

Historical Society has many to thank

To the Editor:

Just a note to let you know the pictures of the Ashby Historical Society's Bluegrass Music Festival held on Aug. 12, that was printed in the Aug. 18 edition of The Community Journal showed the true atmosphere of the festival and what a great time was had by all.

We were blessed with a perfect day and lots of support from many volunteers. It is especially gratifying to have many members and non-members pitch in to help with the setting up, working the booths, decorating the tables, parking cars and working the gate. We must commend the following non-members who volunteered to help set up and who worked that day for us: Janet Flinkstrom, Bob Leary, Brat Leary, Jeffrey Flinkstrom and Cindy Panagiotes. We also thank all members who were able to help.

We were also entertained by a very talented young 12-year-old Michelle Canning, from North Andover. Michelle has been playing the banjo since the age of 8. She just happened to have her banjo with her and when the Good Time Charlies band was on stage she was introduced and they welcomed her to join them. Michelle has played at Pemi Valley Bluegrass Festival, Joe Val Bluegrass Festival and just recently at the Castle in the Clouds Festival. Michelle was the fourth place winner of the Lowell Banjo Contest last year. She is very much interested in making a career of her musical talent.

The historical society has many to thank including the following: The Bellewether Stables, Judy Nason, manager for the two wonderful horse shows, the Finnish Dancers and Finnish Musicians performance that was spectacular. Charlie Parlee, driver for the hayrides, made many trips to the top of Caton Hill which was fully enjoyed by all (Charlie was still doing his trips while the buffet was being served. Needless to say he was late for dinner!)

Sean McNally's Gourmet Buffet and his servers also did a magnificent job serving the buffet that was fit for a king.

The Congregational Church had a booth at the festival, which is the community spirit we like to promote.

The Square and Compass was again selling their popcorn made by the famous Supermen Poppers.

Without the support of the 35 businesses and their generous donations, we could not have done it without them. We sincerely thank them all.

We would not go unnoticed in thanking the public for their attendance and support.

G. Lillian Whitney, president,
Mary Krapf, vice president,
Ashby Historical Society

Volunteers needed to build in Louisiana

To the Editor:

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts (HFHNCM) is sponsoring a group of volunteers to travel to Slidell, La., in mid October to build new Habitat homes to replace those lost in last year's flooding.

Volunteers can join the group on a first come, first served basis. No skill or experience is required except a willingness to help.

A dozen volunteers will travel at their own expense to Slidell, near Lake Pontchartrain, outside New Orleans to help victims of Hurricane Katrina restart their lives.

Most people don't realize that rebuilding is still in the early stages for many people displaced by the disaster. Habitat is building homes and hope with local Habitat affiliates in the Gulf Coast. We invite volunteers from around the country to pitch in and help. We are glad to be a part of changing the course of people's lives.

Those who make the trip will work Monday - Friday, Oct. 16-20, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. under the direction of trip leader Emery Gaudet, of Leominster. Gaudet is an experienced carpenter, a licensed construction supervisor and long-time Habitat volunteer and work-party leader. He has led seven trips to build at a medical complex, in Haiti.

Each volunteer will be asked to pay a \$100 fee to help with the Slidell Habitat affiliate expenses and shelter maintenance. In addition to their own transportation costs, volunteers will be responsible for their own meals or gro-

ceries. Carpooling or vans may be available to make the trip to defray costs, or volunteers can travel to Slidell on their own.

Crews stay at local churches with kitchens and showers available. Most accommodations are air-conditioned and volunteers should expect daytime temperatures to be between 70 to 80 degrees.

Anyone who wants to join the group should contact the HFHNCM office at (978) 348-2749 or hfhncm@verizon.net. The Habitat affiliate in Slidell, La. is East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity. For general information, go to <http://www.esthfh.org>. Volunteers are asked not to call East St. Tammany Habitat directly.

If a trip to Louisiana isn't possible, volunteers are also welcomed to work locally with families, help in the office, and fill many other behind-the-scenes needs. For information about applying for a Habitat home or to learn about construction and non-construction volunteer opportunities, visit our Web site at www.ncmhabitat.org or contact the office at hfhncm@verizon.net or (978) 348-2749.

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts is a non-profit, Christian ecumenical housing ministry that builds simple, decent houses with people in need. It is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, serving 23 towns and cities in north central Massachusetts, including Acton, Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Bolton, Boxboro, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Leominster, Maynard, Pepperell, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Stow, Townsend, and Westminster.

Megan Foley, executive director,
HFHNCM

Submitting Letters to the Editor

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