

1/6/00 OBSERVER

Salem to develop new Master Plan

SALEM - The Salem Planning Board, in conjunction with UNH Cooperative Extension, is sponsoring a Community Profile Project to be held on Jan. 28 and 29 at Woodbury Middle School on Main Street. This one-and-a-half day long event will bring people from various segments of the town together to discuss the Town's future growth and development. The planning board hopes this project will serve as the starting point for Salem's next Master Plan.

A Steering Committee made up of representatives from many local boards and committees has worked

over the last five months to organize the event. Steering Committee Chairman Gary Azarian said, "This is the perfect way to start the Town's 250th anniversary celebration. We hope to have 300 people talking about Salem's future. This event gives everyone the opportunity to make a difference in the community. Every resident is invited to attend."

Please contact Planning Director Ross Moldoff at 890-2080 if you want additional information on the Community Profile Project.

1/11/00 TRB/BUE

Project must meet town standards

To the editor:

We are writing to express concern about the Burlington Self-Storage project proposed for 232 N. Broadway in Salem, N.H. The property involves an extensive commercial development on wetlands and is abutted on two sides by eight single-family residences.

The drainage plan as submitted is designed to intentionally increase the volume of water discharged into the area which abuts the homes. The "natural screening" does not meet the regulatory requirements. The lighting is intrusive, particularly since it will shine into the bedrooms of the abutting homes. Specifically, the drainage, screening and lighting as proposed by the developer negatively impact residential abutters in the Morrison Avenue and Beverly Avenue neighborhood.

In regards to the drainage, the plan proposes the creation of an artificial "lake" to store water displaced by the five buildings and associated paved areas. Snow removal will be accomplished by dumping snow into the periphery of the lot where it will drain into a swale designed to carry the runoff into the largest of the wetlands bordering the yards of the homes on Beverly and Morrison avenues.

In the past 30 years, at least four projects have been proposed for this site. All of these projects were required to drain the water away from the northeast corner and required channeling water off the property toward North Broadway because of the impact on the Beverly and Morrison Avenue neighbors.

A review of Planning Board minutes of the Grossman proposal developed by Kimball Chase described the northeast drainage as totally inadequate to support a development one-fourth the size of

the Burlington Self-Storage Project. The Burlington proposal discharges water onto the most troublesome wetland area and does nothing to look for alternate drainage sites. It ignores the previous information presented.

Town ordinances require Salem to "protect residents against the dangers of increased flooding" in the development of wetlands. There is not adequate protection for the neighbors in this proposal.

The current proposal offers no screening from the commercial building for the residential neighbors. While there is an elaborate facade, the posterior of the building is not screened from the residences. Our property is 120 feet from this structure.

Zoning regulations require "a buffer area which shall include shrubs, walls or some combination thereof which will provide a visual screening at all seasons of the year."

In summary, there are serious issues in terms of drainage, screening and lighting. The proposed development is within 120 feet of our property and approximately the same distance from the largest and most troublesome of the wetlands.

We ask the board to specifically consider these issues and require the developer to adhere to existing regulations and zoning requirements.

JOHN X. and E. MADELINE MOONAN
Salem, N.H.

ROAD RIDER

Chris Young



Winter maintenance is considered an art, not a science," begins the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's 11-page Snow Removal and Ice Control Policy.

The department takes snow and ice removal very seriously and promises to honor its well-known and admirable goal to clear the main roads to bare ground as soon as possible after the snow stops.

Road Rider would like to know your assessment of how well the department reacted to last Friday's storm, the first in 304 days. Was it ready?

Sodium chloride (common table salt) plays a key role in helping the department clear the roads quickly. Salt reduces adherence of snow to the pavement, keeps snow in a "mealy" condition, permitting nearly full removal by plowing and prevents the formation of ice or snow

ice, called hard pack. To minimize the danger of oversalting water supplies and damage to cars, the department controls salt usage by equipping salters and sanders with calibrated mechanical spreaders and by training drivers in how to use them.

Salem sidewalks

~~Salem residents who would like to~~ see more sidewalks both in public and residential areas of town have an ally in Planning Director Ross Moldoff.

He told Road Rider that he has been asking the town to put construction of sidewalks in the budget for the 15 years he has worked in town. He's also in favor of requiring builders to install sidewalks when building new subdivisions. Currently, builders are required to install sidewalks only if building roads within 1,000 feet of existing or proposed sidewalks.

"If we had started 15 years ago, we would have a network of sidewalks throughout town by now," he said.

Some of Road Rider's New Hampshire friends at The Eagle-Tribune tell her that New Hampshire towns don't need sidewalks, that sidewalks are for cities. But Lisa Keller, a young mother who grew up in Salem

when it was a small town, would like the town to build more sidewalks so that her twins could enjoy benefits she had. "When I was a kid, my friends and I could ride our bikes from North Salem where we lived, to Bradlees," she said. "There is no way that kids could do that now. It would be nice for parents to be able to allow their kids to ride their bikes to a friend's or to a grandparent's house without worrying that they will be hit by a car."

Work on I-93

It is time for an update on the \$10 million bridge being built over Interstate 93 and the accompanying interchange of roads.

Its construction has intrigued commuters for the past year. When finished next fall, the new interchange will connect to two important centers: a \$22 million Woburn Regional Transportation Center and the city of Woburn's Commerce Way. The new Regional Transportation Center, which will replace and expand upon the present Mishawum Transportation Center, is a joint venture of MassHighway, Massachusetts Port Authority (MassPort) and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Middlesex Corporation is giving a tentative com-

pletion date of next spring. The complex will include a new MBTA station, ticketing for three agencies, retail space and a waiting area. The 36 acres will provide parking for 2,400 cars whose owners will have a choice of MBTA Commuter Rail, a bus to Boston or the Logan Express to Logan International Airport.

The bridge dips

A colleague who commutes from Amesbury to North Andover on Interstate 495 told me last week that he's aware of the road sinking noticeably when he drives over two bridges near Exit 52 northbound in Haverhill. "I notice it when I'm traveling in the passing (far left) lane. It's about 2 inches," he said.

"Yes, you're right," admits MassHighway spokesman, Doug Cope. "There is a depression there. Our engineers know about it and we plan to repave the entire area in the spring." There is no danger that the bridge will collapse, he said.

Road Rider, alias, Chris Young would like to hear from readers with reactions, suggestions or ideas for future columns. She can be reached by writing to The Eagle-Tribune, P.O. Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01942 or by email at roadrider@eagletribune.com

Toned down signs for Route 28?

◆ But sign makers say signs must flash to be effective.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — With one member expressing fears that Route 28 may one day become a "circus of light, sound and color," the Planning Board has decided to ask voters to place tight restrictions on new electronic signs.

The Board voted 5 to 1 in favor of the zoning article Tuesday night, over the protests of local sign makers, the Chamber of Commerce and Canobie Lake Park.

"The town currently has about 10 electronic signs," Town Planner

Ross A. Moldoff said. "There has been a lot of concern expressed about aesthetic issues and traffic safety issues."

The concern, he said, is that rapidly blinking, flashing and scrolling signs — aside from being unpleasant to look at — distract drivers and slow their reaction time. He pointed to the 99 Restaurant's electronic sign as ideal, and Computer Town's constantly changing message as what the town wants to stop.

"Computer Town's sign clearly intends to grab your attention; to

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have you notice it more than you might notice a regular sign," he said.

The amendment will not allow signs to change their message more than once every two minutes. Time and temperature messages are exempt, and Mr. Moldoff said the amendment would not apply to already existing signs.

But sign makers at the public hearing insisted that there is no danger, and that for electronic signs to be effective they must change every few seconds.

"We've eliminated all the tricks," said Rick Hammar of Hammar and Sons Sign Company in Pelham,

referring to constantly blinking and flashing signs. "Just give us five seconds."

He said with electronic signs having very little space per line, constantly scrolling text is needed to express a message as simple as "clearance sale." He also said he called several major sign vendors, and none has ever been sued for causing a traffic accident.

Though Canobie Lake Park's electronic sign — which has one line that changes less than every two seconds — will be grandfathered, lawyer Kenneth A. Viscarello attended the meeting to argue the amendment is too broad. He also said it could have an impact opposite of what the Plan-

ning Board hopes by forcing companies to have larger signs that hold more text per line.

But Mr. Moldoff said the two-minute standard is reasonable, pointing out that Derry, Exeter, Portsmouth and other towns have banned the signs entirely.

"Salem has not taken the position that many other communities have taken," he said. "Salem is being pretty lenient."

The article will appear on the March 14 Town Meeting ballot. The Planning Board will meet Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in the high school media room to finish voting on citizen petition zoning articles.

Senior center plans clouded

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Last April, Russell and Roberta Ingram announced that they would donate more than \$300,000 toward the construction of a new senior center - with one condition.

It would have to be built soon.

Since then, there has been remarkably little progress. The town was rejected for a \$1 million federal grant which would have complemented the Ingrams' donation and made the center virtually free from Salem taxpayers' point of view.

The town has decided to try again and hope that the grant is

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approved this year. According to Donna Lane, the grantwriter employed by the town to apply for the money, the forecast is glum.

"I don't feel confident that you'll get these funds," Lane told the selectmen last week. "After this time, you'll have to look elsewhere [for the rest of the money]."

Elsewhere? The town may have to look internally. According to the selectmen, a citizen petition may be on the way which would get the project underway.

In the meantime, the town will wait to hear on the application. The federal government will

announce the recipients in April. Salem has done its best to ensure its chances, but they are still slim because of circumstances beyond the town's control.

The grants are awarded to the applicants which score the most points. Points are awarded for, among other things, matching funds, reuse of the building and need. Lane said that the town has scored as high as it can in all areas where it has any influence.

The problem is that points are also awarded for other areas, and

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i the federal government gives points
for location. A town in Coos
County, for example, would receive
more base points than one in
Rockingham County.

Salem did score significant
points for announcing that the
Head Start program would move
into the old center once the new
one is built.

s; In the meantime, all the town
s. officials can do is hope and wait -
ty but not much longer, if they want to
as use the Ingrams' money.

Salem closing down trailer park

1/25/00

◆ Residents of Al's Trailer Park will get both money for rent and cash to help them move when the town relocates them to turn the park back into wetlands.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The October 1996 flood waters were lapping at the door of his home in Al's Trailer Park, but John Eastwood told the firefighters hoping to rescue him that he wasn't budging until he finished his Hungry Man dinner.

The rush of water into his bedroom soon softened that stance, however, and he had to hitch a ride out of the park on someone's boat.

"I was hoping the water wouldn't come in," said Mr. Eastwood, now 67. "But it did."

"I can adapt to anything I have to. I'd like to keep this trailer if there's any way I can...I worked my behind off to make it nice."

John T. Eastwood

And because it did on more than one occasion, forcing the evacuation of all of the park's residents and the closure of a significant stretch of Route 28, the town has decided to move everyone living in Al's Trailer Park and turn the flood-prone 3.5 acres to its advantage.

The town has received a \$450,000 state grant to buy the land and relocate its residents, and is hoping to receive another \$333,000 in mostly federal money to convert it back into wetlands that would hold flood waters instead of overflowing

onto the road. Community Development Director E. James Turse said a total of \$1.2 million could be spent on the project, which would probably begin early next year.

Al's, which is located across from Rockingham Park, had to be evacuated in October of 1996 and June 1998, and the flooding forced the town to shut down a submerged portion of Route 28.

"Whenever we get any significant rains whatsoever, we get flooding in that location," said Fire Chief John R. Nadeau, pointing to the massive propane tanks the department finds bobbing in the water as one of many hazards.

"We end up having to go down there and evacuate the residents," Chief Nadeau said.

Mr. Turse said that while the project wouldn't solve all the town's flooding problems, it should help with one important area. He estimated that 20 businesses — not to mention countless travelers — suffer when the road is submerged.

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"What I'd like to do is stop the inundation of (Route) 28," he said. "It can be a real problem."

Mr. Turse said the town has not spoken with 23 residents of the park yet because it didn't want to do so before finding out if it received the grant.

He did not know yet how much of the \$450,000 would go to park owner Albert W. Lajeunesse, who could not be reached, and how much would go to residents' relocation. But he

stressed everyone would get both rent money and a lump sum of cash for the move.

"The relocation program is very generous to those tenants," he said. "We need to reassure them they will be well compensated. They are not being thrown out in the street."

Mr. Eastwood's main concern was whether he could keep the trailer he has called home for four years, which is owned by Mr. Lajeunesse.

"I can adapt to anything I have to," he said. "I'd like to keep this trailer if there's any way I can...I

worked my behind off to make it nice."

Mr. Turse said the relocation is an opportunity for the park's residents.

"For a lot of people this is (a chance to improve their living situation)," he said. "Once the fear of the loss of their home gets worked through...my experience is that the reactions are actually quite positive."

Mr. Eastwood, for one, is open to the possibility that the move could lead to a better home.

"It might at that," he said.

1/27/00

Generous man tired of wait for feds

SALEM — Three times Russell F. Ingram saw the town apply for \$1 million in federal money to build a senior center, and three times he saw it rejected.

So Mr. Ingram, who with wife Roberta gave \$315,000 toward the project last year, is asking the town to match that donation. He has submitted a petition asking March Town Meeting to approve \$315,000 to build a scaled-down version of the center.

"I just want to get the thing going, and I thought this might be the best way to do it," said Mr. Ingram, 75. "The town owes it to the seniors. The (current) senior center is a disgrace to this town."

He has plenty of support from officials. "We always thought it was a worthwhile project," said Selectmen Robert L. Ellis, whose name is the first on the petition.

He said with no room for expansion and no good place to cook, it is time to replace the center on Lawrence Road, which also houses Human Services and Town Welfare offices.

The original plan was to build a \$1.3 million, 10,000-square-foot building on town-owned land on Geremonty Drive.

It would house the senior center and Rockingham Community Action and other social service offices. "It was going to be more of a community center," Mr. Moldoff said. "There was room for other agencies."

But those additions were put in to improve the town's chances at the grant — a grant Mr. Moldoff said the town recently learned it had little chance of ever receiving.

He said the town does not have enough low-income residents compared to other towns applying.

So the new plan is to build a 6,000-square-foot center for about \$630,000, allowing the same space for seniors but eliminating other offices. Mr. Ellis said the building would be designed with expansion in mind.

If voters approve the money March 18, Mr. Moldoff said, construction could begin as soon as this fall.

Community Profile gets underway

SALEM - Residents and businesspeople from the area will gather at Woodbury Middle School this Friday and Saturday for Salem's Community Profile forum.

Those in attendance will develop a description of what Salem is like today and also build and develop a vision of Salem in the future. The profile is going to be used to update the master plan.

"We'd like to get input from as many people as possible," said Selectmen Chairman Bob Ellis.

If you are interested in participating, call Planning Director Ross Moldoff at 890-2083.

06/27/00

SALEM

New transportation facility sought

♦ Salem voters may have the final say on the area's first bus service to Boston.

By John Basile
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A combination park-and-ride and bus terminal planned for the south side of Rockingham Park Boulevard would provide area commuters with bus service to Boston for the first time.

State transportation officials are

working with Concord Trailways, a major bus company in the state, to make that a reality.

David J. "Jeff" Brillhart will meet with the Salem Conservation Commission Wednesday night to give commission members a "heads up" on the current status of the project.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. Mr. Brillhart is chief project manager for the state Department of Transportation.

The Conservation Commission has a strong interest in the project because nearly half of it would be

built in a wetlands area, most of which is designated as "prime." Prime wetlands have more stringent regulations than regular ones.

Removing the prime wetlands designation would have to happen to move the project forward, and the final say on that would be up to Salem voters, Mr. Brillhart said.

The state has looked into building a multi-deck parking garage to help reduce the project's impact on the wetlands, but has ruled that out, he said.

The planned bus service and

park-and-ride would give Salem area commuters an alternative to driving into

Boston, Mr. Brillhart said. It would also help reduce the number of cars and pollution on Interstate 93.

While getting 460 cars off the road is a small percentage of the daily highway traffic, it is a start, he said.

The target date for the project has been pushed back from this year to next year because of the wetlands issue, he said.

Such a park-and-ride and bus ter-

minal would be built across from the entrance of Rockingham Park truck-track. It would have 460 parking spaces and a Concord Trailways bus terminal.

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 Rockingham Park Boulevard and another chunk near Cross Street are not wetlands.

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SALEM

Tattoo parlor again without town's backing

Attempt to limit shops fails to win Planning Board support

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Falling only six votes short a year ago, Lion's Den Tattoo and Body Piercing owner Leo A. Murphy III is bringing his proposal to space out the town's tattoo shops back to voters this March.

But once again it will be without the approval of the Planning Board, which voted unanimously last night to officially "disapprove" of the plan on the March ballot.

Mr. Murphy brought a similar citizen petition forward last year, which if it passed would have required new shops to be at least 1,000 feet from existing ones. His wife, Judy, appeared in front of the board last night to push this year's proposal, which is 750 feet.

Insisting that other shops in town illegally tattoo on minors, she said the new ordinance would force out other unscrupulous tattoo businesses.

"How many more shops do we need that don't follow the rules?" she asked.

But after some of the owners of the town's other nine tattoo parlors spoke — contradicting Mrs. Murphy's claims and opposing the zoning article — Planning Board members declared rule enforcement was

the job of police and said they did not understand why the issue came up for a second year.

Among the angry opponents was the owner of Dragon's Lair Tattoo Studio, Jamey J. Proctor, who said Mr. Murphy is simply trying to eliminate the competition. Mr. Murphy is the only tattoo artist in town who owns his building, he said, while the rest rent and are sometimes forced to move.

"If this got passed it would start eliminating us one at a time over a period of time," said Mr. Proctor, who had to move last year. "He would never have to move. He wants to be the only game in town."

Mr. Proctor said he shares a building happily with another tattoo artist and said that is typical of how most in town get along. The group gladly coexists along Route 28, he said, splitting the constant flow of business that comes largely from Massachusetts, where body art is prohibited by law.

"It's not like a competition thing," he said. "There's plenty of skin out there."

The town already has 1,000-foot setback laws for used car lots, adult bookstores and gas stations, but the Planning Board said that was due to the outside appearance of those businesses.

Residents shape the town's future

◆ A new senior center, the widening of I-93, forming a new town government and conserving town-owned land are among the goals to arise from Salem's first-ever Community Profile.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — For a mother of 6-year-old twins and a 5-year-old girl, giving up 12 hours of weekend time is a major sacrifice.

Throw in the fact that it was her birthday weekend, and it's obvious Dianne E. Barcellona-Wright thought this was important.

Though Mrs. Barcelona-Wright, 42, has only been in Salem about 18 months, she wasn't going to miss the town's first Community Profile, last month.

"I wanted to help shape the future of the town," she said.

She was one of a motley crew of about 110 longtime residents, elected officials, volunteers and newcomers that huddled over a few free meals and set about the task of designing the Salem they would like to see. They have since formed "action groups" that will meet periodically to work on goals considered key to Salem's future.

Here are some of the projects:

Improving traffic and the widening of Interstate 93 will be addressed by the group Mrs. Barcelona-Wright is in. She said synchronizing traffic lights on Route 28, improving the Depot, providing direct access from Route 38 to I-93, and giving Salem a significant voice in the I-93 widening are all being discussed.

Building senior and teen centers has been an issue in town for years, and groups were formed to help them happen a little sooner. Money for a senior center will be voted on at Town Meeting, and about 15 people from the profile group are now dedicated to the design of and fund-raising for the new building. Karen L. Bryant, who leads the group and chairs the Council on Aging, said there is an easy explanation for most of the group not being elderly.

"We may not all be old yet, but everyone will be," she said.

Fran Gugliotta, who runs the current teen center, said one possibility being considered is having the teen and senior centers share a building.

A new form of town government was a particularly popular subject.

"There was quite a strong feeling that the current form (of government) isn't all that effective," said John B. McShane, a Salem resident for 30 years who attended with his wife, Carol.

In fact, a petition was drawn up and signed by 25 voters right at the meeting to form a charter commission to study what changes could be made. It will not appear on this year's ballot, however, because the deadline had passed and it did not meet all legal requirements.

Protecting town land could be done several ways. This group is working on the Rails to Trails project, which will convert the abandoned railroad tracks along Route 28 into walking and biking paths, and on preventing the sale of town land to developers.

Mr. McShane said the goal is to create a public land trust, which would have power over most town-owned land. Right now, a resident can propose selling land by simply

getting enough signatures.

"(A land trust) would make it more difficult if not impossible for just any citizen to petition to sell property," Mr. McShane said.

Many of the original participants will meet at Kelley Library on Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. to hear the final report of the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension, which sponsored the event.

Mrs. Barcellona-Wright believes what each action group does from here on will decide how successful the profile was.

"How can we carry the momentum of that meeting forward? That's the challenge," she said. "We need to pick up the ball and run with it."

Profilers spring into action

Residents who participated in a planning event are still hard at work

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The Salem Community Profile was designed to give an accurate reflection of what Salem is like today. Beyond that, its purpose was not exactly clear.

Held last month, the event attracted hundreds of residents to discuss where Salem is and where it should be.

There were hints that the profile may be used as a springboard for a new Master Plan for the town.

Three weeks later, there has been no action taken on that possibility, but that's not to say that the participants have been lazing about.

ARTICLES, From Page 1

When the roads are repaved, the town tries to upgrade the sewer and water facilities there at the same time. Money for this work can come from the sewer fund rather than the taxpayers.

"We'll take the water and sewer money in the article out of the article and take the surplus to do that," Ellis said.

Ellis said that the article's dollar amount may be lowered even further by the fact that low bids are coming in.

"We're very close to receiving some bids that may allow us to do that," Ellis said.

So while the selectmen did not get the result they were hoping for from the budget committee, the articles may end up being approved after all.

"We will still have a road program, but it is going to be reduced," Merrow said. "They will have to reduce the amount that has to come out of the taxpayers' pockets."

From the profile event, several action groups were formed and they are pursuing their own agendas.

The profile identified several key areas throughout the town, a number of important issues that need to be addressed.

An action group was formed to address each of these, and they have been busy.

The Form of Government Action Group has already drafted a warrant article, for example.

Other groups are just starting and it is not too late to participate.

"It is up to the team leaders where we go from here," said Salem Planning Director Ross Moldoff. "We want to see if people are interested in doing this."

If participation in the program events so far is any indication, Salem residents are very interested.

"We've had a good turnout so far," Moldoff said.

The most recent meeting was held at the Kelley Library on Feb. 17. Attendees had an early opportunity to peruse a report on the profile prepared by the University of New Hampshire Co-operative Extension.

"We discussed how to follow up and how to proceed. We need to get those groups organized," Moldoff said.

The profile yielded the following priorities: protection of the town's resources, examining the town's form of government, infrastructure/traffic, senior center and teen

center.

As mentioned above, the Form of Government Action Group has already drafted a warrant article to see if the town will vote to establish a charter commission. The commission would then recommend a form of government to the legislative body for consideration.

Other groups have scheduled meetings. All groups are seeking interested participants; don't hesitate to call to join.

The Natural Resource Action Group, concerned with protecting and preserving public land, will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. Call George Jones at 898-5687 for more information.

The Infrastructure/Traffic Action Group will be meeting soon; no date has been set yet. Call Bob Bryant at 898-4998, Dianne Wright at 898-6894 or Connie Young at 893-0711 for more information.

The Community Building and Senior Center Action Group has not set a meeting date. Call Karen Bryant at 898-4998 for more information.

For information about the Teen Center Action Group, call Fran Gugliotta at 898-4745.

The Rails to Trails Action Group has already met. Call Linda Harvey at 898-5285 for more information.

Copies of the profile report are available through the town. Call Planning Director Ross Moldoff at 890-2083 for a copy.

Political ad

Business vs. growth ^{3/6/00}

◆ The conflict between the town's goal of properly fixing the traffic nightmare at the Depot and a local store's plan to grow has found its way onto the March 14 ballot.

By Chris Markuns

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The DiOrio family feels it's being held hostage, and is hoping the town's voters will set them free.

In trying to take part in one Salem tradition — development — the owners of Craftmania have been stalled by another — traffic problems at the Routes 97 and 28 intersection known as the Depot.

Realizing in 1993 that the national arts and crafts chain Michaels would soon be looking for a home on Route 28, they decided to expand their roughly 15,000-square foot store that sits off Willow Street, just north of the Depot behind Dodge Grain on Route 28.

"We wanted to do it before them because we knew they'd be coming to town eventually," said Anthony E. DiOrio, 45, who has run the Salem store since 1994 with his brother

David. "We wanted to be able to compete with the competition. We want to be the best we can."

But with part of the land zoned residential because it is 300 feet from Route 28, in order to expand the family must receive convince the Zoning Board to give its permission.

But since a bigger business would likely mean more traffic — something the town doesn't want at a narrow intersection that already sees 23,000 cars a day and about 65 accidents a year — the Zoning Board refused to approve the expansion.

When the DiOrio's prediction came true and Michaels opened on Route 28 last October, the new store was competing with the same old Craftmania.

The latest step in the DiOrios' two-year battle is a citizens petition that will appear on the March 14 ballot to rezone the land, a

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Salem: Store expansion on ballot

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move the Planning Board is suggesting voters not approve unless they want to risk more problems at the Depot.

The conflict pits the town's goal of taking its time and fixing a major traffic problem against a family-owned business hoping to grow bigger in the face of new competition.

"While it was oddly zoned through a history of events, the way to correct it isn't to just change it without a plan in place for the whole area," said Planning Board member Maria R. Hamilton, who called the decision not to recommend the petition a "very tough vote."

The problem, according to Planning Board members, is that nobody knows yet how the Depot's problems will be fixed. Before knowing how the area will be designed, they are hesitant to allow any major projects to be developed.

"When you're looking at a piece of property, you have

to look at what could eventually be there. If you zone it for something, you're going to get something," said Planning Board member Richard R. Gregory, fearing a bigger business could eventually move in.

"It isn't like it's a parcel of land off North Main, it's right in the middle of a trouble area," said Mrs. Hamilton. "Once we zone it that way, anything can come in."

She said the town is reworking the Master Plan with the Depot in mind, but admitted a new plan could be years away.

"That's the part that made it a very hard vote. It's not the quick fix they need," she said. "If I owned it, I can see why I'd be frustrated by it."

Mr. DiOrio said he is not angry with officials, but he is frustrated. He said he recognizes the town's dilemma, but knows a plan unveiled years from now doesn't solve his problem.

"That doesn't help me ... What if it's 10 years from now?" he said. "We don't have the resources to open 10 stores."

Rockingham County growth 3/8/00 brings prosperity, problems

◆ Planners estimate that most Rockingham County communities will grow more than 40 percent during the next 20 years.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

James Towle has watched his hometown of Chester grow from just a few hundred people to more than 3,300 during his lifetime.

Hundreds of homes now stand on tracks of land that were once prosperous farms.

"I think I used to know everyone in town by name," said Mr. Towle, who turns 70 in May. "Now, I go to a meeting at Town Hall and I don't know who the hell anyone is."

What Mr. Towle has seen in Chester, other residents have been witnessing throughout Rockingham County.

The burgeoning population has made Rockingham County the fastest-growing county in the fastest-growing state in New England. The county grew 170.8 percent between 1960 and 1997 and is now home to more than 270,000 people, according to the New Hampshire Office of State Plan-



Growing Pains

First of a three-part series

ning.

In addition, planners estimate that most Rockingham County communities will grow more than 40 percent during the next 20 years.

Some towns, like Hampstead and Sandown, could see explosive growth at a rate of more than 70 percent, according to state projections.

The growth has prompted a booming local economy and, because of the plethora of new homes popping up, a lucrative construction industry.

But there are also growing pains.

Towns are facing increased traffic congestion, schools are running out of space,

POPULATION GROWTH SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN	1970	1980	1990	1997
Atkinson	2,291	4,397	5,188	6,071
Chester	1,382	2,006	2,691	3,290
Derryville	924	1,318	2,534	3,622
Derry	11,712	18,875	29,603	32,183
Hampstead	2,401	3,785	6,732	7,618
Kingston	2,882	4,111	5,591	5,838
Londonderry	5,341	13,598	19,781	21,854
Newtown	1,920	3,068	3,473	3,915
Pelham	5,408	8,090	9,408	10,793
Plaistow	4,712	5,609	7,166	7,873
Salem	20,142	24,124	25,746	27,525
Sandown	741	2,057	4,060	4,785
Windham	3,008	5,664	9,000	9,978

Source: State Planning Office and the Rockingham Planning Commission

and police and fire departments are being forced to add staff. In many cases, what were once sleepy towns have become

Please see GROWTH, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

busy bedroom communities full of commuters.

And taxes in many towns have risen over the years to pay for the increased town services that new residents demand.

Crowded classrooms

School districts seem hardest hit, as students from the thousands of new homes built in recent years have boosted enrollments. Most towns are strapped for classroom space.

Derry voters will be asked to spend \$13.9 million next week for a new school to house students in grades one through eight.

If the bond issue passes, it would be the second new school constructed in five years. A second middle school was built in 1995. Two years ago, Derry reopened an elementary school that had been closed several years earlier to help ease the classroom crunch.

Likewise, Hampstead voters will be asked this month to approve a \$6.4 million intermediate school for grades four and five to be built next to the middle school on School Street. If it happens, the new school will free up space at the elementary and middle schools.

Police and fire departments are also feeling the squeeze. With more people to protect, they are adding staff and building new stations to fit their forces.

Windham police moved into a new building in 1997. Chief Bruce Moeckel said the old station was considered "a palace" back in 1979 when the

department moved in, but has become too small and does not have a lock-up area.

Chief Moeckel said his staff, which numbered five back in 1978, has increased to keep up with the growing town, now home to about 10,000.

"This past year we added two people," Chief Moeckel said, noting it brought the staff up to 17, including himself. "We added a captain so we'd have a second in command and a patrolman for in the schools."

He said plans are in the works to hire a dispatcher this year and a detective next year. In addition, he is hoping to get town approval for more hires "over the next several years."

"We needed (the additions) because of the increased activity of the department. ... That's a direct reflection of the population changing," he said.

Town building boom

Many towns have taken out multi-year bonds to pay for new libraries, schools and other municipal buildings. They have simply outgrown their old ones.

For example:

Chester built a \$7 million school, Chester Academy, and a \$500,000 fire station last year.

Atkinson is building a new \$1.2 million fire station and hoping to build a new \$1.83 million library.

Windham built a \$1.5 million library, a \$1.3 million police station, a \$1.9 million fire station and completed a \$5.5 million expansion project on two schools during the past four years.

Plaistow is building a \$1.9 million library. The old one has been offered by selectmen as a potential site for a new district court. Selectmen have asked the court, which now operates on the second floor of Town Hall, to vacate because the growing town needs the space.

Hampstead created a new recreation area on Depot Road and is proposing a \$6.4 million intermediate school.

Salem approved \$5.7 million in 1995 to expand two elementary schools and its middle school, and renovated a third elementary school. The town is asking voters this year for \$315,000 to match a donation from a resident to build a new senior center.

Derry is looking for a location for a new town hall and is proposing a new \$13.9 million school for grades one through eight.

Timberlane Regional School District is expanding middle and high schools in Plaistow; expanding elementary schools in Atkinson and Danville; and building a new elementary school in Sandown. Total construction cost is \$32 million.

Traffic is another problem many towns are grappling with, as more people are traveling Southern New Hampshire's roads.

In Derry, the downtown area has been hard hit by the town's growth, Town Administrator Carol M. Granfield said.

She said a new Exit 4A off Interstate 93 is expected to ease the downtown gridlock. An environmental impact study is under way on the project, but there is no set date yet for when construction will begin.

Population control

As populations continue to swell, towns have taken steps to control the growth.

The goal, town officials say, is to ease the impact on taxpayers and give town services time to expand and keep up, or catch up with the rapid population growth.

Limiting the number of new home-building permits issued annually is one way they are doing it. Londonderry caps its at 125, and Salem at 130.

Derry has taken a somewhat different approach, instituting a growth-management ordinance that requires subdivision builders to earn a certain number of points before building new homes.

For example, if the builder's plans include fixing some nearby roads and intersections, he'll get some points. If he plans to create some open, recreational space in his subdivision, more points are awarded.

Some of the key points have to do with schools.

If the subdivision is near a school and it has available space for students, points are awarded. But, according to Derry Planning Director George Sioras, that is not happening too often.

Mr. Sioras said the ordinance, which is in its second year, also caps the total number of new homes at 50 a year.

Derry is a popular hometown, especially for those who take I-93 to work, Mr. Sioras said. The town has grown from just under 12,000 people in 1970 to about 33,000 today.

"Looking at the big-picture percentages over the last 15 years, Derry is one of the fastest-growing communities," Mr. Sioras said.

He said if the town continues to grow at its present rate, Derry should max out at 45,000 residents around 2020.

Besides slowing the number of new homes being built, many towns are also charging developers a fee for building new homes.

Impact fees — a one-time charge on each new home — are used by communities to defray school expansion costs and create recreation areas.

Salem charges a school impact fee of \$2,315 per new home. If the maximum 130 homes allowed get built in a year, it nets the town about \$300,000.

Most impact fees in the area range from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per new home.

As towns try to balance new development with services and quality of life, residents are also speaking up to help chart their towns' futures.

Mr. Towle said he and others in Chester formed an unofficial group, Citizens for Chester, to do just that.

He said the group discusses an array of things, including what to do with increased traffic through the town's center and how to continue making property taxes affordable for the elderly.

He said despite the steady growth, Chester has managed to maintain its rural character.

"It's a totally different town, but it's still Chester. It's still rural and it's still a damn nice place to live," Mr. Towle said.



Mark Lorenz/Eagle-Tribune

Former Conservation Commission Chairman Theodore W. Hatem sits in a section of about 130 acres off Route 111 in Salem that's being protected from development.

Natural wonders in danger

◆ As Rockingham County adds residents, many towns are buying up green space to help preserve their rural character and sustain wildlife habitats.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

New Hampshire is known for its beauty. Mountains, forests and small towns have long been its trademark.

But as new residents move into the southern part of the Granite State, they pose a threat to one of the things that drew many here in the first place.

Green space is steadily disappearing. Homes, roads and businesses are popping up where open space used to be.

These days, Rockingham County is four times as dense as the state overall.

"If we continue to grow at the same pace, within 20 years we won't have any land left to develop," said Cliff Sinnott, executive director of the Rockingham Planning Commission.

While little can be done to stop landowners from building homes on their own property, many Rockingham County towns are taking steps to preserve open space and maintain their rural character.

They are buying up land and accepting property donations from residents.

"There really isn't any other way to guarantee the land will be protected," Mr. Sinnott said.

The Windham Conservation Commission main-

Please see NATURE, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

tains about 600 acres of open land, keeping it out of developers' hands.

"That's only about 2 percent of the land in town. That's not a whole lot compared to other towns, which have up to 10 percent," said Cherie A. Howell, acting chairperson of the Windham Conservation Commission.

This spring, Windham paid \$225,000 for the development rights to the old Landry Ski Hill, 70 acres on Lowell Road behind Golden Brook and Windham Middle schools. It is part of a wildlife corridor, connected by trails to the Gage conservation land.

The land will remain in its natural state, Ms. Howell said. Before she died at age 90, the landowner, Jeanne Landry, told her four children she wanted the land to remain undeveloped. They followed her wishes by selling the development rights to the town.

However, the Landry children maintain ownership of the land and are continuing to allow conservation

walks. Boy Scout jamborees and other events that allow people to enjoy the property.

Salem, which has seen its population grow by nearly 10,000 over the past 30 years, has about 900 acres protected. A large portion of it is wetlands.

Salem Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said towns do not necessarily have to buy property outright to protect it. He said securing money for such purchases is never easy.

"Sometimes we bought the land or we acquired it through open space subdivisions," Mr. Moldoff said. "Some land has been donated, or we've bought easements."

While local towns have long been protecting land, the issue has become more pressing in recent years because of the booming home-building industry.

"There is no question that it's more of a priority these days," Mr. Moldoff said. "Even nationally, more towns and cities are doing it."

On a state level, legislators are considering a bill that sets up a fund

to help towns buy and conserve farmland, forests, wildlife habitats and other open spaces. The group behind the conservation program is Citizens for New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage.

One obstacle facing the bill, presently before the Senate, is where to get the money for the \$6 million program.

A recent report from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the state's Nature Conservancy chapter shows that increasing development could squeeze out the forests and wetlands needed to provide wildlife habitat and sustain ecological balances.

It also shows that 70 percent of all conservation land is in the northern half of the state, with little in the heavily populated southern tier.

Mr. Sinnott said available land is also disappearing quickly because new homes are being built on larger lots.

"The problem with that is that it's consuming the remaining undeveloped land at a very rapid rate," Mr.

Sinnott said.

Before the 1950s, the average density in the area from Sandown to the Salem-Windham region over to the Seacoast was one person per half-acre, he said.

During the 1980s, that density rate grew to 1.6 acres per person. Today it is 1.7 acres per person.

Ms. Howell said, for her, the goal is to balance development with land preservation.

She said home builders need to make a living, but towns must take steps to control how fast the community grows.

She said Windham's growth hit home with her when she noticed plans for about 30 homes coming before her board for review every other week. She said seeing that and watching Windham's two school municipalities go up and other new municipal buildings being built drove home the message.

"It makes you realize that you have to take a step now, even a small one," Ms. Howell said.

3/14/00

Preserving small-town character

OUR VIEW

Towns like Salem and Windham are wise to set aside land to maintain their rural nature.

Rockingham County is the fastest growing county in the fastest growing state in New England.

As Eagle-Tribune reporter Dawn Souza documented in last week's three-part series, "Growing Pains," the county's rapid growth rate has brought both prosperity and problems.

The population boom has fueled a profitable construction trade and real-estate market, but the growth has also forced towns throughout Southern New Hampshire to build expensive new schools to handle the growing enrollment.

With the new residents come congested roads and more expensive houses, putting the dream of home ownership out of the reach of some Southern New Hampshire residents.

The frenzy to build new and more expensive homes wherever developers can find the room for them is also threatening to destroy what brought many people to the state in the first place: green space.

These days, Rockingham County is four times as densely populated as the state overall.

Cliff Sinnott, executive director of the Rockingham Planning Commission, said if the county continues to grow at the same pace, within 20 years "we won't have any land left to develop."

There's not much that can be done to stop developers and landowners from building on their own property, nor would we want to discourage builders from constructing homes, especially affordable homes, where they're needed.

But we applaud the efforts of some towns in Southern New Hampshire that are putting their money where their mouths are by paying to preserve open space, which in turn helps to preserve some of the towns' rural character.

For example, the Windham Conservation Commission maintains about 600 acres of open land, keeping it out of developers' hands.

Salem, which has seen its population grow by nearly 10,000 residents over the last 30 years, has about 900 acres protected. Much of that space is wetlands.

Without efforts by towns like Windham and Salem to preserve some open space as Southern New Hampshire continues to boom, we could lose part of the vital small-town feel that makes this part of the state so attractive.

support Robert L. Ellis' resolution to hang in it a plaque declaring it the Russell and Roberta Ingram Senior Center.

Those gathered in the high school auditorium were in a spending mood for the meeting, which ran from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m., approving every money article they voted on. They were there to vote on articles 25 through 54 — articles one through 24 were voted on in Tuesday's election — but had to table eight items because the 10 percent rule came into play. That rule forbids spending any more than 10 percent over what the Budget Committee approved.

The addition to the senior center proposal forced selectmen to make several concessions — including dropping the request for \$290,000 to refurbish the water tank on Lawrence Road — but Mr. Ingram had little trouble convincing the crowd it was a worthy trade-off.

"It's time for us to get up to bat and take care of this issue and give the senior citizens a place to do their thing," said Mr. Ingram, 75, who hopes groundbreaking could come as soon as the fall. "It cannot be built for \$630,000."

Mr. Ingram originally made the donation to supplement a \$1 million grant, but decided to put it in voters' hand with a petition after the town was rejected for the grant three times. He had plenty of support, including the petition signatures of all the selectmen and many town officials.

Stephanie K. Micklon, who works with seniors at SalemHaven Nursing Home, pointed out that over 50 percent of the town is now over 50 years old.

"Us baby boomers are coming along rapidly," she said.

A side plot to the day's events was the farewell of Moderator Laurence N. Belair, who is stepping down after 15 years at the post. He allowed his successor, Charles W. Morse, to get his feet wet with several votes, and even introduced a celebrity guest moderator for the senior center vote.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the honorable Speaker of the House," he said in welcoming House Speaker Rep. Donna P. Sytek, who recently announced she will not be running for re-election after 23 years serving Salem in Concord.

"It's a real treat to make a cameo appearance at my own Town Meeting," she said.

Mr. Belair, who voters unanimously decided to give the honorary lifelong title of Moderator Emeritus, pointed out as Rep. Sytek departed with a smooch that "I've never

kissed a moderator before."

In other business, voters:

Approved article 26; raises for municipal employees who are not in a union, \$37,444.

Approved article 27; raises for Kelley Library employees, \$14,831.

Approved article 28; four new firefighters and four lieutenants, \$127,387.

Approved article 29, winter weather management, \$549,850.

Approved article 30; two new police officers, \$66,592.

Approved article 31; cap the Shannon Road landfills, \$412,000.

Approved article 32; reconstruct Shannon Road, \$678,500.

Approved article 33; resurface streets, \$702,700.

Approved article 34; expand the Department of Motor Vehicles, \$205,000.

Approved article 35; new senior center, \$650,000.

Approved article 36; new fire truck, \$319,919.

Approved article 37; consultants for Lakes Area Infrastructure Plan, \$60,000.

Approved article 38; two thermal imaging cameras, \$40,000.

Approved article 39; new radio communications equipment, \$104,900.

Approved article 40; consultants for new Master Plan, \$50,000.

Approved article 41; site plan for recreational fields on Lowell Road, \$3,400.

Tabled article 42; water tank refurbishing, \$290,000.

Approved article 43; improve Pelham Road, \$289,490.

Approved article 44; new Public Works trucks, \$105,940.

Approved article 45; van service from Greater Derry/Greater Salem Regional Transportation Council, \$55,000.

Tabled article 46; study for new public safety building, \$50,000.

Tabled article 47; trust fund for employee separation payments, \$55,000.

Tabled article 48; trust fund for snow management, \$60,000.

Tabled article 49; new Sewer Division truck, \$40,000.

Tabled article 50; pave Greenwood Road, Union Road and West Lane, \$52,200.

Tabled article 51; pave London Road and Dennison Avenue, \$85,200.

Tabled article 52; pave Chase and Hunt Streets, \$46,838.

Rejected article 53; form a committee to approve or disapprove minor cite plans.

Rejected article 54; remove deed restriction on property owned by Randolph Spain at 55 Park Ave.

SALEM, N.H.

3/19/00

Donors up ante, seniors win big

Voters pave way for \$1.15 million center

By Chris Markuns

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — It was a half-million-dollar standing ovation.

As the roughly 40 people at yesterday's Town Meeting stood and cheered for Russell F. and Roberta F. Ingram, it was hard to tell what they were most happy about.

When it came time to discuss and vote on the Ingrams' petition request that voters match the couple's 1999 donation of \$315,000 for a new senior center, Mr. Ingram stood and announced that he was upping his donation to \$500,000 if the town would spend \$650,000.

He said the \$1.15 million is what was needed to build the center — not the \$630,000 originally thought — and the voters agreed. First they overwhelmingly approved the money for the building, then erupted in applause to



New Hampshire's town meetings

Please see SALEM, Page C3

3/21/00
New Bay State tattoo regulations may put end to:

BORDER BUZZING

♦ Massachusetts is one of only three states in the country that prohibits tattooing

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — As recently as the late 1980s, if you wanted to prove true love with a tattoo of that special lady's name, Benny and Frank Nocella were pretty much the only choice in town.

The pair first opened shop here in 1978 after years of illegally tattooing out of their home in Massachusetts, where body art was banned in 1962, unaware they were pioneers in a slow but steady migration of professional tattooists to Salem.

Today, the brothers own two of 10 studios in town — the senior members of a miniature industry that has become as much a way of life on Route 28 as strip malls and traffic.

But unlike the malls and traffic, this way of life is in jeopardy. Massachusetts officials are rethinking nearly 40 years of stubbornness on



Lisa Poole/Eagle-Tribune
Jason J. Davis of Methuen, Mass., has his tattoo worked on by James Proctor, owner of Dragon's Lair Tattoo in Salem.

tattooing, and a bill to legalize it again has its strongest chance ever of passing, according to its sponsor, Massachusetts Rep. David H. Tuttle, R-Barre. Some believe the move could lead to a mass exodus from Salem.

Please see TATTOOS, Page 2



Frank Nocella, the owner of Brothers Too Tattoo Studio in Salem, first opened shop here in 1978.

TATTOOS. DOUBT TOWN'S MAY GET THEM

Continued from Page 1

"Clearly they are here because of the access to Massachusetts," said Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff. "I don't think the market is such that you'd see more than two or three (if tattooing was legal in Massachusetts.)"

Massachusetts is one of only three states in the country that prohibits tattooing, but Rep. Tuttle said the law is hardly enforced.

"It's ridiculous," said Rep. Tuttle, who believes an ongoing lawsuit against the ban is helping the bill's chances this year. "Tattooing is a huge underground market in Massachusetts. It's being done everywhere. You can easily go get a tattoo."

The question now is whether Salem's tattooists will leave town to join the Massachusetts market.

"When Massachusetts legalizes, a lot of these guys are going to want to run to Mass.," said Leo A. Murphy,

owner of Lion's Den Tattoo Studio and Body Piercing.

But he believes regulations in Massachusetts will be stricter than in New Hampshire.

"A lot of them won't be able to make it," he predicted. "Mass. is going to be a lot tougher."

Like several tattooists in town, Mr. Murphy plans to keep his shop here open when and if Massachusetts legalizes tattooing, but he intends to also open a shop in Massachusetts. Mr. Murphy said he will immediately start tattooing at his body-piercing shop in Salem, Mass., and has already looked at locations in Cambridge for a third studio.

Finding a location is one reason most studios will stay here, according to Dragon's Lair owner Jamey Proctor. He believes Salem tattooists already have a good thing.

"Where would you open (in Massachusetts)? You're not going to go to Lawrence. You're not going to go to Methuen," he said. "We're on the main drag. People come up to buy cigarettes, they come up to buy beer, to do shopping because it's tax free. ... You need an affordable storefront, which Salem still has. You know how Boston rents are."

Reasonable rents are among the factors that helped the tattoo parlors sprout over the last two decades. Artists could learn in one shop, but could afford to eventually break out on their own with a shop up the street.

"The shops just kept mushrooming from each other," said Mr. Murphy, the only tattoo artist who owns his own building.

Susan F. Carroll owns Master Piece Tattoo with her husband, Daniel, a fine arts major in college who, she said, "just changed his medium." Like many on the strip, he opened his own shop after working elsewhere.

"We opened here because my husband had worked at a studio in town. He had a clientele built up," said Mrs. Carroll, who worked for 15 years as a manager for the American Automobile Association before quitting to run the Master Piece. "We're not gonna leave. We have a pretty steady clientele."

Benny Nocella split from his brother — the pair used to own Brothers Too Tattoo together — to open Tattoos by Benny several years ago. The town's most recent arrival, Ed's Heritage Tattoo and Body Piercing, opened a few months ago after owner Edward Fehrenbach spent time working at another location in town.

Though they resisted the growth early on, today town officials have seemingly resigned themselves to the tattoo shops' presence. Mr.

Moldoff said the town does not "actively encourage or discourage them," and that sentiment is echoed by Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce Communications Director Nancy A. Swank.

"We've done neither," said Ms. Swank, adding that no tattooists are Chamber members. "We get plenty of phone calls and do plenty of referrals for them."

Mrs. Carroll believes the studios are a boost for other businesses.

"I think all the tattoo studios help the revenues of other businesses," she said. "People come up on weekends and get tattoos, spend the day up here, and go out shopping and eating."

It may not seem as though a handful of tattoo parlors could attract enough people to make a difference, but studio owners say the numbers can be too much to handle in the summer. Though there are 10 shops to choose from, "there is plenty of skin to go around," in Mr. Proctor's words.

"There's plenty of business," said Frank Nocella, whose studio is across the street from Golden Tattoo Studio. "In the summer, it's a three-to four-hour wait here, a three- to four-hour wait across the street."

Ms. Swank said she already knew tattoos were popular because of the number of calls the Chamber fields, but said that fact was reinforced when she went on a cruise recently and saw that "75 percent of the people had one somewhere or other."

Part of that popularity is due to tattoos' cross-gender appeal, with many women willing to endure what Benny Nocella calls the "annoying pain" of getting a tattoo. Mrs. Carroll said as many as 60 percent of her clients are women, something Benny Nocella believes is easily explained.

"Ladies are the toughest," he said. "They have a much higher threshold for pain."

The pain varies, he said, according to what part of the body is getting the needle, and he should know. Since receiving his first tattoo in 1963 at the age of 15 — a small cross inked into his upper right arm for \$5 by the renowned Lefty Liberty — he has gone on to cover his back, chest and both arms.

Mr. Nocella may be what many think of when they picture the typical tattoo client, but stereotyping is useless. There is no way of telling who might be willing to fork over the fee of between \$40 and several hundred dollars to let someone stick them repeatedly with a needle. Mrs. Carroll recently gave a 68-year-old woman her first tattoo — a rose.

That is the kind of popularity that makes it worth surviving the cus-

tomarily thin months of winter, investing what can be thousands of dollars in equipment and licensing fees, cutting through town and state red tape, and working countless hours. Many studios are open seven days a week, several until late at night, and owners almost always arrive early and stay late to stay afloat.

"We're comfortable, but my husband and I put in a lot of hours," Mrs. Carroll said.

The swelling popularity is also what made any resistance on the town's part futile when the studio numbers were growing in the last decade. Salem became one of the first to regulate, and that had an unexpected effect, according to Mr. Moldoff.

"When we added tattoo regulations, it seemed to invite them rather than prohibit them," he said.

"We were licensing and inspecting before most of the state did it, and I think tattooists wanted to be monitored," said Health Officer Suzanne B. Doucette, who conducts annual inspections. "It gave them an air of being regulated."

That regulation has helped tattooing come a long way since the days of Lefty Liberty, when needles weren't cleaned and blood was wiped up with a sponge from a reused bucket of water.

"When I came to this town, there were no health laws, no regulations," said Benny Nocella. "It was wide open."

Today owners must obtain state and local licenses, paying \$100 per shop for each license and \$50 per artist. They must know pages of regulations that require the artists to wear gloves, ban smoking in the studio, have curtains for privacy, test machines regularly for cleanliness, undergo a physical once a year, take a four-hour, \$150 sterilization course, and submit to annual state and town inspections.

Mrs. Doucette said, "Every now and then a complaint comes in that a minor has been tattooed" — it is illegal to tattoo anyone under 18 — but added that "they do a pretty good job" of following regulations.

Still, Mr. Murphy is among those who would like to see tougher regulations and said he plans to push for them in Massachusetts. But whatever happens there, most are taking the approach of Mr. Fehrenbach.

"I'll cross that bridge when I get to it," he said.

THE LOTTERY

MASSACHUSETTS

Daily Lottery	
March 20	4188
Payoffs/exact order	
All 4 digits	\$4,513
First or last 3 digits	\$623
Any 2 digits	\$54
Any 1 digit	\$5
Payoffs/any order	
All 4 digits	\$376
First 3 digits	\$105
Last 3 digits	\$211
Previous numbers	
March 19	2658
March 16	4953
March 18	9373
March 15	6605
March 17	4475
March 14	7890
Megabucks	
March 18	11-15-22-23-25-37
March 15	1-13-25-28-32-39
Mass Cash	
March 17	1-12-24-30-31
March 14	16-17-25-26-280

Mass Millions

March 20	5-14-19-22-39-44
Bonus number: 23	
March 16	14-16-28-29-44-48
Bonus number: 41	
The Big Game	
March 17	17-29-37-41-50
Big Money Ball: 14	
March 14	1-8-9-22-47
008Big Money Ball: 27	

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Tri-State Numbers	
March 20	529 and 2202
Cash 4 Life	
March 20	18-35-58-92
Tri-State WinCash	
March 17	6-17-18-20-23-28
Tri-State Megabucks	
March 18	4-6-19-24-33-38
Bonus number: 28	
March 15	6-13-21-27-31-37
Bonus number: 39	
Powerball	
March 18	12-30-39-43-46
Powerball: 10	
March 15	14-15-19-38-44
Powerball: 20	

HAM 'N BEAN SUPPER

J & J Pony Rentals

Have You
Done It Yet?

As population ages, housing needs grow

3/26/00

◆ For elderly in lower-income brackets, assisted living is out of the question. They seek mostly independent-living accommodations, which usually provide groundskeeping and, possibly, transportation.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. — Helen M. and Woody S. Chmielewski know there isn't any good way for one to leave the other behind.

As with many elderly couples, each faces a different challenge should the other die first.

Mrs. Chmielewski's IRS pension is enough for her to afford to keep the Salem home they have lived in for all 52 years of marriage, but at 75 she isn't capable of taking care of the house alone.

While Mr. Chmielewski is

nearly as active at 80 as he was at 30 and could handle upkeep without a problem, the portion of his wife's pension he would receive if she died probably isn't enough to keep him in the house.

"For a lot of married seniors, once one passes away, there's no way one can survive on Social Security and keep their own home, unless they have a pretty penny in the bank," Mrs. Chmielewski said.

But as more and more couples like Mr. and Mrs. Chmielewski find themselves preparing for a move to senior or elderly housing, Southern New Hampshire and some



This is an artist's rendering of Greystone Farm, the assisted living facility being built in Salem, N.H., by Benchmark Assisted Living. It is expected to open in September.

parts of Massachusetts are starting to create options for them at both ends of the financial spectrum.

A 26-unit independent living community inside the Settler's Ridge development was just completed in Atkinson, and in Salem a 65-apartment assisted

living development, Greystone Farm, being built by Benchmark Assisted Living, will welcome its first occupants in September. Benchmark is the largest private provider of assisted living centers in the

See HOUSING, Page A7

Forty-unit independent living projects are in the planning stages both in Hampstead and Pelham, and the order of the Sisters of Mercy in Windham hope to break ground this spring on a 24-unit building called McAuley Pond.

Every one of those rooms is expected to be filled quickly, and will likely stay filled for a long time.

In addition, several developments aimed at seniors are being planned for Haverhill, Mass., including a proposal for 80 upscale townhouses for people 55 and older near the Haverhill Country Club.

The first of the Baby Boomers — the generation born starting in 1946 — turns 55 next year and the number of elderly will rise significantly as they age. In Rockingham County, the Office of State Planning predicts a senior population — defined as people 55 and older — of 35,000 by 2015, with a dramatic leap to 57,000 by 2015.

"(Southern New Hampshire) is a gold mine for someone who wants to build with seniors in mind," said Stephanie K. Micklon, the volunteer coordinator at SalemHaven Nursing Home.

Much of that gold is expected to come from the increasing number of elderly with money to spend.

"There are more seniors, and they're more wealthy than ever," said E. James Turse, director of Community Development in Salem.

That wealth has created more of a market for assisted living, which appeals to seniors who can pay extra for a more maintenance-free but still independent lifestyle.

At Greystone Farm in Salem for instance, residents get not just an apartment but three meals a day cooked by a chef and served in a restaurant-style dining room, 24-hour support staff, one-on-one care, housekeeping, a library, a beauty shop, and transportation. It is expected to cost anywhere from \$3,000 to \$4,000 per month.

Staff can't administer medication or provide "skilled nursing care," said Benchmark communications director Gregory W. Anderson, but the appeal is the help provided with the smaller challenges of everyday life. He said the average resident is a 82 to 85 years old, and most are female.

Benchmark, which was one of three groups to propose assisted-living centers in Salem, has already received about 100 inquiries and expects to fill the units quickly.

"Nobody wants to give up their independence, and it allows you to do that with a safety net," Mrs. Micklon said. "It's a wonderful concept, but it's expensive."

For elderly in the low-income bracket, assisted living is out of the question. They seek mostly independent-living accommodations, which usually provides just groundskeeping and possibly transportation.

The scramble for affordable independent housing has led to long waiting lists, including up to three years with the Salem Housing Authority and five years with the Derry Housing Authority, which has stopped accepting applications.

The low-income, independent living development just finished in Atkinson, and those planned in Windham and Hampstead, will hardly make a dent in the need, experts predict.

Helen M. Harris, 75, of Pelham, doesn't plan on leaving home soon, but has already applied for affordable housing at nearby Beaverbrook Commons in Pelham to give herself a shot at not having to move out of town.

"They said there could be a five-year wait, so I figured I'd better put the application in," said Mrs. Harris, who isn't quite ready to give up on living in her house. "It's kind of a difficult decision."

Officials at the Derry Housing Authority are helping to form the Nutfield Housing Development Corp., a private nonprofit group that they hope will have more avenues for seeking money for elderly housing. Derry Housing Authority Executive Director Vernon C. Kelley said there is simply too much competition for not enough government funding.

"I have to three to five seniors a week call for housing," said Mr. Kelley, who as a private developer backed out of an assisted-living project because he could not make it affordable for seniors. "There are four elderly housing complexes in Derry and every single one has a waiting list."

He said residents pay 30 percent of their income for rent, and couples must make less than \$23,150 a year, and single residents less than \$20,250.

Atkinson developer Steven W. Lewis, who has owned low-income elderly housing in Hampstead for 15 years and just built 26 apartments in Atkinson, said Southern New Hampshire zoning against multi-family

“(Southern New Hampshire) is a gold mine for someone who wants to build with seniors in mind.”

Stephanie K. Micklon, volunteer coordinator at SalemHaven Nursing Home.

homes combined with population increase have caused the problem.

"The demand is unusually strong because of restrictive zoning across Southern New Hampshire and the fact that the aging Boomers are now starting to get to age 50 and above," said Mr. Lewis, who sued Atkinson to get a variance to build senior housing.

But while assisted living becomes more popular because of the potential profit and affordable housing is created because of the overwhelming need, some worry about a third group of elderly: middle income senior citizens who can't afford their own property or assisted living but don't qualify for low-income housing.

"They're in real serious trouble," said Mr. Kelley. "They can pay a reasonable rent, but they can't pay \$1,200 a month for an apartment ... I don't think they're building for those people."

Mrs. Micklon said it can become a desperate feeling.

"If you're middle income, forget it. Go out on an iceberg and die," she said, describing their options. "I think a lot of them do feel trapped ... No one's dealing with that because the big money is made in the lap of luxury."

Mr. Lewis compared their plight to students competing for the attention of an overextended teacher.

"It's sort of like the kid at school, where special needs at both ends of the scale get the attention and the kid in the middle gets neglected," he said.

Mrs. Micklon hopes a savvy developer seizes what she believes is an opportunity.

"A good businessman would know there's money to be made there," she said. "It's not going to go away. It's only going to get worse."

Center site questions persist

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - Salem's senior center could be delayed by the fact that the center's proposed site is also a potential site for several other projects, including the town's combined safety complex and a teen center.

The 12-acre site, located behind the Municipal Office Building, is more than ample enough to house other buildings in addition to the proposed senior center. Town officials must now determine which ones will go where.

Also of import in this discussion is access.

The site extends all the way back to Lawrence Road. At some point, there may be a connector road from Geremonty Drive over to Lawrence Road. It may go through the town's lot or through Salemhaven's property.

The Salemhaven Board of Directors have already met to discuss the proposed center as one design calls for the center's access road to connect to Salemhaven's driveway. On April 4, the Salemhaven Board will hear a presentation from town officials regarding the proposed access road.

Although a warrant article asking for funds for a safety complex design was tabled at Town Meeting, Salem does plan to move forward with the proposal in the near future. The safety complex, which would house training and dispatch facilities for both the fire and police departments, may also be located on the town-owned lot behind the MOB.

The Salemhaven board members will have plenty to think about when they hear from the town officials next week. It appears that the town officials themselves have almost as many questions to answer.

"We're gonna move forward on it," said Selectman Everett McBride.

The selectmen plan to form a committee which will be organized to answer some of those questions. What will share the site with the senior center? Where will the access to the center be? Will there be a connector road to Lawrence Road?

The committee will include Russell and Roberta Ingram, who donated \$500,000 toward the new center. It will also likely include for-

mer selectman Bob Ellis and representatives from the current senior center and the council on aging.

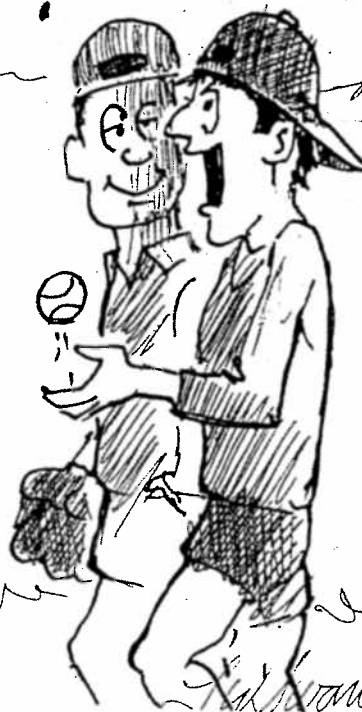
It may be some time before the committee has any answers, since it hasn't even been formed yet, but the selectmen appear comfortable with the wait.

"I do not want to rush the project," said Selectmen Chairman Dick Gregory. "I want it done properly. We can still get it done."

PAUL

HA! BY THE TIME THEY FINISH THAT,
WE'LL BE IN IT!

THE FUTURE SITE
OF THE SALEM
SENIOR CENTER



Town seeks help from Salemhaven

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The proposed new Salem Senior Center may be further off than some residents would like, but there is progress being made.

Representatives from the town met with the Salemhaven Board of Directors Tuesday evening to discuss a possible site location for the center. The potential site is behind the Municipal Office Building, adjacent to Salemhaven.

There is no access to the site, and the town may need some help from Salemhaven on that issue. In order to save \$200,000 in site work, the town may ask Salemhaven if the senior center could share the nursing home's access road. This option is significantly cheaper because water and power lines would not have to be extended as far. Without Salemhaven's access, the town estimates that it would cost approximately \$430,000 in access and utility work alone.

"The sitework is a function of distance," said Salem Planning Director Ross Moldoff. "It is a farther distance for paving and a farther distance for utilities."

As a result, the town met with the Salemhaven Board Tuesday to discuss their options. It is expected that Salemhaven may ask for concessions in return. The nursing home's driveway may need to be widened to accommodate the additional traffic and the town would have to pay for that work.

"Things went very well," said Community Development Director Jim Turse, who participated in the meeting. "They were very co-operative. We were there more to listen than to talk."

The next step will be for the town to meet with other abutters and property owners in the area.

"This is the first project to go into that area," Turse said. "We don't want to mess it up for other people. We don't want to get so driven to get the senior center in that we overlook something else."

The planning has been turned over to SFC Engineering. The firm will work hand-in-hand with a senior center advisory committee which the selectmen will name in the near future.

Together the committee and the engineers will decide what goes where.

"There is a need for a public safety center. There is a need to redevelop the town hall at some point. There is a need and an interest and funding for a senior center. There is a need and an interest for a teen center," Turse said. "We're considering how it might all work together."

Voters approved partial funding for a Master Plan update last month

and it will be affected by what happens on the land behind the MOB. Turse said that the future Master Plan will be shaped by the decisions made in the next year.

Because of the \$500,000 donation from Russell and Roberta Ingram, there is a push by residents to move forward now.

"We got a sizeable donation from a nice man and there's a lot of interest," said Dave Tilton. "I hope we don't sit on our duff."

However, the town does not want to rush things because so many projects are interrelated.

"Linking senior functions is not a new idea, but it is something we're all working toward," Turse said. "We're going to take this step by step. We need the co-operation of Salemhaven."

Continued from Page 1

seats or other prizes.

"I think it's more about the ability to remain stable than it is to find tremendous new revenue sources," Mr. Callahan said. "We're just trying to, number one, keep (business that's) here, and number two, get back a little bit of what's going to Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York."

But not everybody thinks the new feature is a good one.

"You shouldn't be able to lose your own fortune from the comfort of your home," said State Rep. and Speaker of the House Donna P. Sytek, R-Salem.

She's also upset that Rockingham Park only had to convince the state's Pari-mutuel Commission, which oversees New Hampshire's four racetracks, to institute account wagering.

Last week, Rep. Sytek proposed a bill that if passed will require the State Legislature to approve all such changes at the state's racetracks. Rep. Sytek may feel account wagering makes gambling too easy, but supporters say that is a necessary next step.

"I think the lure is trying to bring the sport into the home," said Daniel C. Bucci, vice president and general manager at Lincoln Park greyhound track in Lincoln, R.I., which has video slot machines, but not account wagering. "Originally there used to be the fear that we needed to bring the patron out to the racetrack. Now, with all the opposition race tracks face, whether it be Indian casinos or all the options available on the Internet, more and more we need every weapon available in the arsenal."

But the weapon that many believe will ensure the survival of Rockingham Park is video gambling.

The lure of video gambling

Since 1992, when 1,500 video slot

machines were added at Lincoln Park, the amount wagered on dog races has dropped from \$162.4 million to \$86.3 million. The amount wagered on video gambling has risen from \$10.7 million to \$492 million.

"I guess in a nutshell that might tell you where racing is going," said Mr. Bucci. "If we didn't have the (video slot machines) we'd just be an asterisk. The slots have taken this track from the brink of bankruptcy in '92 to some significant nationwide stats as far as (dollars wagered) right now."

Lincoln Park's "significant" numbers are sparse change compared to those of Delaware Park, a horse track in Wilmington that first got video slot machines in 1996.

Last year gamblers wagered \$2.6 billion on video gambling machines, and \$373 million on the horses. In 1995, before the slots, \$179 million was bet on races.

Compare those numbers to Rockingham Park, which saw its revenue drop dramatically eight years ago.

Mr. Callahan can almost remember the exact day in February of 1992 when Connecticut's first casino opened. In 1991, \$190.6 million was wagered at Rockingham. The following year that dropped to \$93.6 million.

"It's held pretty steady since that time, but there really hasn't been an ability to get that business back," he said.

But in order for Rockingham Park officials to install video gambling machines, they must first win the support of state lawmakers.

State Senator Arthur E. Klenum, R-Windham, one of the state's biggest supporters of video gambling, is attempting to get it voted on this year, by attaching the proposal to another bill.

If passed, it would allow video gambling only at the state's four racetracks and hotels.

The idea has plenty of local support, particularly from politicians

who see it as an opportunity to help both the park and the town, which would likely receive several million dollars in tax revenue.

State Rep. Charles W. Morse, R-Salem, who is also a former selector and currently the town moderator, believes the town should be given the chance to take a binding vote on it.

"I think the last thing you want to see there is another mall," he said, referring to possible options for the land if the park closes. "If Rockingham Park were to develop into something with video gambling ... it would open other things up for them. Right now they can't reinvest in the park. They just don't make enough."

Both Mr. Morse and state Rep. R-Salem, say they do not see the difference between video gambling and the lottery.

"When you play (scratch tickets), the clerk puts the ticket through the machine and says 'You won five dollars. Do you want cash or five more tickets,'" said Mr. Belanger who thinks the slots would also boost tourism. "It's an electronic paper slot machine."

But Rep. Sytek believes racing will die no matter what and be replaced entirely with slot machines.

"(Slots) don't stay in locations you originally site them at, they just grow," she said. "They'll do away with the barns, do away with the horses and build more slot machines ... I don't want New Hampshire to become Nevada, with slot machines in grocery stores."

"The track has always been a good neighbor and a good citizen in Salem, and it's in both our interests to see what can be done to make it possible to stay open," said Rep. Sytek, who supported simulcasting and some tax breaks for the park.

"But it doesn't look like the industry will be able to survive much longer ... (Gambling) is where I draw the line."

Rockingham banking on account wagering



♦ Video gambling has saved other racetracks, like Lincoln Park in Rhode Island.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

RACING FOR DOLLARS

Money bet at East Coast racetracks:

YEAR	ROCKINGHAM PARK (Racing only)	LINCOLN (R.I.) PARK (Dog racing/video slots)	DELAWARE PARK (Horse racing/video slots)
1996	\$110.6 million	\$89.7 million / \$303.3 million	\$233 million / \$1.4 billion
1997	109.6 million	89.4 million / 347.2 million	300 million / 1.2 billion
1998	116.4 million	97.8 million / 403.7 million	320 million / 1.25 billion
1999	115.6 million	86.3 million / 492.4 million	373 million / 1.6 billion

From Sangerman/Eagle-Tribune

SALEM — When racing begins at Rockingham Park on June 11, gamblers will still be able to walk up to the ticket window and lay their money down, just as they have for the last 94 years.

But this year, they'll also be able to pick up the phone and bet on the races from the comfort of their couch, backyard or car.

Account wagering will allow patrons to bet on any of the roughly 50 races per week from any location, as long as they have a phone, a racing program, and cash in their personal Rockingham Park account.

The introduction of account wagering is just one way the park is hoping to shore up its business at a time when people are turning elsewhere in massive numbers to spend their gambling dollars.

Instead of heading out to Rockingham Park, gamblers have trav-

eled to casinos in Connecticut or to racetracks in Delaware and Rhode Island, where video slot machines are legal and racing has become a financial afterthought.

In addition to account wagering, Rockingham Park officials will also add a pair of high stakes races, which will carry purses of \$25,000 each, in an attempt to ensure top quality racing and draw bigger crowds for at least two more days out of the summer. The typical purse total per day is \$85,000 for eight to 10 races.

Rockingham Park will now have 14 high stakes races with total prizes of \$600,000. In 1991, the track's high stakes races paid out \$1.3 million.

"We're always trying to make it work for everybody," said Rock-

ingham general manager Edward M. Callahan, who insists there has been no talk of closing the park, despite years of falling revenue.

Tracks that used to offer smaller purses than Rockingham now offer more than double the prize money and can attract a better level of racing because of video gambling.

Mr. Callahan hopes account wagering will return some of the gambling money going to nearby states, such as New York, where the practice is already in place.

The plan is also to increase customer loyalty, he said, by attaching the account wagering to a rewards program. The more someone bets, the more "points" they will get toward free food, box

Please see ROCK, Page 2

4/00

Southern N.H. is hot

By Mike Recht
Associated Press

HUDSON — William Silvestri remembers the best of times — the 1980s, when he was working round the clock to build 92 homes in six months.

He also remembers the worst of times, in the early 1990s, when work was so scarce his business nearly went under.

"It was very, very difficult," he said. "I'd say probably I had one finger — the little finger — sticking out of the ground."

A builder in Salem since the 1970s, Mr. Silvestri had been through recessions before, "and I knew at some point it had to turn around."

About four years ago, it did. The telephone rang and a real estate agent in Nashua asked Mr. Silvestri if he wanted to get in on a 61-lot residential subdivision.

The phone has been ringing ever since, not just for Mr. Silvestri, but for builders all over Rockingham and Hillsborough counties, which are experiencing a new wave of growth.

Mr. Silvestri and his son, Chris, are working on a home for the elderly in Windham, a pizzeria in Salem, an office building in Nashua and a bank in Derry, among other projects.

"This is a hot place to relocate," said Marty Capodice of the state Department of Employment Security.

Many businesses have moved to New Hampshire from Massachusetts, lured by lower land and construction costs. Workers have followed.

But this boom is different from the wild growth of the mid- to late-1980s, when most construction was residential and on speculation, without a committed buyer. Now commercial and industrial construction are the driving forces.

"This is much more significant than the late 1980s," said Michael Reynolds, planning director in Hudson since 1987. "I've never seen anything like this."

Two years ago, Hudson was a place where small manufacturing companies and high-tech firms could move to grow.

"Today if you drive through the industrial land in the town ... industrial space is close to being full," Mr. Reynolds said.

Derry Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Fred Kelley said his community is feeling the pressure.

"It's so busy, it's crazy," Mr. Kelley said. "We've got the land, we've got the zoning, and we've got access to a major artery (Interstate 93) and now a couple of airports (Manchester and Pease, in Portsmouth). It's just going nutty."

Stuart Arnett, state director of economic development, said high tech firms attract more of the same.

"People want to be close to where other high tech firms are. That's driving it more now than 10 years ago," he said.

Space is at such a premium in Salem that perfectly good buildings are being torn down to make way for new ones, said Ross Moldoff, the town's planning director. Recently, most of a food supply warehouse was torn down so retailers Best Buy, MVP Sports, Comp USA and Linens 'n Things could open stores on the main commercial artery, Route 28.

Dennis Delay, a senior economist for Public Service Company of New Hampshire, said the state's population increased by about 90,000 in the last decade, mostly in the southern tier. Job and wage growth was concentrated in high tech, health services, trade, retail and financial services, he said.

But housing growth is slower than a decade ago because people are afraid the bottom will drop out of the market as it did in the late '80s, he said. Last year, there were about 6,600 housing starts in the state, compared with about 18,000 a year during the late '80s, he said.

In Nashua, 1,000 to 2,000 new residences were being built each year in the late '80s; now it's 150, said Roger Houston, city planning director.

"I caution to use the word 'boom,'" Mr. Houston said. "We have a very robust economy."

Mr. Delay and Mr. Arnett also see more business diversity than a decade ago, a sign of a healthy economy.

In the 1970s and '80s, many area jobs were concentrated at Sanders, Digital, Raytheon and Nashua Corp. Now employers are smaller and, "we hope, more recession-proof," Mr. Arnett said.

Salem ^{4/6/00} may add up to 200 new jobs

◆ Both of the proposed new businesses would abut some homes, but the companies are working with town officials and residents to address concerns.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A pair of businesses are planning to expand in town, which could mean 200 new jobs in the next few years.

Lightchip Optical Network and Harvey Industries are both working with the Planning Board in hopes of moving into new buildings in the near future. Both would likely mean some additional jobs, said Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff, including some high-tech positions that are typically higher paying.

"I think in general this is a positive thing for the community," Mr. Moldoff said.

Lightchip, a research and development fiber optics company that has been in Salem since 1998, is planning to move into a 65,000-square foot building on Northwestern Drive and could eventually add as many as 200 new jobs, according to Mr. Moldoff.

"It is designed to have a lot of room for expansion, because they felt they could be expanding and possibly providing jobs in town," said Maria R. Hamilton, vice chairman of the Planning Board, which heard a presentation from Lightchip at a recent meeting. "They anticipate continued growth."

Lightchip marketing and communications manager Priscilla A. Johnson said the company would not release details of its expansion plans until receiving final Planning Board approval, but did say the building would be built and owned by another company and rented by Lightchip.

She said all Lightchip employees are currently housed on Industrial Way, but the company has rented space on Stiles Road and Keewaydin Drive to provide extra room for 25 new employees added in the last two months.

Harvey Industries is a door and roofing material distributor currently located on Industrial Way, according to Mr. Moldoff, and their possible move into a 42,000-square foot building on Raymond Avenue could add about 20 new jobs.

Both of the planned new buildings would abut some homes, but Mrs. Hamilton said the companies are working with town officials and residents to address any concerns.

LightChip ready to be 'disruptive'

If you're looking for a company along the I-93 corridor that might make some serious "waves" in the worldwide high tech ocean, one to watch is LightChip just off Exit 2 in Salem.

Armed with patents, LightChip possesses what William Peck, the chief executive officer, describes as "disruptive technology" in the optical networking industry. "Disruptive technology" is a phrase that means there's a new guy on the block and he has tools that are better than anyone else's.

"What we have changes the cost structure and architectural equations," now being used in fiber optics, says Peck.



93 SOUTH:
BUSINESS

Chris Herbert

First, a basic explanation. The communication lines from your home or business are normally either copper telephone lines or cable coaxial lines. But once they get to the carrier's equipment they often become fiber optic cables composed of up to 100 strands of glass.

Where your voice or digital messages

begin as electrons in copper wire, at your phone or cable company's central office they are often switched to photons in glass strands.

LightChip's "secret sauce," as Peck puts it, allows phone and cable companies to push significantly more information and a greater variety of messages down those glass strands — and to do it all less expensively.

For those who prefer technical wording, here it is, taken from the company's own material. "LightChip is taking a lead in the transparent DWDM (dense wavelength division multiplexing) network arena by providing high-performance, cost-effective wavelength multiplexing/demultiplexing and passive wave routing solutions."

The company also produces equipment that will monitor this entire effort. More stuff, more variety, with quality control. And don't forget cheaper. Disruptive, indeed.

The market LightChip is about to try to shake is already huge, and becoming more so.

Estimates are that last year \$3 billion in fiber optic equipment was pur-

B2 Tuesday, April 18, 2000 ☆☆

HERBERT

(Continued From Page B1)

chased by carriers like MCI just in what's called the longhaul market — where messages are sent longer distances between carrier central office stations.

The metropolitan market, covering shorter distances, is about 10 times larger than that, Peck estimates. That's where LightChip's initial products are aimed. It's the metropolitan market where carriers face the maximum stress of providing many different voice, sound and visual services to many types of customers.

"They're fighting an uphill battle," says Peck of the carriers. "They can't put glass into the ground fast enough ... Last year it's estimated that, worldwide, companies put down fiber optic cable at the rate of 2,000 miles per hour."

Sometimes a company will come up with a new technology that thrusts its sales upwards. But in LightChip's case it's the technology that formed a company.

Established in September 1998 by savvy investors with a track record of putting early money into high tech ventures, LightChip closed its second round of venture capital for \$16.7 million in December 1999.

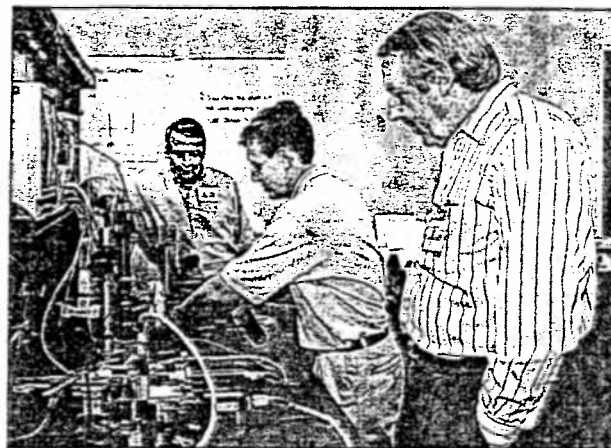
LightChip is a cosmopolitan creature. Peck was division vice president and worldwide general manager of Eastman Kodak's digital medical business. He and his family live in Dallas.

Senior vice president of product marketing, Ian Turner, who happens to live in New Hampshire, is a high tech veteran, having served as CEO of R-Byte, the developer of the only U.S.-designed DAT tape drive.

Vice president of product marketing, William Emkey, was group manager, video/broadband market development at Lucent. James Beattie, manager of Optical Engineering, comes from Corning where he helped develop DMDW platforms.

Michael Sussman, director of systems engineering, was the principal architect of the development of 3-D sensing technology at Cognex.

Right now the company employs 50 people, more than 30 with engineering degrees in various disciplines including optics, software, mechanics and manufacturing, quantum mechanics,



Chris Herbert Photo
LIGHTCHIP senior vice president of engineering, Ian Turner, right, looks on as Evgeni Babenko runs some tests on optical equipment at one of the company's labs. Also observing is LightChip CEO William Peck.

photonics, materials science or physics.

The company considered locations on both coasts, says Peck, but chose New England because it offered the right mix of talent and manufacturing capabilities.

"We wanted access to the right talent and what we consider the heart of classical optics technology in the United States," says Peck.

Within New England, the company looked at many sites, including Manchester's Milliard, but selected Salem because it was closer to the Route 128 and Route 495 high tech complexes in Massachusetts.

Chris Goodnow, a Salem-based real estate consultant, helped LightChip find the right space. According to Goodnow, the 18-mile I-93 corridor from Salem to Manchester is at the moment two distinct markets.

Companies from Exit 3 south are reluctant to move too distant from the Bay State high tech corridors. "They don't want to get too far away from the 128-495 talent pool," Goodnow observes.

From Exit 4 north, the companies are not so tilted to high tech, Goodnow says.

The Salem industrial park provides LightChip expansion space as well as access to high tech talent. Opechee Construction of Lacombe is expected to build a 54,000-square-foot facility near LightChip's headquarters.

Peck expects LightChip will

quickly ramp up to 200 employees after the new facility opens in January 2001. He notes that there is adjacent land for even more expansion.

As for the company's financial future, Peck says growth will attract attention and the initial private investors inevitably want to get their investment back.

So, LightChip could be purchased by a larger company or it could eventually "go public" and issue stock in order to gain the funds needed to both pay off initial investors, and fuel future growth.

"There is a clear fusion under way between the data and the telecommunications industries. Everybody's acquiring ... it's like bulk recruiting (of talent) by buying other corporations," says Peck.

Regardless of what happens in terms of LightChip's future finances, whatever happens will depend upon the company's success in selling its products.

For Peck, that issue's outcome is predictable. LightChip's "secret sauce," provides clear-cut technological and economic advantages to carriers who desperately need to get the most out of the glass they continue to put down.

□□□
If you have information regarding business, or public policy and planning for business, you can contact Chris Herbert at 660-2833 or 232-1257, or 321-7203 (cell. Mr. Herbert's Email address is cherb49@mediacore.net).

SALEM

4/26/00

Technology upgrade eliminates fire hazard

◆ An end to fires, increased recycling, decreased truck traffic and 20 new jobs are among the advantages the owner of LL&S Wood Processing Plant sees to the new technology he is adding.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A local business that became all too well known to the fire department in recent years is making changes it believes will end its flare ups.

Stephen D. DeVito, owner of LL&S Wood Processing Plant on Lowell Road near the Icenter, said he is spending \$8 million to renovate his property and add a gasification plant, which will dramatically change the way his business operates.

Currently, the plant takes in construction waste and separates the recyclable metals from the wood material and is left with a massive pile of decomposing wood chips, which are trucked off the site for

other uses. But the Mr. DeVito said the heat, moisture and pressure of the pile sometimes causes fires to break out in the pile.

In 1998, the fire department responded to several fires, including one that took seven hours to put out. Though there have been no serious fires recently with the addition of fire hydrants and some other changes ordered by the fire department, Mr. DeVito said the new technology will end them for sure.

When the gasification starts — he took the first steps toward getting the necessary permits from the town last night and hopes to have it up and running within a year — the wood chips will be heated into char. That char, which resembles charcoal briquettes, will be shipped off site and converted into activated

Please see FIRE, Page 10

Fire: Technology reduces risk

Continued from Page 9

carbon. The carbon is sold and can be used for filtering water, odor control, and absorption in situations such as oil spills.

Aside from making some extra profit, he sees several advantages.

"There will be less truck traffic because the char is denser, there are no emissions because we're not burning, and there is no more potential for fires on the site because we use the wood chips as we make them," said Mr. DeVito, who has owned the 10-year-old plant for four years.

"It's very expensive, but in the end it's a win for everybody," he said.

He said the move means the plant will recycle about 90 percent of the material that comes in, instead of the roughly 50 percent that is recycled now.

The property used to be a landfill and part of the renovation includes removing the old, closed landfill still on site and covering it with the new

building to house the gasification plant. Running it will also mean 20 new jobs.

Mr. DeVito, who will also be building an office building and garage, said the town seemed pleased with the change.

"They seemed receptive. They want to know more about it," he said. "It's excellent. It's what the environment needs ... There's really no downfall in this system."

He said while the technology has been around since 1910 — it was originally used to convert coal into gas for street lamps — it is relatively rare today. A similar plant is up and running in Tennessee, and he spent about \$5 million to buy a machine that was used for three years in Florida.

Chris Markuns covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2261 or by e-mail at cmarkuns@eagletribune.com.

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BY MEG CADOUX HIRSHBERG

TWELVE STATE SENATORS, a majority of those voting, voted to put thousands of video gambling machines at New Hampshire's race tracks and at two hotels. Does their vote reflect a lack of knowledge about the havoc wrought by legalized video gambling, or a lack of concern about the welfare of the people of our state?

They are not alone in their carelessness: Gov. Jeanne Shaheen is New Hampshire's preeminent proponent of video gambling. If these politicians examined the facts instead of relying on gambling lobbyists' data, they might reach different conclusions.

In 1997, Congress formed the National Gambling Impact Study Commission in recognition of legalized gambling's exponential growth. In 1993, Americans made more trips to casinos than they did to major league baseball games. Gambling has become America's new pastime.

The commission was asked to "conduct a comprehensive legal and factual study of the social and economic implications of gambling in the United States." This diverse group — some members were affiliated with the gambling industry — released its final report in June 1999, after investing two exhaustive years and \$5 million on research.

Among their conclusions and recommendations relevant to New Hampshire: Stop the expansion of gambling until the true costs and benefits can be measured; and states should refuse to allow the introduction of casino-style gambling into race tracks.

Gov. Shaheen pushes the introduction of thousands of video gambling machines at the state's race tracks to raise money for education and to bail out the moribund tracks — exactly what the commission warns against. Video gambling turns race tracks into casinos. One can't oppose casinos but favor slots at the tracks. They are the same thing.

Ominously, commission studies determined that "the presence of a gambling facility within 50 miles roughly doubles the prevalence of a problem and pathological gamblers." Slots at New Hampshire's tracks would affect us all. The National Council on Problem Gambling found that the level of pathological and problem gambling is nearly double in those states that have more legalized gambling options.

Janet Reno acted like the Cuban government

To the Editors: It would appear that Janet Reno really is a caring, compassionate person. She wanted to make Elian Gonzalez feel right at home, so she chose to impose the government's will the same way that he was used to in his homeland. The image of the home being invaded by force is disturbing to me. I grew up with those images. My weekend trip to the movies included Moviezone News shots of jack-booted thugs with artillery smashing down doors and removing people from their homes.

These events were in Italy, Poland and other distant places. Yet I had childish nightmares that they would find their way to Auburn, Mass.

Praises efforts of CASA for helping NH children

To the Editors: April was National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month, and I would like to praise the efforts of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of New Hampshire, a volunteer organization of individuals committed to the welfare of abused and neglected children living in our state. I have been a CASA volunteer for the past 4 1/2 years. This work has given me the opportunity to be a direct and positive influence on the welfare and future of many children for whom I speak in court. CASA volunteers work with children, families, child welfare organizations, schools, therapists and others to as-

Another View

portunities. As the availability of gambling increases, so does the number of people who cannot say no.

Encouraging citizens to gamble is not a legitimate of responsible role for government. Responsible governments do not exploit citizens' weaknesses and addictions. And responsible governments don't make vital public services dependent upon erratic gambling revenues. The governor and Legislature need to collectively ask the vital question: "Does expanded gambling serve the public good?"

Havoc follows gambling like the dirt cloud around Pigen, producing inevitable increases in assault, theft, forgery, depression, suicide, vandalism, drunk driving, spouse and child abuse and neglect, divorce and bankruptcies. As but one example, in a survey of nearly 400 Gamblers Anonymous members, 57 percent admitted stealing to finance their gambling. The same survey revealed that two-thirds of them had contemplated suicide.

The New Hampshire Chiefs of Police, and five former attorneys general (Jeffrey Howard, Tom Rath, Warren Rudman, Gregory Smith, and Stephen Merrill) have opposed expanded gambling. They understand how our state's quality of life would suffer. They understand that 5,000 machines would only be the beginning, as gambling establishments would request more machines and new games when gambling addicts demand new thrills. And they understand that our Legislature, once hooked on the revenues as an addict is hooked on heroin, would say yes. Gambling is a powerful catnip for elected officials who fear taxation.

As James Dobson, a commission member, concluded, "Gambling robs from the poor and exploits the most vulnerable. It undermines the ethic of work, sacrifice and personal responsibility that exemplifies the best qualities of American society... We must reject the fantasy that wagering is innocuous entertainment and deal earnestly with the destruction and pain that it causes to individuals, families and society."

In 1982 Gov. Hugh Gallen formed a commission to examine the im-

Letters

tant issues. If the supporters of this amendment are indeed deliberately distracting us from the vital issues we face, then it is up to us to tell them to stop it — stop it now — we are not puppets who obey unquestioningly, nor are we seduced by the emotional appeals to our patriotism. We need legislators that offer solutions to the evident problems of society, not dividing us one against the other with vain and ineffectual issues.

As always, there is nothing, absolutely nothing, greater (nor stronger) than a thinking human being whose nearest evolutionary relative is the chimpanzee.

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of video gambling

part of legalized gambling in New Hampshire. The commission concluded that gambling is a "corrupting enterprise" that is "not an effective or desirable source of income for this state." They reported that gambling is regressive — a majority of gamblers are poor — inimical to the family tourism on which the New Hampshire economy depends and an invitation to organized crime to "set up shop in the state." Gov. Shaheen and pro-gambling legislators should explain to our citizens what has changed since that report was written.

Our young people are at greatest risk. Dr. Howard Shaffer, director of the Division on Addictions at Harvard University Medical School, found in a 1997 study that almost 21 percent of adolescents are problem gamblers. He predicted that in the next decade we will face more problems with youth gambling than with drug use. Due to ineffective safeguards at casinos, 27 percent of adolescents reported having gambled in a casino. Dr. Shaffer concluded that "parents simply cannot rely upon the government or the industry to prevent underage gambling."

Spouses of compulsive gamblers also fare poorly. Studies show that between one-quarter and one-half of compulsive gamblers' spouses have been abused. Six of 10 communities surveyed reported an increase in domestic violence after introducing casinos. Across the country, incidences of domestic abuse and child neglect rise by as much as 50 percent in the year following the advent of legalized gambling.

The latest innovation in the gambling industry is the introduction of new video gambling machines featuring child-friendly themes from "I Dream of Jeannie," "The Addams Family," "South Park," and "The Pink Panther." These familiar icons are licensed to create a "family friendly" image and entice children, already so familiar with video games, to become the next generation of video gambling addicts.

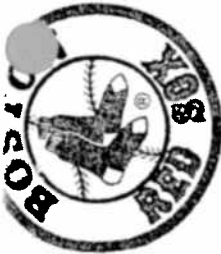
Politicians' infatuation with the apparently easy fix of gambling to solve our financial woes is unconscionable in light of the devastation already wrought by legalized gambling. Gambling victimizes our nation's youth and economically disadvantaged, and is inimical to healthy, productive and safe communities.

—Meg Cadoux Hirschberg lives in Concord and is a member of the Granite State Coalition Against Expanded Gambling.

polling," and "the polling survey is solid evidence of public support." A survey of 1,000 people is inaccurate and insignificant! New protection listed important wildlife, viewsheds, associated uplands and road corridors. Is important wildlife a new tax classification of wildlife? What is a viewshed?

Business, tourism and sales,
P.O. Box 141
Lyme 03769





**put down
Detroit
Tigers, 10-6**

D1

**Improving
communication
top goal in**

Londonderry B1



Derry Town Clerk

Pauline Myers dies B1

big issue

Report Card, A2

Lancers fall to

Salem Softball, D1

DERRY/LONDONDERRY EDITION
5/2/00 Union Leader

Salem divided on slot machine gambling

By JODY REESE

Union Leader Correspondent

SALEM — Slots in Salem? Town government has yet to take a stand, but the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce says it'd be a boon to the local economy.

In a bipartisan vote last month, the New Hampshire State Senate passed the gambling bill, which would do away with the state's inheritance tax and

allow all four New Hampshire race tracks and two hotels to offer slot machines. The House has yet to consider the bill, but has rejected similar bills before.

Agree or not, town officials say the bill would have a profound effect on Salem, which is home to Rockingham Park, New Hampshire's only thoroughbred racing track.

"It will have a very large impact on what happens

to the town. So, I sort of expect that will be one of the key areas that will be looked at in the master planning process," said Town Manager David Owen. Salem voters approved \$50,000 to begin re-drawing a master plan.

However, what the addition of 1,750 video slot machines to Rockingham, as the bill allows, will do

ROCKINGHAM, Page A12

Student test value debated by educators

NH assessments begin next week

By DEREK ROSE

Union Leader Staff

Some educators question the value of the assessment tests that about a quarter of the state's public school students will take beginning Monday.

Interim Central High School Principal John Rist said if he had a choice, students would take some other kind of standardized test, such as the PSATs.

"The validity of the measurements and comparisons have been questioned," Rist said. "I think there's better measurements, but this one's improving."

Richard Thissell, assistant principal of the Middle School at Parkside, said pupils will be taking the test for an hour or more a day for seven school days.

Getting a big jump on summer



Family Photo
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to Salem is still unclear.

The Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce favors video slot machines, says Mary Lou Heran, the group's president.

"We just think it could be a positive," she said.

She reasons slots would help Salem tourism, which is a significant part of the town's economy.

"People don't think of Salem as a tourism destination, but historically it has been," she said, citing Canobie Lake, American Stonehenge, the Mall at Rockingham Park and the race track.

The Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce represents businesses in Salem, Pelham, Windham, Atkinson and Hampstead. Heran says the state's top tourist destination is the White Mountains, but it's Rockingham County, of which Salem is a part, that brings in a large portion of the state's rooms and meals tax.

For that same reason, Owen wants to take a close look at the bill headed to the House.

Though town government hasn't laid out an official position on the bill, it does have concerns that crime would increase and that social service costs associated with gambling would rise, Owen said.

It's hard to tell what impact expanded gambling would have on families in Salem, said Robert Lorranger, town government's human services department head. He says he has had families ask the town for help because a gambling problem has caused financial problems, but says it doesn't happen often. Gamblers are usually referred to Gamblers Anonymous, a 12-step program similar to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Town government's only direct income from the park is the property tax the park pays, Owen said. For 1999, it was \$757,949 with an assessment of \$15,287,400, second only to what the Mall at Rockingham Park pays.

The park is also one of the town's largest employers and generator of traffic. Because of that, Owen said a local option for the town to decide if it wanted

UNH

(Continued From Page A1)

Durham officers handled 26 of the weekend arrests, while UNH officers and the liquor officials handled the rest, Kelley said.

"We could have had twice the number of officers working and it still wouldn't have been enough," he noted.

The deputy chief said the warm weather and the

ed the slots would have to be included in the bill.

James Keller, chairman of the Salem Planning Board, said traffic from the park would be a major concern to the planning board, as would the effect on nearby neighborhoods.

But he was open to the idea, as long as Salem was reimbursed for expenses related to the increased number of cars visiting the race track and the extra police needed.

"It's not to be taken lightly," he added. "The benefits to the town have to outweigh the impact."

"Salem doesn't need it," he said.

One who agrees with that is George Jones, a member of the Salem Conservation Commission.

"I don't see how it would do something for the economy of Salem," he said. "I'm not particularly in favor of video gambling."

Jones' beef isn't necessarily moral; it's that people visiting the race track won't stop off at local businesses to spend their gambling dollar. They'll come off Interstate 93 and head directly to the park. "If they see Route 28, it'll only be from a distance. It's highly unlikely they'll stop," he said. Nor will they want to wade through town traffic to find a place to eat or a bookstore to browse.

The town's highest ranking state elected official, Donna Sytek, the House speaker, is also opposed to the bill and video gambling. She doesn't think it's a good way to plug the state government budget hole, which has been estimated between \$30 million and \$70 million for the coming fiscal year. Sytek will step down as speaker at the end of this term.

However, Salem's state senator supports the bill. In fact, it is his bill. Sen. Arthur Klemm of Windham, who represents Salem in the Senate, has been trying to get Sytek to allow his bill on the House floor for a vote.

"Chances are it'll be an uphill battle in the house," Klemm said.

UNH officials and community leaders work together to set up the event, which is popular for families as well as students.

"We finally have a good thing going with the town and the university," Moore said.

UNH officials are also studying arrest figures.

MEDICAL

(Continued From Page A1)

that family might not have opted to donate anything — and Matthew's life surely would have been lost.

Instead, a team at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh rushed to Nova Scotia — and within hours, a transplant turned the jaundiced skin on Matthew's face a rosy pink. On Jan. 4, the hospital helped place Matthew on the road to a normal, full life. It is hoped he will be back soon in his Vinton Street neighborhood, playing with his two older siblings.

"We were very fortunate. That family gave us a gift we can never repay," said Scott Newnan, a civil and structural engineer for SEA Consultants in Concord. "I have no doubt if they had read that story they would have said 'no way.' There are 60,000 people a year waiting for life-saving organs and only 3,000 to 5,000 donations a year. That story did not help things."

The report

Portions of an investigative series by the Orange County Register in Santa Ana, Calif., were picked up by The Associated Press the week of April 17, nationwide, including in The Union Leader.

The report indicated firms across the country are making millions from donated human tissues and that non-profit organ and tissue banks were not telling grieving families that their loved one's skin, cornea and bone were fueling an emerging industry expected to yield more than \$1 billion by 2003.

The Orange County Register report indicated that burn victims were going without needed tissue, which was instead being diverted to for-profit companies that process tissue for elective, cosmetic surgery instead.

While the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984 bans profits from the sale of tissue, the companies and non-profits are able to charge "reasonable fees" for processing the body parts, the story indicated. One cadaver can be worth \$220,000, it said.

"People who donate have no idea tissue is being processed into products that per gram or per ounce are in the price range of diamonds," Arthur Caplan, professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Bioethics told the Orange County Register.

New England in focus

"We are extremely concerned about these articles because they do not accurately reflect what happens here," said Marsha Jacobson, chief operating officer of the New England Organ Bank, the only such bank serving New England.

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Factory neighbors demand answers

◆ A history of problems at LL&S Wood Processing Plant has neighbors skeptical about a new proposal by the owner.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

Mr. DeVito owns LL&S Wood Processing Plant on Lowell Road near the Icenter, and is seeking approval for a gasification plant he believes would increase the plant's recycling, decrease truck traffic, add 20 jobs and end fires that have broken out in the past.

Plant neighbors and some Planning Board members don't want to hear about new plans until old problems have been solved, however — problems that date back to before Mr. DeVito's four-year

SALEM — Stephen D. DeVito sees nothing but upside to the changes he plans, but neighbors and town officials have yet to share his vision.

Please see **NEIGHBORS**, Page 2

2 Tuesday, May 2, 2000 The Eagle-Tribune

FROM PAGE ONE

Neighbors: Environmental concerns

Continued from Page 1

ownership.

For starters, there's the smell. "It was sickening (yesterday) morning. The smell gets so bad that your eyes water and you have this terrible taste in your mouth," said Marilyn R. Campbell, owner of the abutting Campbell Scottish Highlands Golf Course and one of a half-dozen residents to voice concerns at a recent planning board meeting. "It's rotten ... that's all I can say."

Mrs. Campbell's house is on the golf course and roughly 1,000 feet from the plant, but neighbors farther away have also fled the odor.

"When I smell that smell, I try to keep the kids in the house," said Bruce M. Toker, who lives "down wind about a half-mile" of LL&S and worries about what may be in the air.

Escaped plastic and paper debris has also been a problem, Mrs. Campbell said, blowing loose on the golf course and other neighboring properties.

Currently, the plant takes in construction waste, separates the recyclable metals from the wood material and is left with a massive pile of decomposing wood chips. Mr. DeVito said the decomposing wood has a "rotten egg type of smell," and he is bringing in odor control spray and additional netting for litter control this week.

But if the new plant is approved, he said, all these problems will be solved permanently. The wood chips would be heated into charcoal almost as soon as they come in — they would then be shipped off site, converted to activated carbon, and sold for filtering water and other uses — and the

separating process would be done inside so no litter could get loose.

"(Gasification) deals with every one of their issues," he said. "My intention is that when this is all done, there will be no issues."

Mrs. Campbell said she believes Mr. DeVito has made efforts to clean up the 10-year-old plant. But the size of the gasification plant — the gasification would take place in a 7,500-square-foot building, while a garage and office building and addition to the current building are also planned — and officials' unfamiliarity with the technology leave her nervous.

"How do you know what is coming out of there? ... I just do not want that type of a plant next to me," she said. "We don't have the expertise in this town (to monitor it)."

That is a problem Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff said the town is

working on, attempting to find experts to explain more about what would be a one-of-a-kind business in town.

"To some extent it is unique," he said. "It requires somewhat of a different review process."

He said that process will include a fire safety engineer and discussions with the state to figure out how to monitor the new plant, but there will be no approval until the town is satisfied the current one is clean and in compliance with town requirements.

Planning Board member Gene Bryant recused himself from the approval process because he is an abutter, and was among those to express his concern.

"I'm not sure if I'm in opposition to it," he said. "I'm just trying to get it done right."

5/10/00

2,500 new high-tech jobs come to Salem

By Chris Markums
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The impending sale of what used to be the Compaq property should mean 2,500 new high-tech jobs in the next three to five years.

Cisco Systems Inc. is set to buy the 674,000-square-foot building

and 110 acres off Northeastern Boulevard, according to company spokeswoman Mojgan Khalili.

She would not reveal the purchase price or the current owner. Cisco is an Internet equipment provider founded in 1984 and based out of San Jose, Calif. The Salem site, Ms. Khalili said, will be a manufacturing center used for testing.

assembly and distribution of products, including optics-based routers.

Manufacturing Director Daniel B. Tymann, who will manage the Salem site, said the 2,500 positions would include 200 to 300 engineering positions that pay between \$80,000 and \$120,000 per year.

Mr. Tymann said the company would be moved into the building by the late summer or early fall and "will be shipping products from the Salem facility by the end of this calendar year."

is "much larger than the existing Cisco facilities."

The new jobs will be primarily "high skill, high wage engineering and computer science jobs," including "optical manufacturing technologists, component engineers, technicians, multiple levels of management and production managers," according to a press release issued

by the company this morning.

Ms. Khalili said buying the vacant building was a logical move.

"The building was used for manufacturing and it was appropriate, and the proximity is close to other Cisco campuses," she said.

The company, which employs

Please see jobs, Page 2

Jobs: Former Compaq site to be filled

Continued from Page 1

29,000 people worldwide, has offices in Chelmsford, Lowell, and Lexington, Mass. This will be its second venture into New Hampshire, having bought a company in Manchester that Ms. Khalili said will soon

fold into the Chelmsford site.

Other Cisco sites include on-site dining, ATMs, health and fitness facilities, and company stores.

Town Manager David W. Owen said he received confirmation of what he considers very good news yesterday.

"This is a Fortune 100 corporation. It's fast growing," he said. "It's very definitely the kind of firm you want to have in town."

New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen said she was "pleased state government was able to assist Cisco in its efforts."

"Cisco is a well-known leader in the Internet world. Its decision to manufacture next-generation products in New Hampshire is a clear indication of the strength of our economy," she said.

Cisco does \$18 billion in annual sales.

5/11/00

Cisco to create 2,500 jobs in NH

By JODY REESE

Union Leader Correspondent

SALEM — Internet giant Cisco Systems Inc. is buying the former Compaq buildings in Salem and plans to employ 2,500 people there.

The announcement came as a relief to Salem town officials, who had been worried about the empty 674,000-square-foot Compaq facility. It is the

town's largest manufacturing facility. The new job growth will more than replace the 900 jobs lost when Compaq left.

"We're trading a world-class company for a world-class company," said Ross Moldoff, Salem's planning director.

Compaq closed its Salem operations last year, cutting 900 jobs and leaving its buildings empty.

Compaq took control of the property in 1988 when it bought Digital Equipment Corp. Compaq sold the property, which includes two buildings and 110 acres, to a Massachusetts real-estate firm for about \$29 million, according to Salem Town Manager David Owen.

Cisco declined to say who was selling the property or how much it was paying.

Cisco's impending purchase of the property is part of a larger New England growth strategy. The Internet infrastructure company has been on a buying spree, on average buying one Massachusetts high-tech company a month, according to Cisco spokesman Mojgan Khalili.

CISCO, Page A10

A10 Thursday, May 11, 2000

CISCO

(Continued From Page A1)

The San Jose-based company plans to have 100 to 200 employees in the Salem buildings within six months and 300 to 500 within a year, according to Dan Tymann, an executive who will manage the facility. Within three to five years, company officials expect to reach 2,500 employees.

Cisco will use the Salem plant to manufacture fiber-optic equipment for Internet use. Fiber optics use light to transfer data, which is faster and can handle more data than traditional copper

cables.

Tymann said the company chose the former Compaq buildings so it could quickly begin production, because of racing demand. Compaq made a similar product, easing the shift to Cisco production. Renovations will be minimal. The existing buildings already have a cafeteria, ATM, health and fitness area, and a company store.

The location also was central to the property's attractiveness.

Cisco's New England Development Center is in Chelmsford, Mass., about 20 miles from Salem. Cisco also hopes to draw from the skilled labor pool around Boston and in southern New Hampshire for its Salem operation, Tymann said.

Cisco's announcement didn't surprise Marie Cappello, executive director of the Rockingham Economic Development Corp. She expected the former Compaq site to sell quickly. It is close to a large employee base in New

Hampshire and Massachusetts, Interstate 93, the Manchester Airport and Boston's high-tech market. Cappello said the property was so prime it didn't need any economic development help.

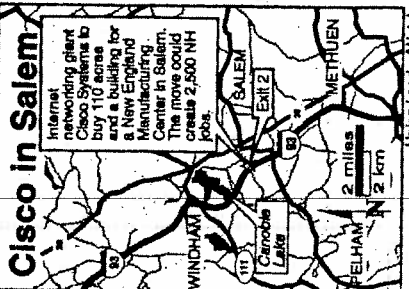
Still, New Hampshire state government did involve itself.

The Office of Business and Economic Development approached Cisco when it heard Cisco was looking to expand — just to say the company should include New Hampshire in its search, according to Kim France,

an official with the Department of Resources and Economic Development.

"We're all very pleased," Owen said. "That was an area of the largest commercial-industrial property" in town. The town's governing body, the board of selectmen, were relieved the former Compaq buildings will be used for manufacturing, he said.

There were fears that the buildings would be pieced into warehouse space, said May Lou Heran, director of the Greater



Salem Chamber of Commerce.

Many of her group's members supplied Compaq and will be glad when Cisco takes over so orders for supplies and work return. The new Cisco jobs will pump more money into the local convenience stores, restaurants and retail stores, she said.

Of course all those new workers mean traffic problems.

"Traffic is probably the single biggest thing," Moldoff said. Cisco employees will converge on the intersection of Pelham Road and North Policy Street. Town government has hired a traffic consultant to look at the intersection to see what can be done about the traffic problems.

Still, because Cisco is redeveloping the Compaq site — not adding to it — congestion won't be much worse than it was when Compaq was in operation.

Owen said the pluses outweigh any possible minuses. The environment will not be damaged because Cisco is taking over an existing building, rather than building another. Tax revenue from the site likely will increase as the sale price rises. Last time it sold for \$29 million.

Owen also liked the prospect of the high-paying jobs Cisco will offer.

Cisco products support much of the Internet infrastructure, including the important routers, which direct information across different networks. About 87 percent of Internet activity takes place across Cisco equipment, spokesman Khalili said.

Over the past four quarters the company brought in revenues of \$16.7 billion. The company is worth more than \$435 billion on the stock market, making it one of the most highly valued companies in the world.

The company began in 1984. Five years ago it came to New England by buying smaller companies. Today it has three main Massachusetts campuses in Lowell, Chelmsford and Lexington.

Worldwide, the company has about 30,500 employees, nearly a third in the Bay Area in California.

5/11/00

Senior center inches forward

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - For the first time in nearly a month, the Salem Board of Selectmen resumed discussions regarding the proposed senior center. In addition, the selectmen named a committee which will guide the town's policy on the center in the future.

Back in March, the town learned that Russell and Roberta Ingram would donate \$500,000 toward the cost of a new center, provided that the town put up \$650,000.

The Ingrams said at the time that they would like to see construction started this summer.

That appears less and less likely to happen.

While the senior center remains a top priority, the selectmen are trying to look at the big picture. The proposed site, located behind the current Municipal Office Building, has also been discussed as a potential site for a half-dozen other projects, including a future teen center.

With those other projects in mind, the selectmen are proceeding cautiously, if slowly. The last thing they want is to jeopardize several other projects because the center was put in too hastily.

Monday night, the selectmen heard from the town's consultants

about some possible layouts which would allow for other buildings to be included in the area behind the town offices.

Primary among the concerns is access to the land behind the MOB. The town has proposed access off of Salemhaven's driveway, but the Salemhaven Board has countered with another idea.

The access may be changed so that Salemhaven has its own driveway off a new access road which would start where the current Salemhaven driveway begins and end at Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Such a road would allow several buildings on the land there.

Another concern is that there are other property owners involved, chief among them the Wieszek family. According to the town's study of the area, the Wieszek's are interested in either selling or developing their property. Monday night, the selectmen said it would be "essential" to the development of the entire area to acquire that land.

The selectmen also debated the pros and cons of connecting the access road through to Lawrence Road. While that would appear to make sense, the town's consultants suggested that such a connection

could be a problem. It would create a short cut, forcing the new access road to handle more traffic than it was designed to hold.

So the selectmen listened to the consultants' ideas and then named the town's senior center advisory committee, which will provide the selectmen with even more guidance. The committee will be charged with keeping all parties involved happy, which could prove quite a challenge.

The committee's membership was limited to 10. They are: Planning Board Representative Bob Ellis, Housing Authority Representative Susan Desmit, Council on Aging Representative Victor Mailloux, Salemhaven Board Representative Bill Kelly, Wieszek family representative Lorraine Wieszek and citizen representatives David Tilton, Russell Ingram and James Nicosia and selectmen's representatives Everett McBride and Ron Belanger.

The committee will report to the selectmen on a regular basis.

5/23/00
Tribune

Give us a reason to believe

OUR VIEW

The owner of a wood-processing plant must improve its operations before expansion is considered.

Stephen D. DeVito, the owner of the LL&S Wood Processing Plant, acknowledges his business has irritated some of his neighbors on Lowell Road in Salem over the years.

Whether it's the smell of the rotting wood that sometimes fills the air, the fires in the piles of wood chips or the tiny pieces of paper and plastic that have littered the woods at a nearby golf course, many of his neighbors have grown tired of the plant.

But Mr. DeVito believes he has the solution to the problem.

He wants to close the existing plant and landfill, and open a bigger, but much more modern, gasification plant.

Mr. DeVito predicts that his new gasification plant will solve the trash and odor concerns. The wood chips will be heated into char. The char, which resembles charcoal briquettes, will be shipped off site and converted into activated carbon. The carbon is sold for use as a water filter, odor control, and for absorption in situations such as oil spills.

He said the wood will be heated as soon as it comes in, so there will be no piles to rot and smell, and it will be done indoors so debris can't escape.

But Salem residents and town officials are right to be skeptical about Mr. DeVito's plan given his track record at the plant.

The site has not been in compliance with its 1994 site plan for over three years, including a requirement to build a fence around the landfill.

Mr. DeVito's flawed reasoning for not building the fence: He knew he was going to eliminate the landfill so he considered it a waste of money.

But that didn't wash with Planning Board Chairman James Keller, who pointed out that building "a fence is not rocket science."

The board recently decided to require a third-party review of the site at Mr. DeVito's expense. A report will come back detailing whether the plant meets requirements, such as how high the wood piles may be or what time trucks come and go, and should eventually lead to a system of better enforcement.

"As Ronald Reagan used to say, 'Trust but verify,'" said Mr. Keller. "Right now we don't have the trust and we ain't verifying ... I do think an outside review is warranted, and that should morph into ... a monitoring process."

We believe town officials should refuse to even consider any plans for expansion until Mr. DeVito can demonstrate

Messy Salem

5/23/00
Tribune

Wood plant

eyes expansion

◆ LL&S Wood Processing Plant hasn't been able to talk about the future without hearing about its past.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Stephen D. DeVito insists his plan will make things better.

Mr. DeVito wants to move his wood-processing plant on Lowell Road indoors and install a new system — called gasification — which will allow him to recycle the sometimes 35-foot-high piles of wood chips that have been the source of years of complaints about trash and odor problems.

Mr. DeVito, the owner of LL&S Wood Processing Plant, insists he will do whatever is required to appease angry neighbors and skeptical town officials to make the project a reality.

"Everything I own is invested in this place. If I screw this place up, I lose

everything," he said. "I'm halfway where I want to be (with improvements to the site). When I do the other half, (the town) should be ecstatic."

But with a history of problems, which also includes fires in the wood chip piles, he has found it difficult getting either officials or residents to trust him.

Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff, who is among the group of officials ranging from the fire chief to the health officer to the building inspector overseeing the site, recently recommended a third-party review of the plant at Mr. DeVito's expense.

Planning Board members agreed, angry that Mr. DeVito's site has been out of compliance for at least three years, and plan to turn that review into a stricter system of enforcement. The plant will have to meet its old requirements before any new work is done.



LL&S Wood Processing (bottom, right) borders the Campbell's Scottish Highlands Golf Course. Plastic and paper trash from the wood chip piles (behind the two white buildings) regularly blows over the mesh fencing, into the Campbell family's woods (left) and onto the course. LL&S owner Stephen D. DeVito says the problem will be solved if he can excavate the landfill (right) and expand his business.

Please see WOOD, Page 2

Wood: Plant would like to expand

Continued from Page 1

"Trust but verify"

"As Ronald Reagan used to say, 'Trust but verify,'" Planning Board Chairman James Keller said at a recent meeting. "Right now we don't have the trust and we ain't verifying ... I do think an outside review is warranted, and that should morph into ... a monitoring process."

The Campbell family believes that process should have started a long time ago. The owners of the neighboring Campbell Scottish Highlands Golf Course have long been frustrated by wind-blown trash on their land and the foul odor that drifts for miles, and have been the source of most of the complaints about the plant.

"At least it needs to be really well-monitored," said course manager Kenneth Campbell. "And I don't believe it is."

Even with the several acres of the Campbells' woods and wetlands that buffer the actual course from LL&S, it is nearly impossible to forget what's next door.

"There are some days you can't see into the water (hazard) because of the dust level," said Mr. Campbell, who like his mother still lives in one of the homes on the property that has been in the family for over 100 years.

He said the family is considering testing the dust that blows from the plant and settles on the water and tree leaves in the area, unsure of exactly what it is or how harmful it may be.

As he tours the course in a golf cart, Mr. Campbell stops to point out tiny pieces of plastic and paper that dot the grass, still 100 yards from the edge of the woods — also on their property — that hide the plant. In the woods, material can be seen blown high in the trees, while more debris is found on the forest floor. Closer to the plant, the small pieces of waste continue to increase until the wood chip piles that are the source of it all are visible.

"Put yourself in our position. Would you want this in your back yard?" Mr. Campbell asked.

The smell

Bruce M. Toker lives a half-mile from the plant, but the smell regularly makes its way to his back yard.

"When I smell that smell," he said recently, "I try to keep the kids in the house."

Mr. DeVito predicts that his new gasification plant will solve the trash and odor concerns.

Currently, the plant takes in construction waste and separates the recyclable metals from the wood material and is left with massive heaps of rotting wood chips, which Mr. DeVito said can emit a "rotten egg type of smell," before being trucked off site.

With gasification, the wood chips will be heated into char. The char, which resembles charcoal briquettes, will be shipped off site and converted into activated carbon. The carbon is sold for use as a water filter, odor control, and for absorption in situations such as oil spills.

He said the wood will be heated as soon as it comes in, so there will be no piles to rot and smell, and it will be done indoors so debris can't escape.

"I've heard that story before," said Marilyn R. Campbell, Kenneth's mother and the course owner. "I guess I have a hard time accepting that because of the things that

referred to the site in a 1998 memo to other town officials as "a nuisance regarding odor, dust, fires and non-compliance with the terms of the site-plan approvals."

A history of problems

In April 1998, fire Chief John R. Nadeau cited the plant for two violations and forced Mr. DeVito to add required fire hydrants after the department had to spend seven hours fighting the latest in a series of blazes in the wood chip piles. The department made numerous trips to the plant for fires before the hydrants were added, Chief Nadeau said, including "some raging fires" that lasted as long as 12 hours.

In December 1998, Mr. DeVito was fined \$2,000 by the state Department of Environmental Services for debris piles twice as big as allowed.

In March 1998, he was warned for not having the proper balance of wood and metal waste coming in, and then was fined \$1,750 for stockpiling twice the amount of wood chips allowed.

Mr. DeVito has had no problems with the DES or Fire Department since, but he has run into agitated Planning Board members as he takes the first steps to start removing the landfill.

The site has not been in compliance with all the requirements of its 1994 site plan for at least three years — Mr. DeVito said most of the requirements were redundant or pointless because of other changes and he thought the town agreed — and officials see no excuse for not meeting them or asking the town for an exception.

Among the worst violations, Mr. Moldoff said, was the lack of required compliance reviews. Mr. DeVito is required to have an engineer review the plant for compliance and give a report to the town twice a year, but he has never done that.

Mr. DeVito also never added a fence to the landfill marking where he planned to excavate, saying he considered it a waste of money because he planned to remove the landfill.

But the board rejected his reasoning, with Mr. Keller of the Planning Board telling him "a fence is not rocket science."

"We would prefer it be in compliance with the old plans before we get into any new plans," Mr. Keller said. "I'm quite irritated, to put it mildly, that the site is not in compliance."

Should Mr. DeVito eventually permission to move forward plans will require a hard look both the town and state.

Gasification questions

"You're taking wood and heating it up in the absence of oxygen. It can produce certain types of gases. That is something we would definitely want to review as an agency said state DES spokesman Charles E. Knox, noting that the state has received no proposal in writing yet. "It's not an unknown process, but it's not commonly done ... There's a question he would have to submit something for our review ... both from an air and waste management standpoint. Regular monitoring would be required."

Mr. DeVito currently runs LL&S and his trucking company out of a pair of trailers, sharing an office with his parrot, Bernie.

His vision is an office building for his business, and paved roads leading up to them. More than 90 percent of the waste coming in will be recycled as opposed to the 40 percent now, and there will be no smell, less mess and no landfill, he said.

"To me, this excites me," he said of the plans. "All my life I've watched trash being dumped into the ground and wasted."

Most officials are pleased with the progress that has been made.

"Steve definitely has been quite cooperative. Nobody's mad at Steve. As he's become aware of the issues he needs to resolve, he has done so," said Mr. Turse, who is now the community development director.

"It's got a lot of issues, but I think the site has improved over the years," said Health Officer Suzanne B. Doucette. "There were certainly far more fire and odor and debris problems."

One of Mr. DeVito's business neighbors has minor concerns about the new plans, but supported him in front of the Planning Board.

"He's been light-years ahead of the previous owner there," said John Lyons, lawyer for next-door Auto Placement Center. "It's a lot better than it ever used to be."

Mr. DeVito insists it will continue to improve because he and the plant are here to stay.

"I'm a waste guy," he said, proud to have been in the business since he was 14. "It's what I do."

THE LOTTERY

MASSACHUSETTS

Daily Lottery
May 22 5307
Payoffs/exact order
All 4 digits \$3,980
First or last 3 digits \$557
Any 2 digits \$48
Any 1 digit \$5

Payoffs/any order
All 4 digits \$166
First 3 digits \$93
Last 3 digits \$93

Previous numbers
May 21 3927 May 18 6634
May 20 1289 May 17 4575
May 19 9537 May 16 5417

Megabucks
May 20 4-13-20-25-32-36
May 17 2-9-23-30-36-39

Mass Cash
May 19 3-12-13-14-35
May 16 1-6-7-22-34

Mass Millions
May 22 8-18-31-37-38-43
Bonus number: 49
May 18 12-20-36-39-41-42
Bonus number: 44

The Big Game
May 19 16-24-37-38-40
Big Money Ball: 26
May 16 9-11-34-48-50
Big Money Ball: 13

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Tri-State Numbers
May 22 976 and 2285
Cash 4 Life

May 22 23-26-31-92
Tri-State WinCash

May 19 4-6-17-20-31-36
May 16 10-15-17-21-25-35

Tri-State Megabucks
May 20 21-22-25-28-32-39
Bonus number: 12

Powerball
May 20 5-17-40-44-48
Powerball: 26

May 17 16-17-20-28-49
Powerball: 24

Senior center planners get to work

◆ Russell F. Ingram, chairman of the Senior Center Advisory Committee, is concerned that the costs of preparing the site might threaten the project's \$1 million-plus budget.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Now comes the hard part.

Three months after Town Meeting voted to add \$650,000 to the \$500,000 pledged by Russell F. and Roberta F. Ingram for construction of a new senior center, the Senior Center Advisory Committee sat down for the first time last week to tackle the thorny issues surrounding construction of the facility.

The committee, set up by the Board of Selectmen to guide the town in design and construction of the center, chose as its preferred site for the facility a parcel of town-owned land behind the municipal building and adjacent to SalemHaven Nursing Home.

Mr. Ingram, 75, who was elected chairman of the committee, praised the site for its proximity to SalemHaven, Kelley Library, the town offices, and a new assisted-living facility under construction on Main Street.

He said, however, that questions remain about the cost of bringing water and sewer service to the new facility and of expanding the drive-

way of SalemHaven Nursing Home for use as an access road. Mr. Ingram said he was concerned that the costs of preparing the site might threaten the project's \$1 million-plus budget.

"We know we like the site, but can we afford it?" he asked.

Representatives of SalemHaven, while supportive of the project overall, have expressed concerns about the site. Michael J. Carney Jr., president of the nursing home's board of directors, said care must be taken to ensure that the new road does not threaten the safety of residents walking the property. He also urged that the senior center project not be considered in isolation, but rather as part of a master plan to address the needs of town seniors.

The committee requested that town officials take a more detailed look at the costs involved in preparing the site. Community Development Director E. James Turse said the committee also asked for more details on two alternative sites — one in Abenaki Park and another on school district-owned property opposite Woodbury Middle School.

The new, approximately 7,000-square-foot building will include meeting rooms and recreational facilities for seniors, Mr. Ingram said. He would not speculate on the timeline for the project but said "it would be wonderful to put a shovel in the ground this fall."

The committee will meet again June 8.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

Editorials

Traffic report

Traffic is getting to be such a problem in our fair town that out-of-towners avoid Salem like the plague.

We at the Observer have heard from a half-dozen people who work here in Salem who said they never return to Salem on weekends – because of the traffic. Others have said that they have never been on Route 28, simply because they have heard too many horror stories about traffic flow on Salem's main strip.

The Depot draws just as many comments. Some go miles out of their way just to avoid this dangerous and oft-clogged intersection.

With the summer season fast approaching, traffic will only get worse as travelers head to I-93, students head off to summer jobs and shoppers head to the stores more frequently.

We ask that the drivers operate with courtesy and remember that everyone is dealing with the same thing.

We ask that the police do their best to keep traffic moving smoothly.

And lastly, we ask that someone – the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the federal government, some invisible deity – do something about the horrendous traffic in Salem. We hate to see people avoiding all the good things in town because they can't get to them.

SALEM

Preschool not wanted

- ♦ The kindergarten, neighbors say, will bring increased traffic and noise to their neighborhood

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Kindergarten usually conjures up images of smiling, happy children.

But when Norma L. Simon and her Dunbar Terrace neighbors think about the kindergarten and preschool proposed for the end of their block, they imagine traffic snarls, noise, and an end to the peace and quiet of a neighborhood where children still play on the street and senior citizens take evening strolls.

At issue is a proposal by Create and Discover Learning Center to tear down the white house at 196 Main Street, on the corner of Main and Dunbar Terrace, that currently houses East Coast Security Services.

In its place, the company — which operates another facility a short distance down Main Street — would construct a two-story, 5,400-square-foot building in which to provide kindergarten and preschool for 70 children.

Backers of the kindergarten say the new facility will meet a need for early childhood education in the town. But the plan has ruffled the feathers of many longtime Dunbar Terrace residents, some of whom remember the days when the street was a dead end and the East Coast building a private home.

"What are they trying to do to us here?" wondered Ms. Simon, 69, who has lived on the street for 43 years. She calls the kindergarten plan "an accident waiting to happen."

Of particular concern to Ms. Simon and her neighbors is a proposal to put the entrance to the Create and Discover parking lot on Dunbar Terrace.

Sandra J. Buckley, 42, said parents will discover they can reach the kindergarten from South Broadway by using back streets, adding to the congestion caused by cars turning onto Dunbar from Main Street.

"Seventy kids. That's seventy cars on a residential



Cheryl Senter/Eagle-Tribune

Many neighbors are unhappy about a proposal to tear this house down at 196 Main Street in Salem, on the corner of Main and Dunbar Terrace, and then build a new kindergarten and preschool.

Continued from Page 1

street," said Mr. Buckley. "That's a lot of traffic."

The residents said they would rather have the entrance placed on Main Street, a notion the Planning Board said it would consider when it gave preliminary approval to the preschool plan in May. But Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said putting the entrance on Main Street could be problematic.

"The driveway on Main Street would be very close to Dunbar," Mr. Moldoff said, a situation that could cause further traffic problems on an already busy stretch of Main Street.

Like all new projects, the new kindergarten will increase traffic, Mr. Moldoff said. But he added that the impact could be less than that of a retail business or other establishment.

Traffic is not the only concern. But E. Erban, 59, who lives next door to the proposed kindergarten, complained that the coming and goings of parents, along with a play area on the property, could cause excess noise.

"We moved to the neighborhood knowing we had the ballfield out back," Mr. Erban said, referring to a field at Woodbury Middle School. Residents say remains in use some nights until 11 p.m. "Now they're talking about 6:30 in the morning," the drop-off time for the kindergarten.

"At 6:30 in the morning, I need my rest," added Ms. Simon.

The opposition of the Dunbar Ter-

race residents has a familiar ring to Michelle M. Whitaker, director of Create and Discover. She said the company commonly runs into opposition when looking for locations for its kindergarten and preschool programs.

"People are always saying, 'We don't want you, we don't want you,' but then they send their children to us," she said.

Ms. Whitaker said she looked for a site for the new facility for about a year before settling on the Main Street location. She pointed to the yearling waiting lists for slots in the existing facility's part-time preschool and kindergarten programs as evidence the new center is needed.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Henry A. Labranchie said a survey of incoming Salem first-graders had attended kindergarten, with most attending half-day programs. Of the remaining 13 percent, he estimated that about half did not attend because of a lack of available kindergarten spots or because the choice of existing spots did not meet the needs of the parents.

Ms. Whitaker added that steps would be taken to reduce any impact the center would have on Main Street traffic and the surrounding neighborhood. Pick-up and drop-off times for parents would be staggered to minimize traffic congestion, and outside play time would likely be limited to four, 20-minute periods throughout the day.

Karen L. Tate, business manager of Create and Discover, emphasized

that the kindergarten is a permitted use for that section of Main Street and that the facility is being designed to meet all local and state regulations.

Mr. Erban and other Dunbar Terrace residents are careful to point out that they do not oppose progress. They say they would welcome a new building on the property, occupied by a suitable small business. A kindergarten, they say, is simply not appropriate for the edge of a residential neighborhood.

But the tone of their comments, combined with the anger with which they refer to the commercial strip of Route 28 ("disgusting," one resident called it) and other built-up areas of town, made it clear they wanted no parts of the traffic, congestion, and noise that have been the flip side of growth in some parts of Salem.

"We're just trying to hold onto a little of what we have," said Mr. Erban.

For Ms. Whitaker, however, the objections of the Dunbar Terrace residents are frustrating.

"We're trying to do a good thing," she said. "It just breaks my heart." Detailed plans for the kindergarten will likely be filed with the Planning Board within the next couple of weeks.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

Please see SCHOOL, Page 2

Hunters chased from forest

◆ Commission members felt it was too dangerous to have hunters and trail walkers in the town forest together. Selectmen have the final vote on the matter.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The Conservation Commission voted unanimously last night to ban firearms in the town forest after no one spoke out against the proposal.

The decision was made in 1991 to allow hunting with a bow and arrow or muzzle-loading guns, which load through the front of the barrel and generally have less range than standard guns.

But the commission said the increasing number of recreational users of the 200-acre forest, which is located off of Route 111, makes the risk too great not to ban firearm hunting. Selectmen have the final vote on the matter, which Selectman Philip A. Smith said likely would come at the next meeting.

"There's still great concern about

Please see **HUNTERS**, Page 2

issue," said Officer Walsh.

It's still legal to use a firearm to hunt in any other area of town as long as the hunter is 300 feet from any occupied dwelling, but Officer Walsh said that represents an extremely limited area in Salem so the commission's approval, pending bans hunting with a firearm in town.

Mr. Jones said the ban won't solve the problem of people hunting or shooting illegally.

Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff said Police Chief Stephen B. MacKinnon informed him there were two or three complaints about guns being fired illegally in the last four to six months.

The town of Atkinson banned hunting on 14 town lots at town meeting after a hunter's bullet struck a playroom at a home there.

In other business, Selectman Smith asked commission members to approve a permit for a seasonal dock for his home on Arlington Pond, but faced opposition from the neighboring Levine family, who believe he already has five illegal structures on or in the water.

The latest dispute is part of an

ongoing battle between the two that has been running since Mr. Smith moved there in 1996.

Commission member Thomas C. Eden called the battle a "Hartfield-McCoy situation" and a "hot potato," while Mr. Jones compared it to "bad behavior by kindergartners in a sandbox."

The state has the final say on whether Mr. Smith gets the dock, and the commission forwarded the issue to state officials with no recommendation.

Mr. Jones said the dispute was made worse because of Mr. Smith's position as a selectman, a statement Mr. Smith said was unfair.

Mr. Smith noted he never mentioned he was a selectman before coming before the commission.

"It's not fair, what one of your commissioners did to me tonight," he said.

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Continued from Page 1

the compatibility of firearms sport and pedestrian traffic," said commission member George Jones at the public hearing.

He also said more residents are using the forest since the town installed a trail system.

"We have designed it, we have patented it ... and people are coming."

Calling the two uses of the forest "a dangerous mix," member Linda Harvey said she met a woman walking her baby through the forest during hunting season last year without any of the recommended bright clothing.

The commission took the vote while acknowledging the chances of an incident were small, because there are only a few people who hunt in the town forest.

Only seven permits to hunt in the town were issued last year, with the limited deer population being the only legal target with muzzle-load- ing guns, according to State Fish and Game Conservation Officer David P. Walsh.

He said with only about 26 days open to hunting per year — usually November to December — the main concern should be other people firing guns illegally in the off-season.

"I don't think you have a problem with hunters as much as neighborhood kids. It's an enforcement

Ban town forest hunting

6/12/00

OUR VIEW

It is too dangerous to permit hunting in an area frequented by walkers.

Salem's Conservation Commission members understand that hunting and walking don't mix.

That's why they voted unanimously last week to ban firearms in the 200-acre town forest located off Route 111 in Salem.

Commission members said the increasing number of recreational users of the town forest makes the risk of injury too great not to ban firearm hunting.

"There's still great concern about the compatibility of firearms sport and pedestrian traffic," said commission member George Jones last week.

He also said more residents are using the forest since the town installed a trail system.

"We have designed it, we have pathed it ... and people are coming."

Calling the two uses of the forest "a dangerous mix," member Linda Harvey said she met a woman walking her baby through the forest during hunting season last year without any of the recommended bright clothing.

We urge selectmen to vote to approve the ban on hunting in the town forest when it comes before them.

Even though only seven permits were issued to hunters last year to hunt deer in the forest, one hunter is one too many because of the possibility — no matter how remote — that a bullet meant for a deer ends up hitting a child.

But we don't think selectmen should stop there.

We think they should go a step further.

Selectmen should ban hunting with a bow and arrow, which will still be allowed even if selectmen approve the ban on firearms in the town forest.

Putting hunters and walkers in the same area, even if the hunters are just using bow and arrows, is an inherently risky, and possibly deadly combination.

An errant arrow can kill a child just as well as a stray bullet.

When the town decided to invite residents to use the walking trails, they should have immediately banned all hunting in the forest.

The majority of non-hunters who use the town forest should be protected from the small amount of people who want to hunt there.

The hunting season is short in New Hampshire — just 26 days in November and December — but it's long enough for one stray bullet to cause a tragedy.

We applaud the concern for public safety Conservation Commission members showed when they voted to ban the use of firearms in the town forest.

We urge selectmen to follow their lead.

6/14/20
SALEM

Loudspeakers 5, neighbors 2

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The Salem Youth Baseball Association is one step closer to securing town approval for loudspeakers at Michele Memorial Park on Lawrence Road, despite opposition from several nearby residents.

The Planning Board last night voted 5-2 to recommend that selectmen approve the loudspeakers, provided their use is limited and they comply with the town's

noise ordinance.

Salem Youth Baseball President Anthony F. Leonard Jr. said the speakers are needed for safety reasons and so the association can host tournaments at the park.

An acoustics specialist hired by the league said the speaker sounds heard by residents living nearby would be quieter than conversational speech.

But lawyer Timothy H. Barnes, representing local residents who

Please see SALEM, Page 14

Continued from Page 13

have formed the Applewood Association for a Quiet Neighborhood, said the baseball league's previous use of temporary loudspeakers adversely affected those living nearby. He also downplayed the safety concerns raised by Mr. Leonard and questioned the analysis of the acoustics specialist.

During the discussion, Planning Board Chairman James Keller described Michele Memorial Park as "a site that is clearly, in certain instances, maxed out." He ques-

tioned the fairness of imposing added burdens on neighbors of the park, especially since many of them moved there before the park became a center for youth baseball.

"The benefit to the community, to me, is not obvious," said Mr. Keller, who, along with Phyllis O'Grady, voted against recommending the loudspeakers.

Vice Chairwoman Maria R. Hamilton disagreed, citing the league's research on the proposal and the existence of a town ordinance limiting noise as reasons for supporting the plan.

Ms. Hamilton made the motion to recommend approval to selectmen, but included several conditions. They included limiting use of the loudspeakers to 25 games per year, forbidding their use after 10 p.m., and requiring noise-level testing at the expense of the baseball league.

But those limitations did not seem to satisfy Mr. Barnes or the approximately 10 nearby residents who attended the meeting. Mr. Barnes said the group would continue its opposition when the issue goes before selectmen.

“They look at us like we’re some kind of disgusting filth because we kill animals.”

Richard Miller, who owns a gun and archery store in Plaistow, N.H.

6/25/00

Hunters feel targeted as woodlands become housing developments

◆ Hunters say there’s an increasingly hostile attitude toward the sport as more Massachusetts residents move into the state.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

PLAISTOW, N.H. — Richard Miller remembers hunting in several spots throughout Southern New Hampshire as a child.

Mr. Miller, who was born and raised in Plaistow, just opened his own gun and archery store in town. But he’s counting the days until he waves goodbye to the region.

“I’ve lived here in Southern New Hampshire all my life,” said Mr. Miller, 36, co-owner of JR’s Archery & Shooting Sports Inc. “And I can’t wait to get out of here, to tell you the truth.”

Business is good, he said, and with a business card featuring a gun-toting, scantily clad woman, he seems comfortable with marketing.

But he and other hunters are tired of watching once pristine hunting territory turned into housing developments, and the increasingly hostile attitude toward hunters.



Carl Russo/Eagle-Tribune

Allan G. Bacon, who has owned Al's Gun & Reel Shop Inc. in Derry for the past 30 years, believes it's more than just hunting terrain that's disappearing from Southern New Hampshire.

Mr. Miller said he’s received many dirty looks from shoppers in

Please see **HUNTING**, Page A2

FROM PAGE ONE

Hunting: Locals upset with southern neighbors

Continued from Page A1

neighboring states when one of his customers pulls in with a deer on the hood.

"They look at us like we're some kind of disgusting filth because we kill animals," he said.

Town officials are also declaring many surviving hunting areas off limits, fearful that a hunter will accidentally kill someone else in the woods.

Earlier this month, the Salem Conservation Commission voted unanimously to ban firearms in the town forest because of its increasing popularity with walkers. Selectmen will take the final vote on the matter this summer.

Atkinson voters banned hunting on 14 town-owned lots at elections earlier this year after a hunter's bullet tore through a child's playroom wall, and the Derry Conservation Commission ended hunting on a 76-acre lot last year.

"Seeing what's going on in other towns ... that does seem to be the trend," said Salem Conservation Commission Chairman Thomas C. Campbell, who pointed out that most outdoorsmen hunt safely, but added, "I am concerned that we could have a tragedy."

The decision was made easier when only seven people applied for licenses to hunt in the town forest for the roughly month-long deer season last year — the real concern is those shooting outside of the season. Fellow commission member William Valentine agreed that mun-

"Unfortunately, a lot of people in Southern New Hampshire are Massachusetts commuters and are coming across with a Massachusetts mentality."

A. Peter Kohl of Windham, a member of the Pelham Fish and Game Club

bers make the difference.

"I could imagine a scenario where if a lot of hunters used the town forest and it was extremely popular for hunting, we would change the rules," said Mr. Valentine, who used to hunt but no longer has the time. "But it seems there are a lot more non-hunters than hunters."

Allan G. Bacon has owned Al's Gun & Reel Shop Inc. in Derry for 30 years, and agrees that the numbers are no longer in the hunters' favor.

"I've lived here 35 years, and I don't see it as much as I used to," said Mr. Bacon, 56, who still enjoys recalling the good times he had on hunting trips with his two sons and daughter. "There used to be a lot more people who loved to go hunting."

Michael D. Gill of Derry has hunted in the area much of his life, and taught his children how to hunt, and how to use the woods safely during hunting season.

They were told to wear bright col-

ors, make plenty of noise as they move, and take responsibility for their own safety. But he believes the increasing number of new arrivals to the area would rather simply end hunting than teach precautions.

"The demographics have certainly changed. It's not so much farmers and blue collars anymore, and with the upper status in income, they don't want to go out and hunt," said Mr. Gill, 59. "The percentage (of hunters) is significantly lower, and when you're in the minority, you suffer the slings and arrows of the majority, don't you?"

He argued against the hunting ban on the Derry lot and believes such a decision never would have been so readily accepted in the past. "People would not put up with it 20 years ago," he said. "It'd just be something where 'You're being silly.'"

It is that shift that causes some to believe Southern New Hampshire is in danger of becoming northern Massachusetts.

A. Peter Kohl of Windham, a member of the Pelham Fish and Game Club, does not hunt, but is a target shooter and believes strongly in citizens' rights to own firearms.

He believes it simply may no longer be feasible to safely hunt and shoot in most of the area's woodlands.

"Unfortunately, a lot of people in Southern New Hampshire are Massachusetts commuters and are coming across with a Massachusetts mentality," he said.

"Pretty soon we'll just be a suburb of Massachusetts ... The population



The Salem Conservation Commission recently voted to ban firearms in the Town Forest, fearing a potential tragedy due to the increasing number of residents using its trails for walking and cycling. Commission vice chairman William R. Valentine stands by the trails' entrance bridge.

explosion in Southern New Hampshire and number of people in the woods makes it dangerous to discharge firearms."

Mr. Miller is as blunt about what he sees as the problem. "No doubt it's the people who moved up here from Massachusetts," he said. "Basically, they screwed up what they had down there, and moved up here and they're gonna do it to us."

A newcomer's attitude is usually apparent right away, he said.

ing land open to it, he said, but it is development that makes that increasingly difficult.

Many hunters, including Officer Walsh, head to the more open spaces in the northern part of the state to hunt, while others make a trip to Canada or Wyoming. Those who want to stay local just need to know the spots.

"You have to do your homework," he said. "To know where to go to find open land."

Mr. Gill said it is often just a simple matter of asking property owners permission to hunt on their land.

"It's the one who doesn't know where to go (that has problems). It's the uninformed person who wants to go hunting. He may be beautiful enough not to go knocking on some farmer's door," he said. "Many times the farmers will give you permission because of deer. The deer population is wonderful. They're eating very well on farmers' squash and vegetables."

Grant G. Benson III, owner of Benson Lumber and Hardware in Derry, which sells hunting licenses, advises local hunters to branch out.

"There's still a lot of places to find game, you just have to find different places," he said. "You may no longer be able to hunt in your back yard."

Mr. Miller, however, prefers to avoid a crowd, and plans to leave the shrinking local hunting territory to others.

"Personally, when I go hunting I like to be by myself," he said. "There aren't too many places around here anymore. I just go north."

Carl Russell/Eagle-Tribune

Field not in neighbors' dreams

◆ Neighbors of Michele Park want selectmen to stop the installation of loudspeakers on the park's baseball fields

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — For youth baseball backers, it is a field of dreams.

But for nearby residents, it has become a neighborhood nightmare.

Selectmen will soon decide between the two competing visions of Michele Memorial Park as they settle a dispute over whether loudspeakers should be installed at the park's three baseball diamonds.

Officials of the Salem Youth Baseball Association see the loudspeakers as the next step in the park's evolution into a first-class center for youth baseball — a center they hope will become a source of town pride.

But a group of 20 nearby residents that met last Friday night see the speakers as the next step in their neighborhood's loss of its peace and tranquility.

"A lot of people in our neighborhood have small kids who go to bed at 7 or 8 o'clock," said Donna M. Frederick, whose Appleton Lane house overlooks the Michele Park fields.

The new loudspeakers, she and other local residents fear, will add to the nighttime noise from the fields that sometimes disturbs their sleep and forces them to close their windows while watching television.

The residents said they had no problems with the Lawrence Road park when activity was limited to daylight hours. Their troubles, they said, began last spring when Salem Youth Baseball petitioned the town to install lights on one of the fields.

The town approved the plan, despite their objections. Now, they say, noise from the field continues until 10 p.m. or later and glare from the 80-foot-high light standards shines into their bedrooms.

"Everything we said would happen has happened," Mrs. Frederick said.

Another new addition to the field — a refreshment stand built earlier this year — has also caused concern. Neighbors claim the amount of trash blowing onto their properties has increased since the building went into operation.

"We know we live next to a field," said Applewood Lane resident Brian E. Wall. "We don't live next to Fenway Park."

The experiences of the past year have left residents distrustful of the association's claims that the loudspeakers will not disrupt their neighborhood's peace and quiet.

"We don't think they're being up-front," said Mrs. Frederick.

Salem Youth Baseball officials seemed mystified at the controversy their plans have generated. They say they have responded to the neighbors' concerns about the lights and cite the findings of a sound consultant that the new loudspeakers will comply with the town's noise ordinance.

"We're trying to do everything we can to minimize the impact and still build a first-class facility," said association president Anthony F. Leonard Jr.

Michael R. Loomis, a member of the association's board of directors, said he "emphatically disagrees" with the claims of some Applewood Lane residents that the park's lights shine on their homes.

Mr. Loomis said he personally worked with neighborhood residents and a lighting contractor to adjust the lights after they were installed last year.

"I thought I had satisfied them as much as could be done," he said.

Without the new loudspeakers, Mr. Loomis said,



Applewood Lane residents (below, from left) Gary A. Frederick, Donna M. Frederick, Ann M. Byrne, and Brian E. Wall stand on the patio of Mrs. Byrne's house. The four oppose plans by Salem Youth Baseball to install loudspeakers at Michele Memorial Park, which sits behind the trees. This house (above) can be seen a short distance away through the fence at Michele Memorial Park.



the association would be barred under Little League rules from hosting district tournaments.

The tournaments used to be held at Woodbury School, but Mr. Loomis said inadequate lighting and the lack of a regulation pitching mound makes it impossible to do so now.

Mr. Leonard presented 400 petition signatures in support of the proposal to put loudspeaker at the park to the Planning Board at a June 13.

Applewood Lane residents chose to let their attorney, Timothy H. Barnes of Haverhill, make their case.

In the end, the Planning Board voted 5-2 to re-

commend that selectmen approve the loudspeakers. The board also stipulated that the speakers could be used no more than 25 times per year and required Salem Youth Baseball to test the speakers after installation.

Mr. Leonard said he was confident selectmen would approve the loudspeakers when they vote on the issue July 17.

"We've put our heart and soul into this park," he said. "I honestly believe this is the right thing for the town."

But Selectman Ronald J. Belanger said he has already heard from local residents and was leaning against the loudspeaker plan.

"Right now, I'm for the neighborhood," Mr. Belanger said. "I don't think we need the PA system out there."

Other selectmen expressed hope a compromise could be reached.

"I'm sure there's some way we can work things out," said Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr.

Neighborhood residents aren't holding out hope for a compromise, however.

At last Friday's meeting, they started their own petition. And they plan to spend the next several weeks spreading the word around the neighborhood and calling their elected officials.

"We've got a little battle going on here," said Ansel Street resident Melvin J. Chabanovich, who urged his neighbors to "join forces and bring the heavy artillery to bear" to stop the plan.

in New Hampshire

BY ♦ NEW HAMPSHIRE METRO EDITOR CHERYL ROCK ♦ (603) 893-9555

community together

Brown. Their primary aim was to increase voter turnout for town elections.

Mrs. Brown said the League also wants to sponsor four community education projects a year.

Its first program will be on campaign finance reform in September. The group will not meet in July and August.

The women do not take sides, Mrs. Brown said. The League takes a "strictly the facts" approach and does not allow members to campaign for candidates.

The League has also resumed its "Voter Information Visits." Members visit all new residents to encourage them to register and to vote.

"We really want to reach out to newcomers," Mrs. Brown said.

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SALEM

Fear of accidents dunks shop's drive-through plan

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The Planning Board has given a chilly reception to the proposed addition of a drive-through lane to the Dunkin' Donuts store on Route 28 just south of Salem Depot.

In addition to the drive-through lane, the owners proposed adding a 30-seat sit-down section and a bakery to the store, taking the place of a restaurant that now occupies the back of the building.

Members of the board cited potential traffic problems and concerns about truck access in their comments Tuesday on the conceptual plan.

"I have seen more accidents

here than I've seen anywhere in my whole life," said Richard R. Gregory, the selectmen's representative to the board. Board member Gene Bryant added that he had seen three accidents at the store's driveway since last winter.

"This intersection, of all places, can't handle this," added Vice Chairwoman Maria R. Hamilton.

But Mr. Bryant said the plan could provide an opportunity to correct traffic problems and improve the building. "A lot of what we are talking about has already happened," he said. "There has got to be a way to solve these problems."

The owners of the property now must present a revised plan to the board.

Stickle up your kid or else



Salem: Senior, town fight

Continued from Page 11

posed public safety complex that would combine the town's police station and southern and central fire stations.

Town Manager David W. Owen said discussion of the combined facility was prompted by crowding at the police station and by the need to better respond to fire calls from the western part of town. He also said putting police and fire services under one roof could also allow the two departments to share dispatchers and training facilities, reducing costs to the town.

However, Mr. Owen added that the project is still at the "conceptual level."

Selectman Ronald J. Belanger said the public safety center plan, which he opposes, is "so far away from becoming reality that we shouldn't hold up other projects that could be done," such as the senior center.

Mr. Ingram, who, along with his wife, Roberta F., has donated \$500,000 to the project, agreed.

"If the safety complex is off 10 to 20 years, why shouldn't the property be used for the senior center, if it's feasible?" Mr. Ingram said.

Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr., who said he supports the idea of a public safety complex, said the town had no definite plans to put the complex in Abenaki Park. Instead, he had another suggestion for how the land could be used.

"I'd just as soon leave it how it is," he said.

The committee expects to hear a report on the cost of building at the SalemHaven site at its next meeting, scheduled for July 13.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

SALEM

6/30/00

Seniors, town may fight over land

◆ Senior center planners are eyeing a site in Abenaki Park that is also being considered for a new public safety complex.

By Tony Dutzik

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Planners of the town's new senior center are looking at other possible sites for the building, amid fears that constructing the center next to SalemHaven Nursing Home could put the project over its \$1.15 million budget.

Final estimates for the SalemHaven site, which the committee chose as its preferred site for the center last month, will not be ready for another couple of weeks. But Senior Center Advisory Committee Chairman Russell F. Ingram said the expense of building there will likely be "astronomical," because of the cost of preparing the site for construction.

Instead, Mr. Ingram and other members of the committee, meeting last night at Town Hall, expressed support for building the center on town-owned land in Abenaki Park at the junction of Veterans' Memorial Parkway and Geremonty Drive.

"It's the common sense way to go if SalemHaven flunks out," Mr. Ingram said.

However, he said the Abenaki Park site is also being looked at by town officials as the site of a pro-

Please see SALEM, Page 12

Baseball at night strikes out

6/30/00

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OUR VIEW

Salem Youth Baseball officials mean well but need to show consideration for their neighbors.

It may not be the national pastime anymore, but baseball still holds a special place in the hearts of many Americans.

The crack of the bat, the smell of freshly cut grass on a spring day and the sight of a ball soaring through the air can send adults thinking back to the days when they played ball on Little League fields across Southern New Hampshire.

Little League baseball fields have often been a place where adults put their economic and social differences aside to come together to cheer their sons and daughters on.

Unfortunately, as Eagle-Tribune reporter Tony Dutzik noted in an article this week, the Michele Memorial Park in Salem is a field of dreams for some, but a neighborhood nightmare for others.

Salem Youth Baseball officials seem intent on turning the Lawrence Road park into a "first-class facility," which will be capable of hosting district tournaments.

Last year, the league installed lights on one of the fields and earlier this year they built a refreshment stand at the park. Now, league officials want selectmen to approve a plan to put loudspeakers at the park.

But neighbors of the park say the field is ruining the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood.

Neighbors didn't object when the games ended at dusk, but since the lights were added, they say the action can continue until 10 p.m. and the glare from the 80-foot light standards shines into their bedrooms.

They're also troubled by the increase in trash blowing onto their properties from the refreshment stand and think loudspeakers blaring until 10 p.m. is too much to ask of the neighborhood.

We agree.

We understand and appreciate the efforts of Salem Youth Baseball officials.

They want to make the park a source of town pride, but the town's first concern should be for the people who have to live in the neighborhood after the games end.

We urge selectmen to oppose the plan to install loudspeakers at the park, and to reconsider their decision to play games past 8 p.m.

It's important to have a place like Michele Memorial Park so all kids have the opportunity to enjoy the Little League experience.

But it's even more important for the people who bought homes in the neighborhood to be able to enjoy some peace and quiet at the end of a day.

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When will Salem's new senior center find a home?

Months after plan was approved, town has yet to select a site

by Steve Eifler

SALEM - The location of the proposed Salem Senior Center may not be set just yet.

Although the only site that has been discussed to this point is the town-owned land behind Salemhaven, the senior center advisory committee met last week and the committee members appear divided over where the center should be placed.

Several committee members spoke in favor of Abenaki Park, the undeveloped land at the intersection of Geremonty Drive and Veterans Memorial Parkway.

While the site shares some similarities with the land behind Salemhaven, there are also some drawbacks.

Like the proposed site behind Salemhaven, Abenaki Park is a central location close to services. It is town-owned and therefore would not require the taxpayers to pony up additional funds for land purchases.

However, Abenaki Park does not have sewer and water close by; a pipeline would have to be brought up from Lawrence Road. In addition, the Salem Conservation Commission would likely object to the development of the park. Selectman Everett McBride said the park is designed to serve as a green area that welcomes visitors to Salem.

"I'd just as soon leave it the way it is; leave it green," McBride said.

Senior Center Advisory Committee Chairman Russell Ingram was clearly in favor of Abenaki Park. He argued that the center would help beautify the "entrance" to Salem rather than deface it. Ingram said Abenaki would make a perfect site.

"This isn't a development; it's a senior center," he said. "If you don't have anything else going there, why not build a senior center? This is a common-sense solution if Salemhaven flunks out. It's the other ball in the air."

Ingram is the man who, along with his wife, made the \$500,000 donation toward the center that got the ball rolling. Ingram is frustrated with how slow the process is mov-

ing and said the town needs to consider other sites so that the center can be built soon.

"I want everyone to be aware that this project will fit on the Abenaki property," Ingram said. "We've been fooling around too long. It'll be next year soon."

While Ingram appeared gung-ho about the Abenaki site, other members of the committee preached caution.

There is another possible drawback to using the Abenaki property rather than the site behind Salemhaven: Salem town officials would like to use the senior center

as a springboard to develop all the property behind Salemhaven. If the center is built on Abenaki Park, that land will remain undeveloped until another project comes along.

The senior center could serve as the first project in a potential domino effect. The town has enough land near there to locate other projects, including the future safety complex, and private parties own property in the area as well. All they are waiting for is access.

Committee member Bob Ellis said that siting the senior center

■ See CENTER SITE

Page 2

behind Salemhaven could provide that access. With the center as the anchor, other projects could move forward.

support for having the

senior center behind Salemhaven has to do with the big overall plan for this area," Ellis said. "Who is going to benefit from developing that area?"

However, Ellis did say that he would consider other sites if it came to that.

"If you find some place else, I'm willing to look some place else," he said. "Let's see the numbers behind Salemhaven. If the numbers don't work, then we spend another \$7,000 on Abenaki Park."

Ellis was referring to the \$7,000 cost of a site assessment. That report on Salemhaven is about to be delivered, Ellis said that if the assessment makes it appear too expensive to build behind Salemhaven, the town should consider Abenaki Park.

Some suspect that there will be too much ledge behind Salemhaven

to build the center. In addition, there are wetlands to consider and the slope of the land itself could cause a problem, Ingram said. That Salem does not want to build on a hill to get to the center.

Abenaki Park may or may not share some of those problems. "Until we get the report, it's purely speculation," Ellis said.

One thing is clear, however: people are growing impatient. It has been more than 15 months since Russell and Roberta Ingram announced their donation and the town has yet to settle on a site, much less a site plan.

"We've been fighting for grant money for years. Now, we've got the money for it, we've got the land. Let's build it," said committee member Dave Tilton. "Let's put it on Abenaki Park."

7/10/00

SALEM

Field fight continues tonight

◆ Dozens of youth baseball parents and neighbors of Michele Memorial Park are expected to air their views at tonight's selectmen's meeting

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Selectmen tonight will likely settle a conflict that has grown as heated as the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry when they decide the fate of three loudspeakers proposed for the baseball diamonds at Michele Memorial Park.

The Salem Youth Baseball Association, which runs leagues involving more than 800 young people, has proposed adding the loudspeakers to make the fields acceptable for district tournament play. But residents living near the park say the speakers would disturb the peace and quiet of their neighborhood.

Last week, both sides were organizing to turn out as many people as possible for tonight's meeting.

"For the league to receive approval from the Board of Selectmen, we need to have as many parents as possible to attend this meeting," wrote Salem Youth Baseball officials in a letter sent to 650 baseball parents. "Without a tremendous showing ... it is unlikely that we will get their approval."

The letter went on to urge parents attending the meeting to wear baseball caps in an expression of solidarity.

Neighbors of the park, meanwhile, were distributing orange leaflets Friday night urging residents to appear at the meeting and sign a petition opposing the speakers.

Salem Youth Baseball President Anthony F. Leonard Jr. said there has been little communication between the association and the neighbors since the June 13 Planning Board meeting at which the board, by a 5-2 vote, gave conditional approval to the loudspeaker plan.

"I haven't reached out to them and they haven't reached out to me," Mr. Leonard said.

Some neighbors of the park say installing loudspeakers at the field would just further upset the peace and tranquility of the neighborhood, which is already bothered by the noise from games that go as late as 10 p.m. They also say trash from the refreshment stand some-

Please see FIGHT, Page 2



Kevin R. Woelfel and Kelli J. Brodie, both of Haverhill, Mass., watch a game at Michele Memorial Park last week between Salem and Haverhill's Riverside-Bradford.

say

im: a lack of playing field in Salem that increases on fields like those at e Park.

of the core issues here is that needs more fields," said Mr.

Leonard said the town needs two additional Little League and one field for older children to meet the demands of his which has grown from 55 wo years ago to 70 teams

Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at 6-2263, by mail at Box 100, e, MA 01842, or by e-mail at eagletribune.com.

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have the money we need,"

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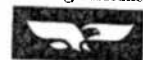
for Sanders

NASHUA — Officials at Sanders say they have been talking to plenty of interested buyers since the Lockheed Martin subsidiary was put up for sale. With about 3,000 employees, Sanders is one of the state's largest employers. The company makes a wide variety of electronic systems used aboard fighter jets, helicopters and ships. Sanders officials won't say who they've been negotiating with, but they have nar-

Award winner

CONCORD — The chief state's Forest Protection Bureau has been honored for his efforts to prevent and control wildfires. Nelson received the Forest Fire Control Program Outstanding Award during the recent Forest Fire Supervisors meeting. Mr. Nelson has been at the state agency for 15 years.

The Eagle-Tribune



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Fight: Neighbors to have their say

Continued from Page 1

times blows onto their property. In addition, some neighbors of the field say the glare from the 80-foot-high light standards shines into their bedrooms, something league officials say does not happen.

"We know we live next to a field. We don't live next to Fenway Park," Applewood Lane resident Brian E. Wall said.

But supporters of the field, including Glenn Freedman, say the field is a valuable source of town pride and a resource for hundreds of children.

"I am boggled that an entire town can be held hostage by a few people," said Mr. Freedman, whose 12-year-old son, Justin, plays in Salem Little League. "It takes about three

seconds to announce somebody's name. We're not talking about a rock concert here."

Still, Mr. Leonard said some compromise might have to be reached for the speaker plan to go forward. He said the league would accept two conditions imposed by the Planning Board — that the speakers comply with the town's noise ordinance and that their use be discontinued by 10 p.m.

However, Mr. Leonard said he was concerned about a third condition limiting use of the speakers to 25 games per year, saying that he would prefer to delay such a limitation for at least a year.

Each side in the conflict expressed some appreciation for the

other's concerns. Mr. Wall stressed that the neighbors are not opposed to youth baseball, just to what they feel is overuse of the park and intrusions on their neighborhood's peace and quiet.

For his part, Mr. Leonard acknowledged that the park is in the middle of a residential neighborhood and said the league was doing the best it could to minimize its impact on the neighbors.

"I do have some compassion for these people. I know where they're coming from," said Mr. Leonard. "We've spent a lot of money on engineering to make sure this is done right."

There was also agreement that the dispute is a symptom of a larger

problem: a lack of playing field space in Salem that increases demand on fields like those at Michele Park.

"One of the core issues here is that Salem needs more fields," said Mr. Wall.

Mr. Leonard said the town needs at least two additional Little League fields and one field for older children to meet the demands of his league, which has grown from 55 teams two years ago to 70 teams today.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

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Sprinklers: For the children's benefit

Continued from Page 1

baseball and softball. Two fields remain closed so the grass can become better established.

Mr. Lewis said each of the three organizations made a commitment to get the project done in time to supply the fields with the water they needed for the growing season this summer.

"We are taking the risk to help make sure this gets done this year," Mr. Lewis said. "We are looking at this as a long-time investment. We feel it is important and we need to get it done."

He said letters are being sent out to the community asking for donations to help pay for the project.

"If the 1,030 voters who voted for the project each donated \$50 each, we would have the money we need," he said.

The work began June 12 and took two weeks to complete.

He said the project protects a valuable town asset, and the cost includes the maintenance fees for its first year of operation, including the winterization of the new system in the fall and its start-up next spring.

Vets: Extremely proud

Continued from Page 1

you would hear that because you knew the bullet had missed them."

ally captured Seoul in South Korea, before being turned back by U.S. and United Nations forces

HOW CAN WE
HELP YOU?

THE LOTTERY

MASSACHUSETTS

Daily Lottery	
July 9	0498
All 4 digits	Payoffs/exact order
First or last 3 digits	\$7487
Any 2 digits	\$1048
Any 1 digit	\$90
Payoffs/any order	\$9
All 4 digits	\$312
First 3 digits	\$175
Last 3 digits	\$175
Previous numbers	
July 8	5441
July 7	0423
July 6	2389
July 5	1406
Megabucks	
July 8	3-6-9-13-28-30
July 5	4-21-24-35-36-42
Mass Cash	
July 7	15-22-23-24-35
July 4	19-20-22-27-35
Mass Millions	
July 6	8-9-18-20-27-46
July 3	9-12-26-31-34-46
Bonus number: 16	
Bonus number: 27	

7/13/00

Stiles Road tie-ups may end

◆ The 600-foot stretch of new road will provide an alternative to commuters leaving the Salem Corporate Center and commercial and industrial buildings off Manor Parkway.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A long commuter nightmare could be coming to an end. The Planning Board gave final

approval Tuesday night to the long-awaited extension of Stiles Road, which will soon intersect with Lowell Road near the Icenter. Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff said the 600-foot stretch of new road will provide an alternative to

commuters leaving the Salem Corporate Center and commercial and industrial buildings off Manor Parkway, easing the rush-hour traffic jams that frequently clog Pelham Road. Diane Maddox, who owns Maddox Investment Services at 22 Stiles Road, was overjoyed at the news. "That's great," Ms. Maddox said. Currently, she said, "if you leave at 5, you might just as well sit in your office until 5:15 or 5:30," due to

traffic on Pelham Road.

Brady Avenue resident Stephanie K. Micklon had a similar reaction. She hopes the new road will siphon off the truck traffic that often thunders down her small residential street on its way to Route 38.

"Oh, thank God," said Mrs. Micklon, who jokingly offered to help pave the road herself if it would speed construction. "It's way past time. This will give so much relief to

prompting state officials to withdraw their approval for the project.

In March, Town Meeting approved the redefinition of the wetlands, enabling the state to grant a permit for the project in April.

Mr. Moldoff said construction of the road could begin as soon as this fall.

In other business Tuesday night, the Planning Board gave conditional approval to a new 7,700-foot tire store planned for the current site of Delahunty Auto Wash on South Broadway.

In May, the board asked Town Fair Tire to improve the look of the concrete-block building it had proposed for the site. Mr. Moldoff indicated that the company's new proposal — which calls for a New England-style white clapboard building and improved landscaping — met those requirements.

"I think they've gone a long way to accommodate what you asked them to do at the last meeting," Mr. Moldoff told the board prior to its approval of the project.

Continued from Page 1

the neighborhood."

Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce President Mary Lou Heran said the traffic backups had forced some businesses in the area to stagger the arrival and departure times of their employees.

"It's almost a traffic nightmare," she said.

The new road will be paid for by Salem Corporate Park Associates, fulfilling a commitment the company made more than a decade ago, Mr. Moldoff said. The project will also include the installation of a new traffic light on Lowell Road at the new intersection with Stiles Road.

The Stiles Road project has endured its share of twists and turns since it was first approved back in 1990. Plans for the road were put on hold during the early 1990s recession, according to Mr. Moldoff, before being resurrected a couple of years ago.

By that time, however, the town had redefined wetlands along the road's route as "prime wetlands,"

Please see **TRAFFIC**, Page 2

Editorials

Whispers in the wind

Monday night, the selectmen approved the temporary installation of a public address system at Michele Memorial Park. The sound level of the system will be tested over the remainder of the month and if it exceeds the levels permitted by the town's noise ordinance, Salem Youth Baseball may have to take the system down and design a new plan which includes more screening – or scrap the idea altogether.

Whether the PA system exceeds the limits of the noise ordinance is irrelevant because of one simple fact: the limits set by the town are ridiculously low.

The ordinance prohibits machinery noise above 45 decibels at night and limits such noise to 55 decibels during the day. According to Hearnnet.com, a normal conversation tops out at 60 decibels. Background noise at a restaurant is about 70 decibels and a busy street can reach 80 decibels.

How can the town expect businesses to operate if they must keep their noise levels below those of a normal conversation?

As for the residents' complaints that noise from the field keeps them up at night, we wonder whether they would be woken up by a normal conversation.

If the PA system is found to violate the ordinance, then the town needs to look at the ordinance as a problem, not the system.

SALEM

7/17/00

Senior center might move

◆ The Senior Center Advisory Committee voted last week to put the original site for the town's new senior center on the "back burner" after finding out how much it would cost to build a road into the new center from Geremonty Drive.

By Tony Dutzik

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Salem's new senior center could be on the move.

Selectmen tonight will decide whether to spend up to \$10,000 to explore the feasibility of building the center on town-owned land in Abenaki Park, near the intersection of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Geremonty Drive.

Previously, the center had been proposed for another piece of town-owned property behind Town Hall and adjacent to SalemHaven Nurs-

ing Home.

But Thursday night, the town's Senior Center Advisory Committee narrowly voted to change direction on the project, putting the planned site near SalemHaven "on the back burner," according to committee chairman Russell F. Ingram.

The decision came following a stormy debate between backers of the two sites and a presentation by George Fredette of SFC Engineering Partnership, which was hired to assess the costs involved in develop-

Please see **CENTER**, Page 2

Center: New sites discussed by town

Continued from Page 1

ing the site adjacent to SalemHaven. Mr. Fredette presented two cost options for providing road access to the proposed new senior center next to SalemHaven from Geremonty Drive — one that would create a roadway wide enough to allow further development in the area and another for a narrower entrance to the center.

Mr. Fredette estimated the cost of the wider roadway and accompanying sewer improvements at approximately \$207,000 — nearly a fifth of the project's estimated \$1.15 million budget.

That was too much for Mr. Ingram, who called the cost estimate "pretty heavy."

Backers of the site near SalemHaven, however, contended

that building the center in Abenaki Park would probably not save the town any money.

Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr. pointed to the high cost of extending water and sewer lines from Lawrence Road to the Abenaki Park location. Further, he said, the site's small, three-acre lot could preclude future expansion of the center.

"If we go to the Abenaki site, we're limited in what we can do in the future for the senior center," he said.

Supporters of the site near SalemHaven praise its proximity to Town Hall, Kelley Library, SalemHaven, and a new assisted living center under construction on Main Street.

Committee member James V. Nicosia, however, said seniors would still be able to take advantage of those services if the center were located in Abenaki Park.

"They're still close," he said.

Mr. Nicosia also said he was concerned about the SalemHaven site's wooded location and the slope of its driveway, which he believes pose safety concerns. He added that he was optimistic that building the center at Abenaki Park would be cheaper than building it near SalemHaven.

But both sides acknowledge that little is known about the Abenaki Park site. Even supporters of the site near SalemHaven, such as Mr. McBride, said the \$10,000 allocation for engineering work at the park was a worthwhile investment.

"I want to get the costs," he said. "It's only fair to get the costs for that site."

Selectmen are expected to discuss the issue toward the end of tonight's agenda.

In other business, selectmen will be asked to consider several motions

related to the Lakes Area Infrastructure Project.

Community Development Director E. James Turse said selectmen will consider whether to:

Ratify the scope of the approximately \$69 million project, which would extend water and sewer service to several areas of town and improve roads and drainage;

Allow the project to be carried out over six years, rather than five;

Advance the project to the public comment stage; and

Approve a financial program for the project under which 20 percent of the cost of the water and sewer portion of the project would come from the town's general fund.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

THE LOTTERY

MASSACHUSETTS

THIS INQUIRY

Area hooked on shopping

7/19/00

◆ A decade ago Wal-Mart wasn't even in New Hampshire, now it's the state's largest retailer and is continuing to grow rapidly, according to a study of available retail space in New England.

By Dawn Souza
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Its retail corridor is a magnet for shoppers. Malls, national retail stores, supermarkets and specialty stores provide virtually everything a person could want.

Whether or not it was planned that way, Salem has become a shopping Mecca — drawing shoppers from both sides of the state border.

The Route 28 retail strip's success is part of the reason why Southern New Hampshire has one of the lowest retail vacancy rates in New England.

A study, done by a Massachusetts commercial real estate firm this spring, says only 6.6 percent of Southern New Hampshire's retail space is vacant, compared to 7 percent in eastern Massachusetts and 13.4 percent in Hartford, Conn.

The study looked at 38 towns in the southern tier, from Manchester south to the Massachusetts border and spanning east to Seabrook and west to Lyndeborough. The study was done by Finard & Co.

of Burlington, Mass. There are lots of reasons for the few vacancies, local planners say, including the area's burgeoning population, booming economy and the rise of giant retail stores like Wal-Mart and Home Depot.

"Retail typically follows population growth," said Salem Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff. "And Southern New Hampshire, particularly Rockingham County, is the fastest growing part of the state."

The state's two southernmost counties, Rockingham and Hillsborough, have seen their combined populations jump by nearly 350,000 since 1960. Each added about 22,000 people between 1990 and 1997.

Retailers, especially national ones, have

Please see RETAIL, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

jumped at the chance to locate in the growing area.

Wal-Mart now has seven locations in Southern New Hampshire, including stores in Salem, Derry and Plaistow. In all, Wal-Mart has 21 stores in the state.

The retail giant — including its Sam's Club wholesale stores — takes up 5 percent, or 1.21 million square feet, of Southern New Hampshire's retail space, the study says.

"You're looking at stores that are 130,000 to 150,000 square feet ... If there are 10 of them in the area, that adds up to be a lot of space," Mr. Moldoff said.

William J. Beckeman, a partner of Finard & Co., said Wal-Mart is now "rolling out its superstore concept" in New Hampshire. Locally, Salem will be the first with a Wal-Mart superstore, as the existing Route 28 store is being enlarged to add a supermarket. Wal-Mart officials say four of their 21 New Hampshire locations are supercenters.

"A decade ago Wal-Mart wasn't even in New Hampshire, now it's the state's largest retailer and it's continuing to grow rapidly," Mr. Beckeman said.

Target is another big retailer making its move into the area.

Last year, Target opened stores in both Salem and Nashua.

The opening of the Salem Target helped reduce Salem's retail vacancy rate, by filling the space vacated by Lechmere. Target demolished the Lechmere store and built its own, saying it was more cost-effective.

The study says Salem, Manchester and Nashua are home to 55 percent of the southern tier's 23.9 million square feet of retail space.

Pelham has the lowest vacancy rate in area, with just 1.6 percent of its retail space being vacant this year, the study says.

Pelham Planning Director Vincent J. Messina said that can mean different things, depending on how one looks at it. Businesses could be doing well, or it could mean that there is not enough retail space to accommodate everyone who might want to open in town. Or it could be a bit of both.

Pelham does not have a lot of retail space, Mr. Messina said, especially areas where stores of 10,000 square feet or more — like a Victory Market grocery store — could be built. What it does have, he said is a "fair amount" of smaller retail spaces, which, when vacant, tend to be filled quickly.

"The actual acreage of commercial zoning is relatively small here," Mr. Messina said.

That is a deterrent to national retailers like Wal-Mart and Home Depot, which look for large tracts of land to build their giant stores.

The rise of "box stores" — national retailers that open in giant box-shaped buildings — is another factor in the region's low vacancy rates.

If the area taken up by stores like Home Depot, Target and Wal-Mart were home to several smaller stores instead, the likelihood that one or more of them would be vacant would be greater. However, Mr. Beckeman pointed out that the closing of one of those box stores could have a major impact on the rate because of its size.

Mr. Moldoff said box stores started arriving in Salem in the early 1990's, the latest being a whole shopping plaza of them on Route 28 at Kelly Road. The Village Shoppes at Salem plaza includes MVP Sports, Best Buy, CompUSA, Linens'n Things, The Big Party and Michael's craft store.

"Retail was also stimulated by the mall coming to Salem," Mr. Moldoff said of The Mall at Rockingham Park, which opened in its 1 million square feet of space in 1991.

Initially people feared the mall would hurt other retailers, Mr. Moldoff said. He said a study done at the time said 70 percent of the nearby stores would prosper because of the mall, and 30 percent would falter.

"And looking back at what happened, that's probably about right," Mr. Moldoff said.

Not having a sales tax is also a factor in keeping the southern part of the state's retail space near full.

On any day of the week, the parking lots of retail stores in the border towns of Salem and Plaistow have loads of cars with Massachusetts license plates in them.

For retailers, the tax free status combined with the border location means shoppers will not only come from the immediate towns the stores are in, but customers will travel from Massachusetts for the savings.

"The number one reason has been the no sales tax and the area's proximity to Massachusetts," said Mary Lou Heran, president of the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce. "And a close second has to be the strength of the economy."

Mr. Beckeman agreed, calling the economy a key factor in keeping retailers in place.

"People have made money and consumer confidence is a near-record high," he said. "When people feel good, they spend money."

Dawn Souza covers general assignment for The Eagle-Tribune. She can be reached at (978) 946-2259, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at dsouza@eagletribune.com.

Consultant picked to lead master plan project

SALEM — Town officials took a first step toward developing a new town Master Plan last week, hiring a Concord-based consulting firm to spearhead the project.

Woodward Planning Consultants Inc. was chosen because of positive recommendations from other communities and its ability to complete the entire Master Plan, according to Town Planner Ross A. Moldoff.

Mr. Moldoff said consultants with the company would visit town this week to begin collecting information for the plan, which is the foundation of the town's zoning ordinance and land-use regulations. Last updated in 1992, the Master Plan is also used by the Planning Board to guide growth and development decisions.

The public will have ample opportunity to provide input on the plan over the next year, with two community forums, monthly public meetings before the Planning Board, and a Web site devoted to the plan on tap.

The finished plan will contain chapters on land use, housing, transportation, utilities and public services, community facilities, recreation, conservation, and preservation. Assisting Woodward Planning Consultants in completing the plan will be Bruce A. Mayberry, a Yarmouth, Maine, consultant who drafted Salem's school impact fee assessment ordinance and Recreation Master Plan, and Rebecca Barnes of Barnes Resources Group/City Strategies of Cambridge, Mass.

Senior Center plan encounters "site wars" ^{7/20/00}

by Carol Moore

SALEM - At a meeting of the Senior Center Advisory Committee held last Thursday, a motion to site the proposed Senior Center behind the Town Hall and abutting Salemhaven was defeated by a 4-5 vote.

The Senior Center plan which was approved at Town Meeting, was spurred on by a \$500,000 donation by Russell and Roberta Ingram which voters accepted and added \$600,000 to be raised by taxes.

Since that time, fourteen sites—some town-owned and some not—have been considered for the new building.

Until recently, the "Salemhaven" site was the most popular choice, but members of the Senior Center Advisory Committee have rejected that site and asked selectmen to authorize \$10,000 for a cost analysis of placing the building at Abenaki Park.

Town Manager David Owen announced at the selectmen's meeting that George Fredette, who conducted the previous Salemhaven site analysis, would do the work for \$3,500.

There were conflicting opinions about the efficacy of the Abenaki Park site and whether that site would cost less than Salemhaven.

Each site will require water and sewer extensions as well as new road construction.

Also, there was concern about access difficulties into the

Salemhaven area and traffic considerations at both sites.

Russell Ingram, who is chairman of the Senior Center Advisory Committee as well as benefactor for the project, spoke in favor of the Abenaki site.

He was concerned that most of his \$500,000 contribution would be eaten up in site work at the Salemhaven site.

He noted that site work estimates of \$435,000 is "Thirty-eight percent of what we have to building the building."

Whichever site is chosen, the project will probably be delayed until next year unless a decision is made soon.

"We've been at this for four months and we're back to square one," Ingram added.

According to Town Manager David Owen, one major difference between the sites is that Salemhaven is a 15-acre parcel, but Abenaki Park has major areas of ledge, so only three acres are buildable.

Selectman Thomas Eden spoke against the Abenaki site saying he didn't want to put the center on what he considered an inferior site.

Selectmen did vote 4-1 to authorize \$3,500 to be taken from the Senior Center Trust Fund for a study of the Abenaki Site.

Philip Smith cast the dissenting vote saying that he felt the town had the ability to do the study "in house."

7/20/00

Observer

Consultants hired to prepare new Master Plan

SALEM - The Town of Salem has hired a consulting team to prepare a new Master Plan for the Town. Last updated in 1992, the Master Plan is a policy document that is used by the Planning Board to guide the growth and development of the Town for the next decade. The Master Plan is the foundation for the Town's zoning ordinance and other land use regulations, and is required by state law to contain sections on land use, housing, transportation, utilities and public services, community facilities, recreation, conservation, and preservation.

The consulting team is headed by Woodward Planning Consultants, Inc., of Concord, a firm that has been working with New Hampshire communities on planning and land use projects since 1989. Some of their recent projects include the South Concord Redevelopment Study, the Nashua Recreation Master Plan, and Zoning Ordinance updates in Laconia and Concord. Assisting Woodward Planning Consultants, Inc., are Bruce C. Mayberry, Planning Consultant, of Yarmouth, Maine, and Rebecca Barnes of Barnes Resources Group/City Strategies of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bruce Mayberry, who drafted Salem's school impact fee assessment ordinance and

Recreation Master Plan, will be responsible for demographic and economic analysis, while Rebecca Barnes, who specializes in public information efforts, will coordinate the public participation program for the project. The transportation section is being prepared under separate agreement with the Rockingham Planning Commission of Exeter, and it will be incorporated within the full Master Plan.

The preparation of the Master Plan will be a year-long effort, and will include an extensive public participation program designed to elicit citizen input throughout the process. The Community Profile, held in January, 2000, is viewed as the lead-off event of the Master Plan project. Other events will include monthly sessions with the Planning Board (open to the public) devoted to Master Plan topics, two community forums, newsletters, posting of information on the Town's web site, and coverage of all events by local cable television, with occasional press releases.

I

'Build it before we all die'

◆ A battle over where to site the town's new senior center could push back construction until next year

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — A shovel in the ground by fall.

That was the goal of Russell F. Ingram when he donated \$500,000 of his own money to jump-start construction of the town's new senior center.

Four months after he announced his contribution to a standing ovation at Town Meeting, however, that time line is in serious jeopardy.

A dispute over the location of the center

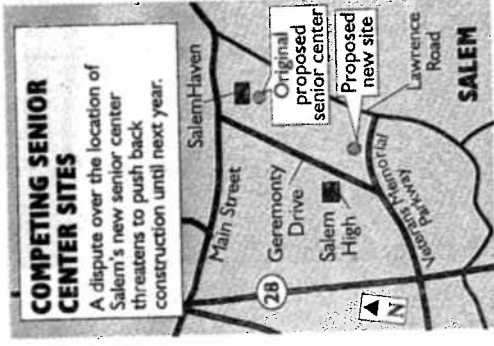
threatens to push back construction until next year, an unhappy prospect for town seniors, who make use of a center in the old Foss School on Lawrence Road that many say is too small and too outdated to meet the needs of the town's growing senior population.

But some seniors are less concerned about where the building will be located and more worried about when it would be built.

"Build it before we all die," said Angela Bramante, 85, of Salem, who was visiting the current senior center. She's the mother of gubernatorial candidate Fred Bramante.

"We need it desperately," said Carol Skinner, who helps serve food to seniors at the center through Meals on Wheels. "They should forget the conflict and just

Please see SENIOR, Page 2



Continued from Page 1

build it."

But the decision impacts more than just the town's seniors. Also at stake is the future course of development in the town center district, a rectangular area roughly bounded by Main Street, Lawrence Road, Veterans Memorial Parkway and Geremonty Drive.

Town Manager David W. Owen said the district was set aside for community activities in the town's original 1960s-era master plan. Despite the construction of a number of buildings since then, including Town Hall, Salem High School, SalemHaven nursing home, and Salem District Court, significant amounts of land remain undeveloped.

In 1998, selectmen voted to dedicate a tract of land behind Town Hall and adjacent to SalemHaven nursing home for a proposed senior/community center. It is that land on which some town officials and a majority of selectmen want to see the new center built.

By locating the senior center there, Mr. Owen said, other properties behind Town Hall would become available for development. Senior housing, a teen center, or other community facilities could be

built on the land, which would be accessible from Geremonty Drive by expanding the driveway of SalemHaven nursing home.

Another plot of vacant land, in Abenaki Park off Veterans Memorial Parkway, could be used for a proposed public safety complex that would combine the functions of the town's overcrowded police station and its central and southern fire stations, Mr. Owen said.

Richard R. Gregory, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said that while he doesn't necessarily support the idea of a combined police/fire complex, the Abenaki Park site would be the ideal location for it.

"If you were going to build it, you would want to build it on the main road," Mr. Gregory said.

However, the Abenaki Park site is also being eyed by Mr. Ingram and other members of the town's Senior Center Advisory Committee as a possible location for the senior center.

Mr. Ingram dismissed the need to set aside the land for the public safety complex, saying that the land is not big enough to accommodate it.

"They've been toying with this for 10 years and it will take another 10 years to do anything with it," he

said of plans for the public safety building.

Mr. Ingram and other members of the committee claim that town officials' "preferred site" for the center near SalemHaven is too costly, not visible enough, and could pose safety problems for seniors. The Abenaki Park site, in contrast, promises visibility and accessibility, they say.

To Mr. Gregory, however, the decision over where to build the senior center was already made by selectmen in their 1998 vote.

"There is no reason to change that," he said.

Mr. Gregory claimed Mr. Ingram's advisory committee has exceeded its mandate by looking at other sites, a notion also supported by advisory committee member and former selectman, Robert L. Ellis.

"Apparently some members of the committee didn't understand what the committee was formed for," Mr. Ellis said.

"If they had said to us up front that the Abenaki Park lot was off-limits, we wouldn't have looked at it," said Mr. Ingram, chairman of the advisory committee. "But after we looked at it, we liked it."

Mr. Ingram's belief in the superiority of the Abenaki Park site was

shared by several seniors gathered at the town's existing senior center yesterday.

"I don't think they should go back behind SalemHaven," said Ivy Krauss, 82, who was playing cards with two other women in the center's dining area, where water dripped from a leak in the ceiling caused by heavy rains. "It's hard to get to, it's more work, and you would think it would cost more."

But Mr. Ingram said he believes selectmen will reject any proposal to build at Abenaki Park, even if it proves cheaper than the site near SalemHaven — something that will be known in a few weeks when an engineering firm returns its cost estimates for providing road access and utilities to the Abenaki Park site.

If selectmen do reject the Abenaki Park proposal, he said, he would consider disbanding the advisory committee and bringing the issue back before Town Meeting next year.

"We're going to have to take it to the people," he said.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

RECON

LightChip facility begun in Salem



Pictured at the official ground-breaking for LightChip's new Salem office, from left: Chris Goodnow, Goodnow Real Estate; Mark Woglom, president, Opechee Construction Corp.; Bill Peck, LightChip president and CEO; N.H. Sen. Arthur Klemm Jr.; and Ross Moldoff, Salem planning director.

Officials of LightChip, Goodnow Real Estate, town and state officials and Opechee Construction Corp. have officially broken ground on LightChip's new corporate facility on Northwestern Drive in Salem.

The facility will enable LightChip to meet the demand of the telecommunications and cable markets for its innovative fiber optic network solutions, officials said.

The 65,000-square-foot facility is being designed, built and leased by Opechee to LightChip. Christopher Goodnow of Goodnow Real Estate provided real estate consulting and development advisory services to LightChip.

"Everyone at LightChip is excited about our planned new facility," said Bill Peck, LightChip's president and CEO. "This

space will enable LightChip to move aggressively to meet strong market demand for our solutions. It will help us to make a smooth transition to high-volume manufacturing."

Opechee Construction Corp. also has broken ground on a 37,375-square-foot block and steel facility for Interex International Exhibits of Amesbury, Mass. The new building will be located on a 4.23-acre site on Hunt Road in Amesbury.

The building will give Interex added office, manufacturing and warehouse space. The firm specializes in the design and fabrication of trade show exhibits, point-of-purchase displays and lobby displays. It also provides storage and refurbishment, installation and dismantling of trade show exhibits. ■

■ Nature in our back yard

8/3/00

Arrows to fly at deer

◆ No one spoke in support of the proposed bow-and-arrow ban in the Salem Town Forest.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Deer hunters will be allowed to carry their bows into the Town Forest for at least another year.

Last night, the Conservation Commission voted 7-0 to reject a proposed ban on bow-and-arrow hunting in the Town Forest, just two months after unanimously backing a similar ban on the use of muzzle-loading weapons.

The turnabout came following an hour of testimony by opponents of the ban, including local hunters, representatives of sportsmen's groups, and state

Please see **VOTE**, Page 2

Vote: Hunters win battle for forest

Continued from Page 1

fish and game officials.

Only one of those who testified said they had actually hunted in the Town Forest. But all argued that hunting did not threaten the safety of the runners, hikers, and joggers who have used the forest in increasing numbers in recent years.

"We're generally a very conscientious group," said Michael F. Edwards, New Hampshire editor of the New England Sportsman Network. "You learn very quickly that you have to take responsibility."

Dave Walsh, a conservation officer with the state Fish and Game Department, testified that there has never been an archery-related hunting accident in New Hampshire and that he has never received a hunting-related complaint from the Town Forest.

The forest, he said, is "not great deer habitat. It doesn't attract a lot of hunters."

Local bow hunter Gary J. Stachulski said that while he has not hunted in the Town Forest in the past, he would consider it. "If you shut this down, it's just another hardship," Mr. Stachulski said. "It's an option I really want to save for myself and my children."

Perhaps the most persuasive

argument, however, came from Andrew B. Santo, who told the commission that he deeded 10 acres of his own land near the forest to the town a few years ago with the stipulation that it be kept open for hunting.

"Now I have doubts whether I made the right move or not," Mr. Santo said.

Commission member Linda Harvey said she was unaware of Mr. Santo's stipulation. Had she known about the provision before the muzzle-loader vote, she said, "I'm not sure if I would have gone the same way."

In contrast to the 15 or so hunters who showed up to oppose the ban, no one testified in support.

"There was so much more turnout than last time," said Commission Chairman Thomas Campbell, referring to an earlier public hearing on the muzzle-loader ban that elicited no public comment. "It's exactly what we wanted."

Mr. Campbell admitted to being "a little surprised" at the result. But he added that the bow-hunting ban and muzzle-loader ban are "two separate issues" and pledged to advocate for the firearms restrictions when they come before the selectmen.

SALEM

8/7/00

Town violates wetlands rules

SALEM — Town public works crews have violated wetlands rules by conducting nonpermitted work in wetland areas, town officials acknowledge.

The work was part of a routine maintenance program to ensure effective storm-water drainage, according to Public Works Director Rodney Bartlett.

Continued from Page 9

Any work within the town that disturbs wetlands must be approved by the Conservation Commission. But Mr. Bartlett said he was under the impression that maintenance work of the kind conducted by the town did not require a permit.

Town Manager David W. Owen told the commission Wednesday night that the town will apply for an

after-the-fact permit to cover work that has already been done, and would seek a state permit to cover drainage maintenance townwide.

"We will get the town into compliance with this requirement," Mr. Owen said.

Commission Chairman Thomas Campbell requested that the town move quickly on the permit request and asked Mr. Owen to report the infraction to the state.

"We would expect the town to notify the state if any contractor in town did that," Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. Bartlett saw a silver lining in the situation, saying that town officials would now be forced to develop a systematic, townwide plan for drainage work.

He added that the drainage maintenance program would stop until next year or until the town receives a permit for the work.

SALEM

9/10/00

Landscapers will remain at site

◆ Despite the board's approval, the company's owner hopes to relocate to a larger site.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Four months ago, they didn't have a chance.

But this week, the owners of a local company that builds gardens for meditation and prayer got what they had been seeking since April: permission from the Planning Board allowing them to continue to operate part of their business from their Main Street home.

The board voted 6-0 Tuesday night to grant a permit to Meditation Gardens, a landscaping and masonry company.

The vote came four months after the board rejected an earlier permit request after finding that the exist-

ing business was violating a town ordinance.

At that time, the board was told that the company had been operating out of the home at 297 Main St. without a permit for two years, parking trucks and storing landscaping materials on the site.

Nearby residents also complained that the business was inappropriate for the neighborhood, which lies in Salem's historic district.

"This is a landscaping and construction business," said Kathy Burke of 293 Main St. "For that to be in our neighborhood, we're not happy with it."

The company's owner, Nancy Hammond, said she called Town Hall at the time she moved the business to the Main Street location and was not told she needed a permit to operate there.

"I didn't expect to have the kind of competition or objections we got,"

Please see VOTE, Page 14



Judy Emmert/Eagle-Tribune

This is the home of Meditation Gardens at 297 Main St. in Salem. The business won permission from the Planning Board this week to continue to base its office here.

gambling's take

BEDFORD — The special commission set up to evaluate various

planes at the Pease International Tradeport is considering moving part of its business to Ohio. Alliance Aircraft has struggled to raise money to build its factory in New

source the energy. number of ions in space.

Vote: Board lets company work on

Continued from Page 13

she said.

After the hearing in the spring, the town ordered Ms. Hammond to remove the trucks and materials from the site. In June, after complying with the order, she applied for a permit again. This time, she assured the board only office work would take place in the building.

The board had delayed action on the request, asking for more information on the site and clarification of some legal issues.

Last night, the board seemed satisfied with what it heard.

"It appears to me they've done everything we've asked them to do," said board member Gene Bryant.

Board members requested the Building Department report back in a year on whether the company is following town rules.

Melissa Turpin, an employee who represented the company before the board last night, was relieved at the result.

"We were a little nervous," Ms. Turpin said. "We've done everything possible to clean up the site."

The board's decision did not please Lois Mlocek, a nearby resident who has spoken out against the plan.

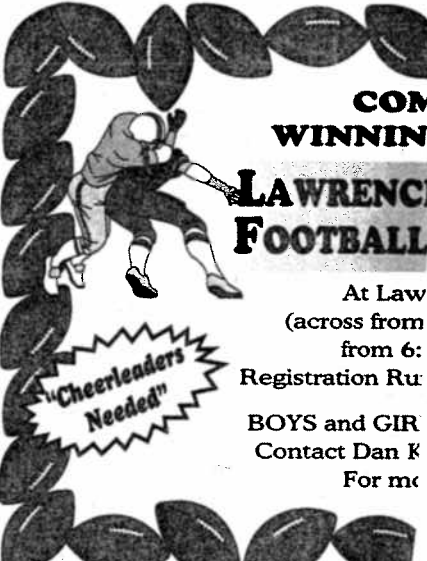
"It bothers us that they were in there for 2 1/2 years without a permit," she said. "I don't think neighbors should have to police what goes on in our neighborhood. There has got to be a better way."

Despite the board's go-ahead, Ms.

Hammond said the company's use of the Main Street site is only temporary.

The company is looking for a large-

er location at which it can display its gardens, house its office, and base its landscaping materials and truck, she said.



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BOYS and GIR
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For mo

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Needed"**



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Methuen, MA

This project is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
IN THE EAGLE-TRIBUNE**

SALEM

8/18/00

No senior center this year

◆ Construction of the center will not begin until next spring, at the earliest.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The future of the town's new Senior Center could hinge on the fate of an independent living complex proposed for land directly behind Town Hall.

The Senior Center Advisory Committee voted last night to delay a decision about where to locate the Senior Center until after the Planning Board has had a chance to review the proposed 144-unit assisted living development, which would house seniors over age 55 and be built by Common Development.

The committee's vote dashed the already fading hope of starting construction of the Senior Center this year.

"This year is out," said advisory committee chairman Russell F. Ingram, who, along with his wife, Roberta F., donated \$500,000

last spring toward construction of the Senior Center. "We're far enough along now that we can't do a thing until spring."

Town Manager David W. Owen expressed dismay at the committee's decision to delay the choice of a site, noting that designating a site now would allow design work to go forward over the winter months.

"At least we'd be doing something," he said.

Committee members said they hoped that construction of the assisted living complex, which would be located between the two sites under consideration for the Senior Center, would reduce the cost to the town of running roads and utilities to either site.

The committee's decision came after George Fredette of SFC Engineering Partnership Inc. told the committee that building the center in Abenaki Park off Veterans Memorial Parkway would cost approximately \$100,000 more than building it on the other proposed site near SalemHaven Nursing Home on Geremonty Drive.

Please see **CENTER**, Page 2

Abenaki Park site, Mr. Ingram said he still believed it was preferable to the site near SalemHaven.

"If Abenaki Park has visibility and accessibility, it should be the site for the Senior Center," he said.

But Selectman Everett P. McBride reiterated his concern that the Abenaki Park site is too small.

"You're going to limit the future growth of that center if you put it on a 3-acre site," Mr. McBride said.

Three of the five selectmen have already gone on record in support of the site near SalemHaven. Selectmen have the final decision on the matter.

A conceptual discussion on the plan is scheduled to take place before the Planning Board on Sept. 12. After that, the board would need to hold public hearings on the proposal, a process that could take months.

"We could be talking Christmas," said committee member David Tilton.

Even if the Planning Board does approve the development, the advisory committee will still be left with the thorny issue of where to build the center.

Despite the added expense of the

Ingram said.

But committee members believe those costs could be reduced if Common Development were to bear some of the cost of building a shared access road and extending water and sewer lines to the area.

There is no guarantee, however, that the Common Development plan will move quickly — or at all.

Jim Wieszeck, whose family owns the land on which the complex would be built, said the proposal was still "very early" in the planning stages, adding that at least two attempts to develop his property have fallen through over the past 11

Continued from Page 1

The increased cost, Mr. Fredette explained, was due to a steep slope on the Abenaki Park site that would need to be leveled and to the high cost of running water and sewer lines from Lawrence Road down Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Some committee members had hoped that the Abenaki Park site would prove less expensive than the site near SalemHaven. Neither site, committee members said, could be developed within the project's \$1.15 million budget.

"No matter which site you pick, the costs are prohibitive," Mr.

Kindergarten plan tabled for more traffic studies

8/24/00

by Carol Moore

SALEM - The Planning Board delayed approval for the Create and Discover Site Plan, a 70 student pre-school/kindergarten at 196 Main St. until another traffic study could be conducted.

The site is at the corner of Dunbar Terrace, and the plan includes using that residential street for entrance and egress to the parking lot, rather than adding another curb cut to Main St.

Residents of Dunbar Terrace made clear that their street couldn't take the additional traffic.

The street is only 22 feet wide and is already being used as a short cut to Route 28.

Sandra Buckley, 4 Dunbar Terrace said the street isn't ready to take 140 trips a day into the center.

"From two to six o'clock, when both the high school and Woodbury students are released from school, you can't even get out onto Main St.," she said.

Also, she added, parents park on Dunbar Terrace to wait to pick up their kids from Woodbury after school because it's the nearest street to Woodbury.

Neighbors are even more concerned about winter conditions when the snowbanks narrow the street even more.

Although a traffic study conducted by Police Chief Stephen

Mac Kinnon reported that there were only four accidents in three years at the intersection, Buckley said she had seen many accidents there.

"Under \$1,000 of damage, they don't have to be reported," she added.

Mac Kinnon's letter also suggested that no parking and no standing signs be placed on Dunbar Terrace, Buckley said she has four cars in her household and sometimes one of those cars is parked on the street in front of her house.

Norma Simon, 8 Dunbar Terrace said she felt that since traffic from every building on Main St. comes in and out of Main St., this building should not be different.

While Mac Kinnon was not present at the public hearing, he sent a letter indicating that the entrance and exit on Main St. was "not feasible." Also, an offer by Create and Discover owner, Carrie Tate, to "stagger the incoming traffic in 15 minute intervals" seemed to Mac Kinnon to require "military precision."

Tate said that there is a full-time director to monitor the parking lot during the drop-off and pick-up times.

Also, she said she had made an

arrangement for four extra parking spaces at the adjacent offices of Dr. Stanley Gorgol to be used by her staff which would free up spaces for parents in the kindergarten's parking lot.

Planning Board members were still concerned about traffic and were hesitant to approve the project until they could get a "live" Chief Mac Kinnon at a meeting so they could ask questions.

Planning Board member Maria Hamilton said she was concerned about the "regimented" drop off and pick up times.

"Parents take time for socializing," she said.

"How can this enforcement be achieved?" she added.

A suggestion that a special traffic officer be present at peak traffic times was something that Tate said they could probably not afford.

Chairman James Keller said he would like to see traffic consultant Steve Pernaw conduct another traffic study and member Robert Ellis concurred.

The Board voted unanimously to table the discussion until the Board's next meeting on Thursday, September 14.

Hamilton noted, "They can come back in two weeks. I don't know what the rush is."

8/24/00

New Senior Center building unlikely until at least 2001

by Carol Moore

SALEM - The proposed Senior Center building looks like it will not become a reality this year.

Last month, the Senior Center Advisory Committee requested that selectmen release a small amount of money from the funds put aside for the construction of a new Senior Center to obtain an engineering survey for an alternative site.

Selectmen have been favoring a site situated behind Town Hall and next to Salemhaven as an ideal spot for the new center. This site has been dubbed "Concept #3."

But, at a July 17 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, members of the Committee asked for the survey funding to explore the possibilities of building the center at "Abenaki Park," which is located at the corner of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Geremonty Drive.

The survey has been completed by George Fredette, of SFC Engineering Partnership, Inc. who also did the engineering study for the Concept #3 site.

The Abenaki site's estimated cost for sitework, utilities and offsite work comes to approximately \$499,200. The Concept #3 site

estimate came in at \$390,000.

Each site will require water and sewer extensions as well as new road construction and sidewalks.

Community Development Director James Turse said that for the overall construction costs for either site, they were assuming the same building "footprint."

The proposed 7,000 sq. ft. building is estimated at \$800,000, so it seems that either site will go over the \$1.15 million budget.

"Regardless of which site we choose, there may be a shortfall in funding," Turse said.

He added that the Abenaki site is a "very tight site."

"The site looks level from the road, but it's not," he added.

There will have to be a 17 foot cut into the hillside and a lot of earth-moving and blasting of from two to eight feet of ledge on various parts of the site.

There would have to be a 100 foot setback to the site leaving very little room for landscaping around the building. All the available space around the building will be utilized for parking spaces.

At the Senior Center Advisory Committee meeting held on August 17, it was decided to suspend dis-

cussion until it could be ascertained whether a proposed independent living development called "The

CENTER

Commons" might help the situation.

The Commons is proposed for land behind the current Town Hall building on land owned by the Wieszeck family.

Whichever site is eventually chosen, there might be an opportunity for some burden-sharing for offsite work and utilities.

Town Manager David Owen, however, announced at the August 21 selectmen's meeting that he had met Steve Lewis who is representing the developer. He said the Commons utilities would likely be coming in from Ewing Lane, not Veterans Memorial Parkway, and this may have an effect on the site selection for the Senior Center.

Also, Owen said it is possible the developer may want to wait to see what the town will do regarding utilities.

The Board of Selectmen has scheduled a special workshop ses-

sion on Monday, August 28 at 7 p.m. to conduct a joint meeting with the Senior Center Advisory Committee and representatives of the developer.

Russell Ingram, Chairman of the Senior Center Advisory Committee and benefactor for the project said, "It's discouraging. We're still on first base."

Ingram donated \$500,000 seed money at the March Town Meeting to get the project going.

He and his committee are definitely in favor of the Abenaki site.

"When [the selectmen] picked the Salemhaven site, nothing was said or done about accessibility. The road there would go a quarter of a mile up a steep hill. In the winter it would be treacherous," he said.

He added, "I didn't give my money to build roads; I gave my money to build a building."

From Page 1

Ingram said, "The 'war cry' now is that there would be no room for expansion on the Abenaki site, but I presented a plan for a 10,000 sq. ft. building with 91 parking spaces."

"It's time to get the public involved. There's no question the Abenaki site is the better of the two. Better visibility; better accessibility. There's no comparison."

The Commons development plan is scheduled to go before the Planning Board on September 12.

Until then—and perhaps beyond that date—the Senior Center building plan is in limbo.

"It might have to go to Town Meeting again," Turse said.

Pol

8/24/00

Loud parents will drown out speakers

◆ Michele Park issues have yet to be resolved.

By **Tony Dutzik**
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The sound of cheering fans and heckling infielders would likely "drown out" noise from new

loudspeakers proposed for Michele Memorial Park, a sound consultant hired by the town has found.

The finding came in an August 10 report filed by Robert S. Berens, a senior consultant for Acentech Inc. of Cambridge, Mass. The company conducted sound monitoring of a test loudspeaker system at three

locations in and around the park during baseball games held the night of July 28.

Mr. Berens wrote that the loudspeakers would be audible from Applewood Lane, which runs alongside the northern boundary of the

Please see **PARENTS**, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

park, but that the noise would not violate the town's noise ordinance.

The testing was part of a compromise brokered by selectmen in an effort to end a dispute between the Salem Youth Baseball Association and neighbors of Michele Park over the loudspeaker plan.

Neighbors of the park have complained that noise and lights from the park's baseball diamonds disturb the peace and quiet of their neighborhood and fear the new loudspeakers would make the situation worse.

Youth baseball officials contend the speakers are needed to allow Salem to host tournament games.

Mr. Berens acknowledged that results from the sound monitoring station at Applewood Lane "clearly show the influence of game-related sounds."

But he wrote that, from his own

observations of conditions on Applewood Lane, the crowd — not the sound system — was the major source of the noise.

"The loudest sounds were generated by cheering fans, as new batters came up to bat, sides changed, and, particularly, in response to exciting play on the field," Mr. Berens wrote. "When the sound system was used to announce a new batter, it was also audible, but was quickly lost in the crowd noise."

A monitoring station set up near Ansel Street, on the opposite side of the park, detected little noise either from crowd noise or the sound system.

Mr. Berens concluded that sound from the speakers would not exceed the 55 decibels allowed under the town's noise ordinance between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Should the speakers be used after 10 p.m., however, when the noise limits drop to 45 decibels, the speak-

ers would "likely exceed the limit," he wrote.

Salem Youth Baseball Association President Anthony F. Leonard, Jr. said he had not yet had the chance to review Mr. Berens' report. Representatives of the neighbors could not be reached for comment.

On June 13, the Planning Board gave conditional approval to the loudspeakers, provided they be shut off by 10 p.m. and used for no more than 25 games per year. As "landlords" of the property, however, selectmen must give their approval before the loudspeakers can be installed.

At the July 10 selectmen's meeting, more than 100 neighborhood residents and youth baseball supporters packed Town Hall to voice their opinions on the speaker plan. At the suggestion of selectmen, both sides agreed to town-monitored testing of the sound system and to meet to discuss their differences.

The first of those meetings took place Aug. 8. Mr. Leonard said much of the discussion revolved around issues other than the loudspeakers, including crowd noise, how the park is used, and possible spill-over from lights installed at the park last year.

Recreation Coordinator Julie A. Kamal said neighbors and league officials reached agreement on several issues. Youth baseball officials agreed to push back the starting time for Sunday morning games this fall, discourage coaches from showing up to the field early, and install a spotlight on the field's blockhouse that would allow the main lighting system to be turned off 10 to 15 minutes earlier each night.

The two sides are expected to continue their discussions before the selectmen during a September workshop. Ms. Kamal said the issue would likely come up on the agenda at either the Sept. 18 or Sept. 25 meeting.

Salem Observer

8/24/00

Moldoff receives national certification

SALEM - Ross A. Moldoff, a resident of Salem and the Town of Salem's Planning Director for the past 17 years, was recently certified as a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

In order to be certified, applicants must complete specific education and experience criteria and pass a comprehensive written examination on planning topics. AICP also requires its members to adhere to the standards of a detailed Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

Moldoff joins 13,000 professional planners who hold AICP certification nationwide.

I TOLD YOU WHERE I WANT IT... THAT'S
NOT IT!!!



L.W. Swann
Salem Observer

Senior Center site discussion tabled

by Carol Moore

SALEM - A workshop meeting scheduled by the Board of Selectmen for Monday, August 28 for further discussion of the site plan for the proposed Senior Center resulted in no action being taken by the Board.

The three-hour meeting was meant to receive input from a developer who is planning an assisted living complex behind Town Hall with regards to a possible burden-sharing of site improvement costs associated with construction of the Senior Center.

But, Steven W. Lewis of SLI Consulting who represented the

developer said the discussion was "premature."

"We've stepped into a lion's mouth here. Things have a life of their own. My client's plans are still at the conceptual stage. It's not a done deal," Lewis said.

The plan is scheduled to go before the Planning Board on September 14.

Selectmen have yet to determine the site for the proposed Senior Center.

The two sites in contention are "Concept 3" which is behind Salemhaven and Abenaki Park which is at the corner of Geremonty Drive and Veterans

Memorial Parkway.

While some of the selectmen are still calling Concept 3 the "preferred" site, the Senior Center Advisory Committee is pushing for the Abenaki Park site.

It seems there will be no agreement anytime soon.

The selectmen at times were in conflict with one another about which site to choose as well as whether the public would be allowed to speak at a workshop session.

There were more than 50 people in the Knightly Meeting Room, and many had to stand during the

three-hour discussion.

Senior citizens, who have a vested interest in the discussion, were clearly in the majority.

The Board did allow several members of the public to speak, including two members of the Senior Center Advisory Committee.

Members James Nicosia and Russell Ingram defended the Abenaki site and Ingram, who has pledged \$500,000 to the project, threatened to withdraw the money if the Abenaki site is denied.

The pros and cons of both sites were rehearsed with no consensus being apparent among the Board members.

Ingram asked selectmen directly why they would not give the Abenaki site up.

Chairman Richard Gregory responded that the site could be used for something else.

The idea of building a fire/police safety complex on that site has been batted around for years and Ingram made reference to that possibility by saying, "If this site is to

small for a Senior Center, how can you think about a safety complex there?"

Gregory noted that there was another piece of property east of the Abenaki Park site which is privately owned, but might be purchased by the town.

At this point Ingram took his stand.

"As long as Abenaki Park is available and there is not another site other than Concept 3, my money will not be available," he said.

It should be noted that construction on either site cannot be completed with the \$1.1 million budget and wherever the Senior Center is located, the issue will come up again at Town Meeting in March 2001.

Selectman Everett McBride then noted that the workshop meeting was being taped, but not telecast due to a candidate's forum being held at the Salem High School Media Center.

McBride said the Board should have more public input before a decision is made.

The Board then voted to table the discussion until September.

The vote was 4-1 in favor of tabling the discussion with Thomas Eden casting the dissenting vote.

■ See CENTER

Page 2

Editorials

The Sound and the Fury

On Monday, August 28 selectmen held a work session on the proposed Senior Center.

Three hours of intense discussion did nothing to move the project forward. In fact, it seemed to move the two factions further apart.

Currently, there are two sites in the running for the location of the proposed center: The so-called "Concept 3" site behind Salemhaven and the Abenaki Park site at the corner of Geremonty Drive and Veterans Memorial Parkway.

Each site has its proponents and opponents, and no one is willing to budge from their position.

Russell Ingram who has pledged \$500,000 for the project has threatened to withdraw the money if the Abenaki site is not chosen.

Selectmen maintain that Concept 3 is the "preferred" site.

The odd thing is that the project cannot be built on either site with the funds now available, and the project will have to go before voters again at the March 2001 Town Meeting for more funding in either case.

The selectmen tabled the Monday evening discussion until a meeting sometime in September.

At that time, we'll all jump back on the merry-go-round and no doubt still be steeped in disagreement.

More discussion at this point is moot, since we're at a standoff without enough money to complete the project at either site.

If Ingram withdraws his pledge, there is no way the Senior Center will be built without the voters picking up the entire burden.

Until there is site that all parties can agree upon that falls within the \$1.1 million budget, further discussion would be "full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." (Wm. Shakespeare - *Macbeth*, Act V, Scene V.)

Center

of debate

◆ Senior citizens are expected to pack tonight's meeting, which could decide the location of the town's proposed Senior Center.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — As selectmen prepare to decide the fate of the town's Senior Center tonight, senior citizens are making plans to boost their political muscle.

Russell F. Ingram, the man who donated \$500,000 toward the construction of the new center last March, then threatened to withdraw it two weeks ago, announced Friday the formation of a new group to advocate on behalf of seniors.

The new organization, to be called the Salem Senior Citizens Action Association, will be a nonprofit group that gives seniors a voice on matters affecting the town, he said.

"It's going to be something senior citizens can use as a platform to interact with the selectmen," Mr. Ingram said. "We think it's time we had a voice."

Mr. Ingram would not say who was behind the new

Please see SENIORS, Page 2

Seniors: Solution to location problem sought

Continued from Page 1

organization, other than to say it was a "joint venture." But he added that the group could be "meaningful at election time."

The announcement was just the latest sign of the frustration felt by both sides in the increasingly nasty dispute over where to locate the Senior Center. Selectmen are expected to settle the issue this evening.

Mr. Ingram and other members of the town's Senior Center Advisory Committee support building the center on a site adjacent to Abenaki Park off Veterans Memorial Parkway. They believe the site is more accessible and more visible than an alternative location near SalemHaven Nursing Home on Geremity Drive.

But a majority of the selectmen have gone on record in support of the site near SalemHaven.

Selectman Thomas D. Eden, one of the backers of the site, said that both pieces of property would be "ideal spots" for the Senior Center. But he added that, when other long-range projects are considered, the site near SalemHaven becomes "much more favorable."

The Abenaki Park site has been talked about as a possible location for a proposed public safety complex. And town officials have said that building the Senior Center near SalemHaven would open up more of the land behind Town Hall for future development.

The debate over the sites boiled over at the last selectmen's meeting on Aug. 28, when Mr. Ingram threatened to withdraw his \$500,000 contribution if the site near

SalemHaven was chosen.

"I'll give the Board of Selectmen a challenge," Mr. Ingram said at the meeting. "If you can find us a site other than (the site near SalemHaven), I'll accept that."

As long as the Abenaki Park site remains available and there is no other site, he said, "My money will not be used to build the building."

Mr. Ingram acknowledged that the new senior citizen advocacy organization would not be formed in time to influence tonight's vote. But seniors will likely find other ways to express their views to selectmen on the subject.

"I would expect that room will be filled Monday night," said Selectman Philip A. Smith, who supports the Abenaki Park site. Mr. Smith said he expected twice as many seniors to attend tonight's meeting as the 50 who showed up two weeks ago.

In addition, a petition circulating among seniors last week was reported to have garnered several hundred signatures.

Behind-the-scenes efforts were under way last week to find a compromise that could avert a conflict at tonight's meeting. But, as of Friday, those efforts appeared to be in vain.

"I don't see any movement," said Selectman Thomas D. Eden, who backs the site near SalemHaven. "But we have this weekend to work on it."

Late last week, Mr. Ingram said he expected tonight's meeting to be a "donnybrook," a situation he considered "very unfortunate."

"It's been a battle from Day One," he said. "We never dreamed that this would have happened."

Center: Salem finds a home after much debate

Continued from Page 1

before the board.

"I think it's imperative you listen to them," an emotional Mrs. McBride said of the senior citizens in the room, the majority of whom backed the Abenaki Park location.

"If I change your mind, fine. If I don't, I respect you," she continued, addressing her husband. "Reconsider, please."

After his wife's appearance, Mr. McBride acknowledged that he was "wavering in my support for the other location."

Minutes later, he abstained on a motion he had made at an earlier meeting designating the site near SalemHaven as the location of the Senior Center, sending the motion down to defeat, 2-2. Selectmen Richard R. Gregory and Thomas D. Eden supported the motion; Philip A. Smith and Ronald J. Belanger opposed it.

The board then called a five-minute recess, after which it returned and voted unanimously in support of the Abenaki Park site.

Mr. McBride later said he had second thoughts about his support for the site near SalemHaven earlier in the meeting, as a parade of senior citizens and other residents spoke in support of the Abenaki Park site.

But he conceded that his wife's appearance "kind of put me over the top."

"This was probably the toughest decision I've had to make," Mr. McBride said.

When asked whether she had addressed the board before, Mrs. McBride responded, "Did it look like it?"

Mrs. McBride's last-minute lobbying wasn't the only factor putting pressure on selectmen. Several earlier speakers suggested that board members could pay a political price if the site near SalemHaven was chosen and Mr. Ingram's contribution lost.

"I hope and I pray that you will change your mind," said Stephanie K. Micklon. "These people know what they want. You asked them; they told you."

James Nicosia, a member of the Senior Center Advisory Committee, presented selectmen with a "protest statement" signed by about 500 town residents in support of the Abenaki Park site.

"We are giving you the opportunity to redeem yourselves," said Mr.

Nicosia, speaking to Selectmen Eden, Gregory and McBride. "The ball is in your court."

The selectmen who changed their votes appeared to accept the outcome and expressed eagerness to get on with the process of building the center.

"It's not what I would have preferred, but now that it's been voted on, it's what's going to happen," said Mr. Eden.

Despite the jubilant reaction to the board's decision, serious work remains for planners of the center.

The biggest sticking point: finding enough money to build the facility.

Preliminary cost estimates for the Abenaki Park site put the center over its projected \$1.15 million budget, \$650,000 of which was approved by Town Meeting last March.

Mr. Ingram acknowledged that next year's Town Meeting could be asked to allocate additional money to complete the project. But thoughts of the future could do little to dampen his mood.

"I'm exuberant," he said.

9/12/80

■ Salem Senior Center

Abenaki Park gets the nod

◆ An impassioned appeal from a selectman's wife tipped the balance in the debate over the new Senior Center.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Three hours of testimony and an impassioned, last-minute appeal from the wife of a selectman brought about a stunning reversal last night, as selectmen chose Abenaki Park to be the site of the town's new Senior Center.

The vote was unanimous. A subsequent motion to solicit bids for design of the center was also approved.

Coming into the meeting, a majority of the board had gone on record in support of an alternate site near

SalemHaven Nursing Home on Geremonty Drive.

The dispute over the two sites had prompted Russell F. Ingram, who, along with his wife, Roberta F., donated \$500,000 toward construction of the center, to threaten to withdraw his support if the site near SalemHaven was chosen.

After the vote, the approximately 70 senior citizens who packed Town Hall for the meeting burst into a standing ovation and filed before the board to offer thanks to selectmen.

"It's a great night, huh?" said Mr. Ingram, who was a leading advocate of the Abenaki Park site, which sits off Veterans Memorial Parkway.

For most of the meeting, it appeared the board would vote to choose the site near SalemHaven. The turning point came when Doreen McBride, the wife of Selectmen Everett P. McBride Jr., spoke

Please see **CENTER**, Page 2

SALEM

9/15/00

Board likes housing plan

◆ Development of the complex could reduce the cost of building the town's new Senior Center.

By Tony Dutzik

Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Backers of a proposed 140-unit senior citizen apartment complex received a favorable reception from the Planning Board last night as they presented their plans to develop the area behind Town Hall.

The project, which is being proposed by Commons Development, went before the board for a conceptual discussion.

Steven W. Lewis of SLI Consulting outlined the developers' plans for the complex, which would be accessed via a new road leading from Veterans Memorial Parkway past the site of the town's proposed Senior Center.

Senior Center planners had hoped development of the new apartment complex could reduce the costs of building on the Abenaki Park site, which was chosen by selectmen Monday to house the center. Preliminary estimates indicate the Senior Center cannot be built at that site within its current \$1.15 million budget.

Mr. Lewis said the developers would work with the town on ways to split costs between the two projects.

"There is a lot of sharing we can do because (the Senior Center) is now a reality," Mr. Lewis said.

Under the plans outlined by Mr. Lewis, the road from Veterans Memorial Parkway would continue through the apartment complex, providing future access to town-owned property behind SalemHaven Nursing Home.

In addition, a gated driveway would connect with the parking lot behind Town Hall, giving emergency vehicles access to the apartment complex while providing residents with pedestrian access to Town Hall and Kelley Library.

The 140 units would be split among three buildings, with just over a third of the units being one-bedroom apartments and the others two-bedroom. Residency in the complex would be open to seniors 55 years and

Please see SENIORS, Page 2

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older.

The majority of the board voiced support for the plan, which is the latest of several development proposals for the privately-owned parcel immediately behind Town Hall.

"This is exactly what we were hoping would end up in that site," said board member Robert L. Ellis.

"I'm very happy someone came forward and I hope we can get it," said Richard R. Gregory, another board member.

But Chairman James Keller expressed concern that traffic from the complex would add to congestion at Veterans Memorial Parkway's intersections with Lawrence Road and Geremonty Drive.

"The Geremonty-Veterans intersection is horrendous as it is," Mr. Keller said.

The board's response was encouraging to Mr. Lewis, who said he would return in two weeks to seek inclusion of the project under special zoning guidelines intended to encourage the development of senior housing.

"We've done our homework," he said. "I don't think it could have gone any better."

The project will need to go through at least one additional public hearing before the board can vote on approval.

In other business, the board approved two proposed subdivisions — a 10-house development off Cluff Road and an 18-house project off Kelly Road. Several neighbors of the Kelly Road project voiced opposition to that development, citing worries that the project would worsen traffic problems at road's intersection with Route 28.

SPACE CRUNCH AT THE POLICE STATION

When selectmen voted to build the town's new senior center in Abenaki Park, they ended plans to build a public safety complex there.



■ Salem senior center 9/18/00

Site selection stunts police, fire growth

◆ Space is so tight at the police station that detectives sometimes have to go outside to find space to talk.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The first shovel won't go into the ground until at least next spring.

But by averting a nasty political battle and voting to build the

town's new Senior Center in Abenaki Park, selectmen last Monday virtually assured that seniors will soon have a spacious, gleaming, 10,000-foot-center to call their own.

Please see **CRUNCH**, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Spacious, however, is not a word that can be used to describe conditions just a short way down Veterans Memorial Parkway at the Salem Police Department.

There, 75 full-time and 25 part-time employees are crammed into a building smaller than the proposed senior center.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Route 28, a high number of ambulance and fire calls is driving the Salem Fire Department to look for better ways to serve the area.

On the surface, recreation for seniors, the police station space crunch, and fire protection needs might appear to be unrelated.

But when selectmen unanimously voted to build the Senior Center in Abenaki Park, they took away one of the prime sites town officials had been considering for a new public safety complex.

Fire and police officials had hoped the complex, which has been under discussion for nearly a decade, would provide police with the space they need to conduct their operations while freeing resources to expand fire and ambulance service in the western portion of town.

But now that the project is without a potential home, town officials are looking for other ways to address the town's public safety needs.

Nowhere are those needs more acute than at the Salem police station, where a chronic space shortage has forced police officers to take

unusual steps just to carry out their daily work.

An interview room and even a jail cell have been converted into storage space for evidence. Eight detectives share a common office, with no area set aside to interview suspects or victims of crime.

The problem has become so severe, according to Police Chief Stephen B. Mac Kinnon, that detectives walk around the station looking for open rooms in which to conduct interviews and even hold some discussions outside.

Chief Mac Kinnon said the current station is about 9,000 square feet, or about 120 square feet per full-time employee. Architectural standards, he said, dictate that each full-time police employee have a minimum of 306 square feet, a figure that includes space for the paperwork and evidence.

That would mean a new police station of between 28,000 square feet and 30,000 square feet, or three times the size of the current station.

Space is not the problem at the Salem Fire Department. The location of that space is.

Fire Chief John R. Nadeau said between 40 percent and 48 percent of fire and emergency calls come from west of Route 28. All three of the department's stations, however, are in the eastern part of town.

"I think everybody in town can understand the problems we have in dealing with traffic in the Depot," said Chief Nadeau of the intersection of Route 28 and Main Street.

Chief Nadeau said that even before his tenure as chief began in 1993, previous chiefs had looked to place a fourth fire station on the west side of town. Those requests, he said, were repeatedly denied for budgetary reasons.

The proposed public safety complex was seen as a compromise capable of solving both the police and the fire safety issues.

The idea, according to Chief Nadeau, was to consolidate the town's central and south fire stations into the new complex, freeing money that could be used to build a new fire station west of Route 28.

The combined building would also have allowed the police and fire departments to share training facilities and dispatching systems, as well as other costs.

The Abenaki Park site, with its easy access to Veterans Memorial Parkway, was seen as an ideal location for the complex, with easy access to Route 28 and the southern part of town.

But the site, and the concept, were not without critics.

Even those who opposed using the Abenaki Park lot for the senior center, such as Selectmen Chairman Richard R. Gregory, acknowledged the parcel was too small for the safety complex and that the town would need to buy adjoining land in order to make the project work.

Others, such as Selectman Ronald J. Belanger, opposed the public safety complex idea outright, claiming that building the complex would

prove too expensive and that residents in the southern part of town would oppose a shutdown of the town's south fire station.

Mr. Belanger said he sees the need for improved emergency service on the west side.

"Those people have no protection," he said.

But he argued that building a fourth fire station and rebuilding the police station on its current site would prove cheaper and more effective than a combined public safety complex.

That could be exactly the plan town leaders consider next. Town Manager David W. Owen said that the loss of the Abenaki Park site to the senior center dealt a serious blow to the concept of a combined police and fire facility.

"I don't know that I'd want to proclaim it officially dead," Mr. Owen said.

As of now, he added, there are no other potential sites for the complex.

Police Chief Mac Kinnon said he would ask for money next year to explore rebuilding the police station on its current 2-acre site. Meanwhile, Fire Chief Nadeau said he had proposed a "Plan B" for this year's Capital Improvement Plan that would include a fourth fire station on the west side.

Whatever happens, Chief Mac Kinnon hopes his department's space crunch is resolved soon.

"We'll support anything at all right now to get us a new facility," he said.

SALEM

9/19/00

Growth may leave town's elderly behind

◆ The town's population could reach 40,000 by the year 2020, the report suggests.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Bigger, older, and more expensive.

That is what Salem will become over the next decade should current trends continue, according to a draft report that will become part of the town's new Master Plan.

The report's findings will be presented to the Planning Board tonight as it has its first public meeting on the Master Plan, which is intended to guide future land use and development.

Using 1997 projections from the New Hampshire Office of State Planning, the report found that Salem's population, currently estimated at 28,500, will reach 32,990 by the year 2010 and could top 40,000 by 2020.

The increase in population will put an added strain on the town's housing supply. New residential development will swallow up an additional 1,830 acres in the next decade, the report projects.

Senior citizens will make up a larger segment of the population than ever before if current trends hold. From 1970 to 2000, residents 55 years and older grew from 12 percent to 20 percent of the population, while elderly residents, those 65 years and older, grew from 5 percent of the population to 12 percent.

"The aging of the population will begin to have a larger influence on the demand for services in the town," wrote the author of the report, consultant Bruce Mayberry.

Housing, already a problem for the elderly and people in low-income households, could become an even bigger issue in the years ahead, the report indicated.

The median price for an existing

"The aging population will begin to have a larger influence on the demand for services in the town."

Consultant Bruce Mayberry

single-family home was \$156,000 in 1999, an increase of about 25 percent over the last four years.

New homes were even more expensive, selling for an average of \$262,000.

Renters are taking a hit in the pocketbook as well. Median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the Salem area was \$800 in 1999, up more than a third since 1994.

Part of the reason for the jump in rental prices could be a decline in the production of multi-family units and mobile homes over the past two decades.

During the 1970s, 864 units of multi-family housing and a similar number of mobile home units were built in town. In the 1990s, however, only 216 multi-family units and 256 mobile homes were built, compared to 918 single-family homes.

To address the issue, the report suggested the town consider additional steps to promote construction of multi-family housing, particularly for low-income and senior citizen renters.

The report will form part of the basis for the Master Plan, which will also address recreation, transportation, economic development, conservation, public utilities and community facilities issues.

Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff said tonight's public meeting, which will take place at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, will be the first of five to discuss the Master Plan.

In addition, Mr. Moldoff said two public forums would be held to solicit input on the plan.

Seniors Housing Facility plan "looking good"

9/21/00 Observer

by Carol Moore

SALEM - A conceptual discussion of a proposed 140 unit seniors housing facility called "The Commons" received a tentatively positive reception at the September 14 Planning Board meeting.

The Commons is planned for the property behind Town Hall currently owned by the Wieszeck family and will be adjacent to the site of the proposed Senior Center at Abnaki Park.

The presentation made by Steven W. Lewis of SLI consulting was fairly short. He unveiled plans for a four-building complex of one and two bedroom units with a clubhouse attached to one of the buildings.

The complex will contain rental units and restricted to over age 55 in concert with its inclusion in the Elderly Overlay District.

The brightest note in the discussion concerned the fact that the road to the complex will enter from Veterans Memorial Parkway along

a right-of-way which will pass near the proposed Senior Center.

Both the developer and the Planning Board have hopes that some cost-sharing between the two projects would benefit both the owners and the Town of Salem.

Although water and sewer connections will be made from Lawrence Road, there is still an opportunity for the Senior Center to tie-in to the lines, perhaps reducing costs for utilities.

"There's a lot of synergy to make it work," Lewis said.

"We're going to see more stuff done right," he added.

The project was well-received by the Planning Board, but there are still some concerns.

The criteria for building in the overlay district are exact as to open space and setback requirements.

The project falls short of these requirements in a couple of areas, specifically near the proposed road.

Also, the requirements for massing and style, roof pitch, facades,

entrances, materials and design elements; paving, curbing and parking will need to be addressed.

Board member Phyllis O'Grady took exception to the plan to use vinyl siding on the buildings.

"This isn't allowed in the district," she said.

Lewis explained, "They've come a long way with vinyl siding and it's low maintenance."

He offered to bring a sample to the next meeting and have O'Grady judge for herself about its appearance.

Lewis was charged by the Board to put into writing what waivers he would need to get the project going.

The Board will have a chance to examine the list and see how each item can be worked out.

Although the requirements for the overlay district are stringent, the Planning Board has the right to issue a special use permit to provide exceptions from development standards, providing the complex meets several criteria.

A. Such exception is consistent with the purpose and intent of this Article.

B. The exception is in the public interest.

C. The exception will not aggravate or worsen the impact on adjoining residential areas

D. The exception will provide a

development opportunity that could not be otherwise obtained.

Several other matters need to be ironed out before the project goes forward.

Part of the land contains a house and business. The developers will have to obtain a variance for the business as on a non-conforming lot once the lot is sub-divided.

Also, the road will transgress a wetland area, so a state wetlands permit and a waiver from the Conservation Commission must be obtained.

Another concern is traffic impact, especially on the intersections of Veterans Memorial Parkway and Geremonty Drive and Veterans Memorial Parkway and Lawrence Road.

Board Chairman James Keller said, "The traffic at the Geremonty intersection is horrendous and getting worse."

Lewis said he fully expected to provide a traffic impact study.

The next appearance for the developers is scheduled for the September 26 Planning Board meeting.

At that time, the Board expects to have reviewed the Overlay District Ordinance and Lewis' list of anticipated waivers.

Public input will help form new Master Plan for Salem

by Carol Moore

SALEM - On Tuesday evening, the Planning Board held a free-wheeling, brainstorming workshop on Salem's new Master Plan.

The workshop is the first of five planned to extend into summer 2001.

Also, there will be two public forums scheduled for residents to bring forward their ideas for planning Salem's future.

In preparation for the new Master Plan, a Salem Community Profile was developed utilizing the input from more than 130 residents who turned out in January, 2000 to brainstorm what's good and what's bad about Salem.

The result was the Salem Community Profile Report developed by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

The Report covers such issues as growth, traffic management, facilities, infrastructure, form of government, leadership, transportation, education, community services, economic vitality, natural resources, and citizen participation.

The scope of the Report seems overwhelming, but many of the issues overlap into several areas.

The first workshop for the Master Plan included information from that Report, but was limited to population growth and facilities.

That discussion will continue into the next workshop which is scheduled for sometime in November.

Other issues will be discussed at the subsequent workshops, and the overall future of Salem will be addressed at the two public forums which will be held on Saturdays for the convenience of Salem residents.

The first workshop put forward ideas on goals and objectives in population and housing. Douglas Woodward of Woodward Planning consultants, Inc. and David Walker of the Rockingham Planning Commission reviewed both the Community Profile and Salem's 1992 Master Plan.

Public input was encouraged during the discussion and, by and large, it mirrored many of the issues brought forth in the Community Profile.

On population and housing, it is projected that the 2000 population will be 28,500. This is an estimate, but after receipt of the 2000 U.S. Census figures, a more exact figure will be available.

It seems there was a peak devel-

opment period in the 1960s and 1970s, and in spite of the perception, the growth rate has actually slowed.

Planning Board Chairman James Keller noted that the reason for this perception is that during that time, we didn't address growth properly and we are seeing those effects now.

"It's an aggregate effect," he added.

Board member Maria Hamilton added that the population estimates don't give a true picture of the infrastructure impact. While growth may have slowed, the new population is not "evenly dispersed."

This particularly shows up in the elementary school population. Some areas of town have leveled off in adding to the student population, while other parts of town still have available land and are still adding new housing developments each year.

Another issue is that our popula-

tion is aging, and there is—and will continue to be—a need for affordable elderly housing. Currently, the elderly represents 12 percent of the population; in 2005 it is estimated that the elderly will comprise 20 percent of the population.

Former president of the Salem Housing Authority Del Downing addressed this issue, as well as affordable housing for other segments of the population.

"There is a real need for public housing," he said. He cited the affordable housing ordinance that allowed affordable single-family housing on Gile Road and the affordable apartment units on Pleasant St.

Planning Director Ross Moldoff said that ordinance is still on the books and we should "re-invigorate" that.

Moldoff added that a Master Plan should be flexible. "Tower antennas weren't even thought of in 1992."

SALEM

9/26/00

Hunt Still on in Town Forest

◆ Signs will be posted warning hikers of the presence of hunters during deer season.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

ban firearms in the 235-acre tract off Route 111.

SALEM — Hunting will continue in the Town Forest, after selectmen unanimously voted last night not to

the forest — be banned. Following an outcry from hunters, the commission voted in August not to place similar restrictions on bow hunting.

Currently, hunting is allowed in the forest only during deer season and only with a special permit issued by the Salem police. Seven permits were issued last year.

However, some commission members had expressed concern that hunting was not compatible with the increased use of the forest by hikers and bicyclists.

Last night, even those who originally supported the firearms ban,

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such as Selectman Thomas D. Eden, changed their positions.

The reason, according to Mr. Eden, was the discovery of a condition that had been placed on the transfer of 10 acres of the forest to the town that the area remain open for hunting.

"If we start, at a later point of time, messing with those conditions, you're not going to have anybody selling land to this town," Mr. Eden said.

Conservation Commission member Linda Harvey, who also originally voted for the firearms ban, agreed with the selectmen's decision to maintain the current rules on hunting.

"If I had known about that condition, I never would have voted to ban the muzzle-loaders," Mrs. Harvey said.

Mrs. Harvey told selectmen the commission would work to ensure users of the forest are aware of the presence of hunters during deer season. Three signs will be posted warning hikers and others to wear hunter orange.

In addition, two signs will be posted marking the boundary between the Town Forest and adjacent private property.

In other business, selectmen approved a three-year agreement with Field of Dreams for management of the park on Geremonty Drive. The town agreed to continue programming events and conduct-

ing trash and litter pick-ups and to provide portable toilets for the park, which is financed through private donations.

Gave the Salem Youth Baseball Association permission to install an irrigation system, a paved service road and landscaping at Michele Memorial Park. Selectmen delayed approval of two scoreboards at the park until after the Recreation Advisory Committee and neighborhood residents are consulted.

Agreed to solicit bids for the widening of Pelham Road, which could begin next year.

Authorized the spending of \$11,260 for engineering work on road and water service improvements in the areas of Liberty Street and Ermer Road.

Cisco: New Hampshire has appeal

Continued from Page 1

ing partners and strengthen its ties with the academic world.

Cisco already is working with technical schools and colleges to train young people for the company's work.



John Morgridge

"This is a great opportunity for Cisco, and the state of New Hampshire," said John Morgridge, Cisco's chairman of the board, who started his technology career 40 years

ago with the company that would become Honeywell.

"I hope New Hampshire takes the opportunity in this strong economy to invest in its education system. There's no reason why this state should not have a premier engineering school."

Already, Cisco operates Network Academies in 25 New Hampshire schools. The academies help prepare students for the demands of the technology economy and create a qualified talent pool.

New Hampshire Gov. Jean Shaheen welcomed Cisco to the plant that once housed the Digital Equipment Company.

"We're happy to see them put down roots here in New Hampshire, and we're here to help make sure they grow those roots in any way possible," Gov. Shaheen said.

Until recently, New Hampshire could claim the highest percentage of population employed in technology jobs.

"Colorado has eclipsed us, but with Cisco, we intend to take that back," Gov. Shaheen said.

Part of New Hampshire's appeal to Cisco was its trained work force.

The tight job market across New England won't be an obstacle, Mr. Morgridge said.

"In our industry, one of the beauties is that we live off the dying," he said. "There's a lot of new growth,

but there are also those in decline. In the competitive world, they provide fertilizer for the growing companies."

Cisco's job fair 10 days ago was expected to draw about 1,000 applicants. Instead, it drew 4,000 job seekers.

Company officers credit Cisco's reputation.

"We will build optical products in the way we built electronics systems in the past," said Carl Redfield, senior vice president of worldwide manufacturing.

Under the company's "virtual manufacturing" process, 90 percent

of customer orders from Cisco are filled by companies that have contracts with Cisco to assemble its components. Farming out the assembly and manufacturing work leaves Cisco's employees free to build on existing technology and launch improved products.

Customers are hungry for improved products, said Carl Russo, Cisco's vice president of Optical Networking Products.

Fiber-optic technology has the capacity to handle three terabytes of information at once.

"That's comparable to going from a three-lane road to 300 lanes, with

onramps that are five lanes wide themselves," Mr. Russo said. It's a system capable of handling the data equivalent of 250 million simultaneous telephone calls.

Cisco controls about 75 percent of the market that links networks and the Internet, including routers and switches. It has bought more than 450 companies since 1993 and has another \$10 billion set aside for purchases in the future.

The company's stock, whose value has fluctuated from a low of about \$33 a share to a high of \$82 a share in the last year, closed yesterday at 56.

Cisco cheers Salem opening

10/4/00

◆ Cisco Systems throws a house-warming party for its 600,000-square-foot New Hampshire manufacturing plant.

By Molly Manchenton
Eagle-Tribune Business Editor

SALEM — Steamed lobsters, cold beer and a steel-drum band provided the entertainment when Cisco Systems of California opened its new plant in Salem yesterday.

At its New England Manufacturing Center in Salem, Cisco Systems

will develop fiber-optic technology to meet exploding demands for Internet service. The company closed on the property in late July, and 10 days ago shipped its first products to customers. Only a fraction of the 674,000-square-foot factory — big enough to house 20 football fields — is in use right now.

Over the next three years, however, the California-based high-tech company intends to hire 2,500 people, develop more advanced ways to use fiber-optics to deliver information, establish manufacturing methods it can pass on to its manufactur-

Please see **CISCO**, Page 4

Senior Advisory Committee still part of building process

by Carol Moore

SALEM - Efforts to move forward with the proposed Senior Center at Abnaki Park continued at the Selectmen's Monday, October 2 meeting.

Initially, there was a notion that the Senior Center Advisory Committee's work was done when the site was selected.

But, through a debate and subsequent motions, it was decided that the Advisory Committee still has important work to do.

Russell Ingram, Chairman of the Senior Center Advisory Committee and benefactor for the project, wrote a letter to selectmen on September 14 indicating that he

felt it was still appropriate for a smaller group of Advisory Committee members to be involved in reviewing the design proposals and final plans.

In addition, he suggested that the original "design/build concept" should be revised to separate design and construction services.

Selectmen agreed and voted to revise the Request for Proposal documents.

The issue of the Advisory Committee having input into the design of the building led some selectmen to be a little cautious.

Selectman Thomas Eden expressed concerns that the building would be designed by a "committee" and he was very uncomfortable with that.

"That's not the way it's done; not by committee, but by people who know what the hell they're doing," Eden said.

Advisory Committee member David Tilton took Town Manager David Owen to task for eliminating the Committee's right to review and comment on the plans from the Request for Proposal documents.

"How can you as an individual remove us from this process?" he asked.

Owen said he had deleted [the Committee] because he felt it was clear that the Committee was to advise the Board only on siting.

Tilton responded that the deci-

sion was under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen, not Owen.

"To shut the door on our face is not right. I'll get 500 people down here to protest. Your face will be as red as your shirt," Tilton said.

Selectman Philip Smith cooled the situation by saying, "[with] more minds working on [the building] we'll come out with the best product."

Selectman Ronald Belanger agreed that the Board would have a better idea of what the seniors are looking for if they had input.

There was a concern that the Advisory Committee would then be in a position to veto anything they did not want, but Belanger said, "Let them come up with suggestions; they wouldn't have veto power over anything."

Eden softened his stance suggesting that the Committee could be updated every two months with status reports and be able to see preliminary designs for review, but he was "not interested in dealing with 500 people standing at the podium."

Ultimately, the Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen came to a compromise agreement that the Board would "Meet with the Chairman or a designee of the Senior Center Advisory Committee to present [plans] for review, comments and revision if necessary. A minimum of four meetings will be scheduled for this process."

Thus, the Advisory Committee is still intact and may still hold meetings, but only one member will

■ See SENIORS

Page 5

Sign limits eyed to clean road 'clutter'

◆ Parking regulations and guidelines for home businesses could also come up for review.

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The Planning Board could take a fresh look at restrictions on commercial signs along cluttered Route 28, members indicated at a work session on possible zoning amendments last night.

The subject has been a touchy one in recent years, with town officials seeking ways to rein in the number and size of signs along the cluttered highway, to the displeasure of some business owners.

Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff told the board there were perhaps a dozen revisions to the town's sign ordinance that he would propose. But he suggested that the board focus on limiting the size of new free-standing signs in the zoning district that includes Route 28.

Pointing out that the proposal

would only cover newly erected signs, board member Robert L. Ellis said the restriction could create a situation in which older signs grandfathered under the current ordinance would overwhelm the newer, smaller signs.

"I understand the concerns of the people who are trying to put up their signs," Mr. Ellis said. "It does put them at some kind of disadvantage."

That concern prompted member Gene Bryant to suggest setting a time limit after which older, nonconforming signs would have to come down.

"Do you get to keep a sign for 50 years no matter how ugly it is?" he asked.

Mr. Moldoff responded that such a policy would not be allowed under state law. Still, members of the board appeared interested in pursuing the matter further and suggested that minor amendments to the ordinance might not be enough to address the problem.

"If we're going to target Route 28,

Please see **SIGNS**, Page 14

Continued from Page 13

maybe we ought to look at it closely," said board member Richard R. Gregory, who suggested the board take up the issue as a longer-term project.

Mr. Moldoff acknowledged that it might not be possible to complete such a review in time to propose changes to the sign ordinance by next year's Town Meeting, but he added that the issue could come up for discussion in the formulation of the town's new master plan.

The board also discussed several other possible changes to the zoning laws, including revising the number of parking spaces required of restaurants and child care centers and reviewing the regulations governing major home occupations.

Any proposed changes to the zoning ordinance need to be submitted by the Planning Board by December. Public hearings would follow and voters would have the final say at the ballot box in March.

In other business, plans for a 140-unit senior citizen apartment complex behind Town Hall crossed an important first hurdle as the board

approved the project's inclusion under a special zoning provision designed to encourage senior housing.

The plan, proposed by Commons Development, still must pass a full review by the Planning Board.

Mr. Moldoff said the special zoning provision enables developers to build housing at a higher density than they would otherwise be allowed under zoning laws.

Commons Development has proposed restricting rental of the apartments to those 55 and older. Access for the complex would come from a road running from Veterans Memorial Parkway past the site of the town's proposed new Senior Center.

In two other matters, the board also gave the go-ahead for the construction of a new shed, greenhouses and growing area at Lake Street Garden Center at 37 Lake St. and approved a new ride called "Flying Angels" to be installed at Canobie Lake Park.

Tony Dutzik covers Salem for The Eagle-Tribune. He can be reached at (978) 946-2263, by mail at Box 100, Lawrence, MA 01842, or by e-mail at tdutzik@eagletribune.com.

10/12/00

"The Commons" moving forward

by Carol Moore

SALEM - So far, the Planning Board seems pleased with the conceptual plan for "The Commons," a 140 unit senior housing facility planned for the area behind Town Hall and next to where the Senior Center will be built.

Steven Lewis of SLI Consulting appeared before the Planning Board for the second time on Tuesday, October 10 to advise them of the preliminary design for the project.

The proposed project is situated in the "Elderly Overlay District," and as such, must achieve certain criteria with regards to use, design, setbacks and landscaping.

Lewis went through a checklist of 25 items with the Board, and received positive comments from

its members.

Board member Richard Gregory said The Commons is "the right project for the right spot."

Planning Director Ross Moldoff said, "This is the site we all had in mind for Elderly Overlay District. It's a great site for this type of project."

In effect, should the project be approved, there is a distinct possibility that there will be a "linkage" from Veterans Memorial Parkway, through the Senior Center, behind the Courthouse and Town Hall clear through to Salemhaven which will include walking paths.

The Board unanimously approved a motion that the project

■ See COMMONS

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COMMONS.....

From Page 2

meets the criteria of the Elderly Overlay District.

The next step will be for the Planning Board to grant three waivers, which is its right in the Elderly Overlay District.

The waivers the developer is seeking are for the 50 percent open space, which the developer feels is met by the inclusion of a courtyard; the setback requirement of 50 ft., where the project has

only 25 ft., but doesn't include a right of way dedicated to the town; and the issue of subdividing the 14 acre parcel owned by the Wieszeck Family, leaving the existing buildings short of the setback requirements.

Still to come is a traffic study to deal with opening a new road on Veterans Memorial Parkway for The Commons and the Senior Center.

Editorials

The natives are restless

In the past decade, we have seen a growing trend of Salem residents to "just say no" or "just say whoa!"

It began with the Rosen Development on Route 28 which is now the site of Best Buy and other stores.

The abutters to the mini-mall rose up with a terrible fury claiming that the development would impact their neighborhood adversely. The Planning Board agreed, but its decision was overturned in a court appeal.

The Old Rockingham Road neighborhood fought a years-long battle against Wal-Mart. While they got some concessions, Wal-Mart is there to stay and is, in fact, expanding.

Then came the proposed Senior Center. It turned into a veritable tennis match between the Senior Center Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The tussle about where the Center would be erected came right down to the wire, but the Senior Advisory Committee won.

Fast on the heels of that debate was the tug and pull between the Salem Youth Baseball League and the residents abutting Michele Memorial Park. That had to do with lights, a public address system and, still to be decided, a sound barrier.

Dunbar Terrace residents are still awaiting the final verdict from the Planning Board about a pre-school/kindergarten that is planned for the corner of Dunbar and Main St. They cite traffic and parking concerns that they feel would disrupt their neighborhood.

The latest is the issue of North Policy St. residents resisting a plan to place wooden guardrails along 2500 feet of Canobie Lake shoreline on that street. Not only do some of these residents have deeded access to the lake, but in all cases, the shoreline is virtually their "front yard."

The natives are restless.

In a small-town way, the people are trying to "take back their streets" and are giving new meaning to "not in my back yard"—and "not in my front yard, either."

Sometimes the natives win; sometimes they lose, but the New Hampshire motto "Live Free or Die" is alive and well in Salem.

10/17/00

Selectmen slash proposals to spare tax rate

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Scrambling for ways to offset steep increases in energy and health insurance costs, selectmen last night began the process of scaling back their list of proposed warrant articles for next year's Town

Meeting.

Town Manager David W. Owen said approximately \$1 million will need to be cut from an estimated \$6 million in separate warrant articles to prevent an increase in the town's tax rate.

Selectmen took up the challenge last night, nixing about \$430,000 in

proposed articles for improvements to the finance area of Town Hall, a new wheeled excavator and front-end loader for the Public Works Department, and personal alert safety systems for the Fire Department.

Please see **TAX**, Page 12

Selectmen narrowly voted not to cut \$50,000 for a proposed study of the future of the Rockingham Park racetrack area. Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff said the study was needed in light of the recent debate over the future of video gambling.

If video gambling is legalized, Mr. Moldoff said, "There are going to be all sorts of changes. Are we prepared to deal with that?"

Selectman Everett P. McBride said the study would be needed even if gambling laws remain the same.

"If new gambling doesn't come, Rockingham Park won't be there in five years," he said, adding that the town should be prepared to work with the track's owners to chart the future course of the site.

Selectmen Phillip A. Smith and Ronald J. Belanger opposed the study, with Mr. Belanger saying he believed it was premature.

Selectmen held off on votes on a proposed \$335,000 tanker for the Fire Department and equipment for the Public Works Department. Selectmen will continue their review of proposed warrant articles over the next two weeks, casting final votes before the end of the month.

Southern N.H. is booming

10/20/00

◆ New Hampshire's growth rate over the past decade can be considered explosive.

By Jeffrey Klineman
Eagle-Tribune Writer

If it seems as though there are a lot more houses, people, and traffic jams in the Merrimack Valley than there were a decade ago, the U.S. Census Bureau says your eyes aren't deceiving you.

Greater Lawrence and Southern New Hampshire are the fastest-growing regions north of Boston, and they are outpacing population growth throughout the Northeast, according to population data released today.

The Census Bureau information is based on 1990 data and updated through administrative records from 1990 to 1999. The results come in advance of the results from Census 2000, which will become public in late December.

The studies reveal several population shifts. Locally, data show the following:

The Lawrence metropolitan region, including Essex County and parts of Rockingham County, N.H., grew by 10 percent, or 35,199 people, from 1990 to 1999. The Boston metropolitan area grew at approximately one-fifth that rate, or 2.2 percent, adding 69,422 people in the same period.

The fastest-growing area towns in Essex County are also the smallest: Boxford grew by 46 percent; Middleton, 26 percent; Merrimac, 18 percent and West Newbury, 19 percent.

North Andover showed the fastest rate of growth among larger Merrimack Valley towns, growing by 20



Mark Lorenz/Eagle-Tribune

New homes (above) under construction on Sarah's Way, off Main Street in Hampstead, reflect Southern New Hampshire's booming population. In many places, woodlands have given way to new housing. Areas like this have sprung up as part of the tremendous population growth around the region, especially in the suburban towns. The chart at right explains the town-by-town growth over the past decade.

POPULATION ON THE INCREASE

MASSACHUSETTS

COMMUNITY	POPULATION IN 1999 (est.)	POPULATION IN 1990 (est.)	PERCENT CHANGE
Amesbury	16,142	14,972	7.8%
Andover	31,852	29,325	8.6
Boxford	9,174	6,266	46.4
Georgetown	7,756	6,629	17.0
Haverhill	55,525	51,090	8.7
Lawrence	69,794	69,995	-0.3
Merrimac	6,110	5,192	17.7
COMMUNITY	POPULATION IN 1999 (est.)	POPULATION IN 1990 (est.)	PERCENT CHANGE
Methuen	42,364	40,139	5.5%
Middleton	6,183	4,921	25.6
Newburyport	16,874	16,324	3.4
N. Andover	27,284	22,861	19.3
Salisbury	7,274	6,880	5.7
W. Newbury	4,062	3,418	18.8

NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMUNITY	POPULATION IN 1999 (est.)	POPULATION IN 1990 (est.)	PERCENT CHANGE
Atkinson	6,651	5,122	29.9%
Chester	3,533	2,734	29.2
Danville	3,487	2,465	41.5
Derry	32,170	29,635	8.6
Hampstead	8,005	6,823	17.3
Hampton	13,207	12,279	7.6
Kingston	6,030	5,542	8.8
COMMUNITY	POPULATION IN 1999 (est.)	POPULATION IN 1990 (est.)	PERCENT CHANGE
Londonberry	22,993	19,725	16.6%
Newton	4,056	3,533	14.8
Pelham	11,300	9,408	20.1
Plaistow	7,973	7,257	9.9
Salem	28,158	25,746	9.4
Sandown	5,001	4,054	23.4
Windham	10,431	8,987	16.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Continued from Page 1

percent, to nearly 27,300 from 22,800 a decade ago.

Haverhill showed the fastest rate of growth among Merrimack Valley cities, growing almost 9 percent, to 55,500 from 51,000.

Lawrence did not lose nearly as many people as earlier population estimates had indicated it would. Its population declined by 201 people, or .3 percent. The city had about 69,000 residents in 1999.

The city is the 13th biggest in Massachusetts, behind Somerville (74,000) but ahead of Waltham (59,000). Last June, Secretary of State William F. Galvin estimated that Lawrence's population would drop to 54,000 people, smaller than Haverhill.

People are moving north of Lawrence, and north of the Massachusetts border, to New Hampshire towns like Salem (up 9 percent), Plaistow (up 10 percent) and Pelham (up 20 percent). Derry (up 9 percent) and Londonderry (up 17 percent) also showed significant growth.

The fact that Lawrence's population appears to have held steady must come as a relief to Lawrence's state representatives. Losing a large number of people could have cost Lawrence one of its three seats on Beacon Hill. A sharp decline in population could have also cost the city mil-

lions in federal tax dollars for schools and police.

"The whole area has exploded," said state Rep. Arthur J. Broadhurst, Jr., D-Methuen. "But the expansion of Haverhill and Methuen have also driven the cost of housing up so high that young people have been priced out. They're looking to Lawrence and the surrounding communities."

Rep. Broadhurst acknowledged that the cost of housing may also have driven Massachusetts residents over the border.

"But I think you'll see it slow and start to go the other way as they come to realize New Hampshire is no bargain," he said.

The population of Rockingham County grew by nearly 11 percent in the past nine years, outpacing Essex county, which grew at a rate of just under 5 percent.

The figures from the Census Bureau, particularly those showing high growth rates in small towns, is part of a larger national trend, according to Professor Gerald E. Frug, who teaches local government law at Harvard University.

"Middle-class whites are moving out," he said. "Out of both of the cities and of the inner suburbs. They are being replaced in fancy areas (of cities) by rich people. They are being replaced in not-fancy areas (of cities)

by immigrants. Big cities are now stabilizing in population — a few are growing a tad — but are changing their population mix considerably."

The people moving to the small towns create sprawl, but at the same time, they hate it, according to Professor Frug.

"The people in the small towns see the newcomers as changing the environment and they're mad," he said. "They support 'smart growth.' The people moving in want to keep the towns 'the same.' That is, after they get there, they want no one else to move there. In other words, they support 'smart growth,' too."

Nationally, the data show that the Northeast is losing population to other regions of the country.

Cities of more than 10,000 people are losing population in the Northeast, but are gaining people on the West Coast, Texas and the Southeast, particularly Central Florida.

Three of the six fastest-growing cities in the country are in the Las Vegas area.

New England cities lost population overall, while cities in the South, Midwest, and West gained population. While New England suburbs continued to grow slowly in population, increasing by about 4 percent, suburban growth shot up all over the rest of the country, increasing by 14 percent.

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Saturday, October 21, 2000

Fight over lake frontage may end up in court

By Tony Dutzik
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM, N.H. -- It is the type of situation that comes before zoning boards all the time:

A property owner appeals to be allowed to build on his land, and nearby residents show up at the meetings to praise or criticize those plans.

What is unusual about the conflict over a piece of lakefront property in North Salem is the background of the combatants.

The would-be developer, James Holland Jr., is himself a member of the Zoning Board. And one of the neighbors opposing him, Edward S. Suffern, just happens to be one of two men removed from the board earlier this year in a controversial shake-up that saw Mr. Holland appointed as a full-time member.

So far, Mr. Holland's appointment to the board hasn't helped his case. But despite a series of defeats, he is not giving up on his plans to build a single-family house on the property -- setting up the unusual scenario of a town official suing the town over a decision made by the board on which he sits.

"I figured once I got on (the Zoning Board) maybe I would understand the process and not be so bitter," said Mr. Holland, who also serves on the town's Conservation Commission and is a candidate for state representative. "I still can't fathom why it's going the way it's going."

The dispute stretches back to 1998, before Mr. Holland was appointed as an alternate to the Zoning Board. Mr. Holland requested a building permit for a house on the five-acre lot at 320A N. Main St. that he bought from his father-in-law for a nominal sum in 1996.

With about 700 feet of frontage on Arlington Lake, the lot would make an ideal -- and potentially lucrative -- spot for

would make an ideal -- and potentially lucrative -- spot for residential development.

There is only one problem, though: The property has no road frontage, bringing into play a state law that bars the development of properties without frontage except in very limited circumstances.

To get to the property, one has to use a driveway on a 10-foot right-of-way across Mr. Suffern's property.

Mr. Holland claims that the town's Planning Board granted a 50-foot right-of-way across the property when it approved a subdivision of the land in 1976. But the right-of-way was never recorded on the deeds for the two lots.

The prospect of effectively ceding a chunk of his land is not one that pleases Mr. Suffern, who served on the Zoning Board for nine years before selectmen declined to reappoint him in April.

"I'm very concerned about the fact that he's trying to claim land," said Mr. Suffern. "I'm going to be losing property."

To Mr. Suffern, the legal issues in the case are clear. The state law, he said, clearly indicates that development is not permitted without street frontage.

"He's got 10 feet. That's not adequate for today's standard. The thing was created in 1920 when they were using horses and wagons," Mr. Suffern said.

Mr. Suffern isn't the only neighbor concerned about Mr. Holland's plans for the property.

"When we purchased the house in 1986, we were led to believe the property could not be developed in its current state," said Michael Green, of 314 Main Street, at a Sept. 5 Zoning Board meeting. "If you grant this, you are going to be making a precedent."

The legal tangle over the property is just one element of the case. Personalities have also played a role.

Mr. Holland said he suspected the Zoning Board's early negative reaction to his plan was based in the personal friendships between Mr. Suffern and then-board chairman Edward Huminick, who still sits on the board, and then-member John Doyle.

"It was a very tight clique that they had going," Mr. Holland

"It was a very tight clique that they had going," Mr. Holland said. "I just happened to be on the other side of the issue."

But things haven't gotten much better for Mr. Holland since Mr. Doyle and Mr. Suffern were removed from the Zoning Board in April in a controversial shake-up by selectmen. That decision eventually led to an Attorney General's investigation when two selectmen claimed they had been threatened by members of the town's Budget Committee who objected to the changes. No charges were filed in the case.

In September, Mr. Holland's latest appeal was rejected unanimously by the board. A request for a rehearing earlier this month was defeated 4-1, but not until after the board's chairman, Joseph Scionti, stated his displeasure with what he saw as a lack of dignity and respect being shown to Mr. Holland in a previous meeting, according to draft minutes.

Mr. Holland said the dispute was part of the reason he pursued a slot on the board in the first place. But he said he has taken pains to distance himself personally from the board's deliberations on the issue, acknowledging that the circumstances are awkward, both for himself and his fellow board members.

"It's tough, it's tough for all of them," said Mr. Holland.

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Online editor*

SALEM

Day care vote postponed

10/25/00

By Margot LeSage
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Even though Karen Tate has offered to reduce the number of students at her proposed Main Street preschool and kindergarten, residents on Dunbar Terrace still feel parking and traffic would be too difficult to manage near the site.

Ms. Tate wants to tear down the white house at 196 Main St., on the corner of Main and Dunbar Terrace, and open a second Create and Discover preschool and kindergarten. She owns another a short distance down Main Street.

Last night, the Planning Board voted to hold off on final approval of her plan until drainage test results have been reviewed by the appropriate town engineers. Ms. Tate was hoping to have the plans finalized last night.

But more than flooding, residents fear their small street won't be able to accommodate

Please see **VOTE**, Page 2

Continued from Page 1

the influx of cars going to and from the school.

Speaking on behalf of Norma L. Simon, Dunbar Terrace resident Herbit Erban said Ms. Simon worries that rescue crews will not be able to reach her house if cars are parked on both sides of the narrow street. Ms. Simon has a bad heart and has been hospitalized several times in the past year.

Sandra Buckley lives across the street from the proposed center and said she witnessed ambulances dodging cars to make it to Ms. Simon's house last week. She said the lack of parking on-site would force people to park where it isn't safe for them or for residents.

"When it comes to children, I don't think you want anything less than perfect and this is less than per-

fect," Ms. Buckley said.

She added that parents at day cares often congregate and talk to one another as they drop off and pick up their children, which will only add to the traffic and parking crunch.

David R. Jordan, senior project manager for TFM, the firm designing the new building, said 15 percent of Ms. Tate's current clientele have two or more children attending the center, which cuts down on traffic.

Ms. Tate has proposed teaching 55 kids for the first six months the center is open. She said she's confident there won't be any problems with parking and traffic along Main Street and Dunbar Terrace and would increase her student body to 70 when those six months are up.

Her original proposal was to start with 70 students.

She also said big events could be held off-site to accommodate more people. Except for graduation exercises, she said she hasn't had to hold any activities in other venues.

Planning Board member Maria Hamilton said she's uncomfortable with the small parking lot and the idea that parents and students may have to cross Main Street to get to the Create and Discover facility.

"With reduction, I support the plan," she said. "Without it, I can't."

Mr. Erban's property is next door to the proposed center. He said he worries that in the winter snow will be piled along his property lines. When it melts in the spring, it will add to the flooding he already has in

his basement.

He argued that in the plan, Ms. Tate moved proposed shrubbery and trees after he said they were too close to his property. Instead, Ms. Tate moved an eight-foot high fence next to his property and placed the foliage on the other side. The fence, Mr. Erban argues, is an eyesore and could only add to the water in his basement.

"If snow is pushed against the fence and we have a major thaw this spring, I'm going to have a real problem in my cellar," Mr. Erban said.

Mr. Erban and Ms. Tate agreed last night to take the fence down and plant trees and bushes on the border between the two properties.

CIP Advisory Committee gives Rockingham Area Study high priority

10/26/00
Observer

by Carol Moore

SALEM - By a narrow margin, the Board of Selectmen has voted to pass on to the Municipal Budget Committee a \$50,000 warrant article for the preparation of a Rockingham Area Plan.

The scope includes Rockingham Park Racetrack and its surrounding area which includes South Broadway, Main St. So. Policy St., Pleasant St. and Rockingham Park Blvd.

The warrant article describes this area as "in transition"—a transition which began in 1991 when the Mall - Rockingham Park opened.

The biggest determinant of what this land might be used for is the possibility of video gaming being approved for Rockingham Park.

While it is known that video gaming at the Park will incur a direct cost for additional fire, police, public works and general government services, the article explains that there are other impacts on the Town's land use and infrastructure that we are not prepared for and cannot adequately forecast with in-house staff.

Planning Director Ross Moldoff explained that the addition of video gaming at the track is "Scenario One."

"We're not prepared to handle the changes that might occur with the addition of video gaming. There might be 'spin-off' development," he said.

He cited a hotel or a convention

center as two of the possibilities, but he noted that the area is zoned Commercial/Industrial and that could mean more shopping malls.

With the racetrack having one mile of frontage on Route 28, that is a possibility.

"Scenario Two," according to Moldoff, is that if video gaming does not come to the track, it may result in a decision by Rockingham Park's owners to redevelop or sell the property.

According to the wording on the warrant article, "[this decision] may not be compatible with the desire of the community's long term vision. The Town's current land use regulations do not adequately provide for the magnitude of change in land use that may occur with a significant change of use at Rockingham Park."

"Is that what we want? Are we

prepared for these massive changes?" Moldoff said.

Since Salem really began growing during the early '60s, the notion of building a tax base has changed radically. Moldoff explained that the best use of commercial land is probably office space, since this use generates less traffic than shopping malls.

"In the early '60s, we tried to build the tax base without thinking about impact," he said.

As an example, he recalled the experience with the Mall - Rockingham Park in 1991.

"They knew there would be impact on services and [the developers] offered to fund the salaries of two additional police officers 'forever.' The Planning Board didn't think that was right, so as an

■ See CIP

Page 5

alternative, the Mall gives us \$69,000 every year which goes into the Depot Trust Fund."

Moldoff said that money has come in every year and has been used to buy property for Depot revamping. The Depot Trust Fund now holds \$600,000.

The study has been kicked around for several years, but is now at the "top of the CIP list."

According to Chairperson of the CIP Advisory Committee, Phyllis O'Grady, the Committee has given this warrant article "a high priority."

"We want to have a professional, independent study, with no outside or inside influences, to tell us what can go in there," she said.

She added that Rockingham Park Racetrack has been "a good neighbor, and we don't want to lose them, but we don't want to be left high and dry with no plan."

"This is an important step for Salem. We don't want to approach any development that might occur there empty-handed. We could have something beautiful there

Editorials

Forewarned is forearmed

We have always disliked—yea, distrusted—studies. And, Salem seems to have a multitude of things that need to be studied—usually at a great expense, because we never seem to have the right kind of expert on the payroll.

We know some studies are unavoidable, because they are state or federal mandates, i.e. wetlands impact, highway curb cuts, etc., but some studies make us just plain angry.

For example, we see no need for some “expert” to tell us about our traffic. Any poor fool who, for business or pleasure, must drive around Salem knows exactly where the traffic problems are.

Selectmen narrowly approved moving forward to the Budget Committee with a warrant article to study the Rockingham Area to the tune of \$50,000.

Our first reaction? “Not another study!”

But upon reflection, we thought about all the mistakes we have made in the past by reacting to a proposed project instead of planning ahead for it. That’s how Route 28 got to be the way it is.

The “just in case” scenario for the Rockingham Area is two-fold. One: If the Racetrack gets video gambling; Two: If the Racetrack doesn’t get video gambling.

If they do, what will “spin-out” (to use Planning Director Ross Moldoff’s phrase) from it?

If they don’t, will the Racetrack sell off its property because it can’t make enough money without video gambling?

Right now, that area—which is substantial—is zoned Commercial/Industrial. That could mean more shopping malls.

Yarg! Anything but more shopping malls.

A hotel, a convention center, a cultural hall, light industry, office space—anything but more shopping malls.

But, if we don’t do some planning, another happy little group of purveyors of stuff we all “gotta have, right away” could swoop down and gobble up that space in a New York minute.

A key issue is taking a long-term look at the zoning now, because you can’t change it after the fact.

If “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” may we suggest using a “pound of prevention?”

SALEM, N.H.

Development director headed for Hawaii

◆ Events on Wednesday concerning the sewer project made his decision easier to reach, E. James Turse said.

By Margot LeSage
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Community Development Director E. James Turse resigned Thursday, one day after selectmen announced their intention to pull a multimillion dollar sewer project off the Town Meeting warrant and the Budget Committee recommended to cut his salary by \$6,000.

Mr. Turse said yesterday his decision to leave the town wasn't based solely on Wednesday's events, but that they did help him make his decision to accept a job offer in Hawaii.

"The timing coincided and made it a lot easier to make my decision," Mr. Turse said. "There's been a lot

of contention about my position over the last several months that made me feel uneasy."

He declined to comment further on what made him question his job security.

However, despite his resignation, Mr. Turse was in his office working yesterday, even though town offices across the state were closed for the Veterans Day holiday.

"See, I didn't run away," he joked. In January Mr. Turse will become a project manager for the Belt Collins Company in Honolulu. There

he will coordinate projects in Hawaii, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore. Mr. Turse lived in Hawaii for 12 years prior to coming to Salem and served as Honolulu's director of housing and community development.

Budget Committee Vice Chairman Earl Merrow said the committee's preliminary vote to cut Mr. Turse's salary in no way reflects the groups' opinion of him. Rather, he said it was a "philosophical" decision.

Mr. Turse temporarily served as the town's acting town manager. When he resigned that post, his salary remained the same. Now, the Budget Committee wants to correct the oversight, Mr. Merrow said.

"We feel bad about it," Mr. Merrow said. "We have the upmost respect for Jim Turse. He's done a lot for Salem and he put his heart and soul into his job and many won't

be pleased that he's leaving."

Mr. Merrow said he suspects Mr. Turse resigned after selectmen dropped a bombshell at Wednesday night's Budget Committee meeting — announcing their plan to ax the \$67 million Lakes Area Infrastructure Plan, a project which Mr. Turse has worked on since coming to Salem three years ago.

But, Town Manager David Owen said he believes Mr. Turse's decision was prompted by the salary cut. Mr. Turse now makes \$77,000 per year. The Budget Committee said it would like to cut his annual pay to \$71,000.

Mr. Owen said he received Mr. Turse's letter of resignation shortly after he told him of the Budget Committee's recommendation, but that he said he'll stay on until mid-January to help get projects ready for Town Meeting.



E. James Turse

Economic strategy group assists town

by Joan Hunt

SALEM - Selectmen received a short presentation Monday night from the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation. Funded by a unique federal grant, the REDC was drawn more closely to Salem with the closing of the Compaq plant.

The group has been helping workers who were laid off, retraining some at a center which was opened in the Holiday Inn.

REDC recently assessed its goals, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. Prior to the meeting, they presented selectmen with a booklet which included their goals for this area.

Those included work force and infrastructure development, targeted assistance, establishment of public transportation, preservation of the quality of life, re-development, affordable housing, inter-municipal cooperation and providing resource information to local communities.

President Warren Henderson introduced Salem resident Cheryl Sylvester, who is the newest coordinator for the town of Salem. Sylvester, who has a banking background, will be working on packaging loans to help small businesses.

Congressman
Charles Bass



Congressman
John Sununu



U.S. Sen.
Judd Gregg

Ballot by hand

◆ Members of New Hampshire's Congressional delegation are concerned about the difficulty the new president will face when taking office because of the closeness of the race.



U.S. Sen.
Bob Smith

By Jennifer D. Jordan
Eagle-Tribune Writer

U.S. Sen. Bob Smith says the only fair way to resolve the dispute over the presidential election in Florida is to count every ballot by hand.

"What's really important is that the winner wins, no matter who it is," Sen. Smith, R-Tuftsboro, told The Eagle-Tribune yesterday.

Please see **SMITH**, Page 2

in for other reasons but won't have to use."

The School District broke ground on the \$4.4 million, 16-room kindergarten last month. The kindergarten is expected to be completed in time for the 2001-2002 school year.

The land, which was formerly an apple orchard, is located off Pillsbury Road across from the town common. It was donated by Andrew C. Mack to the school district this summer.

Mr. David, who informed the School Board last month about the DDT, said Mr. Mack was using the pesticide legally and should not be blamed.

DDT was used commercially for more than 35 years against mosquitoes and flies before it was banned by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in 1972 after it was discovered to have caused tumors in mice.

SALEM

11/15/00

Main Street day care approved

◆ The Planning Board may not have the final say on whether a new day-care center can move in. Neighbors are upset and plan to appeal.

By Margot LeSage
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Neighbors say they will fight the Planning Board's approval of a new day-care center at the corner of Main Street and Dunbar Terrace.

The board narrowly approved the 70-student center last night by a vote of 3-2 to allow Karen Tate to open a second Create and Discover preschool and kindergarten in a residential neighborhood. She owns another center a short distance down Main Street.

After the vote, neighbors who

"We're all going to appeal this and take it to a judge."

Sandra Buckley, who lives on Dunbar Terrace, a street near the proposed day-care center

believe the new center will cause parking problems and safety hazards said they'll challenge the board's decision. Sandra Buckley of Dunbar Terrace said she intends to file an appeal in Rockingham Superior Court today.

"We're all going to appeal this and take it to a judge," Mrs. Buckley said.

Planning Board members Richard R. Gregory, Gene Bryant and Keith Wolters voted in favor of the project. Vice Chairman Maria

Hamilton and Phyllis O'Grady voted against it. Chairman James Keller and Robert Ellis abstained.

Planning Director Ross A. Moldoff said residents have 30 days to file an appeal. They must show, he added, that the petitioner has done something illegal.

Mr. Keller said he abstained from the vote because he didn't think the board had a legal right to prohibit Mrs. Tate from opening the center, but added that he didn't feel comfortable with building a school at that location.

"The challenge and the board's duty is the balance of (complying with) regulations and preserving the general safety and character of the neighborhood," he said.

Mrs. Tate has modified her proposal to limit the number of children at the center to 55 for the first six months the school is open. How-

Please see **DAY CARE**, Page 4

Day care: Neighbors unhappy

Continued from Page 1

ever, the number will jump to 70 after that time. Some members of the board said they weren't comfortable with the automatic increase in students.

Mrs. O'Grady said the Planning Board should review the center six months after it opens to determine if more students could safely be added to the roster.

"I don't think it's fair," she said of the fact that the plan approved last night automatically accounts for the increase in students after six months.

Mr. Keller explained the board has no legal right to control the number of students in the center.

Neighbors have resisted Mrs. Tate's plan to raze the house at 196 Main St. and open a second Create and Discover center from the beginning. They say traffic and parking problems along Dunbar Terrace would worsen and that their narrow street won't be able to accommodate the influx of cars going to and from the school.

Mr. Keller reminded the residents, though, that proponents for Create and Discover have accommodated a number of the neighbors' requests and that they should be mindful of that.

"Everybody has property rights," Mr. Keller said. "All of you need to keep in mind that your neighbor has equal rights to present what they consider fair and we as a board have to decide if it meets the regulations of the town. I don't think anybody here wants to cause undo harm."

Mr. Bryant said Create and Discover has worked with the board and the neighbors and because of their cooperation, he supported their proposal.

"I don't think the abutters will ever be happy," he said. "The applicant made changes they didn't have to make."

Mrs. Tate was not at last night's meeting, and could not be reached for comment.

Maine se

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — W the U.S. Senate split almost even between Republicans and Democrats, a small group of moderates th includes Maine's two senators poised to play a key role.

When legislative deals are c Republicans Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins are likely to find themselves at the center of the action according to political observers.

"In a nearly evenly divided Senate, every man a king, every woman a queen," said Larry Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia. "Every single senator will have virtual veto power over every single thing. If there is going to be



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- 50% OFF ALL HOLIDAY TAB
- REG. 19.99 BATH & BODY GIFT

HOMESA

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well, which was purchased for \$1.3 million, could still be used as a

bond articles, union contracts and warrant articles.

Turse resignation "not about money"

by Carol Moore

SALEM - Charges were flying back and forth at the Thursday, November 9 Budget Committee meeting about why Community Development Director James Turse has submitted his resignation.

Town Manager David Owen claimed it was the result of the Committee's vote to reduce Turse's salary by \$6,000.

Budget Committee member Stephen Campbell said it was the result of the Board of Selectmen withdrawing the \$67 million Lake Areas Infrastructure Plan bond issue which Turse put a great deal of work into.

Turse himself says it was neither.

It was, in fact, that an opportunity presented itself, and Turse decided to take advantage of it.

According to Turse, when he was in Hawaii last August he and his wife had dinner with a couple they had known for many years while the Turses were living there.

During the dinner, the friend's wife had just been hired on at Belt Collins Hawaii.

Recently, the woman called

Turse and told him someone was leaving that company and there was a position open that might suit him.

He decided to take that position.

"It came up with coincidental timing," Turse said.

"It's not about money; it's never been about money," but, he added, "[the salary cut] didn't help; it's a slap in the face."

The scrapping of the Lake Areas Infrastructure Plan was disappointing, but Turse said the charge was unfair.

"There's no one contributing factor," he explained.

Turse came here three years ago from Hawaii because his children had settled on the east coast, and Hawaii's economy was terrible.

"I have an opportunity to go back to a community I understand, that I have deep roots in," he said.

Turse will be in Salem until sometime in January to see the Town through most of the budget process.

"They'll be no loose ends when I leave."

ledge and eventually the rest of the ground would settle and the pipe would fracture over the pivot point of the ledge.

Geary can pinpoint many areas in town where there are repeated water main breaks due to poor installation.

Liberty St., the Old Coach Area, and the Dunbar Terrace have very bad records.

"Breaks occur there so frequently that while my crews are repairing the lines and the school bus drops kids off, the kids ask what we're doing. When we tell them, we have eight year-old kids saying 'again?'"


Unfortunately, most breaks occur in the fall and winter months, when conditions are at their worst for his crews.

"It's an overlooked job. They work in the middle of the night under terrible conditions and I think they do a very good job," he said.

In spite of it all, Salem's water is extremely safe. The quality is monitored and the lines are periodically flushed to ensure water quality.

Identifying and replacing the outdated pipe that's in the distribution system is also part of the job, and currently they are following the town's road reconstruction program and replacing old or improperly placed pipe as the roads are done.

"Sometimes when people drive by a water main break, they're just plain mad because it disrupts their commute, but we have a responsibility to maintain a quality of service. But meantime, the 1910 water main on Fairmont Road isn't getting any younger," Geary said.

 Sports Reporter
Tommy Gates
893-4356

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New England

THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE NOVEMBER 19, 2000

N.H. tattoo artists afraid business will go south

Newly legalized studios in Mass. to draw customers

By Rachel M. Collins
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

SALEM, N.H. — Along Route 28 in this busy border town, amid the banks, the pizza parlors, and the fast-food restaurants, there are signs for nearly a dozen tattoo studios, advertising a community of artists who make their living with ink.

Some of their customers are teenagers cruising the strip, others are professionals who make appointments in advance. And a lot of these customers have something in common: they live in Massachusetts, where tattooing has been against the law for three decades.

That's about to change. On Oct. 23, Superior Court Judge Barbara Rouse ruled tattooing is a constitutionally protected art form, in one stroke legalizing the practice in the Bay State.

Now some wonder if New Hampshire's tattoo

businesses will continue to thrive in border towns like Salem, Derry, and Nashua, where the bulk of the state's tattoo artists work.

"I think a lot opened because it was illegal in Massachusetts and we're right on the line," said Jamey Proctor, owner of Dragon's Lair Tattoo Studio in Salem for the past nine years. "I bet now we'll lose a couple of them."

Nobody keeps records of the industry's contribution to the New Hampshire economy, but according to state records, New Hampshire has 240 licensed tattoo artists working from 20 mobile facilities and 65 studios. At least one trade group says tattooing is the sixth-fastest-growing retail industry in the country.

Artists along the Route 28 strip in Salem said anywhere from 50 to 90 percent of their customers come from Massachusetts.

In the wake of Rouse's ruling, tattoo shops began opening in Massachusetts, even before the state's health officials could set regulations. As a stopgap measure, the Massachusetts attorney gen-

TATTOOS, Page F19



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/FRANK O'BRIEN

Leo A. Murphy III, owner of Lion's Den Tattoo Studio and Body Piercing in Salem, N.H., with his wife, Judy.

N.H. border war brews over tattoos

► **TATTOOS**
Continued from F18

eral will ask at a court hearing tomorrow to keep tattooing unlawful for another 90 days to give officials time to get rules in place.

If that fails, the plan is to present emergency regulations on Tuesday to the Public Health Council for approval, said Roseanne Pawelec of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

With six times as many people as New Hampshire, Massachusetts could be described as the gorilla in the closet of the New England tattoo business. Mik Miller, a tattoo artist who owns the Body Extremes shop in Quincy, Mass., speculated the lifting of the ban will hit the New Hampshire border studios hard.

"Seriously, about 70 percent of their business is from Massachusetts," Miller said. "It's going to hurt them real bad. I think once everything shakes out and you have reliable parlors here, people would rather just go down the street."

Until now, New Hampshire tattoo artists haven't had much to worry about. For the past few years, the once-fringe business has been buoyed by the vogue for ink fueled by music, movie, and sports stars.

"Tattoos are not just for sailors and bikers anymore," said Judy Murphy, who owns the Purple Scorpion body-piercing shop in Salem, Mass. "A lot of professionals are getting tattooed — lawyers, doctors, middle-class women, even grandmothers."

In Salem, N.H., artists routinely work from noon well into the evening, making up to \$100 an hour creating their designs. Shops are going upscale to keep up with their clientele, offering individual rooms for tattooing with stereos

and cable television.

"I think anybody will tell you tattooing is far more mainstream than it used to be," said Suzanne Doucette, Salem's health officer, who oversees the shops.

Artists characterize it as a highly competitive business, however, which increases the concern about changes in Massachusetts.

But for some customers, loyalty and reliability trump convenience every time.

Emil Couture, 40, of Andover, Mass., has been getting tattoos since he was 16, primarily from Leo A. Murphy III, owner of Lion's Den Tattoo Studio and Body Piercing in Salem. "It's like when you go to have your hair done," he said.

"Do you just go to anybody? No, you don't. You go to someone you like, and if they leave then you find someone else you like."

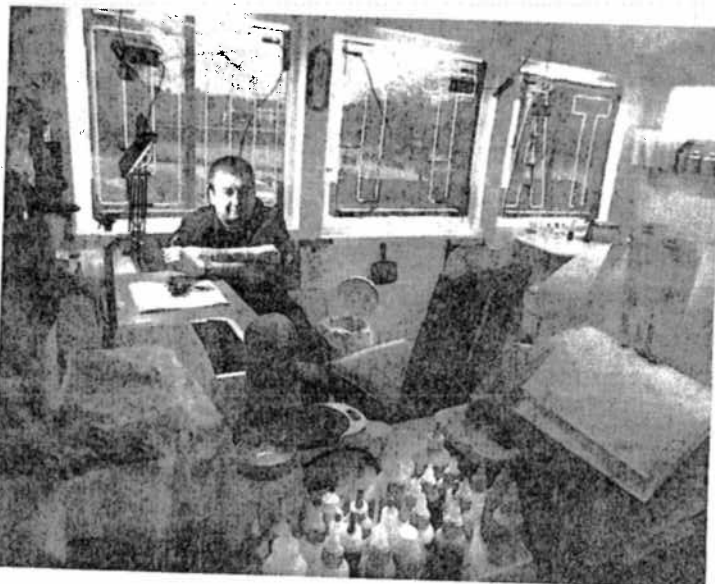
"The difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut, though, is that it's there for two weeks," he added. "A tattoo is permanent. It's there for life."

He is echoed by Sandy DellaPorta, 25, who has had a number of tattoos from Proctor in Salem. DellaPorta lives in Lynn, Mass., where three tattoo shops have opened. "At least in New Hampshire they've been doing it for years, so I think it's worth the drive," she said.

Adam Jaime, 21, of Woburn, Mass., has spent hundreds of dollars to have the Virgin Mary tattooed on his back, his twin brother's initials on his chest, and a sepulcher on his arm and shoulder.

"It's more like they're my friends now," Jaime said of the artists at Lion's Den. "I have a relationship with the guy and I trust my tattoo artist. I'd continue to drive to New Hampshire because I think he's the best tattoo guy."

That kind of customer loyalty is



GLOBE STAFF PHOTOS/FRANK O'BRYEN

Tattoo artist Leo A. Murphy III in his studio in Salem, N.H. "If [business] seems down a little here, I do plan on opening shops in Massachusetts," he said.

why many New Hampshire artists are optimistic their Massachusetts customers will keep coming.

"People are going to go where they're happy," said Proctor, of Dragon's Lair. "If they're going to come here to Salem to save sales tax, they'll come up here to get something permanent."

Still, some tattoo artists are keeping their options open. Judy Murphy, whose husband owns Lion's Den, is prepping her Massachusetts shop to offer tattooing.

And Massachusetts's nascent tattoo industry could face a threat of its own: competition from the established players to the north.

"If [business] seems down a little here," said Leo Murphy, "I do plan on opening shops in Massachusetts."



Leo Murphy working on a tattoo for his wife, Judy. New Hampshire has 240 licensed tattoo artists working from 20 mobile facilities and 65 studios.

ed Mr. McMahon asked whether the

Please see OWEN, Page 2

Salem town manager out of job

11/21/00

◆ Selectmen said David W. Owen resigned after a year in his post. Mr. Owen said he was fired.

By Chris Markuns
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — David W. Owen said the stunning news was delivered bluntly as soon as he got to work yesterday morning: His tenure as town manager is over.

"I was fired this morning," said Mr. Owen during a telephone interview with The Eagle-Tribune from his home yesterday afternoon. "I was informed shortly after I got here this morning there had been a special meeting (of the Board of Selectmen) Friday evening and there was a vote that I was to be terminated immediately."

Finance Director Jeffrey C. Towne is acting town manager, but selectmen said they do not expect to conduct a search and Mr. Towne's



**Jeffrey C.
Towne**



**David W.
Owen**

permanent hiring will likely be just a formality. (Please see story, Page 2.)

Mr. Owen, 53, said he was "shocked and distressed" at hearing the news of the 4-1 vote from Selectmen Chairman Richard R. Gregory. He had served a little more than a year on the job.

"He informed me of the board's vote and that I was to pack up and leave immediately," he said.

Mr. Owen started as town manager Nov. 8, 1999, and said he was told last week that the reason for Friday's private board meeting was his

Please see **OWEN**, Page 2

Owen: Manager says he was fired; town says he quit

Continued from Page 1

one-year performance evaluation. He said he had no inkling yesterday's news was coming, and got few hints from Mr. Gregory as to why the move was made.

"I don't know what happened. ... All I had reported to me was the result of the vote," he said. "I did ask for an explanation but all I got was generalities."

His only guess as to the reason for

his firing — "I had heard some rumors last week," he said — was a dispute with selectmen over which of the two finalists to hire for the vacant fire chief job.

"This has all happened since the issue of who's going to be appointed fire chief came up," said Mr. Owen, explaining that both the town charter and state law put that decision solely in his hands. "So it all seems to be related."

Mr. Owen's departure is the town's third high-profile personnel change in the past month following Fire Chief John R. Nadeau's move to the same post in East Derry and Community Development Director E. James Turse's decision to leave for a job in Hawaii.

Selectmen weren't any more forthcoming with details yesterday, saying that specifics — including who cast the dissenting vote — would be available after the minutes of Friday's meeting were released in a public meeting scheduled for today.

Board members called Mr. Owen's departure a resignation — a news release was also issued from selectmen saying he "tendered his resignation effective immediately" — but then spoke about him as someone who had indeed been fired. "Things weren't going as smoothly as we would like them to, in many aspects, I guess," said Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr., refusing to elaborate until after the minutes of Friday's meetings are released. "It

was a collection of things that just multiplied and around every corner it was something new and we decided the best thing to do was just have an amicable separation."

He answered Mr. Owen's charge that he had not resigned, but been fired, by saying, "He was given a package and he accepted it." Selectmen said the severance package was six months of Mr. Owen's \$82,500 annual salary and six months' health insurance.

"We were going through that process (of evaluating him), and things just continued to look differently than we would have liked them to and we decided to offer him a package and he accepted it and that's good," said Mr. McBride. "It's better for both parties."

Mr. McBride also denied that a dispute over who should be fire chief played a role, saying, "I don't think it was any one thing that broke the camel's back. ... Whatever Dave wants to think is fine."

Selectman Ronald J. Belanger said "you wish everything in town would run smooth for ever and ever," but often unpleasant decisions must be made.

"Whether it's my best friend or my worst enemy, if it's a person doing a job for the town, I have to look out for the town's best interests. That's what I was elected for," he said. "Sometimes you feel lousy."

Mr. Gregory was the most cryptic, speaking largely in one-word answers. He would not give details of his discussion with Mr. Owen, saying only, "I went into see him this morning and he resigned."

He said he was "not totally surprised" by Mr. Owen's resignation, and that yesterday morning's conversation "probably helped" Mr. Owen reach his decision. He said Mr. Towne was hired because "everybody likes him."

No one on the board would say publicly if Mr. Owen's sometimes-contentious relationship with the Budget Committee had anything to

do with his firing.

Budget Committee member Stephen Campbell, who has publicly called for Mr. Owen's firing in the past, said Mr. Owen was at committee meetings on Nov. 8, 9 and 10 and "there was a lot of give and take and not on a friendly basis."

While the committee did not formally or publicly broach the subject of Mr. Owen's firing with selectmen following the meeting, he said, individual members may have done so privately. Asked if he did, he said, "No comment."

He added that it was solely selectmen's call and "if they did something because we wanted it, it might be the first time."

He said problems between Mr. Owen and selectmen were evident to anyone who has been paying attention to public meetings.

"You just have to have watched the last six months," he said. "The selectmen had problems. You could tell there was tension there. There was tension at the Budget Committee meetings."

Mr. Owen defended both his rela-

tionship with the public and the Budget Committee. He said he "always had an open-door policy" and tried to be "customer-service oriented," and asked, "Since when are our dealings with the Budget Committee anything but somewhat contentious?"

Mr. Nadeau is suing the town over his severance package (see related story, Page 1), but all parties insisted yesterday that the suit did not factor into Mr. Owen's firing.

Mr. Owen arrived in Salem from a private sector job with an energy marketing firm in Boston, but before that spent 10 years as town administrator of Burlington, Mass.

At the time of his hiring, selectmen — two of whom were replaced in elections last March — expressed how impressed they were by his work in getting Sun Microsystems Inc., one of the country's top computer makers, to open its headquarters in Burlington.

They hoped he could help Salem replace the jobs lost by the departure of its top employer, Compaq Computer Corp.

Internet systems giant Cisco Systems Inc. has since moved in, announcing in May that it planned to nearly double Compaq's employment numbers by bringing 2,500 new jobs to Salem in three to five years.

But Mr. McBride, while admitting town officials "had big expectations" for Mr. Owen, said Mr. Turse "took the ball" on bringing in Cisco and Mr. Owen played no significant role in the biggest New Hampshire business coup in years.

"I don't think (the job he did) was good or bad," he said. "I don't think he hindered the process and don't think he added anything to it either."

Mr. Owen said he is pleased with the work he did in Salem, even if his former employers weren't. "Generally, yeah, I think I put in a strong effort, a good effort," he said, adding that he has no plans to sue the town over his dismissal. "I'm just going to take it easy for a while, check the lay of the landscape, and try and find a community that puts a greater value on professional management."

GETTING IT STRAIGHT

The Eagle-Tribune will correct, in this space, factual errors that occur in its news coverage. Our continuing effort is not only to be factual, but to present information in a balanced tone. In the clearest possible manner, if you have concerns regarding fact or tone, contact Editor Steve Lambert at 944-2000.

Due to a reporter's error, it was incorrectly reported in last week's paper that the Hampstead, N.H., Holiday Parade is Dec. 2. It is going to be Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. A complete roundup of parade listings will run in Thursday's Eagle-Tribune.

THE LOTTERY

MASSACHUSETTS

Nov. 20 Daily Lottery 6617

All 4 digits Payoff/exact order \$5,540

First or last 3 digits \$776

Any 2 digits \$66

Any 1 digit \$7

All 4 digits Payoff/any order \$462

First 3 digits \$259

Last 3 digits \$129

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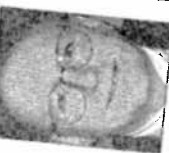
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W. Bush's team is weighing "extraordinary" measures to overcome the effect of a Florida Supreme

and was undergoing tests, the chest pains early this morning.

Bush campaign said.



David W. Owen

A look at Mr. Owen's contract. Page 2.

By Krista Zanin and Sally Gilman
Eagle-Tribune Writers

SALEM — When Town Manager David W. Owen was fired Monday morning, Salem lost its 13th town manager, including interim leaders, in 20 years.

♦ Selectman Ronald J. Belanger said selectmen don't have a problem working with other town officials.

Of the seven town managers who were not interim managers, only three have stayed close to four years or longer. The other four left after serving two years or less.

Mr. Owen's tenure lasted just over a year, and ended Monday when Select-

11/22/00

accompanied by...

Halifax "Hill Entertainment

New town manager is 14th in 20 years

men Chairman Richard R. Gregory walked into his office and told him he had been fired, Mr. Owen said.

Mr. Owen, who said he was stunned when told Monday selectmen voted to fire him, said Salem won't be able to keep a town manager long if officials don't respect their employees.

"I think everybody should respect each other's roles and respect each other

as people and treat each other civilly," said Mr. Owen yesterday. "There are things that go far beyond the pale in Salem in what should be accepted as civil behavior."

Mr. Owen declined to cite examples, however, he said Salem is a "fractious community" with a "fractious leader-ship."

Finance Director Jeffrey C. Towne

was promoted to acting town manager and is expected to be given the job permanently.

Mr. Owen's departure marks the third time in a little more than a month Salem has lost a top town official. Fire Chief John R. Nadeau announced he was resigning to go to the much

Please see OWEN, Page 2

Derry OK

Presidential stalemate

Owen: Fired manager was 13th in 20 years

Continued from Page 1

smaller East Derry Fire Department on Oct. 9 and Community Development Director E. James Turse resigned to accept a job offer in Hawaii a month later.

Mr. Turse's resignation came a day after selectmen announced their intention to ax the \$67 million Lakes Infrastructure Plan, which he had been working on for three years. The Budget Committee had also recommended to cut his salary by \$6,000.

"The timing coincided and made it a lot easier to make my decision," Mr. Turse told The Eagle-Tribune at the time.

Before he was fired, Mr. Owen allegedly fired Chief Nadeau after he gave notice to the town, allegedly so the town wouldn't have to pay the former chief more than \$21,000 he claims he's owed, according to a lawsuit filed last week in Rockingham County Superior Court.

Despite the recent resignations and history of turnover with their town managers, Selectman Ronald J. Belanger said yesterday selectmen don't have a problem working with other town officials.

"The town bends over backwards for its employees," he said. "It's the town manager's responsibility to work for selectmen, not the other way around. The town doesn't need to change its ways."

Mr. Gregory said he couldn't say if there was a problem because he hadn't researched the matter.

However, the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce issued a statement saying there were troubles by the recent turnover in town.

"We are deeply disappointed in the recent turnover of three key management positions in the town. At a time when the town faces many decisions that greatly affect our future, this time of change can jeopardize our forward progress," the

statement reads. "While we welcome Jeff Towne's appointment as town manager, we urge all the parties involved to support a process that makes positive change possible in the future," the statement concluded.

Generally town managers stay in a community three to five years, said John B. Andrews, executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

However, he said, that's not always the rule of thumb. He said town managers' tenures depend a lot on political change in town and whether a town manager clicks with elected officials.

"Some communities go through cycles of political contentiousness," said Mr. Andrews.

He cited examples where a town manager will only last a few months in one community, but go on to stay for a long time in another town.

That was the case with Mr. Owen, who was town manager in Burlington, Mass., for nearly 10 years.

Turnover in Town Hall became turbulent in the 1980s, when from 1983 to 1989 six people and selectmen served as town manager during various times.

When Barry M. Brenner was hired as town manager in 1989, his goal was to bring stability to the town. There had been seven town managers in 10 years.

He said yesterday he accomplished that goal and enjoyed working in town until he left in 1994 to become Lebanon's city manager.

Still, it wasn't always easy for Mr. Brenner, who now is town manager in Northborough, Mass.

During two years of Mr. Brenner's tenure, former Selectman Joseph Gagnon tried several times to fire him. Those motions were defeated each time by other selectmen.

And, in 1992 selectmen decided to

♦ The so-called amicable split may not have been so friendly.

By Margaret LeSage
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — Selectmen still maintained yesterday that Town Manager David W. Owen's split with the town was amicable.

But according to Mr. Owen's contract, his tenure in Salem may not have ended on such friendly terms.

According to the contract obtained by The Eagle-Tribune yesterday, Mr. Owen would have to be fired without cause to collect

severance pay equal to six months of his \$82,500 salary, plus continued health insurance coverage for that period.

Selectmen said Monday they offered Mr. Owen the severance package after he agreed to resign.

But Mr. Owen said he was fired abruptly and that no reason was given to him.

Still insisting Mr. Owen and the town split on friendly terms,

Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr. said yesterday the board's decision last week could indeed be construed as a vote to fire Mr. Owen, and that offering a severance package was a way to compensate for that.

"We felt we didn't want to fire

extend Mr. Brenner's contract for another year so long as he cleaned his office and desk of clutter and met other goals set out for him. They didn't give him a raise that year.

"We accomplished a lot in the five years. I was there despite some political issues that occurred over time," said Mr. Brenner.

He said the relationship between a town manager and elected officials is much like a marriage.

"When the relationship is good it can work very effectively and work very well," said Mr. Brenner. "If the partnership is not working well sometimes you have to have a separation or a divorce."

And, Salem has a reputation for being tough on town managers, said former selectman and current state Rep. Charles Morse.

"People expect selectmen to ultimately be part of management," said Mr. Morse.

"Selectmen are on the street everyday. People see us in grocery stores and at functions at night," Mr. Morse said. "They want their problems solved and that means that selectmen bring it back to the town manager."

Mr. Morse said ultimately that creates pressure between selectmen and the town manager.

"That's the problem with the town manager's job in Salem," said Mr. Morse. "People call selectmen. They never call the town manager. That means six people — five selectmen and a town manager — get involved."

Budget Committee member Stephen Campbell, who had publicly called for Mr. Owen's firing in the past, said the town needs someone in the town manager post who is going to reach out to residents and hear their problems, even the smallest of issues.

"(Residents) feel they can just go

him with cause so we negotiated... it would have been a mark (on his record) for him and this was a good solution," he said. "He got what he needed and we got what we need."

Terminating an employee can often become "nasty," Mr. McBride said, and the town didn't want that to happen. He added, however, that the board felt they "needed a change."

Selectmen yesterday were still reluctant to speak about what transpired during a closed-door meeting last Friday night — when members reportedly voted 4-1 to part company with Mr. Owen — until the meeting minutes are made public. The reasons behind the

board's decision will not fully be known until those minutes are unsealed.

According to Selectman Ronald J. Belanger, selectmen voted to seal the minutes because their consent could damage Mr. Owen's reputation and that they must vote in a public meeting to unseal them.

Selectman Chairman Richard R. Gregory said yesterday the board will "probably" vote to make the minutes public when they meet Monday night.

Finance Director Jeffrey C. Towne has been appointed interim town manager and will most likely be appointed to the position permanently in the near future.

able to try him out and I think that will yield better longevity because he's a known entity and we've worked with him very closely."

Former Selectman Robert L. Ellis said he believes Salem has a hard time trying to find outsiders with the right personality for Salem.

"You can check backgrounds and how people perform in their jobs and not really understand who they are until they have been in the position for a while," he said.

Other officials said having a New Hampshire background is important.

"I'm hopeful Jeff Towne will be with us for a long time," said Selectman Everett P. McBride Jr. "He's got the right temperament. He's got the right background. He knows New Hampshire for sure. He's lived and worked in New Hampshire for a long time."

THE LOTTERY
MASSACHUSETTS
Daily Lottery

The Eagle-Tribune
HOW CAN WE HELP?

Neighbors unhappy over cave rave party
By J.J. Stambaugh
Scripps Howard
two popular street drugs, LSD and
was hospitalized after overdosing on
if McElhaney explained.
Marijuana, LSD and Ecstasy were

Town Manager resigns

by Carol Moore

SALEM - The revolving door on the Salem Town Manager's office has swung around again.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Richard Gregory announced on Monday that Town Manager David Owen tendered his resignation effective immediately.

Jeffrey Towne, who has been the Town's Finance Director since May 1999, is now acting Town Manager, and may well be the selectmen's permanent choice for that position.

Gregory said that Owen resigned voluntarily and gave no reason for his decision.

"I chatted with him and he decided to resign," Gregory said.

Selectmen did meet in non-public session on Friday, November 17, however Gregory said he could not divulge what was discussed at that meeting.

When asked, Gregory responded that there was no pressure on Owen to resign, but neither would he confirm whether Owen's decision was only "personal."

Gregory also said that Owen's service to the town has been satisfactory.

Owen was escorted from Town Hall on Monday morning, but when later contacted at his home, he said "I wasn't given much choice [about the resignation]."

He was told there was a 4-1 vote at the non-public session to terminate him immediately.

As for a reason, he was only told that things weren't going the way they would like.

"I was not told anything specifically," he added.

"Salem's a very nice community with a lot of good people, but its form of government doesn't seem to function too well at times," he said.

He added that he has enjoyed his time here but, "If they don't want me, I'm sure there are a lot of other communities who want a well-trained Town Manager. Life will go on."

Owen, who has been Town Manager since November 8, 1999, had an "open-ended" contract and will receive a severance package which will include six month's salary.

Previous to coming to Salem, Owen served as Town Manager in Burlington, MA for 10 years. He currently lives in Bedford, MA.

Towne came to the Town of Salem from Meredith, NH and is President of the Government Financial Officers Group.

According to Gregory, Towne's tenure as Interim Town Manager is "indefinite" and he is being considered as a permanent replacement for Owen.

Gregory added, "We will not be doing a search."

Asst. Finance Director Linda Casey will be taking over as Finance Director to replace Towne.

The Town of Salem has had a terrific run of resignations lately.

Fire Chief John Nadeau resigned to take a position as head of the East Derry Fire District.

Owen was due to select one of four applicants to replace Nadeau, but that decision has been put off until at least November 27.

Community Development Director James Turse has resigned and will leave for Hawaii to take a position in private industry in January.

Also, at this time, Capital Projects Manager George Sealy is out on long-term disability, it is unclear whether he will be returning to work.

Gregory also said that he does not anticipate any amendments to the operating budget as a result of all the movement and salary differentials.

In the time period from 1979 to 2000, Salem has had 12 Town Managers, not including acting Town Managers and a four-month period in 1985 when we had no Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen took over the responsibilities of that position.

Of that number, five Town Managers have "hit the bricks" in the last 11 years.

Why can't Salem keep employees?

OUR VIEW

*Selectmen need to explain heavy turnover
in Salem government.*

Salem residents must be shaking their heads and wondering what's going on at Town Hall lately. In a little more than a month, Salem has lost three of its top town officials.

First, on Oct. 9, former Fire Chief John R. Nadeau announced he was resigning to go to the much-smaller East Derry Fire Department.

A month later, Community Development Director E. James Turse resigned to accept a job offer in Hawaii.

His resignation came a day after selectmen announced their intention to ax the \$67 million Lakes Infrastructure Plan — the biggest sewer construction plan in town history — which he had been working on for three years. The Budget Committee had recommended cutting his salary by \$6,000.

Then on Monday, Town Manager David W. Owen confirmed he had been fired soon after arriving at work.

But before he was fired, Mr. Owen allegedly fired Chief Nadeau after the former Salem chief gave his notice to the town, according to a lawsuit filed last week in Rockingham County Superior Court.

Chief Nadeau claims town officials fired him to avoid paying him more than \$21,000 he's owed.

Asked if selectmen knew that Mr. Owen sent Chief Nadeau a termination letter, Selectmen Chairman Richard Gregory said, "Probably."

Taxpayers deserve a better answer than "probably."

Despite the recent resignations and history of turnover with their town managers, Selectman Ronald J. Belanger said yesterday selectmen don't have a problem working with other town officials.

"The town bends over backwards for its employees," he said. "It's the town manager's responsibility to work for selectmen, not the other way around. The town doesn't need to change its ways."

We disagree.

And so apparently does the Greater Salem Chamber of Commerce, which issued a three-paragraph statement saying it was "deeply disappointed in the recent turnover of three key management positions in the town."

The Chamber, which is not known for speaking out on issues like this, also said in its statement, "At a time when the town faces many decisions that greatly affect our future, this time of change can jeopardize our forward progress."

We agree.

Selectmen, who agreed to spend taxpayers' money to give Mr. Owen six months of his \$82,500 yearly salary when they fired him, owe the public an explanation.

Residents deserve to know exactly what selectmen are doing and why.



Tracy McGee Photo

...olding sign on left, celebrates with teammates last night in Derry after getting off a ... placed second in the country. Both the junior varsity and varsity Senior League ... were 8-0 this year. The teams chartered two buses last week to travel to the national semi-finals Thanksgiving Day. Saturday they lost to Virginia, but came home num- ... night unlimited division.

p to exhibit's challenge



Vote still a secret

11/28/00
Union
Leader

By HUNTER MCGEE
Union Leader Correspondent

SALEM — Though Salem selectmen voted last night to release minutes from a private meeting that led to the town manager leaving his post, reporters were told at the end of the meeting they couldn't see the records.

"I've got to go," Selectmen Chairman Richard Gregory said when approached by a Union Leader reporter. "The meeting's over."

Officials said they were not able to make copies of the minutes last night because acting Town Manager Jeffrey Towne was not at the meeting and the copy machine in his office was locked up.

Copies of the minutes were to be available when town hall opened this morning at 8:30, Gregory said.

Former town manager David Owen has said that on Nov. 20, Gregory told him selectmen voted 4-1 three days before to "terminate me immediately." The 53-year-old had served for a year as town manager.

But selectmen have denied firing Owen, saying they reached an amicable severance agreement and that Owen resigned. Selectman Everett McBride Jr. had said the minutes from the board members' discussion at the private meeting would clarify that selectmen did not vote to fire Owen.

SECRET, Page B2

Town tax hike

"You spend all your time trying to get elected," Gatsas said he wants to see unanimous support for whoever the winner is so the party can present a united front on Dec. 6.

Sen.-elect Jane O'Hearn, R-Nashua, is a newcomer to the Senate, but is coming off three terms in the House. She said she has not sided with anyone and won't until the caucus gets under way.

Robert Boyce, who will take Leo Fraser's seat in District 4, said he is siding with Gary Francoeur, at least in the first round of voting.

"His ideas align with mine better than others," he said.

Boyce said he expects the caucus to end after one candidate gets seven votes from among the 13 available. Then he wants to see a vote for unity.

Sen. Johnson said the new members of the Senate have been surprised at the level of interest in their vote.

"The whole experience has been a bit awe-inspiring for them. They just have to step back and take a breather," he said. "I don't expect them to commit until tomorrow," he said from his home yesterday.

"Whether it takes two or 10 ballots, I want to see us come out of there united with unanimous support so we go to organization day Dec. 6 with 13 votes," Johnson said. "We need to recognize the other side of the aisle, too. There's a lot of talent there. I'd like to see us come together as a body and work together as best we can."

Gordon, too, spoke of uniting the Senate to work in bipartisan fashion.

nizes that with a 19-11 split, the Senate president is going to have to reach out to both parties to get things accomplished."

Gordon has said he is open to an income tax plan if it replaces the statewide property tax that he says will cripple the North Country economy.

He allowed that his stance could hurt in caucus today.

"Some of my opponents have a specific agenda. I want to run an open and fair Senate and allow every issue to be heard, not use the pulpit as a means of achieving the Senate president's agenda," he said.

With the slim GOP majority, he said, "we have to remember we're not picking the president of the Republicans. We're picking the president of the Senate as a whole."



Valerie D. Hershfield Photo
 Gilgamesh, a legendary Sumerian King of the third century B.C., is featured in the "Visage" exhibition in Wadleigh Library, B1.

SECRET
 (Continued From Page B1)

Owen, who was not at last night's meeting, has said he is not bitter and considers the matter over. But he insists that selectmen should admit that they

fired him. He believes he was fired over a dispute over which of two finalists to hire for the vacant fire chief's job.

TAXES
 (Continued From Page B1)

\$486,000.

The proposed budget accounts for about \$1.6 million in capital projects.

According to Plante, the projects also include recreational facilities on West Road and the acquisition of land and construction of a new south fire station.

"Our track record in addressing infrastructure needs is spotty at best," Plante wrote in his letter of introduction to the budget.

Other increases in the proposed budget would cover salary and staffing costs. Plante recom-

mended several new positions, including a zoning enforcement officer and a driver/laborer in the public works department.

Over the course of the next two months, the town council will review the budget and possibly rework entire sections.

The council's budget reviews begin this Saturday, when it reviews the police and fire department budgets.

The first public hearing on the budget will be held Dec. 18, with a final vote scheduled for Jan. 29.

HERBERT
 (Continued From Page B1)

Systems that tie together hospitals and their network of physicians, or in one case, a Florida retirement home with the University of South Florida School of Medicine, are in demand.

Says Scotti, "They simply realized they've got to focus on people's health instead of technology."

Public school systems are notorious for owning phone systems put together on an ad-hoc basis. Auditel im-

business. Jarrell was with the Department of Defense, and Bleau was with NYNEX.

Auditel's already caught a few eyes. Several large companies in telecommunications have made offers, including one large German concern and a publicly traded West Coast wireless provider.

But for right now, Scotti simply wants to develop and expand Auditel's ASP path. The company is small, with 10 full-time employees. Increasing dem-

This week to set heritage funds

Editorials

Too many questions; not enough answers

It's pretty clear that our Town Hall is in turmoil. As taxpayers in this town, we feel—and rightly so—that we should know what's going on and why we are experiencing such a turnover in town employees.

We are looking to the Board of Selectmen for answers. But while we ask questions, we don't get answers.

Did Town Manager Owen resign? Yes, he did. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Richard Gregory has said that "Owen resigned voluntarily and gave no reason for his decision." Owen said he had no choice but to resign, because the Board had taken a 4-1 vote to terminate him in a non-public session. To ease his pain, the selectmen gave Owen a \$40,000 severance package. Owen seemed to think his disagreement with selectmen about which candidate should be appointed as the next Fire Chief had something to do with the "get out of here" offer.

At \$40,000, that's an expensive way to settle a disagreement.

However, since selectmen have not made a statement or given an alternative reason for Owen's leaving, are we to assume that Owen's assessment is correct, or are there other, unspoken reasons?

And why have the selectmen not appointed a fire chief? What are they waiting for? They had four viable candidates; the selection committee has made its recommendation; all the interviews have been completed, and, if Owen is correct, the selectmen have already made their decision.

The press and the people anxiously awaited the unsealing of the non-public session minutes of November 17, but that, too, was disappointing.

The minutes consisted of one statement: The Board discussed the Town Manager's evaluation.

Then it listed five motions and the votes:

1. . .to negotiate an amicable separation of employment between the Town Manager and the Town of Salem. (Passed 4-1, Smith opposed.)
2. . .to negotiate a separation package not to exceed six months salary and six months health/dental/life insurance. (Passed 4-1, Smith opposed).
3. . .to place Town Manager David Owen on administrative leave (Passed 4-1, Smith opposed).
4. . .to appoint Jeff Towne as acting Town Manager (Passed 5-0).
5. . .to seal the minutes (Passed 5-0). There was also another motion:

to adjourn. They remembered to adjourn this time.

Selectman Ronald Belanger at the Monday, November 27 selectmen's meeting likened the Town of Salem to a corporation and the taxpayers to shareholders.

He and his colleagues should also remember that the shareholders vote for Directors of a corporation, and that Board may be likened to the Board of Selectmen.

12/14/00
E. 6106

Location's everything: Salem thrives on shopping

By Rachel M. Collins
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

SALEM — Driving along Route 28 here, it would be easy to imagine how New Hampshire recently attained a No. 2 ranking in the nation when it comes to retail sales per household.

Lining both sides of the road, fronted by parking lots often jam-packed, are malls and department stores selling ev-

erything from toys to computers. For the record, Salem has 450 stores, or approximately one for every 60 people who live here, mainly along a six-mile strip near the Massachusetts border, according to the town planner, Ross Moldoff.

It isn't just New Hampshire shoppers, either. Out-of-staters, drawn to New Hampshire for its lack of a sales tax, are spending big in a strong economy, said

Tom Duffy, a senior planner with the state planning office.

"The retail and services division is going like crazy in New Hampshire," said Martin Capodice, a research analyst with the state's Department of Employment Security's Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau. "We're well ahead of the New England average and well ahead of the national average."

Retail trade in New Hampshire accounts for 19 percent of all jobs overall and 23 percent of the jobs here in Rockingham County, while nationally that figure is closer to 17 percent, Duffy said.

According to the most recent economic census, done in 1997, Hillsborough County, which is the state's most populous, containing Manchester and Nashua, was tops in the state with \$4.9 billion in

retail trading, or \$1,372 "for every, ma woman and child," Duffy said. Rockingham's sales were short of that at \$4.2 billion, but, because of the population difference, that meant \$1,612 in retail spending per person, he said.

"It's definitely a phenom," said Russ Thibault of Applied Economic Research, a real estate and economic consulting

GROWTH, Page 9

The BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE

Location's everything: Salem thrives on shopping

DECEMBER 10, 2000

► **GROWTH**
Continued from Page 1

firm in Laconia. "New Hampshire has disproportionately strong concentrations of retailing at the borders because of its lack of a sales tax."

In fact, he said, when looking at the numbers, sales figures in border towns such as Salem, Nashua, Portsmouth, Keene and Lebanon consistently are 25 to 30 percent higher than would be expected considering the local population.

That kind of demand accounts for the fact that in 1999, nearly 121,000 were employed in retailing in the state, with a bump to more than 126,000 at the holidays, with upwards of 34,000 jobs just in Rockingham County, Capodice said.

Only a few miles from the Massachusetts border, Salem, with 8,000 employees in retailing, is a prime example of a communi-

ty that has taken advantage of the industry's boom, having grown into the state's third largest retail market during the past decade, Moldoff said.

"Clearly what makes [Salem] grow is location," Moldoff said. "We're the first community north of the border with no sales tax."

Michael Merrow, manager of The Mall at Rockingham Park in Salem, said more than 50 percent of the business for the 140 merchants here comes from Massachusetts.

"We've seen continuous growth since we opened in 1991," he said. "We continue to see growth every single year despite what's been added to Route 28, right outside the mall's doors."

Another prime reason Salem has added store after store, mall after mall, Moldoff said, is that the community has embraced a pro-growth philosophy.

Although Thibault said some communities now are balking at the traffic caused by the phenomenal growth in the state's retailing, Moldoff said Salem is not among them. The majority of the residents here seem content with the escalating growth, even with the traffic, he said.

When citizens were polled recently on what they like about living in this town of 28,000, the No. 1 answer was "location" and the No. 2 was "shopping options,"

Moldoff said.

"It goes counter to smart growth," he said. "I call what's happening here dumb growth — growing at all costs to expand the existing tax base. You get what you zone and we got what we zoned."

It all comes down to taxes. Unlike the majority of communities around the state, Salem has had a tax rate that has remained rather consistent for a decade.

'I call what's happening here dumb growth — growing at all costs to expand the existing tax base.'

Ross Moldoff
Salem town planner

Besides that, the town has been able to approve a number of capital projects, including school additions, a water treatment plant and road improvements.

"The positive impact of growth is that our tax rate is lower than communities of a similar size in New Hampshire," Moldoff said. "At one point we were at half the rate of Derry and Londonderry."

And that seems to be what appeals to the majority here.

"This is a pro-growth community," Moldoff said. "There's probably a minority out there that

doesn't like the development but they're not particularly vocal."

Although recently those in the immediate neighborhood of a new Best Buy and CompUSA spoke in opposition to them, Moldoff said that is rare.

"There is no citizens group opposed to more development," he said. "Typically when we have a planning board meeting, no one is there."

With all of this building, Moldoff said, open property along the strip is becoming more difficult to get and, as a result, he is seeing more redevelopment and revitalization of lots. For example, when Target decided to open here, the chain tore down a 110,000-square-foot Lech-

mere to rebuild its own store. Increasingly, these days, because of more stringent traffic management regulations, developers also are having to fork over money to construct road improvements if they want to set up shop along Salem's strip.

For instance, Wal-Mart is spending more than half a million dollars to handle the additional traffic that will come with its new store.

"Because there's money, and savings is not much of a factor in Americans' lives right now, we've got it," Capodice said. "And we're spending it."

Moldoff said.

"The money is such that they're willing to pay to get into Salem," he said.

Still, as space gets tighter right along the border, and the population of New Hampshire grows, there is evidence that the retail boom is beginning to push farther into the state.

In Derry, nearly half a million square feet of retail and commercial space has been built just in the past couple of years, said its town planner.

George Sioras, who has been planner for more than 16 years, said the past two construction seasons have been the busiest ever in terms of commercial development.

Thibault said growth like Derry's can be attributed to retailers branching out and trying to move nearer to consumers. After all, Derry's population in the past 20 years has jumped from 18,000 to 33,000.

Probably the bottom line, though, is that as New Hampshire and the economy have grown, communities like Salem have decided to capitalize on the expansion in retailing.

"Because there's money, and savings is not much of a factor in Americans' lives right now, we've got it," Capodice said. "And we're spending it."

SALEM

Expert offering advice on space

◆ Excessive building often changes the character of the community, the town planner says.

By Margot LeSage
Eagle-Tribune Writer

SALEM — The Planning Board will get some much-needed advice on how to preserve open space from a national expert at their meeting tomorrow night, Town Planner Ross Moldoff said.

Randall Arendt, an expert on planning and land conservation who has written numerous books on the subject, has surveyed Salem and will give the board his recommendations on how to make the most of its open space, and how to encourage developers to make the most of the land they're using.

"We need to do a better job protecting our open space," Mr. Moldoff said.

The Planning Board is currently working on a new master plan. Mr. Moldoff said Mr. Arendt will suggest the plan have a section that deals specifically with open space. He also reviewed the town's subdivision regulations and requirements and has proposed changes to those as well.

"Most of the developments (we have) squeeze houses in on smaller lots and the open space is in the back of the subdivision," Mr. Moldoff said. "It looks worse than a conventional subdivision because there are no trees left since the houses are so close together."

Open space that is forced in back of houses is useless since it cannot be seen or used, Mr. Moldoff added.

There are roughly 2,000 acres of land in Salem that could potentially be developed, according to Mr. Moldoff. While not all 2,000 acres will be built on, the town wants to make sure that the houses that are built make good use of the land.

"We're not preventing developers from building their houses, but we want them to do it in such a way that

A valuable community resource

OUR VIEW

Southern New Hampshire communities should support a program that offers van rides for the elderly and disabled.

With Southern New Hampshire residents and businesses looking to help people in need this holiday season, we'd like to point out one organization that is providing a valuable community service but is in danger of financial collapse.

Since March, the two-year-old Greater Derry/Salem Regional Transportation Council has been providing free van rides in 11 communities to seniors and the disabled; folks who can't drive to medical appointments or the grocery store on their own.

The program has been well-received, with 1,311 rides provided to 673 people between March and October and requests to expand the service even further.

But the council may have to disband and halt the van service early next year because of money woes.

The council recently lost out on a \$13,000 grant from a private foundation in Manchester, said Patricia A. Monfet, the council's coordinator. The council has also discovered that securing grants to cover operating expenses is tougher than first expected.

"We're running out of money and our transportation initiative is in danger of closing up shop (in April) if we can't quickly generate some funds for our operating expenses," Mrs. Monfet told Eagle-Tribune writer John Basileco.

Donations from residents and businesses in Southern New Hampshire would help keep the council from folding. So would grant money and financial assistance from the 11 towns the council serves.

But there is not a lot of time left, Mrs. Monfet said, adding that volunteers are needed to help with office work and fund raising. Currently, Mrs. Monfet is the only paid staff member, and she is part time.

We think the council deserves the community's support.

A 1999 study by the Derry-Londonderry-Timberlane United Way identified the lack of affordable transportation as the most pressing need facing local communities, and this program helps fill that need.

Better access to transportation means the elderly and disabled who can't otherwise get around on their own can lead fuller, more independent lives.

The financial support of 11 different communities can go a long way in helping the council stay afloat and, in turn, help people maintain that independence.