

JAFFREY



FILE PHOTO

A state grant will help pay for groundwater protection measures at 26 Fitzgerald Drive in Jaffrey, which is home to Community Transportation school buses, Jaffrey Auto Services and John Charron's Auto Body repair shop.

Grant to protect water source site

By PRISCILLA MORRILL
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

JAFFREY — The N.H. Department of Environmental Services has awarded the town a \$20,000 grant to implement groundwater protection measures at 26 Fitzgerald Drive, the site of three businesses near one of the town's main sources of water.

Jaffrey Auto Services owned by Ralph Cody, who is also the property owner, Community Transportation owned by Joel Weissman and John Charron's Auto Body repair shop all operate at the site. A portion of the property is within the 400-foot sanitary radius of Turnpike Well, one of the town's main sources of water, according to Planning Board Chair Ed Merrell.

There have been no leaks or breach of sanitation at Turnpike Well that the Planning Board is aware of, Merrell said Wednesday, but the Planning Board had the opportunity to review safety measures at the site last year, as well as the use of school buses there.

In October of 2009, the Planning Board granted Cody an amended site plan so he could expand his auto service building, but with numerous conditions that are meant to protect Turnpike Well. Wednesday, Merrell said the Planning Board stipulated that the area where Community Transportation's school buses and other cars are parked at the site, which is currently dirt, be paved.

Other conditions of approval included paving where paint or solvents are used, relocating the oil storage tank, removing all derelict vehicles and complying with the state's best practices for groundwater protection. The Board also required that all run off from the site be cap-

tured in a storm water collection system connected to an oil-water separator.

The deadline for the improvements was Sept. 1, Merrell said, but delays with the state grant, which the town applied for to help with the cost of groundwater protections at the site, means the project will have to be put off until next year. Merrell said the grant requires a local match, too, part of which will be paid for by Cody.

According to a letter of agreement between the town and Jaffrey Auto Service, which was finalized on Nov. 1, Jaffrey Auto Service agreed to pay \$5,000 toward the local match and the DPW agreed to pay \$2,000. It also stipulates that the DPW will administer the grant and conduct field engineering for the project.

At a Select Board meeting Monday, Town Engineer Doug Starr presented the grant to the Select Board for its acceptance. He said the grant still needs to be approved by the Governor's Council.

Jaffrey Auto Service has agreed to grant the town a conservation easement for land in the well protection sanitary radius, Starr added. "It's a good deal for the town," he said, and it protects the town's water supply.

Select Board Chair Don MacIsaac praised Starr and DPW Director Randy Heglin for making the grant possible.

"They would have been really strapped without this grant," MacIsaac said of Jaffrey Auto Service.

Starr said the DPW would ensure best management practices are being used at the site.

According to a memo Starr wrote the Select Board on Nov. 18, the project's estimated completion date in Sept. 1, 2011.

JAFFREY

Open space committee faces uncertain future

'A good question is how much land is enough,' asks one resident

By PRISCILLA MORRILL
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

JAFFREY — Unable to reach a decision about whether Jaffrey needs a permanent open space committee, the Select Board plans to consult with some surrounding towns. Jaffrey resident Mike Shea told board members he doesn't see the need for one.

At a Select Board meeting Monday, Shea said there seemed to be very little interest in establishing an open space committee. He also challenged the notion that it was the town's job to promote open space.

"Is that the role of government?" he asked.

Shea said he isn't opposed to open space.

"There's no problem with open space in Jaffrey," he said. "There is no economic engine in Jaffrey that's going to come to Jaffrey to develop open space and do away with open space in Jaffrey."

He said establishing a permanent open space committee is likely to translate into regulations and ordinances that will affect open space in the years to come.

"To me, it's a step almost towards socialism," he said.

In a letter to the Select Board dated Oct. 19, Shea wrote, "The total acreage in

the Town of Jaffrey is 24,576 acres; of that area 5,824 acres or 23.7% of the land in town is currently protected. These forms of protection are comprised of state and town owned lands including parks, as well as private lands held under varying forms of conservancy."

"A good question is how much land is enough?" Shea's letter continues. "Many landowners consider themselves the best stewards of their land and do not wish to give up any property rights or impose restrictions on use that are not congruent with their wishes."

At a Select Board meeting earlier this month, about a half dozen or so residents spoke in favor of establishing the committee, following a presentation of the ad-hoc open space committee's work to date. Wednesday, Shea said he didn't think the Ad-hoc open space committee's conclusion that the town should establish the committee was reached objectively.

According to the committee's draft open space plan, a permanent open space committee would be tasked with finalizing an open space plan for the town, which would serve as a prioritization and education tool for preserving open space. Other duties

would include advising the town's other boards, reporting directly to the Select Board, providing education and outreach to the community, and proposing expenditures from the town's Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund. The committee identified regulation, conservation transactions and sustainable working lands as ways of maintaining open space.

When he presented the committee's work to the Select Board on Nov. 2, Chair of the Ad-hoc committee Mark Kresge said that part of the open space committee's role would be to prospect for grants, explaining that warrant article appropriations would be the other source of funding for conservation easements. He added that the town's land use change tax, half of which currently goes to the Conservation Commission, is another potential source of funding.

At the meeting Monday, the selectmen questioned Kresge further about the role of an open space committee and voiced their varying opinions about it.

Select Board Chair Don MacIsaac said there was value in having an open space plan that prioritizes open space in town. Selectman Jeanne LaBrie noted the

town's difficulty in finding volunteers to serve on town committees. She also said she worried about the committee's role in working with landowners.

"I would not like to see this committee strong arming people who own land...to do something that in 10 years they are stuck — They can't sell the land, they can't will it to their children," she said.

Kresge responded, saying, "That would be totally outside the purview of any such committee. ... Unless towns have developed some powers I'm not aware of, it's always up to the landowner."

Selectman Kathy Batchelder concurred about the problem of recruiting volunteers. She also said finding the right people to serve on the committee could be a challenge.

"I would hate to see the open space committee become a political tool," she said, of people with a specific agenda.

Kresge said that's a potential problem with any town committee.

Batchelder suggested that each of the selectmen consults with a neighboring town about the workings of its open space committee and report back to the Select Board at its next meeting on Dec. 13.

FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY

1969 graduate to lead trustees

By ROBERT MICHAELSON
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

RINDGE — Franklin Pierce University President James Birge has announced that a 1969 graduate of the college will serve as the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the first alumnus of the university to serve in the position.



Lloyd H. Astmann

According to a press release from the university, Lloyd H. Astmann of Paramus, N.J. and Wellington, Fla., will be serving in the po-

sition. Astmann belongs to the class of 1969 and is a current FPU trustee who works as the managing partner of NHA Realty, LLC, a New Jersey based commercial real estate holding company.

Astmann and his wife, fellow 1969 FPU alum Helen Astmann, were crucial to the founding of the Franklin Pierce Alumni Association, according to the release.

"Franklin Pierce was there to help and guide me when I needed it most," said Astmann in the release. "It has been rewarding, fun and educational staying involved in and working with the institution for all these years. I feel blessed, privileged and honored to be able to serve as Board chair and look forward

to giving back and making a difference at Franklin Pierce through working with my fellow trustees, the administration and, of course, the alumni body."

Astmann served on the Alumni Board from 1974 to 1981, beginning his service to Franklin Pierce's Board of Trustees as Alumni Association Board president in 1980. He was awarded the Alumni Participation Award in 1990 and, along with his wife, was

awarded the Alumni Leader of Conscience award in 2004.

"I am excited about Mr. Astmann's leadership of the Board of Trustees and that he is the first alumnus to serve as the chair," said Dr. Birge in the release. "Lloyd's commitment to his alma mater is remarkable and noteworthy. He is an exemplar of Board leadership and I am confident that his term as chair will contribute to our thriving academic community."

Blood drive Monday in Frankestown

Blood donors are being sought for the annual Frankestown Holiday Blood Drive scheduled for Monday beginning at 3:30 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. at the Frankestown Elementary School. Sponsored by the auxiliary of the Frankestown Volunteer Fire Department, donors are being asked to

help the auxiliary to reach a goal of collecting 42 pints. Double Reds will also be drawn at this drive.

The Red Cross encourages appointments via web or phone at www.redcross-blood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. Walk-in donors are welcome. The website also includes information such as

tips for a successful donation.

Medical eligibility questions can be answered by contacting the nurse on duty at the American Red Cross at 1-800-462-9400. For general questions about the drive, contact Karen at 547-3300.

The Frankestown Elementary School is located at 325 2nd NH Turnpike South.

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Your Dental Health
by **Zane Broome, D.D.S.**

BABY TEETH WARRANT EARLY EXAMINATION
Perhaps because they know that they are temporary, parents often do not regard their children's "baby teeth" with the same amount of respect they give to the permanent teeth that replace them. As a result, parents usually wait until their children's primary teeth begin to appear before they make an appointment for them to visit the dentist. In fact, a poll by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry reveals that nearly three-quarters of parents (70%) wait until their children are three years old before scheduling a dental appointment. Dentists recommend that parents schedule their child's first dental exam by age one or within six months of the eruption of the first baby tooth.
A child's primary teeth, sometimes called "baby teeth," are as important as the permanent adult teeth. Besides checking for tooth decay and other problems, the dentist can show you how to clean the child's teeth properly and how to evaluate any adverse habits such as thumb sucking. Early examination and preventive care will protect your child's smile now and in the future. At **MONADNOCK DENTAL ASSOCIATES**, our aim is to provide gentle, compassionate dental care of the highest quality. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call **603.532.8720**. We're located at **123 Main Street, Jaffrey**, where we're currently accepting new patients. Our team of dedicated staff has been providing quality family dental care since 1979.
P.S. During a child's first dental exam, the dentist can check for signs of early childhood ("baby bottle") decay, educate parent and child on proper oral hygiene, and establish a comfortable relationship with the young patient.
Ask our staff how to become part of our Whitening for Life Team.
www.monadnockdental.com



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