

\$46 Million County Nursing Home Approved For Boscawen

By Meg Heckman
Concord Monitor staff

Condensed with permission from the Concord Monitor.

Construction will begin [in Boscawen] next spring on a sprawling new Merrimack County Nursing Home. Shortly after residents move into their new quarters in late 2007, the existing building will be transformed into an assisted-living complex for younger, healthier clients.

The project, which will cost about

\$46 million, has been approved by county leaders who spent two years studying what to do with the dilapidated building that houses about 300 residents and the medical staff that cares for them.

Increasing labor costs and a new jail have made the county's budget tight. But last week, lawmakers approved the project, 27-1.

"It's awesome," said county administrator Bob Chase. "I think the thing that really amazes me is the support that the project has gotten...particularly



An early concept drawing of the new Merrimack County Nursing Home provided by Warrenstreet Architects, Inc. of Concord, which is hard at work designing the new nursing home.

in this climate."

The county will bond the project. Its effect on the county tax rate depends on interest rates and won't be known for a year or more.

For decades, the home has provided

round-the-clock care for the elderly, sick, and disabled. The size of the population hasn't changed much, but the conditions of the patients have. Men and women with Alzheimer's disease or those in
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Recycling "Rippables" Gets Easier

By Vicky Mishcon
Recycling Committee

Mark your calendar and start collecting your paper trash. Saturday, May 21, is the first day of our new, expanded paper recycling program at the Transfer Station. You will find recycling your paper trash is easier than ever. Here is how it works:

1. Please review the bright green insert included in this issue of the *Beacon*. It lists what you can recycle and what you can't.
2. Bring your recyclable paper goods to the Transfer Station. There will be a large metal "roll-off" container outside and just to the right of the Recycle Building. Simply throw all your paper into the container. Voila!

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Late Night Washouts Keep Road Crew Busy

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The rainy weekend of April 2 and 3 is one that Road Agent John Thompson and his crew won't soon forget.

It rained steadily all day Saturday, and the weather forecasts were full of dire warnings for heavy rains and flooding to come. With the ground still frozen and several feet of snow still piled in the roadside ditches, John and his crews were out checking potential trouble spots until midnight on Saturday. The ditches and culverts were handling the flow, so everyone knocked off for the night.

3 AM Sunday, April 3 – John woke to rain pounding on his bedroom skylight. One look at the water coursing down Tucker Mountain Road and John called his entire crew back on duty.

Much of the damage had already been done. The top part of Tucker



Sunday morning, April 3 - Tucker Mtn. Road Photo by John Thompson

Mountain Road had been washed away. Several hundred yards of one lane of Kearsarge Mountain Road was gone. All over town, overflowing ditches and culverts threatened to make more roads impassable – Bradley Lake Road, Putney Road, the old section of Currier Road, and Shaw Hill Road were all badly damaged. Sam Hill Road was traversed by a two-and-a-half-foot ravine.

The challenge for the crews in the hours before dawn was to turn the water to prevent further damage. Backhoes and loaders were pressed into service, but plenty of the work had to be done with shovels. A crew of three worked the roads in East Andover, while two crews of two men each tackled the trouble spots in the Plains and around Potter Place, respectively.

Among them was Mark Thompson, our former Road Agent and John's father. Mark had returned from a trip to Florida at 4 PM on Saturday afternoon. Less than 12 hours later he was on a bulldozer trying to keep the roads passable.

7:30 AM Sunday – John called in fresh reinforcements.

9:00 PM Sunday – all the roads in town were at least passable.

Almost three weeks later, John and his crew are still repairing damage from the storm. In many cases they had to leave one spot and work on another be-

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Sunday morning, April 3 - Kearsarge Mtn. Road Photo by Mark Stetson

cause the ground in the first spot was so wet that hauling truckloads of material to the damaged spot threatened to damage the rest of the road.

In the first week after the storm, the crew placed more than 1,600 yards of crushed stone. John is quick to point out how fortunate we are in Andover to have crushed our own stone – at the cost of about \$3 per yard – rather than having to buy crushed stone at \$10 per yard.

Unfortunately, cleaning up after the Big Rain of '05 means a shortfall in our gravel supplies. John anticipates running out of what we crushed last year before he finishes this year's summer projects. Fortunately, the plan is to crush more stone at the Transfer Station next year, so the shortfall will be short-lived.

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