



## New Sidewalk At AE/MS To Be Finished Soon

By Jane Slayton  
AE/MS Principal

In the fall of 2007, the safety committee of the Andover Elementary / Middle School formally submitted a grant application for funding through the Safe Routes to School managed by the New Hampshire Department of Education. The primary focus of the application was to plan, fund, and construct a sidewalk connecting Main Street to the school, providing safe passage for our walkers and bicyclists. Two years later we are now seeing the completion of this much anticipated and needed project.

The original application has gone through many changes in the two years. The focus of the application had been to fund sidewalk construction, to fund pedestrian and bicycle safety initiatives, to fund a design and engineering study to connect school grounds with the bordering Rail Trail, and to promote greater usage of the Rail Trail by school families. The funding, time, and effort have all been directed toward the sidewalk construction, which became more complex than first realized.

The community support for the grant application was generous. Letters of support were received from representatives of Proctor Academy, *The Andover Beacon*, the Andover Board of Selectmen, the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, the Andover Conservation Commission, the Andover Afterschool Program, and the Andover School District teachers and administrators.

Our school classes often traverse the busy parking lot on their trips to the town library or Proctor Academy. Proctor Academy preschoolers visit the AE/MS playground, share books with their middle school reading buddies at AE/MS, or visit the town library. Weekends find the playground full of activity and bicyclists and skateboarders in the village park area.

We have a sometimes congested parking lot which is used by AE/MS, the Andover Afterschool Program, the Andover Service Club Thrift Shop, the Town Hall, the Andover Police Station,

Andover Community Access Cable Channel 8, *The Andover Beacon*, the Andover Library, the Andover Food Pantry, and TDS (for access to its substation next to the Police Station). The parking lot has been a busy, dangerous place for the drivers, but most of all for the children. The new sidewalk should go a long way to improve the safety factor for everyone.

The sidewalk begins on Main Street, skirts the skateboard park area, comes along by the Andover Afterschool Program facility, and finally connects with the middle school side of AE/MS. After the sidewalk is completed we will have a larger "green" area in front of the Afterschool Program. The dirt driveway will be removed and a special parking area will be on the further side of the building. This will allow for a handicapped parking space and access for utility vehicles.

Finally, we will remove the current chainlink fence and install something more aesthetically pleasing that will also serve as a safe barrier.

Jim Spaulding, a civil engineer with the HL Turner Group, has spent many hours planning, designing, and getting the necessary approvals for the sidewalk construction. David Marceau and Sons received the bid to do the work and didn't waste any time getting started. I know we will be happy with David's meticulous work and attention to detail.

It is important to note that the entire project was funded through the Safe Routes to School grant. John Corrigan, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator from the Department of Transportation, served as a helpful guide as we maneuvered through the different steps of the grant approval process.

Thank you to all for your patience as detours have changed the normal traffic flow through the parking lot. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in the very near future! I can already picture the 60+ members of the AE/MS band parading down the sidewalk accompanied by the Andover One Wheelers as we celebrate our new sidewalk.

## Andover Chapter Of Al-Anon Holds Its First Meeting

By Judy Evans  
For the *Beacon*

Those who live with alcoholism often live in fear: fear of abuse, fear of anger, fear of failing someone, and fear of trusting others. Al-Anon Family Groups (including Alateen for younger members) is a source of understanding, help, and hope to families and friends of alcoholics.

Al-Anon is being formed here in

Andover, and the first meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, beginning at 7:30 PM in the Highland Lake Grange Hall in East Andover. Weekly meetings will follow, and they will be held in a confidential, first-name-only basis. All men and women needing support are encouraged to attend.

For more information you may call Sterrett at 344-1669 or Beth at 934-4360.

### 40% from page 1

tipping fees.

#### Recycling Would Make A Big Difference

Why do I care? As a selectman, it is my duty to make good decisions on Town spending so that the tax rate is as fair and reasonable as possible.

The Recycle Committee has put programs in place so that tons of waste can be kept out of the hopper every year. So far this year, 118 tons has been recycled. Trash that is recycled is 1) not shipped to the incinerator and 2) can be sold for profit. *The biggest obstacle to lowering our waste disposal cost is that not everyone recycles.*

Folks, what will it take for everyone to recycle? I'm looking for answers here.

- Is there some way recycling can be made easier at the Transfer Station?

- Would free recycling bins to use at home help?
- In many New Hampshire towns, Pay-As-You-Throw has worked well at increasing recycling and decreasing the burden of tipping fees on the tax rate. Is that what it will take for us to get our Tipping Fees line item under control?

If you have never recycled and would like to start, there are folks who would be happy to help you get started. Our Town Administrator can direct you to any one of six Recycle Committee members for help. Call 735-5332 to get started!

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