

# Seabrook Beach Civic Association

*"Promoting betterment issues to improve the livability of Seabrook Beach"*

Volume 9 - Issue 2

July 2006

## President's Message

Let me be the first to welcome all our members back from warmer and sunnier climates. Spring has come and gone and everything is coming alive again. This issue welcomes you to our 2006 summer season. You will notice a format change in the newsletter and a change in our editorial staff. I would like at this time to welcome Linda Hughes, our technical guru and announce that editor, Jacqui Lewis, will be staying on temporarily until such time as a replacement is found to take over her duties. As you are well aware, we have had to cut back on our glossy production due to budget restrictions. We hope you like the new format and we welcome any suggestions you may have to offer.

Mother Nature has provided us with a few challenges this spring and I wonder if it will ever stop raining long enough to cut the grass. As I look forward to summer, it seems to me that each year the colors of summer are more brilliant. When I first came to live at Seabrook Beach year-round, it was 1962, and most of the yards



Photo by Linda Hughes

were just sand, yucca plants, beach grass and beach roses. We still had beach plums on the ocean side and in the marsh. The kids and I would pick the small grape-like plums and make beach plum jelly. This has been replaced by numerous year-round homes with manicured lawns and beautiful gardens.

In our 9th year as a civic organization, many of the changes to our beach environment have been the beautification of common areas with colorful plantings of beach roses, ornamental grasses and colorful flowers by our Beautification Committee. Special thanks to Roland

Jacques, Lee Labrecque and Patricia Mullen - you do a wonderful job.

I want to thank all the new members who signed on this year and hope to see you all at our General Meetings. Doris Sweet has lined up some interesting speakers. Also, please note that the Sand Castle /Sculpture Contest has been changed to August 5, 2006. Don't miss it! The next General Meeting is at the Seabrook Village Precinct Building on July 17, 2006 at 7:00 PM. See you there.

MAUREEN CAREY, PRESIDENT

## What's New at the Beach?

**DUNLAP'S ICE CREAM** has undergone extensive renovations this past winter, and is now open for business. An addition to the building houses Tripoli's Pizza and Cannolis. The word from Tripoli's is that freshly baked goods may be offered, but that decision is still uncertain.

Under construction across Rte. 286 is a 30-unit time-

share hotel, **THE SHORE CLUB**. According to a local realtor, several units are already under agreement. A fall opening is anticipated.

The **TOP OF THE HARBOR** restaurant in the former Mac's Clam Bar location hopes to start welcoming customers in late July.

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Civic Association  
2006-2007**

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President	Maureen Carey
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**SBCA WEB SITE:**

www.seabrookbeachcivicassoc.com

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

SeBeCA@comcast.net

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## Red Tide Hits the Seacoast

### Special to Atlantic News

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning or PSP, commonly known as "red tide," is still a factor in keeping the shellfish beds closed to fishing until at least the middle of July. Affected areas run from northern Maine well into the Atlantic waters off the southern NE seacoast.

Toxin levels above the mandatory closure threshold have been shown in shellfish collected since early May.

Updates on the open/closed status of all areas, including Hampton, Seabrook, Little Harbor, Great Bay, Little Bay, the Bellamy River and the nearshore areas of the Atlantic Coast will be announced on the Clam Flat Hotline at (800) 43-CLAMS.



Red tide is a condition in which filter feeding shellfish such as clams, oysters and mussels accumulate a potent neurotoxin produced by a naturally occurring marine algae.

Cooking does not make contaminated shellfish safe for consumption.

For more information, consult the NHDES Shellfish Program site at <http://des.nh.gov/wmb/shellfish>.

## Students on Parade

The following letter was received by SBCA Board member, Carol-Jean Donohue:

*Thank you for your warm welcome at our Seabrook Beach clean-up with the Garrison Elementary School from Dover. We collected 80 pounds of trash, a lot of glass, a sock, lighters, fishing gloves, to only name a few items.*

*Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation is a non-profit organization promoting awareness and conservation of the marine environment through education on local whale watching vessels, (Al Gauron Fishing and Whale Watching in Hampton Harbor, The Atlantic Queen*

*in Rye Harbor, The Granite State in Rye Harbor, and Newburyport Whale Watch in Newburyport) beach clean-ups, and visits to schools, camps, libraries, and for*

*anyone who would like to learn more about us.*

*We conduct monthly beach clean-ups and organize groups to adopt a beach.*

*Timberland Company in Stratham is looking into adopting Seabrook Beach, so you may see your beach a lot cleaner in future months.*

*For more information check out our web site at [www.blueoceansociety.org](http://www.blueoceansociety.org) or call (603) 431-0260.*

*Patty Crocker-Adell  
Amesbury, Ma 01913*



## Remaining Program Speakers for the 2006 Season

### August 21

State Senator Maggie Hassan who represents Seabrook.

### September 18

Scott Bartlett, Seabrook Town Assessor.

### October 16

John Stephen, NH Commissioner of Health and Human Resources

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## Seabrook Station gets OK to output more power

By JERRY MILLER  
*Union Leader Correspondent*

**SEABROOK** – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted Seabrook Station an “uprate” in electrical output for the second time in just more than a year.

An uprate allows a plant to increase the amount of generated electricity.

Alan Griffith, Seabrook Station spokesman, said the uprate was approved in two stages.

According to Neil Sheehan, Region 1 NRC spokesman, the first uprate of five percent was approved in March 2005. The second, while approved, will not be implemented until the fall of this year.

Between now and then, Seabrook

Station’s parent company, Florida Power and Light, will carry out a 30-day shutdown, during which various pieces of equipment will be upgraded, in part to support the uprate.

“With the latest approval, Seabrook Station will be providing nearly seven percent more power,” Sheehan added.

The first expansion of electrical output allowed Seabrook Station to deliver power to an estimated 70,000 more homes, according to Griffith, while the second uprate of 1.7 percent will mean service to between 15,000 and 17,000 additional residences.

Griffith said changes within the plant include upgrades to low and high-pressure turbines, in addition to the generator.

“Newer power plants, including Seabrook Station, generally operate well below what they are capable of,” he said.

The uprate approvals came after what Sheehan termed “a rigorous review,” by NRC technical staff.

When the second uprate is implemented, Seabrook Station will see its output increased from 1,173 megawatts of electricity to 1,193.

The NRC has approved 109 uprate applications from nuclear power plants around the country since 1973, Sheehan said. The two approved for Seabrook are its first.

Last year, Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant was granted a 20 percent uprate.

## Introducing Officer Mounsey

The June General Membership Meeting, although with a light turnout due to the heat, enjoyed a presentation by Seabrook Police Officer John Mounsey.

Officer Mounsey, the town’s Community Relations Officer, gave his ‘State of the Town’ message and then opened the forum to questions from the floor. With many issues bothering residents, there wasn’t a lull in the proceedings. He emphasized the availability of a police presence, if needed, at the beach and strongly recommended the use of the Police Non-Emergency number (603-474-5200) whenever necessary.



Officer Mounsey, the town’s  
Community Relations Officer

## NOTICE

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## Karen Knight Memorial

**SEABROOK** – The Seabrook School Board voted unanimously Monday to place a memorial bench in honor of Karen Knight in the playground she was instrumental in building.

Attached to the bench will be a permanent, granite plaque.

Knight, 46, a former selectwoman, died on March 24. Before her six-year board of Selectmen tenure, which ended March 15, Knight founded the Citizens Organization to Raise Awareness, a parent-teacher organization.



She and members of the group raised \$70,000 to build a playground at the Seabrook Elementary School.

The bench and attached plaque will be placed at the playground. No date has been set for its installation or dedication.

The cost for the memorial is \$1,500. Knight lived at the beach on Ocean Drive.

FROM AN ARTICLE BY  
SUSAN MORSE/HAMPTON UNION  
FRIDAY, MARY 12, 2006.

## Piping Plovers Hatch on Seabrook Beach

BY LIZ PREMO

ATLANTIC NEWS STAFF WRITER

According to biologists with the NH Fish and Game Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, a clutch of piping plover chicks hatched on the town's sandy beach on Monday, July 3. We'll have more in our next issue on their survival.

### How the public can help

Below is a list of recommendations for assisting with piping plover protection efforts.

1. Respect signs and fences around nesting areas.
2. Be a responsible pet owner. Walk dogs in areas where piping plovers are not present and keep cats indoors. Dogs can chase plovers and step on eggs and chicks, killing them. Cats - even well-fed ones - are a major predator of many types of birds, including piping plovers.

3. Fill in holes in the beach. Piping plover chicks can fall in and get trapped.
4. Fly kites a safe distance away from plovers.
5. Don't approach or linger near piping plovers or their nests.
6. Teach children safe viewing and respect for wildlife.
7. Obey local fireworks laws. Fireworks stress adult piping plovers and their chicks and can cause accidental fires that destroy some vegetation.
8. Pick up trash and food on the beach. Garbage attracts predators, such as gulls and crows, which prey on plover eggs, chicks and sometimes adults.
9. Report observations. Report unlawful fireworks, off-leash dogs or fencing vandalism to your local police department.
10. Volunteer. Those who enjoy watching birds and want to help protect the piping plovers can call NH Fish and Game at (603) 271-2451.

*Seabrook Beach Village District Commissioners meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Warren West Memorial Building (aka Beach Precinct Building) located on Ocean Blvd.*



### Round Rock Restaurant

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## Yard sale Committee Report

BY SUE MANZI, CHAIRMAN

It always amazes me how well our members step up to the plate and make donations of their former treasures and unwanted items. When we arrived at the precinct building before 8AM on Saturday, June 17, there were many items left outside the building and people in the parking lot were waiting with dona-

tions. *Thank you to all of those anonymous donors.*

Also amazing are the members who return year after year to help with setting up the tables and arranging the items for sale. After doing it for so many years with the same people, we have settled into a routine. We have even established shifts, some come in early and others arrive mid-

way to relieve the first shift. As always, we do have fun!

My heartfelt thanks to the following dedicated SBCA members who were willing come out to make this happen.

*Thank you to:*

Joanne and Roland Jacques, Gerry and Chuck DeFrancesco, Rose Bistany, Carole Buckley, Dorothy

Cullen, Joyce Fioma, Joan Gallahue, Grace Hamilton, Camile Lacey, Jacqui Lewis, Lorraine Maguire, Joanne Payson, Doris Sweet, Monica Walsh and Tom Manzi.

Our efforts paid off in the amount of \$330 to be used for our beautification projects. A job well done.

## Beautification Committee Report

BY ROLAND JACQUES

Our ambitious plans to beautify the three corners at the Hookset Street intersection has been reduced to a piece-meal approach. Of the three landscapers that were contacted for bid submittal, only one responded. Erik Sweetser from Green Grass Lawn care submitted a bid of \$5,800.00 along with detailed plans and drawings as to what would be planted and where.

The plans were discussed at the June Directors' meeting with the following result:

1. At this time, there is

not enough money to meet all the other expenses we incur such as cutting the grass on Rte 286, paying for four applications of weed killer at the 600 ft. strip on Rte.1A and Rte.286. The organization also has to meet expenses for two newsletters whose cost is yet to be determined.

2. A vote was taken to spend no more than \$2,500.00 on the Hookset Street project and proceed with the work to be completed in three phases.

Phase one would be to plant a crabapple tree in

between two azalea bushes near the left side of the fence at the Cargill monument, along with a plaque in memory of George Ziady.

An identical planting would be placed on the right side of the fence in memory of Karen Knight. Some rose bushes will have to be removed to make the site more pleasing. This plan will take place as soon as possible since the inventory of these trees and bushes will soon be depleted.

We plan on leveling the ruts near the curbing at the

Cargill monument and will prepare the area for hydroseeding in the Fall. Fresh loam will be brought in and the site will be hydroseeded right to the granite curbing. We are waiting for the Fall weather to seed since the water ban would make it impossible to grow grass in the heat of the summer.

Phase 1 will pretty much consume the \$2,500.00 available for the project. Should there be any funds left, we can then begin to think about Phase 2.



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## Bench Report

BY KEN CLARK, CHAIRMAN

Benches have been rebuilt, repaired and moved to permanent locations. Many of the older benches are very fragile, and moving may damage them. If you want a bench moved, please contact Ken Clark at 474-3590. Thanks to the following for their help with the project: Jack Blackwell, Chuck DeFrancisco, Roland Jacques, Paul Lemoine and Norman Raymond.

## Treasurer's Report

BY BILL CARROLL

As of July 10, 2006, the SBCA treasury has on account \$9,000.00, of which \$415.00 is escrowed for the "Karen Knight Memorial." To date we have 430 memberships at \$10.00 each and 151 donations totalling \$3,710.00 for a grand total of \$8,000. The extra \$1000. is advertising revenue.

**New E-mail address for the SBCA**  
**SeBeCA@comcast.net**

## Seabrook Beach Civic Association

### Presents 5th Annual Amateur Sand Sculpture Competition!

Saturday August 5th at 11:00 am

(Rain Date Sunday, August 6)

At the Hooksett Street Beach Entrance

Three Categories

- A. Kids (up to 12)
- B. Adults (12 to adult)
- C. Family (any age)

Refreshments! Great Prizes!

*What to bring?* Any equipment you need; shovels, pails, etc..

Call Al Cestrono or Joan Gallahue to register

603-474-7226

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## Thanks!

The SBCA board would like to say a very special "Thank You" to each dues-paying member and the 151 members who gave extra contributions to support our efforts to improve the "livability of Seabrook Beach." Because you care, we are a viable, active force on this beach. Our hats are off to you all!

Membership numbers

**430**

Chairman Dick Kirsch reports that to date, the member tally 430.

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## Water Crisis

BY ANGELJEAN CHIARAMIDA  
Staff writer for the *Newburyport News*

**SEABROOK** – Years of neglect and poor maintenance have left the town's water system in such bad shape that the new water superintendent is threatening to quit unless selectmen let him fix it.

"I'm going to use a pun. Our water system is in the toilet. It's in lousy shape," water Superintendent Mike Jeffers told selectmen at their televised meeting Wednesday night. "I've been here for eight months. ...

I'd like to do things right, but I'm tired of candy-coating the issue and going around in a big circle. It's been neglected. There've been some bad decisions made."

Jeffers' poor evaluation of the public water system came at the end of his monthly report that listed serious problems with just about every aspect in the system. He admitted he was so frustrated by months of problems, he felt he had to make the situation public.

In response, selectmen decided to spend their June 28 meeting trying to reconcile the problems.

"Based on what Mike Jeffers said, I have a real concern about the general condition of our water delivery system," Selectman Dick McCann said after the meeting. "I think it prudent the Board of Selectmen investigate this as quickly as possible. It's disheartening to hear that much money was turned back when

repairs should have been made and faulty, old equipment replaced."

Jeffers listed broken valves on hydrants and other equipment, burned-out motors of archaic well machinery, a water alarm system that's "basically useless," and the town's most productive wells clogged to a halt from years' worth

*"Our water system is in the toilet" Seabrook water superintendent threatens to quit*

of iron and manganese particles that were never cleaned out. If things can't be fixed, he said, some wells may have to be redeveloped.

"The 1952 motor starter (in gravel-packed well No. 2) smoked on Monday night," Jeffers said. "I've heard of these things. It's a museum piece. Now, it's toast."

According to Jeffers, he'd brought his problems to officials in memo form to no resolve. He said he had been told by Selectman Cora Stockbridge that he and "other parties" should meet together "privately" in a room to work things out.

"Maybe we should," Jeffers said. "If we do, I might bring my lawyer. ...

If I say the things that ought to be said, other people will probably bring their lawyer, so I'd probably bring mine as well."

In the last three years, \$326,000 in unspent water department budgets was returned to the general fund by the department's previous administrator, Jeffers said, instead of using the money to maintain, repair and update the water system.

"With \$326,000, I could have fixed a ... lot of stuff that's broken around here," Jeffers said. "It's great to save the town money, but the pigeons have come home to roost. ... Right now, I'm the operator of record. If we're going to keep this system operating legally and properly, I'm going to fix it. ... I know what the problem is, and I don't want to get anybody in trouble, but I better be allowed to do my job. If not, you can have my resignation."

Jeffers said he likes the people of Seabrook, and the effort his staff has made, working hard to meet his standards and deal with the problems. But, he also discussed how his efforts in Seabrook have been sidetracked by parties within town government who used "innuendo" and "rumors" to undermine his work and his authority.

"I've had it with the cheap crap," Jeffers said.

After the meeting, McCann said given what was said, he's wondering if

*continued on page 9*

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## Seabrook Women's Club

The Seabrook Women's Club held its installation of officers at its June meeting.

President .....	Camille Lacey
Vice President .....	Rose Bistany
Secretary .....	Elaine Noone
Treasurer .....	Carole-Jean Donohue
corresponding Secretary .....	Janet Labrecque

The club meets monthly on the second Thursday at 7 PM. All meetings are held at the Precinct Building in Seabrook with a planned program for each month. The last meeting of 2006 will be celebrated with a Christmas party at the Old Salt Restaurant.

Established in 1975, the Seabrook Women's Club is a social and charitable organization. One of the club's accomplishments for the past year has been the awarding

of a \$1000 scholarship to a Seabrook resident who is a member of the graduating class at Winnacunnet High School. Olivia Hoermann was the proud recipient of this year's scholarship presented by club members Theresa Kyle and Patricia Burm. Miss Hoermann will be attending Penn State.

In addition, care packages have been sent to Seabrook Police Officers serving in Iraq, a donation was made to the Seabrook Elementary School for warm clothing for needy children and Christmas gifts were distributed to deserving elderly town residents.

If you are a Seabrook resident and would enjoy belonging to this social and charitable organization, you're welcome to attend. Yearly membership dues are \$10.

JANET LABRECQUE AND CAMILLE LACEY

### WATER — continued from page 8

Seabrook's annual summer water ban imposed for more than a decade came about because of a genuine lack of water in the wells or from neglected machinery that can't pump what's in the ground.

Selectman Robert Moore echoed some of McCann's concerns. "We have to resolve these problems," Moore said yesterday. "Our equipment is old, our pumps are old, and iron and manganese is choking the wells. ... I have a feeling there's plenty of water, but we just can't get at it. But, I'm confident we can work our way through this. ... Mike is concerned, but I think he can work his way through this mess. ... He's upset. He wants to get the job done. He wants to do this right."

Over the past decade, Seabrook taxpayers have approved the spending of millions of dollars searching for new wells and water sources when current wells continually failed to

produce enough water to meet the summer's high water demands.

Jeffers came aboard as Seabrook's new water superintendent in mid-October of 2005. He was hired when selectmen split the former water and sewer department into two separate divisions after the town's wastewater treatment plant was found in violation of federal EPA regulations. Seabrook was able to dodge a huge fine that could have been assigned, but federal officials required administrative changes that should ensure such infractions don't happen again.

Previously, Warner Knowles was the superintendent of both the water and sewer departments. Knowles remains as the sewer superintendent. Selectmen said at the time they split Knowles' supervisory role in two because the job had become too large for any one individual to deal with effectively.



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## Seabrook Beach Civic Association 2006 Meeting Schedule & Event Dates

**July Meeting**  
**July 22nd**

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up  
Co-Chairmen: Bob Hughes & Dave Francis

**August Meetings**  
**August 5th**

SBCA Sand Castle/Sculpture Contest  
Co Chair: Al Cestrono & Joan Gallahue  
Directors Meeting @ 7:00 PM

**August 14th**  
**August 21st**

SBCA General Meeting @ 7:00 PM

**August 22nd**  
**August 23rd**

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Co-Chairs  
SBCA Fireworks Cruise Party (tentative date)

**September Meetings**

**September 11th**  
**September 16th**  
**September 18th**

Directors Meeting @ 7:00 PM  
Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up Co-Chairs  
SBCA General Meeting @ 7:00 PM  
Speaker: Scott Bartlett

**October Meetings:**

**October 9th**  
**October 16th**

Directors Meeting @ 7:00 PM  
SBCA General Meeting @ 7:00 PM  
Speaker: NH Commissioner of Health & Human Services

### Beach Resident Parking Permits

These additional permits (2 per property) may be picked up at the Seabrook Town Hall and are only for beach residents and their visitors. The permits are good until May 1, 2007.

### Your Input

Much of the material in the newsletters is submitted by readers passing on interesting and current information. If you have something you think would be appropriate, don't hesitate to call or e-mail any member of the SBCA board. Remember, we're not paid reporters, just volunteers depending on you for the content of our newsletters.

**SBCA Newsletter Editor**

**Jacqui Lewis**

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## Free 411

**Claim:** The phone number 1-800-FREE-411 offers free directory assistance service.

**Status:** True.

**Origins:** One of the many changes that has taken place in the telephone industry in the last few decades is that while phone companies once generally provided their local customers with free directory assistance (via the 411 phone number), in most cases telephone customers are now charged a fee (typically \$1.00 or more) for each directory assistance call. Despite the charges, U.S. consumers continue to avail themselves of the 411 directory assistance service, placing about 6 billion such calls per year.

Now, however, an outfit called Jingle Networks is providing an alternative directory assistance service and it's free. Users who call the toll-free number 1-800-FREE411 (or 1-800-373-3411) can navigate a nifty

automated voice recognition system that asks for a location (city and state), type of listing (business, government, or residential), and name. Once the service has located an entry for the requested number, it reads the information aloud and offers the caller the option of connecting to the number by pressing a single number on his telephone keypad.

How can Free-411 afford to offer free directory assistance service? It works sort of like commercial radio or television businesses pay to sponsor it in exchange for presenting their advertisements to customers. The funding of Free-411 is typically explained thusly:

The service is made possible by thousands of national and local businesses who sponsor this service with brief valuable audio advertisements that are played to callers who request businesses in their yellow pages category. This advertising model allows

businesses to acquire new customers over the phone, cost effectively, with little or no risk. Meanwhile callers get free directory assistance, potentially saving each of them thousand of dollars per year.

The way it works in practice is that a caller who requests a business number is first presented with a short (about 12 seconds) audio advertisement for a sponsor who operates a competing business in that area; the caller is then given the option of being connected to either that competitor or the business he originally requested. If no sponsor operates a local competing business, then the caller hears no advertisement at all. (In the latter case, if the caller accepts the option to connect to the desired number, the business receiving the call hears a short message at the beginning advising them that the call was placed via Free-411, and a Free-411 salesman may follow up with them a few days later to solicit

them as a potential advertiser.)

(Cell phone users concerned that taking advantage of the free directory assistance service will entail potentially giving out their cell phone numbers to telemarketers should note that federal law already prohibits certain types of telemarketing calls from being placed to cell phones, and all phone users can block telemarketing calls by listing their numbers with the national Do Not Call registry.)

We made three separate trial calls to 1-800-FREE411 asking for information on different local businesses, and in each case the voice recognition system smoothly processed all our spoken information and correctly identified the businesses of interest. In only one trial out of the three were we presented with an audio advertisement.

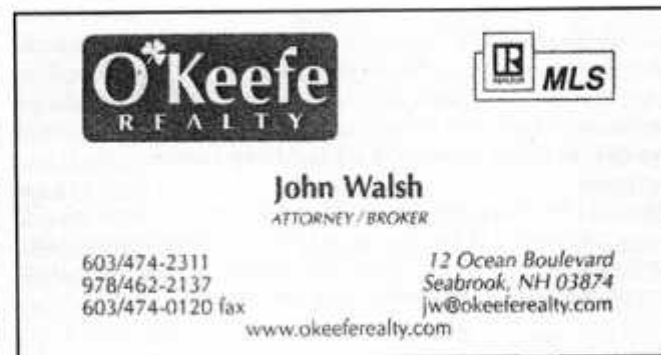
Free-411 also offers directory assistance information via a free web site!!



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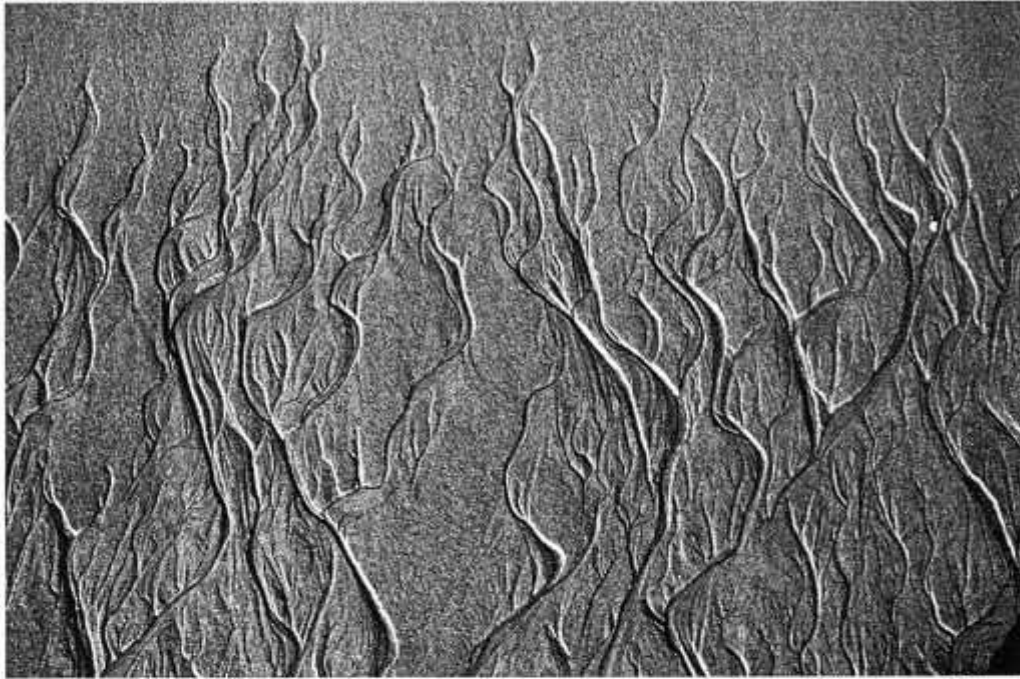


Photo by James G. Lewis

## *Along the Sea*

*Author Unknown*

*Come walk with me  
Along the sea  
Where dusk sits on the land  
And search with me  
For shells are free,  
And treasures hide in sand.*

**Seabrook Beach Civic Association**

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