

News from the Desk of the Town Administrator
By Stephen Halleran

First and foremost if you live on a gravel road, hang in there the grader is coming!! Although the winter snow and ice stopped quickly this year, the earlier wet and cold weather resulted in a very significant mud season. Even as the roads have dried out, many are now rutted and/or potholed. As of April 16th the grader is out every day and progress is being made. The highway crew is also out patching paved roads and cutting up and chipping tree and branch damage from last winter's Ice Storm. This work too will continue until completed.

The Selectboard has directed the highway department to spend this summer ditching, grading and chipping along all of our gravel roads. The plan is to perform these activities, as a complete project, for each road before moving on to the next road. The gravel roads often suffer as the Highway Department typically spends the entire summer working on the designated paved road reconstruction project. We will be communicating on an as needed basis with residents prior to the start of work on a particular road. In just about all cases the planned work will be confined to the towns existing right of ways. However, if you have any specific concerns about this type of work on your roadway please call the office or better yet, stop in. By the end of the summer we hope to have made significant progress with catching up on these maintenance activities.

Many thanks to Jerry and Martha Doolittle for their efforts to dust off and share with the community a portion of the oral history project that was compiled back in the 1970's. Jerry's work provides a peak into Plainfield's past via the voices of the participants and period photos. I particularly enjoyed hearing Ralph Jordan talk about hunting and fishing in Plainfield, but of course only after the farm work was done. I know from own conversations about Mr. Jordan that he had no use for a hired man who couldn't get into the barn to start work by 4:00am! The Selectboard supports the idea of doing all that we can to format and preserve this historical work for the use and enjoyment of future generations. If your interested in helping with this, contact Jerry Doolittle.

Thanks to the efforts of our website creators and caretakers Mike and Mary Lou Sutherland the town is pleased to announce the addition of a new way to learn about important Plainfield news and events. Visit <http://www.plainfieldnh.org/mail.html> and sign up to be on the "Town News" E-mail list. The list will be used only for the purpose of conveying information from the town office. The list does not provide for threaded discussions or for anyone on the list to send a message to everyone else on the list. In short, it's **not** about getting any more junk e-mail or unwanted solicitations. What it will do is allow us to inform you about important events happening in the community and/or updated information on ongoing situations like the ice storm or perhaps the spring road grading schedule. Unfortunately, despite being "legally posted" on various bulletin boards around town, valuable information often goes unnoticed and unused. There is no requirement to sign up, and information will continue to be posted as legally required, but if you wish to receive town updates right in your inbox, by all means sign up and give it a try. If we don't meet your expectations you can always delete us.

We are all anticipating, in the near future, a reopening of both of our valued stores. However, in the short term, just a reminder that the Town Office, the Meriden Library and the Plainfield Library all sell the green trash stickers. We are also happy to send them via the mail, just include a stamped addressed envelope with your request.

Enjoy the spring weather and if the town office can be of assistance, please let us know.

Stephen Halleran