

The BallardVale Gazette

Newsletter of the BallardVale Historic District Commission

Volume 6, Number 1

BallardVale, Massachusetts

April 2006

BALLARDVALE GREEN WARRANT ARTICLE

BallardVale Green is an important part of the history of the town of Andover. It is the centerpiece of the BallardVale community and a focal point of the BallardVale Historic District. Andover's memorial to the four Andover men killed in the Korean War and the six Andover men killed in the Viet Nam War is located on the Green. A monument to the sons and daughters of BallardVale who have served in the United States military is located on the Green. One of its flagpoles is dedicated to the memory of John Redding, a BallardVale son who was killed in World War II. The other remembers the life and community service of Martha Byington, first and founding librarian of the BallardVale Library. BallardVale Green is also the site of a tree, an anonymous gift dedicated to the memory of the four Andover residents killed on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York City. The Green is the site of a solemn Veteran's Day observance every November and a cheerful tree-lighting event each December.

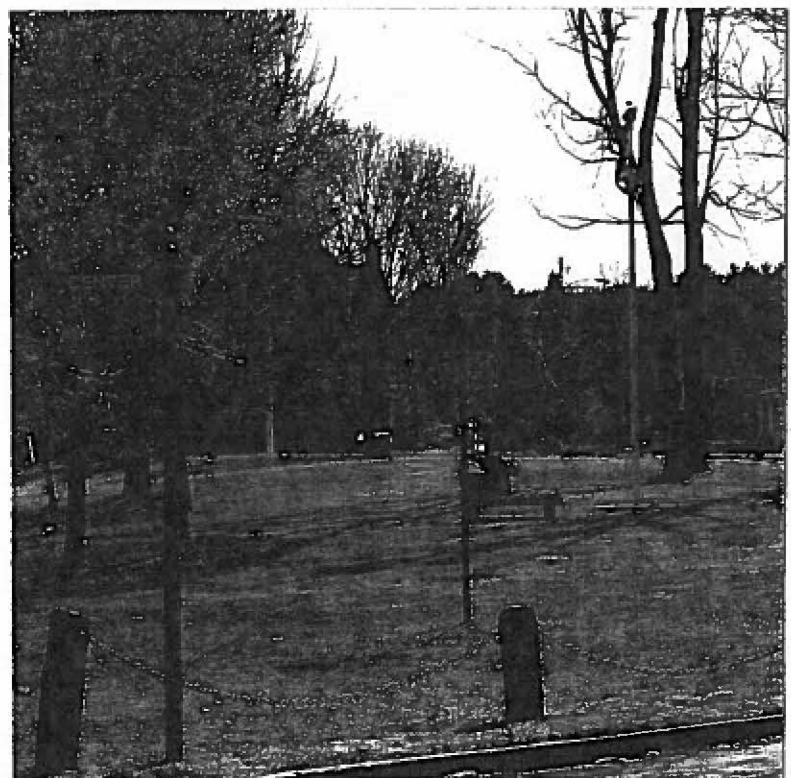
The Green is currently surrounded and protected by wooden posts and a chain. The posts are in varying states of decay and the chain is rusted. Annual painting and the periodic repair of the posts and chain, as well as the planting of flowers at the two monuments, has been carried out by Richard Bowen and other volunteers for more than twenty years.

Richard Bowen, a Bannister Road resident, has submitted a warrant article to this year's annual Town Meeting requesting that

the Town, who initially paid for the installation of the posts following the demolition of the BallardVale Community Center, replace the wooden posts and rusted chain with granite posts and permanent-finished chain. The granite posts and new chain would require minimal, if any, care and would represent an attractive and much-needed improvement to this historic and proud Town asset.

The warrant article reads: To see if the Town will vote to raise an appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 dollars by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or by any combination of the foregoing for the replacement of wooden posts and chain at the BallardVale Green with granite posts and permanent-finished chain, or take any other action relating thereto.

The BallardVale Historic District Commission supports and endorses the warrant article which will be voted on at this year's Town Meeting.



access to the proposed mall, the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) developed nine ramp options for access to the mall and local businesses. Local roads that could be most affected by increased traffic include the already heavily-travelled Route 125, River Street, Clark Road, BallardVale Road, Dascomb Road and Andover Street.

The Lowell Junction Interchange Task Force (LJITF) is a committee that was very recently formed to act in an advisory capacity to Andover's Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Department of Community Development and Planning regarding the proposed I-93 interchange. Members include Chris Huntress, a local landscape architect with experience working on large-scale development projects; Terry Szold, Professor of Planning at MIT and former Director of Planning for the Town of Burlington; and Doug White, River Street resident and member of the BallardVale Traffic Task Force.

The Lowell Junction Interchange Task Force will hold two public informational meetings to solicit input from the public. Andover residents are encouraged to attend. The meetings will be held in the evening at Andover Town Offices on Bartlet Street, but have not been scheduled, as of Gazette press time. Please check the Andover Townsman or call Town Offices at 978-623-8200 for dates and times. Likely meeting dates will be mid-to-late April and early-to-mid May.

At the first meeting, LJITF members will present the nine options proposed by the MVPC and get opinions and feedback from people at the meeting. This is the public's opportunity to hear about the proposals, ask questions of the Task Force and offer opinions, concerns and ideas. At the second meeting, the Task Force will provide a presentation on the analysis of the nine proposals and the

recommendation that it will forward to Andover's Board of Selectmen.

The Gazette spoke with Andover Selectman Alex Vispoli and LJITF member Chris Huntress about the project. They indicated that the preferred interchange alternative would include among other things, the improvement of previously identified traffic conditions and the avoidance of new adverse traffic consequences to residential neighborhoods; the avoidance of any adverse impact on Andover's historic district and traditional downtown; minimal construction time to avoid negative impact on local businesses; and the avoidance of excessive construction cost and long-term maintenance cost for the Town.

Huntress is clear that the Task Force's priority is finding a solution that is in the best interest of Andover. "By solving the problem of access," he says, "we lighten the burden on local roadways. If access provides a secondary benefit of creating additional development opportunities, well, that's fine. But our priority is immediate direct access from 93 to Wyeth, Gillette and the other businesses in Andover."

Selectman Vispoli says, "This project has the largest potential impact on Andover in 50 years", and he wants to be sure that Andover's "eyes are wide open, that we understand all of the options being proposed, and that we understand the impact this project has on all the areas and neighborhoods of Andover."

Please check the local paper for meeting dates or contact Chris Huntress at 978-470-8882 for more information.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Andover's annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday and Tuesday, April 24 and 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the Field House at Andover High School. If necessary, the Meeting will be continued on May 1 and 2.

Town meetings are becoming less and less common, and most citizens never have this opportunity for direct involvement. Take advantage of your opportunity to participate in decision-making in Andover.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Andover Preservation Commission will be holding its annual award ceremony at Memorial Hall Library on Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm. Does BallardVale have an award winner this year? Be sure to come to this year's event and find out!

ECONOMICS OF PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation IS Sustainable Economic Development will be the topic of the Andover Historical Society's 2006 Memorial Lecture. The Lecture is open to the public and free of charge, and is scheduled to take place at the Historical Society at 97 Main Street on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30pm.

Speaker Alan Manoinan will talk about the recent movement away from conventional zoning – the separation of different land uses and densities – that is blamed for creating sprawl and bland neighborhoods to newer “form-based codes” that place primary emphasis on the physical form of the built environment with the goal of producing a specific type of place. According to Mr. Manoinan, the “model” place identified by

communities nation-wide is the traditional New England downtown, such as Andover, with its mix of building types and uses, architectural styles, sidewalks and parking off Main Street. A lively and entertaining speaker, Mr. Manoinan will talk about successful historic preservation programs and sustainable economic development.

For more information, contact Elaine Clements, Executive Director, Andover Historical Society, 978-475-2236, or visit the AHS website at www.andhist.org.

WE'VE BEEN ASKED...

What can you tell us about the Lowell Junction Task Force and the proposed new I-93 interchange? Will the community have any input?

The land on the east and west sides of Interstate 93 between Exits 41 and 42, is known as Lowell Junction, and is comprised of property located in Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington. Many thriving businesses, such as Wyeth and Gillette, are located in the Andover section of Lowell Junction. Over 6000 people commute on a daily basis to businesses in this area of Andover. There has been talk for many years of building an additional ramp or interchange between Exits 41 and 42 to provide more direct access to businesses in the Lowell Junction area of Andover and to ease heavy traffic on the streets of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Recently, however, the Town of Tewksbury put zoning in place to allow the Mills Corporation of Virginia, which has an option on the Perkins property on the west side of 93, to build a mall that will be approximately the size of New Hampshire's Rockingham Mall. In response to the Mills Corporation petition for road construction and

SWAP SHOP

OFFER: Replacement panes of glass from old windows, if one of yours gets broken. Most are still in their old frames. Glass sizes range from 20x26 to 24x35. Free to anyone interested.

Call Diane Derby at 978-475-0125.

WANTED: Your old windows (if they have the old original glass), if you're getting rid of them. Will save them for anyone who needs old glass for replacement.

Call Diane Derby at 978-475-0125

If anyone has items for giveaway (for restoration, historic preservation, etc), contact Gazette Editor at 978-474-1910 or mpbogan@comcast.net for inclusion in next issue.

CALENDAR

- Apr. 6 (Thursday)** **BallardVale Historic District Commission** monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm
- Apr. 24 and 25 (Monday and Tuesday)** **Annual Town Meeting**
Field House, Andover High School – 7:00 pm
- May 1 and 2 (if necessary)** **Annual Town Meeting**
Andover High School – 7:00 pm
- May 3 (Wednesday)** **BallardVale Historic District Commission** monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm
- May 23 (Tuesday)** **Andover Preservation Awards**
Memorial Hall Library – 2nd Floor – 7:00 pm
- June 7 (Wednesday)** **BallardVale Historic District Commission** monthly meeting
Town Offices – 2nd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm

BallardVale Historic District Commission

*Andover Town Offices
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, MA 01810*

US POSTAGE
PAID
ANDOVER, MA
PERMIT NO. 41