



Columbus Day Weekend brought days of rain and flooding. This was the view looking upstream at the Blackwater River from Cilleyville Road. Flooding closed Route 4 at Fenvale three times during the month. Photo by Charlie Darling

First Section Of Rail Trail Opens

By Myra Mayman

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

On Saturday, October 29, at 1 PM at Blackwater Park in Andover a ribbon will be cut to signal the opening of the first 1.7 mile segment of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County. In case of rain, the event will take place the following day, October 30, at the same time.

The ceremony will begin with recognition of a wide variety of people who have donated their time, equipment, and funds to this initial stage of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County. Participants will then walk or bike or wheelchair to the Andover Historical Society's Potter Place Freight House where a reception with refreshments will await them.

This event is the culmination of two years' work and should serve as a harbinger of what is to come. The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County (FNRT-MC) plan to resurface 35 miles of abandoned rail bed owned

by the state from the Danbury/Grafton line through Boscowen. Currently it is used by snowmobilers in winter but is unusable without snow cover.

Connecting to the existing 24 miles of Northern Rail Trail from Lebanon to the Danbury/Grafton line, the trail will total 59 miles when completed and be the longest rail trail in New Hampshire.

When further connected to other trails being planned and built from Franklin to Meredith, it will connect the Connecticut River Valley to the Lakes Region. It will also serve as a transportation option for commuter bikes among the towns along the rail trail.

Building The Trail

The first phase of the resurfacing plan, as seen in the Andover segment from Blackwater Park to Potter Place, was built using a road grader to push aside the 3" stone "ballast" formerly used as a base for the railroad ties and rails. Then a vibrating compactor rolled over what remained, turning it into a

See Rail Trail on page 4

Opening Ceremony For The Northern Rail Trail

1 PM on Saturday, October 29 (Rain Date: October 30)

**Ceremony Starts at Blackwater Park, Lawrence Street, Andover Village
Ceremony Ends at Potter Place Railroad Crossing, Potter Place**

1:00 PM - Introductory Remarks

1:20 PM - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

1:25 PM - Walking* Tour of the Trail from Andover to Potter Place

2:00 PM - Reception and Refreshments at Potter Place

Shuttle service back to Blackwater Park

*In addition to walking, people are also welcome to ride their trail bikes and horses. If you ride a wheelchair, please join us as well, as the rail trail is handicap accessible. If you wish to bring your dog, please observe "rail trail etiquette" and bring a "doggie-do" bag.

For more information, call Bob Ward at 735-5061 or Alex Bernhard at 735-5071.

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\$2.00

Recycling Of PETE Plastics Begins

By Vicky Mishcon

Recycle Committee

On Saturday, October 29, Andover will start accepting PETE plastics for recycling. Look for a container in the Recycle Building labeled PETE. A sign above the collection barrel will show examples of the types of containers that can be accepted. There are many types of containers that are labeled PETE, but only bottles that meet all of the following criteria can be accepted at this time. They must be:

- Marked PETE
- Bottle- or jar-shaped (neck narrower than body)
- Transparent (clear enough to read

through)

- Colorless, green, or blue
- Used for food or beverages; for household cleaning products; or for personal care products

At this time we cannot recycle any other kinds of plastic, nor any PETE plastic that doesn't meet all of the above tests. Containers that we can't recycle at this time include:

- Any plastic that isn't clear enough to read through (not transparent)
- Food trays (wrong shape)
- Automotive product containers (wrong contents)
- Animal care product containers

See PETE on page 4

The Swap Shop will be open on October 29 and welcomes reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, no upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures. Volunteers needed!



Veterans Day Observances Planned

Andover Elementary/Middle School starts off the Veterans Day observances on November 9 at 9:30 AM with its Veterans Day assembly. Andover community members, and especially veterans, are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information contact the school at 735-5494.

A new monument on the Memorial Walkway of the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscowen will be dedicated on November 10, the day before Veterans Day, at 10 AM. The monument honors New Hampshire Marines and is being dedicated on the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. For more information, contact Frank Diekmann at 472-4988 or fad302@comcast.net.

The New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery will hold a Veterans Day observance on November 11 at 11 AM. The cemetery is located at 110 Daniel Webster Highway in Boscowen.

The Purple Heart Trail, which runs through Andover along Route 4, will be dedicated on November 11 at 2 PM in Boscowen at the fork of Route 3 and Route 4 in front of the Boscowen Congregational Church.

This dedication is open for all to attend. In the spirit of the bill authorizing the trail, please come to show your patriotism, learn of history, and be educated about the Military Order of the Purple Heart. For more information, contact David L. Smith at 882-9091 in Nashua.

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