

In the Spring Plainfield will be sponsoring the second annual “Father’s Day Clean-up Extravaganza”, and there is a tire collection day in the autumn, funding the town’s participation in 2 hazardous waste collection days (spring & fall). Many thanks to the recycling volunteers, Steve Halleran and especially to Ken Stocker and the highway crew for all of their efforts including and not least “the Metal Bin” and surrounding areas.

Hillary Sundell, Recycling Shed Coordinator

## CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS

This year the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) have considered issues as wide-ranging as the Alstead flood to climate change and the effects of ice jams. In 2006 CRJC provided \$82,000 in Partnership Program grants for locally-inspired projects, including a study of Connecticut River dragonflies in the Plainfield area, a land management training program for horse owners, and a trout aquarium for the Hartland Elementary School.

We hosted the Environmental Protection Agency in announcing results of the Connecticut River Fish Contaminant Study, the first whole-river study of its kind, which was requested by CRJC. Results for the Mt. Ascutney Region indicate that PCBs are a threat to fishermen, birds, and mammals that eat Connecticut River fish. Levels of mercury in fish in this reach are more of a threat to fish-eating birds and mammals than to humans. Dioxins and DDT breakdown products are also present in fish tissue and are a threat to subsistence fishers but not to recreational anglers. Our web site, [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org), carries links to this study and to state fish consumption advisories.

CRJC supports efforts to safeguard the valley’s natural, agricultural, and historic assets, and are working with businesses and the states to strengthen the local base for tourism through the Connecticut River Byway. In 2006 we created a manual to help local groups prepare engaging heritage tourism-related publications to showcase their communities. Visit the Byway at [www.ctrivertravel.net](http://www.ctrivertravel.net).

Appointed by the legislatures of New Hampshire and Vermont to guide growth and development in the watershed, the CRJC are advisory and have no regulatory powers. The Commissions strive to ensure greater public involvement in decisions that affect the river region. We welcome the public to our meetings on the last Monday of each month. Visit our web site for a calendar of events, useful information and links, and our newsletters, *River Valley News* and *River Byway News*.

*Nancy Franklin and Robert Kline, Connecticut River Commissioners*

### **ANNUAL REPORT - 2006 Mt. Ascutney Region Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions**

This year the Mt. Ascutney Region Subcommittee updated the water resources chapter of the *Connecticut River Management Plan*, focusing on the many environmental and economic benefits of keeping floodplains open, shorelands protected from development, and vegetated riparian buffers growing along riverbanks to keep them stable, keep debris off floodplain fields, and to filter pollutants from water running off the land into the river.

The subcommittee continues to carry out our obligation to provide information

and assistance to the states, towns, and local landowners on projects near the river. We encourage towns to consider our *Plan* and to incorporate its recommendations when updating town plans and revising zoning ordinances.

Citizens interested in representing the town should contact the selectmen. The subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The public is welcome to join our meetings, on the second Tuesday evening of every other month at the Windsor Connection Resource Center. A calendar, advice on bank erosion and obtaining the necessary federal or state permits for work in or near the river, and a summary of the *Connecticut River Management Plan* are on the web at [www.crjc.org/localaction.htm](http://www.crjc.org/localaction.htm).

*Steve Halleran and Ted Moynihan, Plainfield representatives to the  
Mt. Ascutney Region Subcommittee*

**Senator Peter H. Burling  
District 5**

I am so pleased to serve you as your State Senator, and I write to report from the New Hampshire Senate on important state issues affecting you, as residents of Plainfield.

Last session, I concentrated on several key issues important to the citizens of New Hampshire: among them were expanding fuel assistance for citizens struggling with skyrocketing heating costs; improving access to affordable housing; healthcare and prescription access for New Hampshire individuals and children; strengthening state ethics laws; enhancing consumer protections for our residents, especially those who prey on the vulnerable citizens; strengthening protection for New Hampshire's children against sexual predators; safeguarding homeowner and landowner rights relating to Eminent Domain; and protecting privacy and voter protection rights for New Hampshire's residents. I have also fought to maintain state aid to towns.

In the upcoming year of the current biennium, the Town of Plainfield will receive \$1,399,938 in state education funding. Education grants made up \$1,360,186 of this total. The remaining balance of state aid consists of \$29,467 in building aid, and \$10,285 in special education aid.

In addition to these different forms of state aid for education, Plainfield will receive distribution of the \$86,261 from the Rooms and Meals Tax, as well as \$103,907 for Highway Block Grants, and \$30,039 for Revenue Sharing.

As a member of Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, Transportation and Interstate Cooperation Committee, and Chairman of both Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee, and the Executive Departments and Administration Committee, I will be very busy. I would be happy to hear from you on any issues of concern you may have. This session, I will be concentrating on new issues important to the citizens of New Hampshire: like increasing the minimum wage, protecting New Hampshire citizen's health by supporting the smoking ban in restaurants and bars; increasing health care access and internet safety for children; protecting New Hampshire's special places and open spaces by increasing funding of the Land and Heritage Investment Program; supporting a permanent ban on the burning of construction and demolition debris; and supporting the Governor's initiative to reduce the dropout rate in our high schools.