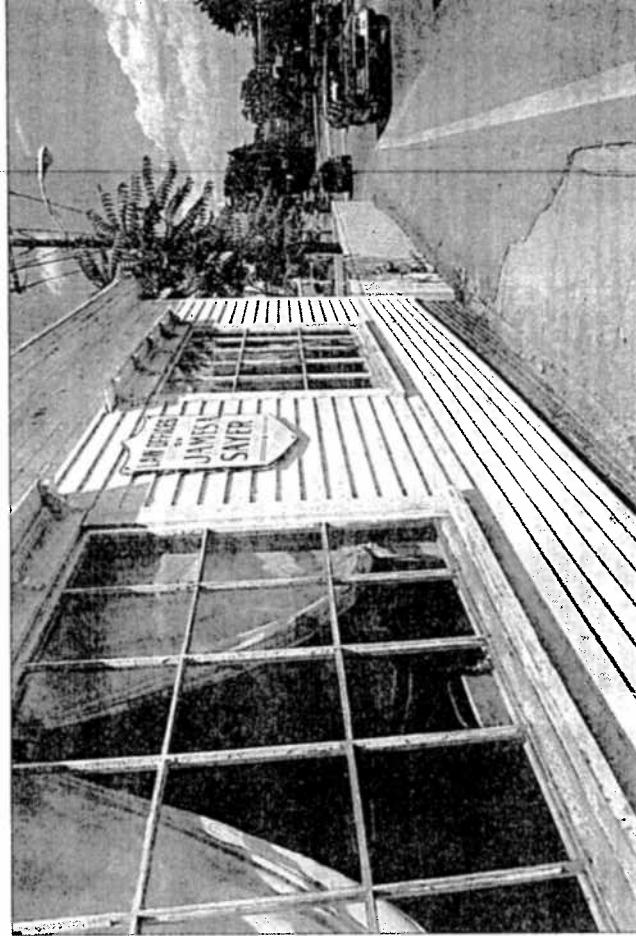
Mr. Turse said moving the building to another piece of land and possibly restoring it is an option the town can take.

The land is the third property in the congested intersection to come under town ownership.

In the fall of 1997, the town bought a .02-acre piece of land at 99 Main St. for \$40,000. It had been home to Par's Key 'N' Lock, B.J. Electric Inc. and three apartments. The building had been destroyed by fire earlier that year.

Nearly five years ago, the town took over the .33-acre site of the Rockingham Hotel on Main Street, located next to the China Star restaurant. The hotel, which had burned down a few years earlier, was taken during a tax lien process.

Selectmen have not released the purchase price of the Sayer property because the deal is still being finalized. The board this week authorized Mr. Turse to sign the purchase and sales agreement with Mr. Sayer. "This property is fairly priced,"



Mark Lorenz/Eagle-Tribune
The town of Salem has agreed to buy the old Depot station, now occupied by attorney James Sayer.

improvements to the Depot area. As with the Pat's Key 'N' Lock property, the money to pay for the land will come from the Depot Trust Fund and not the tax rate. The fund was specifically set up to pay for

Mr. Turse said. "It's a lot easier to buy land from a willing seller," Mr. Turse said. Mr. Sayer, a longtime Salem lawyer who is in his late 80s, will continue to work out of his Depot

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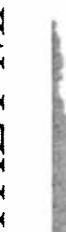
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Mr. Sayer, a longtime Salem lawyer who is in his late 80s, will

continue to work out of his Depot

THEY MAKE THE SUMMER FUN

Health ✓



W. M.

7

Senior center building may house Headstart program

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The prospect of a new senior center moved closer to reality Monday night when the selectmen made a move that could improve the town's chances of receiving a \$1 million grant.

Salem residents Russell and Roberta Ingram have pledged a donation of more than \$300,000 in matching funds to be used toward the cost of the center - if the town receives the \$1 million grant.

The town has already been turned down once for the grant.

The town hopes that it will fare better this time around by adding another "point" to its application.

The Rockingham County Community Action Plan has requested the use of the old/current senior center as a base for

Headstart, a kindergarten program. The town has a better chance of receiving the grant money because now more than one party will benefit from a new center.

"This is one step that we can take to improve our chances," said Planning Director Ross Moldoff.

"The idea is to add more uses and thereby sweeten our pot," said Town Manager Jim Turse.

Even better, there is a "critical need for this type of program," according to Turse.

"I talked with the superintendent and he said that Headstart's a great program and that he would like to see the town support it," Turse said.

The town officials hope that the application is successful this time; there isn't much else that can be done to improve it.

"I think we've tweaked it as much as we can tweak it after this," said Selectman Chuck Morse.

The selectmen authorized Moldoff to pursue the Headstart idea and add it to the application.

The selectmen will host a public hearing during the first week of August to discuss the idea - after the application has already gone out. The grant application deadline is July 26.

For shopping, working or playing, Salem, N.H., is the place for many

This is the third part of a series on commercial and industrial development in Breaktime's distribution area. We started with Andover, Methuen and Wilmington in May and in June looked at Tewksbury. This month, we move north of the state line to Salem, N.H.

By Don Staruk

"Salem is an incredibly diverse community," says Ross Moldoff. He

ought to know: Mr. Moldoff, in his position as Salem, N.H.'s planning director, has been steering the town's growth for the last 15 years.

What most people know about Salem is that it has a 5-mile-long strip of retail businesses along Route 28 that "rivals many bigger cities," says Mr. Moldoff.

But, with 27,000 residents living on its 26 square miles, Salem is also a bedroom community for people who work in Massachusetts, according to Mr. Moldoff. It has a recreational component - with Canobie Lake Park, Rockingham Park and several lakes - and a significant and growing commercial/industrial base.

Mr. Moldoff says he has seen "a tremendous amount of growth" during his tenure.

"Since 1984, when I came on board,

we've approved two million square feet of industrial space and 2.6 million square feet of retail space (including the 1.1 million-square-foot Rockingham Mall)," says Mr. Moldoff. One of the reasons for that growth is that the zoning regulations are less arduous than in some other communities, he says. Yet the concerns of the community - traffic, over development and loss of the rural town character - have been "fairly consistent," says Mr. Moldoff.

"How we're going to grow, where we're going to grow in the future is one of the concerns we're dealing with," says Mr. Moldoff.

One of the newest additions to Salem's retail strip along Route 28 (North Broadway and South Broadway) is Target, a discount department store that took the site of the former Lechmere building. Target knocked down a fully functional 100,000-square-foot building and replaced it with a new 117,000-square-foot facility, which was set to open July 21.

Village Shops, a new multi-tenant plaza with six different stores, is going in on South Broadway, across from Home Depot. "It's under construction now," says Mr. Moldoff. "They're spending \$1 million to widen the road (Route 28)."

The new stores at Village Shops will include Best Buy, CompUSA, MVP Sports, Michael's Crafts, The Big Party and Linens-N-Things. Wal-Mart has been approved for a 75,000-square-foot addition for a supermarket at its store on North Broadway, near Route 111.

"They call them a Super Wal-Mart," Mr. Moldoff says of Wal-Mart grocery stores. "They've got approval for that; it's not under construction yet."

Salem is running out of industrial areas

Continued from Page 6

foot facility on Northeastern Boulevard this December.

"It's the biggest building in Salem other than the (Rockingham) mall," says Mr. Moldoff. "That (the mall) is one million square feet on two floors, but this is ... all on one floor."

The loss of those 900 jobs will be "a big thing" for Salem, says Mr. Moldoff. "That's one-third of our manufacturing employment in the whole town," he says.

As of yet, no takers have come forward to express interest in the CompUSA site, according to Mr. Moldoff.

"The building was built for DEC and is 25 years old, so we'll have to see if people are interested in that," Mr. Moldoff says.

Scudder Financial Service has 300 to 400 employees in a 15,000-square-foot office building it built two years ago at 11 Northeastern Blvd. "It's now fully occupied by Scudder. You can see part of it from I-93," says Mr. Moldoff.

GenCorp Polymer Products, another good-sized Salem employer, is at 5 Northeastern Blvd.

In the southeast quadrant is Southeast Salem Business Park, which includes South Policy Street, Raymond Avenue, Red Roof Lane and

others. This area contains a lot of smaller companies in multi-tenant buildings.

Newport Technologies, a satellite software firm, recently moved into 18,000 square feet of office space owned by Brooks Properties on Red Roof Lane, near the Red Roof Inn.

"We have another industrial park in town, on Garabedian Drive," says Mr. Moldoff.

Garabedian Drive is the heart of State Line Industrial Park off Hampshire Road, which is off Route 28 near the Methuen line.

"(There are) probably half a dozen buildings there; I think there's one vacant out there," says Mr. Moldoff.

Key Packaging Industries Corp., a maker of plastic bags and another of Salem's larger employers, is on Garabedian Drive.

Despite all of the current activity, Mr. Moldoff says Salem is starting to quiet down on the industrial front.

"There's not a huge amount of industrial stuff or office stuff in front of us," he says. "A lot of our industrial park (area) is built out - we're looking for more land," he says, but there are problems with wetlands near most of what is left.

"How we're going to grow, where we're going to grow in the future is one of the concerns we're dealing with."

Ross Moldoff, Salem, N.H., planning director

DeMoulas recently gained approval to tear down its existing 30,000-square-foot store on South Broadway, next to Horne Depot, and replace it with a 75,000-square-foot supermarket.

"The big project that is nearby is our new ice center," says Mr. Moldoff. Salem Ice Center, a new 95,000-square-foot facility on North Policy Road, includes two skating rinks. Inside the center there is a Dunkin' Donuts, a Taco Bell, a concessions area called The Olympic Grille and more.

Industrial development is also thriving in Salem. Mr. Moldoff says most of Salem's industry occupies the four quadrants at the Interstate 93/Pelham Road interchange.

To the west of the interstate, in the southeast quadrant, is Keewatin Industrial Park; it includes Stiles Road and Keewatin Drive. Stiles Road has numerous professional buildings, many occupied by doctors' offices. Two new buildings totalling 78,000 square feet are approved for construction on Stiles Road, but construction has not yet started on those.

Above Pelham Road, the northwestern quadrant includes Northwestern Boulevard, Manor Parkway and Industrial Way among other roads. There is a 130,000-square-foot unbuilt on Industrial Way.

Microwave Technology built a

Continued on Page 21

Board weighs sign ordinance redesign

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — Salem's planning board members can't be accused of not being able to read the signs.

Disturbed by a recent trend of larger-than-life signs on areas other than Route 28, the board has begun a massive redesign on the town's sign ordinance.

The board members pointed to the signs at the ICEEnter, Southern New Hampshire Bank and Brooks Pharmacy as the types of signs usually seen on Route 28 — not the striplike locations where those businesses are located.

"This is the kind of stuff that used to happen on Broadway, and people would say, 'Well, that's Broadway.' Now it's happening in other places where we don't want a 200-square-foot sign," said board member Gene Bryant.

Planning Director Ross Moldoff displayed slides of signs good and bad from all around New England.

He explained that it has become a hobby of his to photograph store signs while his wife is inside shopping.

His point was that Salem has no consistency, especially along South Broadway.

Moldoff gave Larry's Country Square as an example: not only does the square have a mammoth display sign with a directory of all the stores located there, but each store has its own sign — some have two. Worst of all, said Moldoff, those interior signs follow no pattern whatsoever; some are roof mounted, some are hanging signs and others are under the eaves of the building. Moldoff called this kind of signage "visual clutter."

"There are some very egregious examples of that in this community," said Bryant.

■ See SIGNAGE Page 2

Moldoff and the board agreed that the town has basically two areas of character: Route 28 and everything else.

"Let's get something different on Main Street," Moldoff said. Regarding Brooks Pharmacy, the new drug store that recently opened on Main Street, Moldoff said, "There's so much signage. It's so big, it's a little disappointing." "We would have stopped Brooks had we thought about it," said Planning Board Chairman James Keller.

As for appropriate examples, the board examined many of the signs in the town's industrial parks. They are usually small, artfully done and surrounded by landscaping, three characteristics the board would like to see more of.

"Of course, they're not trying to attract drive-by business," Moldoff pointed out.

The town used to have an ordinance where the size and type of sign allowed was dictated by the speed limit where it would be located. The current ordinance permits signs based on the size of the building; for example, a large building on Broadway can have two signs, one facing each direction, with as much as 200 square feet of facing.

"We could cut that to 100 square feet and half all the signs," said Bryant. "But a 100-foot ugly sign is still an ugly sign."

"We have a sign ordinance right now that is not giving us what we want right now," said Moldoff. "The key is to get the right ordinance in place. It can all be spelled out. It's a little more complicated, but I think we can do that."

The board made three changes to the current sign approval process; no changes were made to the ordinance, but that's the next step. The changes approved Tuesday night were:

- Any attempt to change a sign must go through Planning Director Ross Moldoff, who will determine if it is a minor or major change. Major changes must be approved by the board.

- Signage will now be a bulleted item within every application and will be handled as such.

- The board may give conditional approval to a site plan pending a signage review.

Moldoff will meet with sign merchants and the chamber of commerce to discuss suggested changes to the ordinance and then return to the board with specifics.

"Every single one will tell you the more signage they have, the higher sales go," Moldoff noted.

The town may provide incentives to businesses willing to go with a smaller sign. For instance, smaller signs might be allowed to be placed closer to the road.

"We have a sign ordinance right now that is not giving us what we want right now," said Moldoff. "The key is to get the right ordinance in place. It can all be spelled out. It's a little more complicated, but I think we can do that."

Editorials

Signing off

One can't help but notice them. They are, in fact, one form of advertising that is absolutely guaranteed to work, at least to some extent. Bigger is better, say some. Quality is better than quantity, say others.

The business signs along Route 28 range from the quietly ineffective to the outrageously repulsive and the Salem Planning Board is trying to do something about that. There may be some objections and there may be a long time before there are any noticeable results, but one thing's for certain: there will be significant changes.

"This board feels very strongly and they want to make Salem a better community," said Planning Director Ross Moldoff. The board members hope to make it better by redesigning the town's sign ordinance.

Everyone has an opinion on the signs. Do you like the Burger King sign? the Wal-Mart sign? the U.S. Gas sign?

How about the new Target sign or the Breckenridge Plaza sign? Now's your chance to let the board know. Your input will help determine what kind of signs will be allowed in Salem. We need more public involvement in town government, and here's an issue that everyone has an opinion about.

Depot redesign on horizon

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The Salem Depot is many things: a horrendous traffic snarl, the center of town, a historic site. It is also changing.

The town is in the process of acquiring yet another property in the depot area. The town already owns two pieces of property there; the acquisitions are part of a long term plan to reconstruct the depot from top to bottom.

The town has been working on redesigning the intersection of Routes 97 and 28, also known as the Salem Depot, for several years; the pace has picked up lately as the New Hampshire Department of Transportation is expected to move ahead with its plan in the near future.

"DOT will be down in the next six months to run their preliminary plans by the community," said Town Manager Jim Turse.

Turse said there are several "key properties" the town would like to obtain before the project begins.

"We're trying to buy them up gradually as the property becomes available," Turse said. "We have to seize the opportunity when we can."

As many as 60 businesses may be affected by the DOT's plan. Property worth as much as \$7 million will have to be purchased or taken during the process; at least \$2.5 million of which would be bought up by the state.

The loss of tax revenue would be approximately a little more than \$100,000. However, such a loss would only be temporary. In an ideal situation, the town would recover that and more.

The town has developed several plans of its own to complement the DOT redesign.

"Improving the traffic flow without any other improvements just creates chaos," Turse said.

An older, more extensive (and expensive) plan developed by the town added a bus stop on South Broadway and Depot Park, a small open space on the corner of Route 97 and North Broadway.

Former Intern Kevin Proctor designed a less-drastic redesign that maximizes the space available. However, Proctor's plan relies heavily on businesses co-operating, especially when it comes to sharing parking.

"Is it wholly realistic? I can't tell until we test the market," Turse said. "Is this a prime enough location for businesspeople to make sacrifices to make it work? That's what we need to find out."

Turse said there are two aspects to determining the viability of a

project. First, the town must determine if the project can be built for a reasonable price. Second, the town must gauge the marketability of the project - in this case, the desire to locate in the depot must be weighed against the possibility of having to share parking.

"It takes some real smarts to do the feasibility analysis," Turse said.

Turse said that the town may have to create a redevelopment authority to take charge of the project. Funding for the property purchases will come from the depot trust fund. Turse would not say how much money is available from that fund.

"It's going to take some very innovative thinking to make this all happen," Turse said. "We're trying to get enough ahead to steer the process."

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8/13/99

tribune

Drivers trapped in waiting game

- ◆ Efforts are under way to link Stiles Road to Route 38 as a way to ease gridlock in the area.

By Dawn Souza

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — When William McGrane calls it a day at his mortgage company on Stiles Road, it is always either before 4:30 p.m. or after 6 p.m.

Otherwise, he ends up sitting in a long line of traffic for what seems like an eternity, he says.

For those who work in the Stiles Road Professional Park, the only way out of their dead-end street is at Pelham Road, near the Interstate 93 interchange.

With cars from nearby industrial parks also emptying out onto Pelham Road, those in the professional park often find themselves trapped in a stagnant jam on Stiles Road. Some even end up trapped in their parking lots trying to edge their way onto Stiles Road during the evening rush hour.

"The frustration level is out of sight," said Mr. McGrane of Adare Mortgage Co., 12 Stiles Road.

Many believe connecting the dead end of Stiles Road to Route 38 would ease the traffic crunch. It would give drivers an alternative route to get to Methuen and Pelham, as well as to I-93 at Exit 1.

But getting rid of the dead-end has hit a dead end of its own at the state level.

The Department of Environmental Services has refused a permit for the road extension because the short stretch is a prime wetland.

The landowner, Salem Corporate Park Associates, is making one last-ditch effort to get permission to pave the connection, which would be about 700 to 800 feet.

If the town's Conservation Commission removes the prime wetland designation, there's a good chance the state will allow the road. The reason the commission would do that is because the area may have been misidentified from the start.

"This is the last hurrah," said James A. Nadeau of the MEG Company, the consultant for the landowner. "We're in the appeal process . . . If this is going to happen, we need the town's

help."

The town appears ready to do so. "The town very much wants to see this done as a relief valve to the Pelham Road area. It would be another way out of that area," Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said.

If Stiles Road gets extended it will link up with the main driveway of the newly built Icenter on Route 38 (Lowell Road). A traffic light would be put in at the end of the driveway at Route 38 to get the new traffic out smoothly.

problems during the morning and evening rush hours are horrendous.

"If I try to leave between 5 and 5:30 p.m., I can end up sitting in the parking lot for 20 minutes just trying to get out of the lot onto Stiles Road," Dr. Sousa said. "Sometimes I'll stay in the office and wait for the traffic let up."

Diane Maddox, owner of Maddox Investment Services at 22 Stiles Road, said she often hears traffic complaints from her clients.

"I would love to see it done," Ms.

Maddox said of the road extension. So would Town Manager E. James Turse, who said the extension would not only help ease traffic on Pelham Road, but provide an alternative route for police and fire vehicles.

Mr. McGrane says he "absolutely" wants Stiles Road connected to Route 38, even if it means it will become a very popular cut-through. "If the price to pay for egress and access to the area is additional traffic, that's fine . . . At least it's moving," he said.

Salem looks for direction *8/19/98*

SALEM - The Salem Planning Board, in conjunction with University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, is sponsoring a Community Profile Project to be held in January or February 2000. This 36-hour event will bring people from various segments of the town together to discuss the town's future growth and development. The board members hope this project will serve as the starting point for Salem's next Master Plan.

The Planning Board invites members of the public to participate in the steering committee which will organize the Community Profile Project. The steering committee will meet between four and six times from August to December.

Please contact Planning Director Ross Moldoff at 890-2080 if you have any questions or would like to participate on the steering committee.

Local officials irked by Icenter expansion plan

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — Over the next 10 weeks, the Icenter will host, among other events, a night of comedy, boxing, wrestling and a Halloween dance.

All of which makes the two-rink Icenter "more like a monster truck arena" than a site for skating, according to one neighbor.

More such events could take

place in the future if Icenter owner V&S Entertainment has its way.

Representatives from V&S appeared before a joint meeting of the planning board and zoning board of adjustment last week with a request for additional seating and offsite parking. Those moves are aimed at increasing the capacity of the Icenter to better handle "special

events" like those mentioned above. The Icenter is a potential site for Salem High School's graduation, especially if the additional seating is approved.

Mark Gross, representing V&S Entertainment, presented the boards with a plan to add 976 seats

■ See ICENTER

Page 3

in the Olympic-sized rink in the Icenter, bringing the total of that location to 2,710.

The plan also included an increase in the total number of parking spaces 681, one more than would be required by the additional seats.

The problem with the plan, according to several town board members, is that most of the increase in parking spaces would be offsite spaces. The current plan includes 519 approved onsite spaces, but zero offsite spaces have been approved.

"Offsite parking will be a nightmare; it's an accident waiting to happen," said Zoning Board Chairman Ed Huminick. "Unless I've got some concrete evidence that [offsite parking] is not a traffic and safety issue, I'm going to have a very hard time approving this."

The board members discussed how and where pedestrians would cross, including the possibility of requiring police details to manage the flow of traffic.

"If we're going to have 200 people trying to cross [Route] 38 after a night of drinking, you had better go back and get your act together," said planning board member Bob Ellis. "Planning month to month and changing month to month isn't gonna cut it."

Planning board member Dick Gregory disagreed.

"You can amend your site plan; that's fine," Gregory said. "You can change your mind once a year for 100 years."

In addition to debating the merits of offsite parking, the assembled

board members, in particular Huminick, took issue with another aspect of the revised site plans.

"Special events" could include weddings or corporate parties where liquor would be served — provided V&S can obtain a liquor license.

Huminick pointed out that at previous meetings, V&S officials had said there would not be any alcohol served at the Icenter.

"We read the minutes," Gross said, acknowledging those statements regarding alcohol. "We see some changes. This would not be a permanent license. It would only be used for weddings and parties."

And weddings and other special events would only make up a small portion of the Icenter events, Gross said. Even with the special events, 95 percent of the Icenter's hours

would still be devoted to skating.

"The main purpose is still to provide an ice-skating facility for the community," Gross said. "Most of these events — even the special events — are sports related."

Huminick disagreed, saying that perhaps V&S is trying to do too much on one site.

"At some point, you've maxed it out. You're getting to that point," Huminick said.

Neither board reached a definitive decision on the plan, agreeing to wait for comment from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Salem Police Department and the town's traffic consultant.

V&S must now return to the zoning board with a request for variances for the additional seating and a change of use.

- They want to serve liquor even after promising to the zoning board during the original approval process that, paraphrase "liquor will never be served in this building."

- They need more parking spaces to expand but do not have any more room.

- They want to use another business' land to park their cars. This is not an acceptable solution since the availability of these spots is not guaranteed. If the Icenter or the other business are sold, the spaces become unavailable and this would create a considerable hardship with the community. It is clear that the lack of parking alone justifies (demands?) denial of the expansion.

- The Icenter was originally zoned as a sports center which allows for 4 people per car. It is clear now that Icenter should be considered more of a "general gathering place" than a sports center since the majority of their special events are not and most likely will not be sports related. The zoning requirement for this type of business is three people per car. This implies that since they have only 520 parking spots, the center's maximum capacity should be limited to 1,560 people. Additionally, there is a zoning ordinance which requires parking to be on-site or in a contiguous lot. The current off-site parking does not meet this criteria.

- The town must remember that they are not responsible for the Icenter's profitability. Their obligation is to the community and to ensure that business operates within zoning regulations.

- The Icenter should be held to

the same standards as other businesses (mall, movie theater). Other businesses are required to have enough on-site parking to accommodate peak parking demands.

Regards,
Chris McQuilkin
Salem

mm
N.H. State Senator
(R) Dist. 22

9/2/99
**Icenter expansion
is inconsistent**

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing to raise awareness that V&S Entertainment, the owners of Salem's Icenter, are going before the zoning board of adjustment on Tuesday, Sept. 7, to persuade the town to allow them to expand. The following list illustrates that an expansion would serve only to enable the Icenter to attract events that are inconsistent with the original intention of the development:

- They want to expand so the center can accommodate non-skating special events (monster truck rallies, rock concerts, weddings, etc.). These events are not consistent with how the Icenter was marketed to the town and community during the original approval process. V&S are violating the "good faith" agreement with the town that they were building a community skating rink.

9/2/99



A conceptual drawing of Greystone at Salem shows what the assisted living facility might look like. Ground was broken for the project last month; Benchmark has targeted the fall of 2000 as an opening date.

Ground broken on Greystone

SALEM - If you have driven down Main Street recently, you probably noticed the giant "sold" real estate signs in a row near the intersection of Main Street and Geremonty Drive.

If you've wondered what those signs meant, you'll find out soon. Benchmark Assisted Living, a provider of senior housing services in New England, is about to become the first corporation to take advantage of Salem's senior housing district overlay. Benchmark's assisted living facility was approved by the planning board some time ago, ground was

broken for the project last month.

Benchmark purchased approximately 6 acres of land at the corner of Main Street and Geremonty Drive. The property will be the site of Greystone Farm at Salem, a 65-apartment assisted living facility.

The facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2000. It will be an apartment complex for elderly residents in need of extra attention with nurses and other staff available at all times.

The transaction, combined with the acquisition of an assisted living facility in Rhode Island, makes Benchmark one of the largest pri-

vately held providers of assisted living in New England and the only senior housing provider with locations in all six states.

"The senior housing market in New England is providing significant opportunity for Benchmark," said Benchmark President and CEO Thomas Grape. "Benchmark has long been interested in New Hampshire and is pleased with the success of this acquisition."

Greystone Farm at Salem will be Benchmark's 10th location overall.

Benchmark Assisted Living is based in Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Selectmen find new use for grant money

9/2/89

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — Always on the look-out for ways to get the most for their money, the selectmen made a small move Monday night that could benefit traffic on Route 28 enormously.

The town had already received some grant money to help pay for a stoplight at the intersection with the soon-to-open Village Shoppes (Best Buy, et al.) on Route 28. With that light already built and paid for by the developers of that shopping center, the selectmen found a new use for the money.

The money will be used to hire a

consultant who will develop a plan to co-ordinate the green times of the lights further down 28 near Hampshire Road and Pep Boys. The selectmen approved the use of an additional \$13,000 above and beyond the grant money to be used for the project. The town money will come from the Route 28 impact fee fund.

"I believe this will help the problem and help traffic to flow smoother," said Planning Director Ross Moldoff.

Moldoff will return to the selectmen with the suggested design before any further action is taken.

Town, REDC work toward same goal

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - There's no free lunch, but the deal that Salem just got from the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation is about as close as you can get.

REDC officials are working on Salem's behalf to secure grant money that will be used to lure a business or businesses to Salem to replace Compaq. The computer giant plans to close its Salem location sometime in the next six months.

All that REDC has asked in return is that Salem's selectmen support its bid to locate a permanent office in the Salem area.

"Most communities don't have anyone to support business on a full-time basis," said REDC member Warren Henderson, "and state aid

is hard to come by. We're active in several communities and we're trying to establish a presence in Salem."

In the meantime, the grant application was sent out Monday.

If REDC's predictions are right, the grant will come at no cost to Salem. That's because while it requires a match, the match money may come from yet another grant.

REDC representatives asked the selectmen to schedule a public hearing for Sept. 27 to accept the grant money.



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Icenter free to serve up more events

♦ Some neighbors say parking issues are still a problem at the Icenter on Route 38.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Monster truck shows, boxing matches and liquor are in, but mud wrestling is definitely out at the Icenter. The Zoning Board of Adjustment last night agreed to let the Icenter on Route 38 expand the use of the two-rink ice arena, with some restrictions.

Alcohol may only be served at ticketed special events, such as at a boxing match,

looking to host any kind of adult entertainment. The board's 4-1 vote essentially gives the Icenter permission to have any use — barring the restrictions — allowed under the "commercial, industrial, B" zone on which the building sits.

The Icenter will not have to come back to the board for approval every time it wants to host an event such as an indoor circus or a convention.

The board's approval came with a one-year trial period.

Next September, the Icenter must return to the board for it to decide if allowing the extra uses has worked out.

Icenter owners, J. Michael Sapienti and Michael M. Vigue, decided to come back before the board this year when they found that events being planned were not on a list of uses approved last year.

Because a skating rink is not an allowed use under the town's commercial industrial use, it needed the board's OK to be built.

The owners gave the board a list of uses last April, essentially giving up the other uses allowed in the zone.

Seeking more uses drew opposition from a few residents.

The Icenter's owners are

before the Planning Board

to seek permission to add

for special events and to

site.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Compaq workers may get hand

By Dawn Souza

SALEM — When
shuts its doors over
own will have lost
the 1,500 jobs that w-
For the 900 who
employees, there will
help in finding a new

But for 600 part- and full-time temporary workers who earn their living through Com-
pac, it will be a different story.
Marie Cappello, executive director of Rock-
ingham Economic Development Corp., said

SALEM — When Compaq Computer Corp. shut its doors over the next few months, the town will have lost its largest employer and

the 1,500 jobs that went with it. For the 900 who are full-time Compaq employees, there will be company-sponsored help in finding a new job or seeking new train-

Group wants to help Salem survive company's shutdown

"We know from statistics that about 10 percent of the workers laid off by companies that have gone bankrupt or closed down want to go back to work," says John C. Clegg, director of the Rockingham Economic Development Corp. (REDC). "REDC has applied for a \$70,000 federal 'strategic planning' grant to help the region deal with the economic hit from Compaq's closure. The money would be used to help laid-off temporary workers and permanent workers who want its help — get new training, find new jobs or become entrepreneurs.

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own business," Ms. Cappello said. The REDC also hopes to help lure a new business to Compeq's 600-square-foot of space on Northwestern Boulevard by working with the computer company or its real estate agent. While the \$70,000 does not go toward training and assistance itself, it will pay for a plan detailing what needs to be done. With that done, the REDC can get grants for the actual training and services.

Founded in 1992, the REDC helps Rockingham County businesses find alternative financing to start up and create jobs. Its goal is to help solid businesses get going, sustain jobs

Modern Salem, "But that's because it's a community in Salem," Mr. [redacted] said. "But that's because it's a business of this size shutting down. Usually it's someplace else, we see a couple of dozen or maybe a hundred [redacted] laid off, not hundred [redacted]."

Businesses, towns, and cities have written a letter to the
Senate to be sent along with the bill. They also agree
to support a public hearing for the
150,000 community grant program.

"This would put someone in a better area.
Based on the Seacast and I
would put some in the country."

To get the \$70,000 Computer
a company would have been lost.
The REDEC must march the
dollar for a dollar.
To do it, Ms. Capello has
Salem to apply for a federal
loan to it.

ness when it is parroted back at him. This is a common mistake.

Continued from Page 11
and keep taxes coming in.
Last year, it helped a
business in McMinn
County to stay in
business.

Continued from Page 1

This road needs to be fixed

9/22/99

THE ISSUE

*The Interstate 93 expansion in New Hampshire
may be delayed two years.*

OUR VIEW

*New Hampshire's leaders need to find a way to
get this project begun on time.*

Once, we were a nation of doers, a people who built great cities, bridges that spanned mighty rivers and broad bays, and fast, efficient roads that connected them all.

No more.

Why not?

The computer's down.

Believe it or not, computers are keeping New Hampshire from beginning its expansion of Interstate 93 on time. The result: two more years of traffic jams for those who use the road.

I-93 is a vital link for people living in Southern New Hampshire and for commerce moving into and out of the Granite State. Some 100,000 cars travel the interstate between Londonderry and Salem each day, many of them traveling to work in Boston, the Merrimack Valley or at the high-tech firms at the junction with Route 128.

Yet this important road is a mess north of Salem. It decreases from three to two lanes in each direction, not nearly enough to handle the traffic flow. Along some sections, there are no breakdown lanes and steep embankments just-off the edge of the pavement. It is home to frequent accidents, some of them fatal.

New Hampshire was to begin expanding I-93 in 2002. But now it may be 2004 before the work begins, state officials say.

One reason: Persistent glitches in the computer program that will be used to forecast future traffic demands.

It is a poor reason to delay a project that will benefit so many people. Once, we built roads without the benefit of computerized traffic modeling.

That's state officials' very concern - that without a traffic projection, the new I-93 will become obsolete as quickly as the current road has. But no computer model in the late 1950s - had such a thing existed - could have projected the explosive growth of Southern New Hampshire. Today's forecasts could be just as inaccurate 40 years hence.

Environmental concerns may also delay the construction. But they should not.

The days of filling in swamps and mowing down forests in the name of progress are, thankfully, over. But unless we are willing to pay the economic and social costs of stopping all growth, our roads will have to keep pace. Surely, expanding an existing road is environmentally preferable to blazing a new highway somewhere else.

Delays after delays have a way of killing projects like the I-93 expansion. New Hampshire leaders need to do what it takes to get this one started on time.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Wanted: People to plan Salem's future

want the town to progress in the next

century.

Initiated by the Planning Board, a

group of 17 residents was assembled

to plan the day and a half event and

to figure out how to get at least 300

citizens to turn out.

Topics can include whatever the

residents want, he said.

"We're really not trying to set an

agenda," he said, noting that the

Gary Azarian, chairman of the Com-

munity Profile Project, which aims to have residents help chart the town's future.

♦ Residents will help chart Salem's future through a community profile project coordinated by the University of New Hampshire.

By Dawn Souza

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Townsfolk will have a say in how Salem progresses in the next century. That's the goal of the Salem Com-

environment, economy, cultural

issues, land issues, traffic and civic

infrastructure, are all fair game.

After coming up with ideas for the

future, the event's results will be incorporated into Salem's master plan. The master plan is updated

every five or six years and is used as

an unofficial guide for planning and

development.

The community profile project

is

Please see SALEM, Page

Salem: People needed to map town's future

Continued from Page 13

being done through the Cooperative Extension at the University of New Hampshire, which has coordinated profiles in dozens of towns. The \$500 cost is being paid by the Rockingham Planning Commission, Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said.

The steering committee is made up of representatives from most of Salem's town boards, including the school board, and from community organizations. All involved volunteered, said Mr. Azarian, who is on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Selectmen Chairman Robert Ellis volunteered because he thinks it's important for residents to be a part of Salem's future.

"What it does, in my personal opinion, is it gets people to come out of their houses and tell us what they really want," Mr. Ellis said.

He said most people generally only turn out when they are upset or unhappy about a situation in town.

"This will be a way to get input without being in an adversarial situation," he said.

Having the people of Salem contribute directly to the master plan in the early stages is something new.

"Our master plan has traditionally been done from the top down," Mr. Moldoff said. "We've hired a consultant to develop it and then give our feedback."

Mr. Moldoff said the profile will cover a lot more than land uses issues and says he's interested to see what residents bring up and suggest.

"I think it will have more meaning," Mr. Moldoff said. "It will be the people's plan, not the planner's plan."

This report was prepared by Dawn Souza. If you have questions, comments or material to add on this subject, please feel free to contact her by phone at (603) 893-9555, Ext. 2188, during business hours, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842 or by e-mail at dsouza@eagletribune.com.

9/23/99

State reps meet with DOT to discuss I-93 widening

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — State representatives from all over gathered in Salem last week, braving the dangers of one storm to seek shelter against one that may not be far off.

The representatives and members of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, including Commissioner Leon Kenison, met in the Knightly Meeting Room on Sept. 23 to discuss the state's 10-year road plan.

The plan was announced recently and, to the dismay of many in the area, the widening of I-93 was delayed until 2003.

The representatives wanted to hear an explanation from Kenison.

"The widening of I-93, for several reasons, not arbitrary ones, is not going to be built [on schedule]," Kenison said.

Project Manager Jeff Brillhart said the biggest stumbling block has been environmental problems.

Brillhart said there are "serious impacts" on the environment from such a large-scale project.

As for the reasons for the delays, Brillhart was not very specific.

"It is complicated," he said. "We're waiting to go to the public hearing until all the ducks are lined up so it will go relatively smoothly."

Brillhart also said that it is not so much that the project has been delayed as that "previous estimated schedules were somewhat optimistic."

Many representatives asked how they could help accelerate the process. Kenison asked that they show "serious support for the project."

Salem Board of Selectmen Chairman Bob Ellis was in atten-

dance and said that it is hard to support the project when you don't know what the opposition is.

"It's like fighting in the dark," he said. "What is it they are objecting to? I haven't heard any objections."

Kenison called Ellis' statement a "fair observation."

"The objections usually don't come out until the public hearing," Kenison said. "Hopefully, it will be a very small minority."

Kenison said there are forces at work behind the scenes who don't want to see I-93 widened.

"They don't want New Hampshire developed or they want it controlled so it is not attractive to folks," he said. "They feel that this is their playground."

Brillhart said the NHDOT's goal is to begin the public hearing process later this year.

"The need for this project is certainly apparent," Brillhart said. "From there, we'll just go forward and discuss what alternatives make the most sense."

Brillhart said that construction could begin in late 2003 or early 2004.

"This project has been on the books for a long time," Kenison said.

Brillhart said the plans for the project still have not been finalized; the final version may see two lanes added in each direction, which is what Kenison would like to see.

"Four [lanes in each direction] is the minimum through Exit 4," he said. "If we only build three, that would be very short-sighted."

Under state law, New Hampshire must retain both travel lanes on 93 during construction. While that's good news for com-

muters, it will slow the completion considerably.

The widening of 93 from the border to Manchester will not be finished until 2010, according to NHDOT representatives.

Kenison also said that the project will not be done piecemeal, or out of order.

"We will work north to the junction with 293," Kenison said.

In addition to the 93 project, the representatives also discussed bus and train transportation, the depot redesign and the park and ride project.

As the meeting wrapped up, House Speaker Donna Sytek (Salem) praised the representatives for coming out and recognizing that the 93 project is a "regional issue."

"We're all in this together," she said. "We're going to make this a priority."

Kenison also thanked the representatives for coming.

"I appreciate the good nature and good temperament of the audience," Kenison said. "We're happy to share the progress — or lack thereof — with you."

• Developer eyes Salem Compaq site

♦ Recent interest in the 600,000-square-foot site has town officials surprised and excited.

By Courtney Claire Brigham
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — The vacancy created by Compaq Computer Corp.'s decision to close its Salem, N.H., manufacturing plant may be filled quicker than local officials had anticipated.

An engineer representing a developer for the 600,000-square-foot Northeastern Boulevard site is expected to unveil a potential re-development project before the planning board tonight, according to Ross A. Moldoff, town planning director.

The Houston-based computer giant announced in May that it would consolidate its North American manufacturing work to plants in California and Texas, affecting 900 jobs. Compaq officials estimate the plant closing to take place between November 1999 and February 2000.

With nearly one-third of the town's manufacturing jobs lost to the closing, Salem officials have been bracing for the economic impact on

the region. The company's \$50 million to \$60 million payroll will create an estimated \$75 million to \$100 million economic loss in the area, according to past reports from Salem Town Manager E. James Turse.

Recent interest in the site has surprised and excited town officials. The planning board has scheduled a workshop with an engineer from the Manchester, N.H.-based firm SFC Engineering Partnership for tonight at 7 p.m.

"An engineer has come in saying that he is representing a client that might have some plans for big development there," Mr. Moldoff said.

Compaq, meanwhile, has declined to discuss specifics of the potential re-development project. Alan E. Hodel, a company spokesman, said Compaq has talked with several potential buyers for the Salem plant, but has not inked a deal with any of them.

Selling the property quickly is likely a priority for Compaq, as the

company has reported tumbling profits for both the first and second quarters this year. In June, Compaq said it would lose up to 15 cents a share in the second quarter, compared to analysts' estimates of a 20 cents a share profit.

"Clearly our intent, once we complete the transition, is to sell the facility," Mr. Hodel said. "However, we have no conclusion at this point."

In addition to the Compaq site, the developer is also interested in developing 400,000-square-feet of industrial land that abuts the Compaq plant, Mr. Moldoff said. While the space could bring new office or manufacturing companies to the town, it would also mean more traffic congestion to the area, he said. The project would need a careful evaluation to determine how the already congested roads surrounding Northeast Boulevard might be affected, he said.

"Typically, the town gets caught unprepared," Mr. Moldoff said about the extra commuter traffic that comes with the additional development. "If this does happen, we want to make sure we can handle it."

On weekdays, there would be six bus trips from Salem to Boston and seven returning from Boston, Mr. Brillhart said. He said the target date for it to get going is the fall of 2001.

The state spent \$3 million to buy the land, which spans about 28 acres from Rockingham Park Boulevard back to Cross Street, near the Dr. Lewis F. Soule School. Only a few acres along the Boulevard and another chunk near Cross Street are not wetlands.

Thomas Campbell of the Conservation Commission said for him to even consider allowing the wetlands to be disturbed, the state would have to agree to recreate them on another part of the land. He said it would have to be "at least" an acre-for-acre ratio or better.

Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr. said he'd like to see specific examples of places where the state created wetlands to make up for disturbing one. He and others, such as Selectman Thomas D. Eden, had concerns about how rain and flooding would be handled in the area if the wetland is altered.

Selectman Philip A. Smith suggested only using the buildable portion of the land along Rockingham Park Boulevard. To make up for having less room, he said the state could build a multilevel parking garage similar to ones at The Mall at Rockingham Park and Manchester Airport.

Selectman Robert L. Ellis suggested the state put in a filtration system under the pavement to clean some of the antifreeze and other toxins being washed into the drainage system from the parking lot. He said both the Target and the Best Buy shopping plazas have installed such systems.

Still others questioned whether the location was the best one for the project.

While Mr. Ellis said he is concerned for the wetlands, he said he would much rather see a park and ride built than what the alternative could be. Prior proposals for the land included two restaurants along the boulevard and more than 100 apartment units on the buildable land nearest Cluff Road.

State Transportation Commissioner Leon S. Kenison said earlier this week that if the wetland issue can not be remedied he would put the land up for sale.

After last night's meeting, Mr. Brillhart said he planned to take the town leaders' suggestions back to the state and return for another discussion before the holidays. He said it is important to have the town's support when his department tries

to secure the state and federal permits needed to disturb the wetlands.

One thing the town's Conservation Commission could do, he said, is remove the prime wetland status.

But Mr. Campbell said he did not want to do so.

"I'm going to use a phrase I got from a former Conservation Commission member," Mr. Campbell said. "Make the project fit the land, not the other way around."

Park and ride plan could be all wet

10/11/99

- ◆ The state will be back in Salem by year's end to talk about its plans for a park and ride and commuter bus terminal on Rockingham Park Boulevard.

By Dawn Souza

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A multi-deck parking garage, an underground filtration system and the creation of new wetlands are all ways local officials say a park and ride could be built with the environment in mind.

The state wants to build a combined park-and-ride lot and commuter bus terminal on the south side of Rockingham Park Boulevard, across from the entrance of Rockingham Park racetrack. It would have room for about 450 cars.

But nearly half of the project's seven-acre footprint would be built in a wetland area, most of it designated as "prime." Prime wetlands have more stringent regulations than regular ones.

Last night, state transportation officials met with town leaders to

pitch their commuter plan and get feedback. Several selectmen, members of the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, a handful of state representatives and members of the Salem-Windham-Plaistow Metropolitan Planning Organization, including Richard T. Cooney of Salem, attended.

Jeff Brillhart, chief project manager for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, said the bus service and park and ride would give Salem area commuters an alternative to driving into Boston.

It would also help reduce the number of cars and pollution on Interstate 93.

While getting 500 cars off the road is a small percentage of the daily highway traffic, it is a start, Mr. Brillhart said.

Please see WET, Page 14

Trees along Route 28 cleared out

10/6/98

railroad tracks on the west side of South Broadway (Route 28), from Salem Depot south to Barron Avenue.

Wilbur C. Beaupre, Granite State's account manager, said the new line is part of a \$5.1 million expansion to meet the demand for electricity in Salem, which has grown 32 percent in 10 years.

The project started with the removal of large willows and evergreens along the tracks between Rockingham Park racetrack and South Broadway. The tracks run parallel to Broadway.

Selected Vice Chairman Charles "Chuck" Morse said he learned about the tree removal from Mr. Ford. Mr. Morse said he checked with Selectmen Chairman Robert Ellis and the Planning Board held a public hearing on Granite State's project in June. Mr. Ellis represents the

Please see TREES, Page 2

◆ Growth and the demand for more power cost Salem a line of trees that graced Route 28.

By Sally Gilman
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Some Route 28 business owners were shocked to arrive at work to find men and machinery removing willow trees and evergreens off South Broadway yesterday.

"They were out there when I came to work at 8:30," said Bert Ford, owner of Ford Flower Co., 83 S. Broadway. "Cutting all these trees is not good for the ecosystem and it's not good for the welfare of the town."

Granite State Electric Co. said the trees must go so it can build a new transmission line. The line will run parallel to the existing line along the

Continued from Page 1

selectmen on the Planning Board.

"Bob said a lot of people attended the hearing and the abutters were notified," Mr. Morse said. "But unfortunately, no one on Bert's side of the road is an abutter. Bert is in an uproar and I don't blame him."

Salem Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff said the town does not want the trees cut.

"Selectmen and the Planning Board are very concerned about it, but Granite State has approval from the Public Utilities Commission so the town cannot stop it by saying, 'Save our trees,'" Mr. Moldoff said. The trees are in the electric company's right-of-way.

Mr. Moldoff said the trees are being cut as Salem is being beautified for its 250th anniversary celebration in 2000.

HeLEN Rage owns Charles Rage Jewelers, next to Mr. Ford's flower shop.

"We were watching them cut the trees this morning," Mrs. Rage said. "It looks terrible. We didn't know what was going on."

Mr. Ford said he knew that Granite State Electric was going to do something because new utility poles have been lying along the road all summer.

"I don't know why they can't put the lines underground or put in larger poles and use the same system," Mr. Ford said. "It's frustrating to me."

Mr. Ford said with the trees gone, he can see several old trucks parked on the racetrack property near the railroad.

"It's a horrible view," Mr. Ford said.

Mr. Beaupre said Granite State will plant new trees along the railroad tracks.

But Mr. Ford and Mr. Morse said that does not make them feel better.

James Desjardin and his family own Daisy Cleaners on South Broadway near Main Street. He said his family has rented the property for 40 years and is in the process of buying the building. The building abuts the railroad bed.

"No one from Granite State talked to us but we don't own the property," Mr. Desjardin said. "I noticed this morning that they were cutting the trees near Rockingham Park Boulevard."

Mr. Beaupre said the new transmission line is part of a \$5.15 million

improvement project. A new substation will be built on Hampshire Road in Methuen, Mass., and Salem.

The new transmission line from Salem Depot, at the intersection of Routes 28 and 97 (Main Street) to Barron Avenue will serve 3,000 Granite State customers, including Rockingham Park racetrack, The Mall at Rockingham Park, and offices and manufacturing plants on Stiles Road, Manor Parkway, Northeastern Boulevard, and stores and plazas on North and South Broadway.

10/8/99

No all night parties at Icenter

By Paul Fleming Jr.
and Liz Anderson
Eagle-Tribune Writers

SALEM. — An all-night dance party that organizers were hoping would lure thousands of revelers to the Icenter was canceled yesterday after town leaders learned about the event for the first time.

Town officials nixed the party, which had been set for tonight, after reading an entertainment listing in a Boston newspaper under the title, "It all comes down to s-e-x." The story touted the rink's plans for a weekly state-of-the-art dance club, saying it would serve as the first post-2 a.m. dance club option on the Boston scene, with the exception of a private gay club in Boston's South End.

Salem officials shied away from calling the party a planned "rave," the slang term for all-night dance parties that draw huge crowds and have developed a reputation for rampant drug abuse and dealing.

A similar event at the former Valley Expo Center in Methuen in March 1998, billed as an "electronic art exhibit" by its promoters, resulted in 21 people being arrested, including 14 on charges of possession of drugs with intent to distribute. Included in those arrests were two of the seven disc jockeys who worked that event.

They were charged with

Please see ICENTER, Page 2

Icenter: Owner sees trouble at night

Continued from Page 1

the drug "Ecstasy," a powerful hallucinogen similar to LSD.

The Icenter dance had been scheduled for later tonight, from 12:30 to 6:30 a.m.

Town leaders stopped the enterprise when they informed one of the owners of the Icenter, J. Michael Sapieni of Windham, that the arena did not have the necessary permits to host the dances.

"I don't think they thought they needed the permit," said Selectman Charles "Chuck" W. Morse, who first raised the alarm.

But he also expressed concerns about the nature of the event.

"There's neighbors over there," he said. "They have a life. That family-entertainment center should first be a hockey rink."

Town Manager E. James Turse said there were "all kinds of fears" about the potential nature of the event, but, like Mr. Morse, cautioned he was unsure what it actually would have turned out to be.

Mr. Sapieni said plans for the arena to be used as a giant overnight dance hall began about two to three weeks ago, when the promoters of the party called him and asked if he would be interested in using the Icenter for an "after-hours, 19-to 30-year-old" party with a "juice bar."

The promoters, CALZAG Inc., portrayed the events as "just basically all-night dancing," Mr. Sapieni said.

Then the Boston newspaper touted the event yesterday under the heading "DJ Scene."

"This was really bad press," he said. "This got into gay bars and lesbians and sex and drugs."

After hearing the outcry from officials, he called the event off.

"I just don't want to be affiliated with anything near that," he said. "This could be the cleanest show in the world, but perception is reality here."

Still, he insisted, he is not sure what the event would have been.

"I don't know what it was," he said. "It appeared to be a very innocent bunch of people who wanted to dance from 12 to 6, no alcohol ... but I guess there's some perceptions this is not a good thing to do (at the arena)," he said.

Sal Zagarella, one of the promoters of the dance, did not return two messages left on his telephone answering machine. Mr. Sapieni said he told Mr. Zagarella's compa-

ny the dance was canceled yesterday about 4:15 p.m.

"They're not happy. They've expended a lot of money, already booked DJs for (tonight) and spent money on lighting," Mr. Sapieni said. "They had been expecting 1,500 to 2,000 people to show up."

Mr. Sapieni said people were planning to drive to Salem from as far away as New York City to attend the dance. The bill for the night had included Manhattan-based DJ Jonathan Peters. Mr. Sapieni said the promoters "thought he'd be a big draw."

Salem police Chief Stephen B. Mac Kinnon said four police officers will be stationed in front of the rink tonight to turn away anyone who comes looking to attend the canceled dance.

The mammoth ice arena, which opened in June, sits on Route 38, not far past The Mall at Rockingham Park. Built for \$9.3 million, it has Olympic and National Hockey League-sized rinks, an arcade, a pro shop and restaurants.

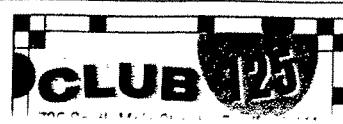
Last month, the arena's owners asked the town Zoning Board of Appeals to give them blanket approval to use the arena for various entertainment purposes, with the exception of sexually oriented entertainment. The approval was given by the board on a one-year trial basis.

But Mr. Turse said that approval had not yet been agreed to by the Planning Board. Until it agrees to designate the rink as a sports-entertainment complex, such dances cannot be conducted, he said. The rink would also need a special dance hall permit from selectmen, he said, and Mr. Sapieni should have consulted with police about traffic and security.

Mr. Sapieni acknowledged he was still in the middle of reclassifying the arena with the town.

"It was pending. Legal counsel had to send us that final approval process," he said.

He said he was unaware of the need for a dance hall permit. Mr. Sapieni said he had expected to meet with Chief Mac Kinnon this morning about security; he said he had been unable to get an appointment for earlier in the week.



Think *THINK* before cutting

THE ISSUE

Trees are being ripped out to make way for power lines.

OUR VIEW

There's got to be a better way to get electricity to new businesses.

Salem, N.H.'s main thoroughfare looks barren now that trees along it have been cleared out.

Growth and a demand for more power cost the town a line of trees that graced Route 28, most noticeably by Rockingham Park racetrack across from Ford's Flower Co.

Granite State Electric Co. said the trees had to go so a new transmission line could be installed.

There's got to be a better way.

Yes, Salem has grown.

The dozen or so new stores that have sprung up in the past year prove that. Not to mention a sea of new homes.

Yes, stores and homes need power. But that power should not have to come at the expense of natural beauty.

The demand for electricity in Salem has grown 32 percent in 10 years. The new transmission line is part of a \$5.1 million expansion. The line will run from Salem Depot at Routes 28 and 97 to Barron Avenue and will serve 3,000 Granite State customers, including Rockingham Park racetrack, The Mall at Rockingham Park, the ever-increasing shopping plazas on Route 28 and manufacturing plants in the town's industrial parks.

Yes, power lines have to be installed somewhere.

And it only makes sense Granite State would put the new line parallel to its existing line along the railroad tracks on the west side of Route 28.

But at the expense of so many trees?

The removal of willow trees and evergreens isn't good for the ecosystem. It's not aesthetically pleasing either. The trees that lined Route 28 helped break up what has become a monotony of commerce. Trees, streams and other aspects of nature are as much as part of the "infrastructure" of a community as roads, sewers and power lines.

The removal of the trees happened while Salem is in the midst of a town-wide beautification campaign for its 250th birthday celebration in 2000. It certainly has not helped in that regard.

The Public Utilities Commission, which gave permission to cut the trees, should research more environmentally friendly ways to provide power and force electric and other companies to use them.

Luckily, Granite State, which has an office in town, is a good neighbor and has said it will plant new trees along Route 28.

They should be held to their promise.

Help may be on the way for Compaq workers

- ◆ Compaq employees could garner up to \$2 million for job training

By Courtney Claire Brigham
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Displaced Compaq Computer Corp. employees may soon have up to \$2 million to use for new training, searching for future jobs or becoming entrepreneurs.

A New Hampshire-based non-profit group is in the process of applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to help cushion the economic blow to the region from Compaq's closure.

In May, the Houston-based computer giant announced it would consolidate its North American manufacturing work to plants in California and Texas, eliminating 900 jobs in Salem. Compaq officials estimate the plant will close between November and February.

Rockingham Economic Development Corp. (REDC) has been working with the New Hampshire Job Training Council to secure grant funding for the program. The new

grant application comes on the heels of a request the REDC filed last month for a \$70,000 federal grant to form a plan detailing what training and assistance needed to be completed.

Marie E. Cappello, executive director of the REDC, said the grant money will be used to assist Compaq employees in exploring new career paths, going back to school or starting up their own companies. She estimates that 10 percent of the workers will want to start their own businesses.

"This will be earmarked for any laid-off Compaq employee for retraining," Ms. Cappello said.

Although the state has some job training funds available, they are "very, very limited," Ms. Cappello said. The additional resources could help workers go back to school, she said. "The existing resources are not enough," Ms. Cappello said.

In addition to the funding, the REDC is also planning to include a full-time counselor who is versed in the high-tech industry to work Compaq employees, as well as form an alliance with the N.H. Small Business Development Center.



Mark Lorenz/Eagle-Tribune

Robert and Linda Harvey designed a guide to the Salem Town Forest. The free brochure includes a map and description of the 179-acre conservation area. Guides are in a mailbox at the edge of the gravel parking lot off Route 111 or at Town Hall on Geremonty Drive.

Couple maps town forest trails

• Townspeople now have an easy-to-follow trail guide to their town forest, thanks to Robert and Linda Harvey.

By Sally Gilman
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The first time Robert and Linda Harvey walked Salem Town Forest, trails were overgrown, unmarked and littered with trash.

"There was no map and we ended up on Zion Hill Road," Mrs. Harvey said. "We found out later that we had strayed onto private property."

No one chased them away. But the Harveys were so impressed with the woodland oasis off Route 111 that they wanted to return to ride their trail bikes and hike. When they looked for information, they found the only forest brochure and trail guide was outdated. It was miles away at Town Hall.

Their solution was to map the forest themselves. They also volunteered to clear brush and

mark trails more clearly, install a box near the parking lot for the brochures to be kept in and make signs and a trash barrel. Salem Town Forest is near Shadow Lake, less than a mile east of the Route 28 intersection. The 200 acres are bounded on the south by Bluff Street. The trails are used for walking, bicycling, horseback riding, relaxing and cross country skiing in the winter.

The gravel parking lot and pedestrian bridge were completed by the Conservation Commission.

"The town forest is just wonderful; it's a gem," Mrs. Harvey said. "Many people in Salem don't even know about it."

Mr. Harvey, 59, is a retired management engineer. Mrs. Harvey, 57, retired from her job as an auditor for the Department of Defense. They have lived on Clinton Street for 23 years.

The Harveys love the outdoors. They are members of the Granite State Wheelmen bicycle club and just returned from a six-week bicycle tour of England and France.

Mrs. Harvey said it was not until she searched for a Town Forest map at Town Hall that she

learned that half of their first hike had been on private property.

The couple then talked with Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff about the map and outdated brochure. "We asked what needed to be done and he said a map," Mrs. Harvey said. "He jumped at our offer to redesign and update the brochure."

The Harveys said it was a nice project.

"It needed doing and we like to walk," Mrs. Harvey said. "We just like working in this sort of an environment."

Mr. Harvey rode his trail bike to measure the six trails. The brochure lists the best trail to walk, bike, horseback ride, see hawks in their nest or see deer, squirrels and foxes. About 86 percent of the forest is mixed hardwood and the rest is wetland, including Hitty Titty Brook, a swamp and several seasonal ponds.

The brochure lists forest rules and regulations.

Mrs. Harvey said that hikers should wear blaze orange this fall because hunting with bows and arrows and muzzleloaders is permitted in the town forest.

Editorials

Speech and signs

The planning board reviewed potential changes to the town's sign ordinance on Tuesday night and, not surprisingly, there was some stiff opposition from businesspeople, chamber of commerce representatives and lobbyists. They argued that changing the sign ordinance would hurt small businesses and, as a result, Salem's tax base. Not one person mentioned the fact that signs, a form of communication, may be protected under first amendment rights.

Signs are a form of free speech like commercials, Internet postings and newspaper editorials. Newspapers in particular are dependent on free speech rights. With that in mind, we cannot support any laws that limit it - even if some signs are offensive to the eye. After all, isn't that the point of free speech? Everyone has their own opinion and a right to state it.

Town, chamber debate sign ordinance changes

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Residents, businesspeople, lobbyists, supporters, opponents, and a few town officials were all at Tuesday's planning board meeting to weigh in with their opinions about the proposed changes to the Salem sign ordinance.

While most of the speakers argued that the changes are a bad idea, the board members took no action one way or the other. Instead, another public hearing will be held sometime in the future, possibly after further revisions, and the board will decide at that time whether or not to forward the changes to the ballot for the voters to decide on.

The proposed changes are numerous; they include limits on size and placement of signs, types of signs, heights of signs and even lighting.

The changes are targeted mostly at businesses, particularly the commercial districts of Route 28 and Main Street. That's why so many people were at the meeting Tuesday.

"These are not set in stone," Planning Director Ross Moldoff reminded everyone.

Moldoff's words did not assuage everyone's concerns; a number of

■ See SIGNS

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SIGNS.....

From Page 1

business owners, including Mike Gill, spoke against the proposed changes.

"I don't think this is the way to thank the businesses that have kept our tax rates down for so long," Gill said. "Signs aren't invading our neighborhoods. They don't affect our houses other than the fact that the businesses keep our property values up."

Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce President Mary Lou Heran listed three specific reasons why the chamber objects to the changes. First, she said, the timing is off. The changes are being proposed just as a new town manager is coming aboard and Heran feels he should have some input.

Second, Heran said, the criteria for the changes are mostly aesthetic, not safety driven. Lastly, Heran pointed out that the businesses most likely to suffer from such changes would be small ones who depend on sign advertising.

"Should we review the sign ordinance? Of course," Heran said.

"There are no compelling reasons to act in haste. This issue warrants further study."

Budget Committee Chairman Earl Merrow was one of the few attendees who spoke in favor of the changes. Merrow even suggested that the proposal doesn't go far enough.

"There are no signs at the mall, but they're always busy," he said. "How did they find that mall? It wasn't from a sign. If a business is doing well, he's going to stay whether he has a sign or not. Route 28 looks like a combat zone. This doesn't go as far as I'd like to see it go. I urge you to support this."

Planning Board Chairman Jim Keller, re-elected to that office later that night, closed the public hearing soon thereafter and said the board would take all comments under advisement.

The board has until January to schedule another public hearing on the topic; in the meantime, board members are expected to discuss the input from the hearing at their next meeting, Nov. 23.

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• Salem home and business owners can apply for money to flood-proof their properties.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — There's no more wall-to-wall carpeting in the basement. Sawhorses and plywood are stored on garage shelves. Pumps are on standby.

With their home located at the lowest point of Haigh Avenue, William and Carol Ritchie know the value of being prepared.

"We live in constant fear of a rising river," Mr. Ritchie said. Low-lying Haigh Avenue, located off Kelly Road near the Spicket River, is one of the first parts of town to flood during heavy rains. The Ritchies have had their basement fill with water and debris several times over the past 20 years. "It's like living in the bottom of a bathtub," Mr. Ritchie said.

Homeowners like the Ritchie family can now get some financial help in flood-proofing their homes thanks to Project Impact. Salem has been selected for the federal program, which provides

• We live in constant fear of a rising river. »

William Ritchie of Haigh Avenue

Flood-protection aid now available

• Salem home and business owners can apply for money to flood-proof their properties.

DEADLINES TO APPLY

Flood consultation: Dec. 31, 1999.

Mitigation grant: May 1, 2000.

Applications are available at the Central Fire Station and Town Hall.

"It means a lot. We'll use it to get us into a position to make our home a whole lot more livable and will take away a lot of the apprehension," he said.

Mr. Ritchie was one of the flood victims to speak during a ceremony celebrating the town being named a Project Impact community earlier this month. Town, state and federal officials also spoke, including Carye Burley Brown, administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

Mr. Ritchie told the crowd he is always asked why he just doesn't move from his home to higher ground.

"It's our home," he said. "We're attached to the property... We raised our kids there."

MAJOR FLOODS IN SALEM

1962 — Hurricane Daisy

1968 — Spring flooding and ice melting

1979 — Snow melt

1987 — Heavy rain and melting snow

1993 — Heavy rains

1996 — Tropical storm

1998 — Heavy rains

(Information comes from the Spicket River Flood Hazard Mitigation Meeting Report)

have been damaged in the floods of 1996 and 1998.

If a property owner decides to follow the consultant's suggestions, a "mitigation grant" of up to \$5,000 per home can be applied for. Businesses that have had National Flood Insurance since May 27 or earlier can apply for up to \$20,000. The money is reimbursed to the property owner after the work is done and the town verifies it.

Chief Nadeau said the total Project Impact grant is for \$267,000 — \$200,000 from the federal government and \$67,000 from the town, approved by Town Meeting.

Mr. Ritchie said he plans to have the work done and has started getting estimates so he can apply for a mitigation grant.

11/16/99

Signs of retail life almost deadly

IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sherry Wood



Sometimes when you're a columnist, you risk your life for your readers.

Last Friday, I did just that, getting out of my car and hoofing it along the shopping nirvana

known as Route 28 in Salem.

I was drawn there by a fight brewing between town hall and the many merchants whose signs pepper the retail corridor that lures Massachusetts as well as New Hampshire bargain hunters. Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff is leading the charge to reduce the size of signs as well as crack down on flashing message boards.

"It seems to me the most objectionable thing about Salem to residents is Route 28, or at least the appearance of it," Mr. Moldoff said.

He estimates the ordinance would take 20 years to change the look of 28. "Would the sign ordinance create Armageddon? I just don't see it."

It would according to the host of merchants who spoke against the proposed changes last week.

"Route 28 is a commercial, retail strip," William Smillie of the New Hampshire Sign Association said. "Why do you want to change it now? It's too late. The barn door's open. The horse has been gone."

Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce President Mary Lou Heran argues vigorously against the changes, the most dramatic of which is reducing the maximum allowed sign size from 200 to about 100 square feet. Merchants need signs to sell; prosperous stores pay lots of taxes, she said.

"Since its founding, Salem's location halfway between Concord and Boston resulted in a thriving merchant economy," she said.

"Whether it was farm goods in the '50s or electronics in the year 2000, retail development helped create and now secures Salem's enviable tax advantage."

So how many signs are along this retail-redolent ribbon of asphalt?

I decided to see for myself, and chose a .35-mile stretch between the state Liquor Store and Lucky Dragon, not far from the Methuen line. Salem has seven miles of Route 28, but it is not all as thickly developed as the stretch I walked. Still, the area is pretty typical.

Heading north on 28, a brisk breeze made me wish I'd worn something warmer. The cars of lunchtime shoppers filled the highway's four lanes.

My turf was between World End Brook and the Spicket River.

The first sign to catch my eye was Bob Loo's palm tree. Across was the totem pole-like sign of Post Time Smoke Shop; I couldn't help but think the neon-outlined Indian would look better at night. I'd walked 500 feet and I was up to 21 signs, on both sides of the road. My fingers were getting numb. Too bad I was too far away to see the Computer Town electronic sign, which displays the temperature.

The next sign that tickled my fancy was that of Sam's Pet Food and Supplies, which features a winsome-looking red mutt with a bone in its mouth. The tally was up to 55. Soon I had made it to the Lucky Dragon, the end of my pilgrimage.

Perhaps I was not minding all my pedestrian p's and q's on the return trip — after all, it is not easy for me to walk and count at the same time — but it was near Seed Street that I looked up to see a blue Dodge Ram truck, swooping southeasterly across 28 to make a left onto Seed. The driver glared at me, jerked the wheel, and missed me by inches.

So there you have it, dear reader. An account of how I risked my life to determine that 70 signs can be found in a typical .35 mile on Route 28. You're welcome to bring your own tally to the Nov. 23 Planning Board discussion of the sign ordinance. Just be sure to look both ways before you cross the street.

Sherry Wood's next column will run Thursday. She can be contacted by calling 978-946-2226, writing care of The Eagle-Tribune, Box 100, Lawrence, MA, 01842, or e-mailing swood@eagletribune.com

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Depot improvements could silence horns

11/24/99

- ♦ Selectmen want to find way to improve the intersection of Route 28 and Main Street with as little land-taking as possible.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The Route 28 light at the intersection of Main Street turns green, but the traffic turns nowhere. Cars trying to make a left from one direction are hindered by oncoming vehicles, keeping through traffic behind it at bay. Horns honk. Then the light turns red.

The congestion and frustration at the busy intersection — especially during the evening rush hour — has been a concern of selectmen for years.

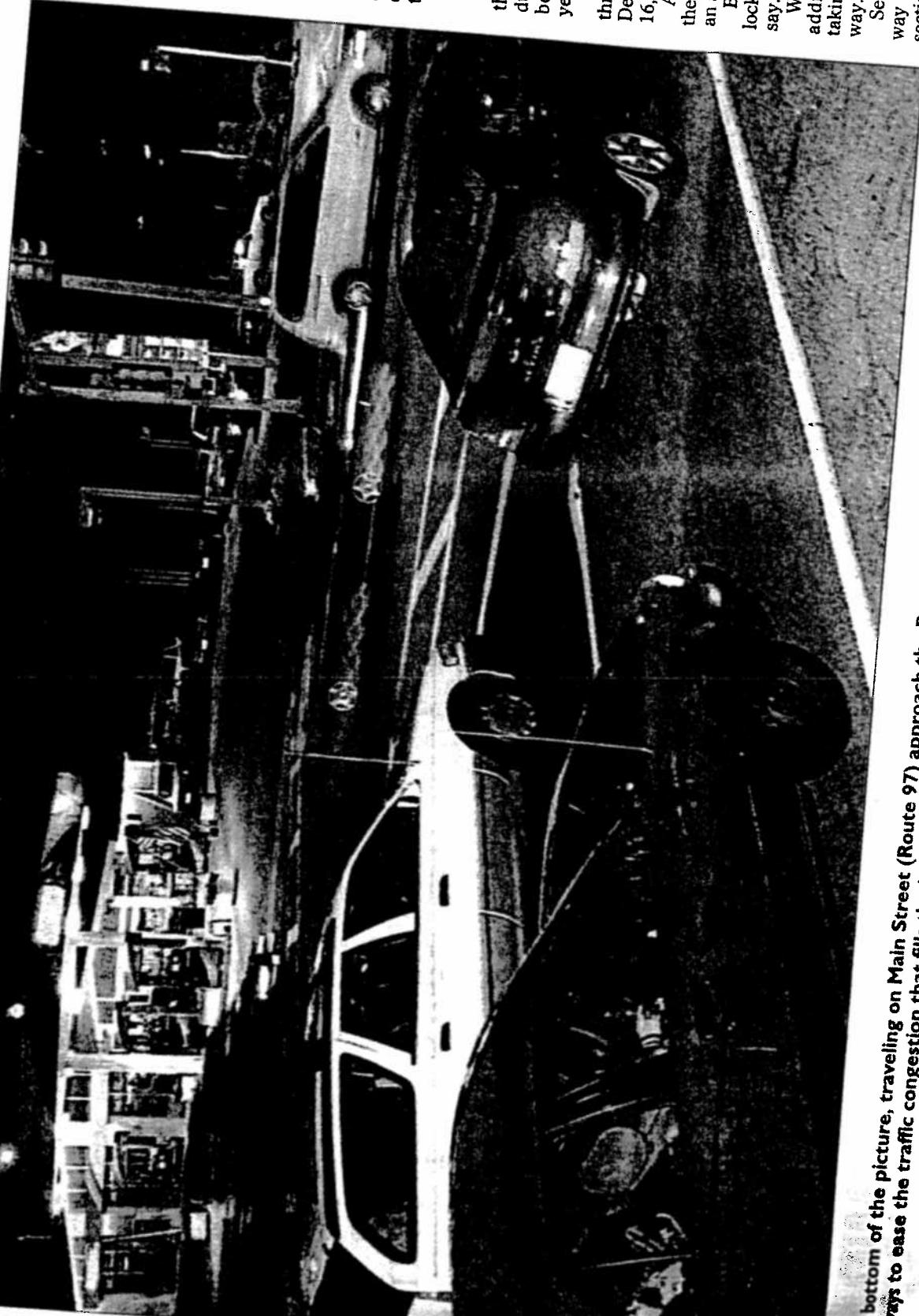
Each day, 23,000 cars travel through the intersection, called the Depot, along Route 28 and another 16,000 pass along Main Street. And during the past eight years, the Depot has seen 520 accidents — an average of 65 a year.

But finding a solution to the gridlock is not a simple task, selectmen say.

Widening the intersection lanes and adding turning lanes will require taking land from businesses in the way.

Selectmen say they want to find a way to improve safety at the intersection and get it to flow better, with as little land-taking as possible. The state has been studying the

Carl Russo/Eagle-Tribune
bottom of the picture, traveling on Main Street (Route 97) approach the Route 28 intersection in Salem. Selectmen are hoping to



THE AGENDA

Sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sandown Town Hall, Rte. 121 A. Tables will be available for \$10. Crafters that would like to rent a table are asked to contact Lisa at 603-887-0067. Space is limited.

ONGOING

◆ **CHESTER N.H.** "Nature in the Abstract" an art exhibition by Portsmouth artist Molly Stark is now on display in the Wadleigh Library at White Pines College. Ms. Stark's artwork is created with the help of her deep appreciation of nature and for the quiet beauty of the hidden spots in New England. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. -10 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 6:10 p.m. to 3 a.m. clothing on 1 to 3

• **CHESTER** "Chester Revisited," a history of the town by local historian Richard Holmes, is being raffled at the Chester Public Library to benefit library programs. With the book comes a package of Chester notecards and a Chester Historical Society Christmas ornament all tucked inside a Chester Public Library tote bag. The raffle will continue through November.

Congregational Christmas Service Village. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. ◆ **PELHAM** Tickets are on sale for the Silver Rose Victorian Ball on Jan. 8 at Harris Pelham Inn. There will be dinner, dancing and prizes. Tickets are \$40 per person, and Victorian attire is required. Contact

Intersection: Improvements could ease traffic tie ups at Depot

Continued from Page 9

intersection and went over some initial ideas with selectmen this week. One plan expected to keep traffic

flowing smoothly for 20 years, required substantial takings along both Route 28 and Main Street. Several selectmen balked at the plan. "I won't support the 20-year plan ... That's out of the question," Select-

man Everett F. McBride Jr. said. The other plan, an eight-to-10-year one, required less land taking and essentially added left and right turning lanes at various spots in the

Several selectmen had their own ideas, which they tossed out to the state to consider.

State to consider:

gested extending Central Street, off Main Street, and connecting it through the gates of Rockingham Park racetrack to Route 28.

As a temporary fix, Selectman Thomas D. Eden suggested only having one leg of the intersection move on a green light. He said that might make traffic flow smoother, since left-turning cars wouldn't get caught in oncoming traffic.

a consultant to work with the town in drafting the plan.

Both he and Mr. McBride said they also want to discourage more traffic from using the Depot. Already, many cars avoid stalled traffic on Interstate 93 by taking

An idea of creating jug-handle bypasses around the intersection, prompted Selectman Charles "Chuck" Morse to suggest having businesses entered from the back. Route 28 through the Depot. Both said the planned widening of I-93 and the creation of Bypass 111 will help ease congestion in the Depot.

None of the ideas are incorporated in any formal plan. The state has the Depot in its construction plan.

struction schedule for 2006, giving selection ample time to finalize a

Minutus: More help is needed at state

Selectmen, NHDOT debate depot redesign alternatives

by Steve Eifler

SALEM — Driving through the Salem Depot can take quite a bit of time and effort. It looks like any plan to redesign the depot will take the same.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation officials were at Monday night's board of selectmen meeting to discuss possible options for a Salem Depot redesign with the board members.

The Salem Depot, located at the intersection of Routes 97 and 28 (Broadway and Main Street) is one of the busiest in town. Left turns off Route 28 can be particularly difficult.

The town has examined several different plans for the depot over the years; the intersection is now part of the NHDOT's 10-year plan and town and state officials are working together to find a solution that satisfies both parties.

Every plan seemed to have some problems and they all invariably shared at least one common obstacle: the widening of either road at that intersection would impact businesses and buildings and require the taking of land.

NHDOT representatives proposed a basic plan that would widen Route 28 to a total of five lanes; the additional lane would be an exclusive left turn lane onto Route 97.

By adding only one lane to 28, less property would be impacted — but some buildings and businesses would still have to be moved or

demolished.

"To do it would impact one side or the other," said Bill Cass, NHDOT's chief of preliminary design. "It wouldn't allow for any future expansion."

The plan also has a design life of only eight years.

"At that time, something else would need to be done," Cass said.

"We won't get it built in the time it takes to get to capacity," said Selectman Chuck Morse.

NHDOT's plan also suggested using side road cut-throughs to alleviate traffic. The 'jug handles,' as Cass called them, would make very little difference, adding only two years to the project's design life.

"There are a lot of issues with that without really solving or doing anything for the intersection," Cass said.

Morse endorsed the jug handles portion of the plan, saying it would help eliminate some of the accidents that occur when traffic enters the main roads from business driveways. Morse suggested that the jug handles be installed and that depot businesses be accessed from the rear.

NHDOT also presented the 'ultimate scenario' of multiple through lanes and multiple turn lanes. While this project would solve the problem for the foreseeable future, it would require the demolition of many buildings and even a regrading of the intersection. The railroad crossing also causes some difficulties in this plan.

Beyond that the massive scope of such a plan also raises environmental and historic issues. Several

■ See DEPOT Page 2

DEPOT

of the buildings that would have to be demolished for the proposed intersection could have historic significance.

Other properties are, or were at one time, gasoline service stations. That raises a question about the possibility of underground contamination.

"There is no easy solution here," said NHDOT Bureau Administrator Bob Barry. "We're here to give you the best assessment we can and then seek the guidance of the board as to where the town wants to go with this project."

There are still too many variables like how the widening of I-93 will affect depot traffic.

"Assuming 93 gets widened, I think traffic is going to be up," said Selectman Chairman Bob Ellis. "Something really has to be done."

The selectmen made no decisions Monday night but did make it clear that they are not in favor of any of the proposals presented by NHDOT that night. The board members appear to favor a more drastic redesign that would solve the problem long-term. In other words, get ready for a large-scale project and a depot that looks radically different from what is there today.

Permits: Current waiting list will be dissolved

Continued from Page 17

after the New Year. Besides paying the permit fee, which ranges from \$200 to \$400, \$2,315 school impact fee up front. Previously, the impact fee was paid when an the home was ready for

aid occupancy. "That means someone coming in for five permits will have to put out another \$10,000 to \$12,000 besides the permit fees up front," Mr. Zannini said. The present waiting list — essentially those who were closed out this

year — will also be dissolved. Mr. Zannini said the five permit limit and 60-day expiration date should make it possible for everyone interested to get started on some homes. "With five at a time, I expect we'll probably see 50 or 55 go out at first," Mr. Zannini said.

Last year, many of the permits taken out were not used and eventually turned back to the town to give to those on the waiting list. Thomas A. Giosetti of Geo Properties was shut earlier this year because he had been waiting for some state approvals and did not

pull permits right away.

He said the new system seems fair and should stop the hoarding. He said he attended both Planning Board meetings where the plans were discussed.

"Now, if you pull a permit you'd better be ready to build," Mr. Giosetti said.

Mr. Zannini said the new system

is not yet official, but has been

before the Planning Board twice. He said there may be some more "tweaking" to it before Jan. 1 hits.

"We're not looking to hurt anyone," Mr. Zannini said. "We just want to be sure that when someone is ready to build a home, there'll be a permit for it."

Officers
Leaverhill

Please see POLICE, Page 18

11/25/99 Salem plans to thwart building permit hoarders

◆ Salem is doing what it can to stop developers from hoarding building permits when 130 become available in January.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Home building permits are in as much demand here as the most popular toys of the holiday season.

Permits have been a hot commodity since the town limited the number of new homes that could be built in a year to 130 almost three years ago.

Last year, all 130 permits were gone by Jan. 13, as developers stocked up, fearing none would be left when they needed them.

This year, things will be different,

said Chief Building Official Sam Zannini.

The town is working on a new way to dole out permits come Jan. 1. The goal, Mr. Zannini said, is to eliminate hoarding by only giving permits to people who are ready to build.

Developers will be able to take out up to five home permits at a time and must have each new home's footing and foundation in within 60 days. Last year, home builders could take out up to 20 permits in a subdivision and had six months before they expired.

The annual 20-home maximum per builder is still in place, but now all 20 permits can not be taken at once. As the foundations go in, a new permit can be taken out to replace it, Mr. Zannini said.

Getting a building permit will also cost builders more up front, another way Salem hopes to slow the rush

Please see PERMITS, Page 18

Developer replaces 33 uprooted shade trees

♦ Town gets 12 extra shade trees for Geremonty Drive in the bargain.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Geremonty Drive is going to be a lot shadier this spring.

A dozen new trees have been planted along Geremonty Drive, between Salem High and Field of Dreams.

The trees, planted yesterday, were donated by Rosen Associates, the company that built The Village Shoppes at Salem, which includes Best Buy and MVP Sports on Route 28 near Kelley Road.

Because it is winter, the new trees are bare, but will sprout leaves this spring.

When the plaza was being built, the company chopped down about 45 trees along Route 28, to the dismay of many residents.

However, the company was ordered by the state to replace them and agreed to plant new trees that were about the same height and diameter as what was removed.

Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said

the trees were at least 10 years old, meaning the replacements are expensive. Each has a diameter of five to seven inches, compared to a younger tree, with diameter of an inch or two.

However, when Rosen Associates recently tried to make good on its promise, it hit a roadblock.

Mr. Moldoff said Granite State Electric feared the trees would pose a problem to its power lines along Route 28 and put a stop to the replanting plans. The electric company did, however, agree to allow about 33 trees of a different kind — ones that won't grow as tall — to be planted.

Mr. Moldoff said that left Rosen Associates with a dozen of the bigger trees, which it had already purchased.

The company decided to donate them to the town. They continue the new line of trees along Geremonty Drive planted earlier this year by local businessman Laurence N. Belair.

Mr. Moldoff said it is a nice gesture from Rosen Associates, which several years ago battled the town in court to secure approval for its retail plaza.

Belated 12/27/99 Salem present arrives

◆ A Florida woman is giving a 50-acre Christmas gift to the town.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The town is set to accept a sizeable gift of what has become a very rare commodity in Salem.

Josephine R. Spadafora, 83, is giving more than 50 acres of land off Pelham Road in the southwest corner of town — land she has owned for 40 years — to the town for free.

There is just one catch: the deal has to be done before the new year for her to get the tax break for the donation. With very little notice, town officials have been in a legal sprint to get all the paperwork done in time.

"Typically it would take a couple of months to get it done," said Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff. "So we're all working very quickly."

Part of the rush will be a public hearing held by selectmen and the Conservation Commission tomorrow night at 7 in Town Hall to vote to accept the gift.

Mr. Moldoff said it appears the town will make the deadline, adding a quick, cheap 50 acres to the town's conservation land.

"Fifty acres in Salem is pretty unusual," said Mr. Moldoff. "In terms of property ... nobody's ever done anything like this."

Mr. Moldoff said most of the property is wetlands, but at least 12 acres is "high and dry upland." The gift means the town can now protect it.

"Someone could apply for a permit to build houses on the 12 acres of dry land," he said. "Now we'd have a big chunk of conservation land to stay wooded."

He said it is possible the town could someday create recreation or nature trails on the land.

Ms. Spadafora grew up in Salem but has lived in Florida for 35 years. Her son, John J. Spadafora, said this year may have provided the perfect financial opportunity to donate the land, but she has always thought about it for another reason.

"She'd like to donate it in honor of her husband," said Mr. Spadafora, whose father died about 20 years ago. "When my father was down here, he always wanted to come back (to New Hampshire.)"

Mr. Spadafora said the land was appraised at \$175,000, and the town was just one potential buyer that had contacted his mother.

"Many years they contacted us wanting to buy it," he said. "In the back of her mind, she always thought about it (donating it.)"

summer, walking...

Observer 4/3/99

Salem acquires 50 acres

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Salem just doubled the amount of open space it has acquired in the past year.

The Spadafora family donated 52 acres of land in the southwestern part of Salem to the town.

Earlier in the year Reddy Homebuilders gave the town a gift of 50 acres.

Salem Planning Director Ross Moldoff said that brings the total amount of open space the town has acquired during his tenure here (15 years) to more than 600 acres.

The donation was a last minute gift from the Spadaforas, who wanted to rid themselves of the land to avoid being taxed on it, Moldoff said.

The land is approximately 75 percent wetlands, Moldoff estimated.

After the Spadaforas approached the town about developing the land and were rebuffed, the town looked into acquiring the land. It would be very difficult to develop because any access to the land would have to come across prime wetlands.

Two months ago, the town received a response from the Spadaforas.

To avoid taxes on the land, as well as receive a tax benefit for such a substantial gift, the Spadaforas were willing to give the land to the town for free.

Moldoff said the land will be preserved and never developed, although the town may add trails there at some time.

"This gives us a big chunk of open space and protects it," Moldoff said. "It also prevents the possibility of anybody ever developing it."