



# REPORTER

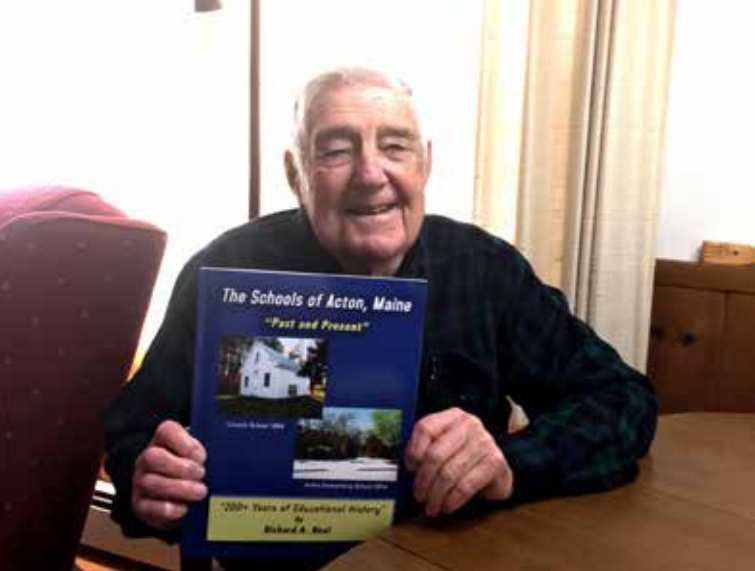
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**BUY THE BOOK**  
with Richard A. Neal

## Sanford author writes book on Acton schools

By JOANNE BARGIONI

Richard A. Neal's latest book entitled *The Schools of Acton, Maine Past and Present*, is a history of 200 years of the Acton Schools. He is President of the Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society. I visited him in his home in Sanford to discuss his new book.

**Q: Can you tell me about your background prior to writing this book?**

A: After I retired from the Naval Shipyard as an electrical engineer my wife Rhea and I purchased an old farmhouse in Acton where we lived for 29 years. During that time I was a Selectman in Acton for 10 years. I was given copies of the annual Town Reports that went back over 145 years that was part of the Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society collection. Curiosity got the best of me and I began reading the Annual Reports. The Reports had reported on the local schools and I could factually find out the details of each school, for example; change of name of school, when a school closed and when a new

one was built.  
**Q: Why did you write this book?**

A: I was volunteering at the Lincoln School and had coffee with the Principal and I was concerned about teaching the history of the schools of Acton. I went to the Acton School and found that they were only teaching the history of Sanford schools for example. The kids never knew any of the history of their town. I was living at the time in a 238 year old farmhouse in Acton and started checking around to find out the history of Acton and at that time joined the Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society.

**Q: How long did it take you to write the book?**

A: It took about 4 to 5 years. There were over 145 Annual Reports to go thru.

**Q: What is the book about?**

A: The book goes into the early years of education in Maine including the first school houses and teacher education as well as the Historic Acton School Districts 1-14 and Acton's newconsolidated schools. Also the old

(Continued on page 6)



This RSU 57 Odyssey of the Mind, Middle School team, is heading to the World Championships at Michigan State in May, after placing second in their division at the state championships. Four RSU 57 teams participated in the state championships. From left, Sydney DeSimone, Teddy Gluck, Aberdeen Brickett, Isabella Laine and Jessica Nordengren. The team is holding a nerf battle fundraiser at Friendship Park in Waterboro on April 20 (weather permitting). COURTESY PHOTO

## Limington Youth League now called Limington Recreation

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

Limington Recreation came into being through a name change to the Limington Youth League a couple of months ago. The volunteer group has run the town's soccer and baseball youth leagues over the years, and the organization has been changing over the last few years, with a new focus on families, not just youth.

"Since taking this new approach, it occurred to us that we should change our name from Limington Youth League to Limington Recreation to accommodate all ages," said Tim Folley, President of Limerick Recreation.



"We wanted to bring a variety of classes and events to the community for residents of all ages," said Abby Pitts, the Community Events Coordinator. Pitts joined the group a few months ago, and witnessed the name change. They all agreed that keeping the Old Town Hall in use was also important, and therefore, many of their upcoming events take place at the Old Town Hall! "We wanted to unite the community," said Pitts, "and find ways to network, support and grow each other."

"We pair two or more activities together to give families options," said Folley. "We had our

(Continued on page 6)

## Emerald Ash Borer quarantine announced

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has announced a formal quarantine on emerald ash borer (EAB) and material that may harbor it.

The quarantine area includes all of York County and the northeastern corner of Aroostook County. The quarantine boundaries were drawn to include a buffer on those towns where EAB had been detected. EAB was found in northern Aroostook County in May 2018 and in western York County in September 2018. An emergency order has been in place to limit movement of infested ash from areas where the pest has been found since those discoveries.

Quarantine rules prohibit movement of ash nursery stock from the quarantine area, and regulate the movement of hardwood firewood, hardwood chips and other ash products with bark, such as logs and pulp, and untreated ash lumber. Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and

(Continued on page 8)

**NEW EVERY FRIDAY!**  
Find everything you need to know about YOUR local community every Friday!

LOCAL NEWS • LOCAL EVENTS • LOCAL FACES • LOCAL BUSINESSES 



# INVISIBLE PLASTIC

—By Georgette Carignan  
Limerick

Plastic is invisible, not to the eye, but to our sense of danger and outrage. It is cheap to produce. And it is everywhere. Meats are hermetically sealed in plastic wrap, condiments come in plastic bottles, milk, juices, frozen vegetables, bread. Toilet paper is wrapped in plastic! Lipstick and toothpaste (and many other cosmetics) as well as chewing gum contain plastic microbeads. My dental hygienist gives me a tiny plastic tube of toothpaste and a miniscule container of floss neatly tucked into a plastic bag at the end each visit!

“The vast majority of it (plastic) is not recycled, it’s ending up in our oceans, waterways, and communities around the world. Plastic doesn’t ever go away, it just fragments into micro plastics that continue polluting our world for decades to come,” says David Pinsky, Greenpeace Oceans.

Like everyone else, I had heard about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, but I had no idea of its magnitude until I read a quote by Charles Moore, the man who discovered it in 1997. He said, “I was confronted, as far as the eye could see, with the sight of plastic. It seemed unbelievable, but I never found a clear spot. In the week it took to cross the subtropical high, no matter what time of day I looked, plastic debris was



Trash collected by Carignan in 20 minutes along a 1-mile walk on Stone Hill Road in Limerick. Note the needle and syringe in the forefront of the picture. PHOTO BY GEORGETTE CARIGNAN

floating everywhere: bottles, bottle caps, wrappers, fragments.”

According to National Geographic about 80% of this debris comes from land-based activities in North America and Asia. The remaining 20% comes from boats, offshore oil rigs and large cargo ships.

**Here are some things we know about plastic:**

- Plastic bags don’t biodegrade, they photodegrade, breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits.
- Plastics both leach out and absorb harmful pollutants.
- A plastic bag can take 400 to 1,000 years to break down in the environment.
- 8 million metric tons of plastic

ends up in the oceans annually.

- Plastic bags cause over 100,000 sea turtle and other marine animal deaths every year.

- In the United States plastic waste generation is increasing and the recycling rate is projected to drop to 4.4% in 2018.

With those jarring facts, it’s hard to imagine we can make a difference, but we can. “Marine debris is absolutely a solvable problem because it comes from us humans and our everyday practices.” Diana Parker of the NOAA Marine Debris Program states, “We can take any number of steps to keep it from entering the ocean and that can happen at the highest level with governments and it can happen at the lowest level with in-

dividuals and everyday choices.”

We need to take action. Even “baby steps” will make a difference. I found that one of the easiest and most satisfying methods to reduce plastic is to use cloth market bags. I buy LL Bean-type canvass bags at Goodwill. I stow them in my car and use them everywhere, at the pharmacy, the chain stores, gift shops, my favorite consignment shop. Forgo the filmy produce bags also. It’s really okay to have loose produce in your grocery cart. Or you can invest in mesh bags made expressly for that purpose.

Another incredibly easy thing to do is to stop using straws. Say, “No straw, please.” Manufacturers are now marketing stainless

steel straws, glass straws, bamboo and paper straws. As demand increases, they will become more and more available as well as more affordable. I have found, however, that my lips are perfectly functional for sipping liquids.

Another big bug-a-boo is bottled water. Considering 50% of bottled water comes straight from the tap anyway, there is no great advantage to drinking bottled water. Experts recommend investing in a water filter (if necessary) and reusable water bottles. I like Mason jars, they are quite trendy now.

Another important step is to vote for candidates committed to protecting and improving our environment. When I started on this journey of limiting my use of plastic (especially single use plastic), I was touched by the suffering of animals strangling in beer can holders and dying from ingesting plastic bags that resembled jelly fish in the water. As time went on I became aware of how much plastic I was using even seeing it. A cardboard coffee cup came with a plastic lid, a plastic stirrer, and a plastic creamer container.

We need to press the reset button on our ideas of convenience and waste. We need to take some responsibility as consumers and demand another, more sustainable way. We need to start, even if it’s just baby steps, like using a canvas bag at the grocery store or refusing plastic straws. Start with one step, you might be surprised where it leads and we will all be better for it.

**Earth Day is Monday, April 22!**

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Mark – Geologist  
Poland Spring Company



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# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

## SOFTBALL

Date	Opponent	Time
4/18	@Gorham	1pm
4/20	@Marshwood	11am
4/22	Kennebunk (no JV)	4:30pm
4/24	Noble	4pm
4/29	Sanford	4pm
5/1	@Portland	6pm
	JV @Kylie	4pm
5/3	S.Portland	4:30pm
5/7	@Scarborough	4:30pm
5/8	Westbrook	4pm
5/10	@T. Academy	4:30pm
5/13	Biddeford	4:30pm
5/15	@Windham	4:30pm
5/17	Cheverus (no JV)	4pm
5/20	@Bonny Eagle	4pm
5/22	Falmouth (no JV)	4pm
5/24	@Deering	4pm
	JV	6pm

- 6/4 Regional Prelims
- 6/6 Regional Quarterfinals
- 6/8 Regional Semifinals
- 6/11-6/12 Regional Finals
- 6/13 Graduation
- 6/15 State Championships



## TRACK & FIELD

### BOYS

Date	Opponent	Time
4/23	Sanford, TA, Westbrook	
	@So. Portland	3:45pm
4/30	Deering, Falmouth	
	@Biddeford (coed)	3:30pm
5/7	BE, Biddeford, So. Portland	
	@Noble (coed)	3:45pm
5/10	Relays @Westbrook	4pm
5/14	Marsh., Noble, Sanford	
	@Kennebunk (coed)	3:45pm

### GIRLS

Date	Opponent	Time
4/22	TA, Westbrook, Sanford, So. Portland	
	@MHS	3:45pm
4/30	Deering, Falmouth	
	@Biddeford (coed)	3:30pm
5/7	BE, Biddeford, So. Portland	
	@Noble (coed)	3:45pm
5/10	Relays @Scarborough	4pm
5/14	Marsh., Noble, Sanford	
	@Kennebunk (coed)	3:45pm

5/18	York County Championship Biddeford	9am
5/25	SMAA @Falmouth	10am
6/1	Class A States Lewiston	10am
6/8	New Englands	TBD

## BASEBALL

Date	Opponent	Time
4/11	@Westbrook	4pm
4/23	Deering	4pm
4/25	@Kennebunk	4pm
4/27	Marshwood	10am
4/30	@Cheverus	4pm
	JV @Washington Ave	
5/2	Bonny Eagle	4pm
5/4	@S.Portland	11am
5/7	Falmouth	4pm
5/11	@Noble	10am
5/14	T. Academy	4pm
5/16	@Biddeford	4:30pm
5/18	Sanford	10am
5/21	@Portland	7pm
	JV @DeeringOaks	4pm
5/23	Gorham	4:30pm
5/25	Windham	10am
5/28	@Scarborough	4:30pm
	JV @Wylie	

- 6/1 SMAA Champ @USM
- 6/4 Prelim @Higher Speed
- 6/6 Quarterfinal @Higher Speed
- 6/8 Semifinal @Higher Speed
- 6/12 Regional Final @SJC
- 6/15 States @Augusta



Massabesic seniors Emily Stinson and Winter Whitten were recently awarded 2019 SMAA Citizenship Awards. COURTESY PHOTO

**Wishing our athletes a great season!**



-from the Reporter staff

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# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW



Massabesic and Falmouth lacrosse players posed together during a recent preseason play-day held at MHS. COURTESY PHOTO

LACROSSE		
GIRLS' JV/VARSITY		
Date	Opponent	Time
4/24	T. Academy	4:15/6pm
4/26	@Yarmouth	3:30/5pm
5/2	@Bonny Eagle	4/5:30pm
5/8	So. Portland	4:15/6pm
5/9	Marshwood	4:15/6pm
5/11	York	11:45am
5/14	@Scarborough	7pm
	JV@Mem Park	5:30pm
5/16	Windham	4:15/6pm
5/18	@Cape	TBA
5/23	Kennebunk	5:15/7pm
5/28	@Gorham	4:30/6pm
5/30	@Falmouth	4:15/6pm

BOYS' JV/VARSITY		
Date	Opponent	Time
4/12	@Biddeford	4:30/6pm
4/20	Kennebunk (No JV)	10am
4/25	Noble	4:15/6pm
4/27	Windham	10am/12pm
5/3	T. Academy	4:15/6pm
5/8	@Marshwood	5:45/4pm
5/10	@Gorham	4:30pm
5/15	@Portland	5:30/4pm
5/22	Westbrook	4:15/6pm
5/24	@Noble	4/4pm
5/29	Bonny Eagle	4:15/6pm
5/31	@Sanford	6/4:30pm

6/3	Prelims	
6/5	Quarterfinals	
6/8	Semifinals	
6/12	Regional Finals	
6/15	State Championship	



TENNIS		
BOYS		
Date	Opponent	Time
4/22	Windham	4pm
4/24	@Biddeford	3:45pm
4/26	@So. Portland	3:45pm
4/29	Kennebunk	3:30pm
5/1	@Sanford	3:30pm
5/6	Scarborough	4pm
5/8	@Bonny Eagle	3:30pm
5/10	@Deering	4pm
5/11	Regional Singles Qualifier	TBA
5/13	Portland	3:45pm
5/15	Gorham	3:30pm
5/17	Marshwood	4pm
5/18	SMAA Doubles	TBA
	@Cheverus	
5/20	@Westbrook	4pm

GIRLS		
Date	Opponent	Time
4/22	@Windham	4pm
4/24	Biddeford	3:45pm
4/26	S. Portland	3:45pm
4/29	@Kennebunk	3:30pm
5/1	Sanford	3:30pm
5/6	@Scarborough	4pm
5/8	Bonny Eagle	3:30pm
5/10	Deering	4pm
5/11	Regional Singles Qualifier	TBA
5/13	@Portland	3:45pm
5/15	@Gorham	3:30pm
5/17	@Marshwood	4pm
5/18	SMAA Doubles	TBA
	@Cheverus	
5/20	Westbrook	3:30pm

5/24-5/25	State Singles	TBA
	Prelims	
5/27	Semi & Finals	TBA
5/28	Team Western Prelims	
6/1	Team Western Finals	
6/6	Western Maine Finals	
6/7	State Championships	TBA

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**LIMINGTON REC**

(Continued from page 1)

first annual pancake breakfast and egg hunt last week and a movie night paired with baseball registration in March.”

The group is busy with the upcoming baseball season. Their is a Clean-up Day planned for Saturday, April 20, and volunteers are still needed to get things ready. They are also still looking for a T-ball coach. If you are interested, contact Isaac Sprowl for more information, or go to the Limington Recreation Facebook page.

In addition to baseball, the organization has some new offerings, providing community members with different ways to get fit and support Limington Rec.

Beginning on Friday, April 26, Jillene Jones will be offering a 4-week Pure Prana Yoga class from 6-7 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. This is an all-level yoga class, blending Vinyasa and Iyengar yoga styles, including seated, standing and balancing poses to encourage relaxation, increase flexibility and strengthen core muscles. The cost is \$10 per class, and you can sign up through the Limington Recreation post on Facebook. For more information, contact Jones at 329-9499.

There will also be a 5-week Zumba class offered on Wednesdays from 7-7:45 p.m. also at the Old Limington Town Hall, beginning on May 8, taught by Stacie Townsend. Zumba is a “high energy, Latin-dance style workout – A great way to have fun while

you exercise.” The class is \$25 for the five weeks and is open to anyone, those new to Zumba and those more experienced. You can register for the class through the Limington Recreation Facebook page, and you can pay through Paypal by contacting Townsend at Staciemv7@gmail.com. For more information, call 749-0612. A portion of the proceeds for both of these exercise classes will go to Limington Recreation.

Limington Rec is also hoping to add more lectures and presentational programs in the future. Backyard Organic Farming 101 will be the first one. On Saturday, April 27 from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Old Limington Town Hall, Stowe Watters of Old Wells Farm will be teaching those in attendance how to save money and grow healthy food. Afterwards, Watters is offering a tour of the farm’s greenhouse and a complimentary pack of seedlings. The cost is \$10 per person and all proceeds from this event will go to Limington Recreation. Call the Limington Town Hall at 637-2171 to register. Advance registration is requested.

Limington Recreation does have a budget from the town of Limington, raised from \$15,000 last year to \$17,500, according Folley, who also reported that the organization is run completely by volunteers. “We have a small, dedicated board,” he said. Hannah Mowett is the Vice President of Soccer, Isaac Sprowl is the Vice President of Baseball, Abby Pitts is the Community Events Coordinator, Jake Smith is the

Field Maintenance Director, and Patty Ramsdell is the Treasurer. They meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Old Town Hall in Limington. Feel free to stop by and join them and learn more about the organization. In the future, they hope to increase the budget and to be able to create a paid Recreation Director position. Some of their upcoming events are fundraisers to help to cover the costs of future programming.

Look for more information about Limington Recreation at these upcoming events:

The 2nd annual Beach to Ballfield 5K will take place on May 26. The race begins at 8 a.m. at the Moy-Mo-Da-Yo Beach and ends at Blake Memorial Ballfield. Pre-register online for \$17, or at the Limington Town Hall for \$15. Race day Registration is \$20. According to their Facebook page, “Whether you run or walk, it’s sure to be a good time!”

Limington Recreation is also a key organizer for the Limington Celebration on July 6.

For more information, visit the Limington Municipal Complex at 425 Sokokis Ave, or give them a call there at 637-2171, stop by a meeting at the Old Town Hall at 297 Sokokis Ave, on the corner of Rte 11 and 117, or find them on Facebook.

“Our priority is to bring folks together and build a sense of community and excitement through shared experiences like these monthly community events,” said President Tim Folley.

Obituaries



**George Clark Benner**

George C. Benner, 70, of Waterboro, passed away on April 12, 2019, at Seal Rock Nursing Home in Saco.



George Clark Benner

George was born on May 10, 1948 in Boston, Massachusetts the son of Lloyd F. and Elsie K. (Clark) Benner.

George graduated from Portland High School with the Class of 1966. He served in the United States Navy from 1967 – 1971 and continued to serve in the US Navy Reserves until 1973. George worked as a sheet metal mechanic at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for many years and was the President of the Portsmouth Federal Employees Metal Trades Council, AFL-CIO. He retired from the Yard in 1999 and finished his working career with the U.S. Postal Service.

George’s hobbies and interests included bird watching, gardening and being outdoors. He especially enjoyed spending time with Eddie Gutierrez and going deer hunting. George enjoyed fly fishing at Baxter State Park and spoiling his beloved dog and cats. George was content to visit with his longtime friends and open to making new ones. For those of us who knew and loved George; he was known for his collection of hats and his dry sense of humor. He will be missed by his family and close friends.

He is survived by his sisters, Amy Hodgkins, Jackie Gutierrez, Jeanne Romanow and Josie Hunter. George is also survived by his one true love of 20 years, Heidi Reed, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents.

A Graveside Service with military honors will be held on Saturday, June 8 at 11 a.m. at Evergreen Cemetery in Alfred.

To leave a message of condolence for his family, visit [www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com](http://www.autumngreenfuneralhome.com).

With George’s love of animals, please consider donating to the Animal Welfare Society, P.O. Box 43, West Kennebunk, ME 04094.

The Autumn Green Funeral Home is respectfully handling arrangements.



Obituaries are a free service in the Reporter.

EMAIL W/PHOTO TO:  
[news@waterbororeporter.com](mailto:news@waterbororeporter.com)

**BUY THE BOOK**

(Continued from page 1)

time one room schoolhouses and teacher’s reflection on her years as a one room teacher.

The last chapter includes interesting comments/events over the years. For example in 1877 a teacher’s pay varied from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per week.

**Q: Are you currently focused on one school in Acton?**

A: Currently the Acton-Shapleigh Historical Society is dedicated to restoring the Lincoln School which opened in 1884 and closed in 1957. On April 23, 2016 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Shortly thereafter the Board of Selectmen gave permission to the ASHS to take the lead in helping to raise funds to make the necessary repairs to the building in order to preserve it for future generations. The goal is to have the building open for events.

**Q: Where do the proceeds of the book go?**

A: The proceeds are going towards the preservation of the Lincoln School in Acton.

**Q: Where can we purchase a copy of the book?**

A: You can purchase the book at Amazon.com. and local copies may be obtained at the ASHS, 122 Emery Mills Road Shapleigh and the Acton Public Library, 35 H Road, Acton 04001 or by contacting me at 636-3205.

This book is an informative history of the Acton Schools with plenty of historic photographs and diagrams of the old schoolhouses. It is filled with amusing anecdotal stories of days past.

**LETTERS**

**Thank you for the local news**



Hello, my name is Dylan Charlton. I’m a senior at Massabesic High School, and a Boy Scout from Troop 320 in Shapleigh.

I’m writing to tell you I really liked the articles in the Friday, March 29th issue, specifically the one recognizing the students of the month at Massabesic Middle School, the one about maple Sunday, and the article on the community garden plots, which I thought was quite informative.

I just want to say I’m always delighted to read the paper and find out the local news. Great job keep people informed!

–Dylan Charlton  
Shapleigh

**EDITOR’S NOTE:**

Dylan’s 18th birthday is April 23. Happy Birthday Dylan. Thanks for reading!

**WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND?**  
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### A glimpse back in time

It may surprise to you know that our usually quiet little town was once a bustling village with plenty going on, hosting visitors from all over the country. It was a lively summer draw and city people couldn't wait to get up here.

According to local history and information obtained from authors of Newfield's past, this country village had more to offer than a cup of coffee at the local store.

At the turn-of-the-century, back in the summer's of the early 1900's, elaborate resorts hosted rich families from the cities. They stayed at The Maples, the Ossipee River House, and the Mirror Lake Farm, to name a few, and dined on

elegant meals on the verandas.

Saturday nights were lively and music filled the air at the Shady Nook Dance Hall, which was packed with folks out for an evening of fun and laughter as they danced the night away.

The shelves at the general stores were filled with everything from home made pickles to red flannel underwear and folks sat out on the steps of the old store eating ice-cream on hot summer nights.

Band concerts and silent movies were a weekly event, that the whole town turned out for; and the yearly Old Home Days Festival was a huge event, attracting thousands.

Manufacturing was thriving with businesses all over the area from box factories, to wagons, grave stones, cigars, woodworkers, textiles, hats, food processors and much more. There was plenty of work in the area in the trade of your choice.

And finally, back in 1896, a seasons ticket to Ramshackle Park Fair was just \$5.00, where

the whole family could watch the horse races, join in the potato sack races and have tailgate parties on the back of the buckboard.

Although those days are gone, some of the old buildings are still around, and we can only imagine the wonderful times people had in our little corner of the world.

Life is so much different now, but we still draw the out-of-town visitors. And, from what I've heard, we have some pretty good crowds that turn out for the town hall dances. We enjoy bake sales, craft fairs, breakfast with Santa, and baked bean suppers. Seeing a friend or neighbor around town is always a plus to catch up on the latest news, and looking out at the lake gives us the solitude to 'clear our heads.' I guess you could say that "we really know how to live."

These are the good old days that people will be talking about 100 years from now, so let's just keep doing what we are doing and enjoy it.

Life in the country couldn't get any better. I can only imagine what the future Newfield

residents and visitors would say about us. Maybe it would be something like, "Wow, did they really live like that? It must have been a beautiful way of life."

### Time for fresh or salt water fishing

Newfield Historical Society will host Robin Thayer, who will give a talk about Fresh and Salt Water Fishing on Saturday, April 27, at 2 p.m. The program is free and refreshments will be served afterward and everyone is welcome to attend. The historical society will hold a business meeting at 1:30 p.m. prior to the program.

### Lunch Bunch off to Bonanza

The Lunch Bunch will be going to Bonanza Restaurant at 1285 Main Street on Thursday, April 25. They will meet there between 11-11:30 a.m. Anyone who needs a ride or would like to join, please call Janet Colwell at 793-8848.

### Happy birthday

Local people celebrating their birthdays during the last of April are Melissa Vachon, Karen Morin, and Natasha Hubbard.

### Meetings

Boy Scout Troop #329 will meet on Monday, April 22, at Scout Hall, at 7 School Street in Limerick at 6:30 p.m. New members always welcome. Jim Dion is the Scoutmaster. Call Joe Iannazzo at 850-6237.

There will be no Cub Scouts on April 22.

Newfield Firefighters will have a training session on Tuesday, April 23, at the Public Safety Building at 85 Water Street in West Newfield at 7 p.m. New members are welcome to attend.

Newfield Selectmen will meet on Tuesday, April 23 at the West Newfield Town Hall at 23 So. Effingham Road at 6 p.m.

Tea Time will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at the Newfield Village Library at 637 Water Street at 3 p.m.

## ALFRED

Allison Williams

awilliams@waterbororeporter.com  
324-5823

### "Let's talk about it" at local libraries

Both Parsons Memorial Library and the Waterboro Public Library have been selected by the Maine Humanities Council to jointly offer "Let's Talk About It", a free reading and discussion group with copies of books available through both libraries. The program is provided by the Council's Maine Center for the Book in cooperation with the Maine State Library.

The series "Mysteries by Maine Authors" begins Monday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Parsons Memorial Library continuing for 5 sessions meeting at the two libraries on alternate nights months. Included in the series are "The

Poacher's Son" by Paul Doiron; "Potshot" by Gerry Boyle "Cold Hard News" by Maureen Milliken and others. A scholar provided by the Maine Humanities Council will facilitate the discussions.

Books for the program are available for loan at both libraries. Interested readers are asked to please register at the library (324-2001 at Parsons Library) and come in to pick up the first book of the series. For more information about "Let's Talk About It" see [www.mainehumanities.org](http://www.mainehumanities.org) or call the Portland office at 773-5051.

### "Old Alfred" shown at library

It was almost a full house when the Williamses arrived at the library this past week toting a slide projector and slides to show the Alfred Historical Society members and friends. We never imagined so many would be interested! We had tried to pare down a program which would have lasted much

longer but perhaps it wasn't really necessary. Slides which were especially interesting were those of the old town hall (before the village fire); the three blacksmith shops; the homes which had been moved (Elsie Davis' home once stood where our library stands); the cranberry crew and the corn crew and the embroidery factory, all of which had once provided residents a means of making a living.

The picture of the old jail revealed the shop in the rear where prisoners had made heels; the Baptist Church became the Grange Hall; the grandeur of the Alfred House, an inn which once offered meals and lodging and was run by General George Leighton and his large family; the old Methodist Church whose windows can be admired in the Sanford Methodist Church, except for the one which is buried in the courthouse lawn; Lawyer Sam Came on the steps of his law office.

Jerry Gile's grandfather looked splendid in his Civil War uniform;

schoolchildren posing on the steps of the school included one easily identified by myself and that was Maude Sayward who became a teacher; the Alfred baseball team which included a young and handsome George Williams who used to pick our strawberries. The view of the interior of the Parish Church was decorated for a wedding and looked very different than it does today. Actually, the whole village looks very different. If a house was needed in a different location, it was just moved. Marge Anderson recognized her own home before it was moved.

The slides were from photos copied by our son and my husband. Somehow seeing them on the screen gave them a "3D" effect. Because there are many more we may do another program someday.

During the business meeting Bruce Tucker announced he will give a program in May featuring "Sprague City" in the North Shapleigh/Newfield area, which is apparently known to local people.

### Scholarship available

The Friends of Parsons Library have announced a scholarship is available for senior students from Alfred who plan to further their education after high school. The applications must be in by May 1. Information may be obtained from the library.

Another special event will be the Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 11 in the library.

### Parish church

Weather reports do not seem very encouraging for Easter. If it rains the sunrise service may be held in the sanctuary. A change of date has been made for the free supper, which will be April 29 not April 22. Peter Panagore will be preaching on April 28. Easter lilies are being distributed to our shut-in friends. Those who placed lilies or other flowers in the sanctuary for Easter are asked to take them home after the service. If not they will be taken to shut-in friends.

## MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY NEWS

### QUARANTINE

(Continued from page 1)

Forestry staff, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine are working with the public and impacted industries to ensure compliance with the quarantine.

"A quarantine can help slow the spread of this destructive insect into uninfested areas," said State Entomologist Allison Kanoti. "That gives businesses, Native American craftspeople and artists that use ash as well as homeowners, landowners and municipalities who care for ash across the state additional time to consider their options and make plans for a future with EAB."

That future will include far fewer ash trees. Maine forests have more than 400 million

white, green, and brown ash trees at risk. Ash is also an important street tree in towns and cities. EAB is an invasive wood-boring beetle that attacks ash trees by disrupting the flow of water and nutrients causing the tree to die. Native ash trees have little resistance to attack, and often die within a few years of initial arrival of the beetle. EAB was first discovered in North America in 2002. Since its arrival, it has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees.

White ash shows some resistance to and tolerance of attack by EAB. A fraction of those trees may be able to survive in the presence of EAB. The US Department of Agriculture has been working on a program to provide ash with another form of defense—tiny wasps from Asia that attack the eggs or young of EAB and may eventually bring their populations to a tolerable level.

Despite these glimmers of hope, EAB will devastate ash in Maine. Cities and towns from New England through the Midwest report damage to infrastructure such as power lines and hazards to people related to the deterioration of ash trees attacked by this insect. Ash will be lost as a functional part of forest ecosystems, joining the ranks of American elm and American chestnut. Ash will no longer be available as a material for forest products including baseball bats, baskets, tool handles, flooring, cabinetry and others. The goal of the quarantine is to slow the spread of the insect to delay impacts to the ecosystem, native culture and economy.

Additional information on EAB, how to recognize and report its damage, and details of the Maine ash quarantine, can be found at [www.maine.gov/eab](http://www.maine.gov/eab).

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