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YOUR NEWS, A4

**MORE OF YOUR PET PHOTOS**

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**News**
Evaluating the superintendent
**Coming next week**

**ONLY ONLINE**

**POLICE LINES**
This week, officers discover a vehicle wrapped in plastic.

**SEEN ON SCENE**
Bicentennial Band draws a crowd in Lexington

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**Riders wait for the lights to change in their favor as they wait to cross Rte. 2 in the Bike MS: Minuteman Ride Saturday morning.** WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTOS/ANN RINGWOOD

# Pedalers with heart

## Riders raise money to fight MS

By April M. Crehan
acrehan@wickedlocal.com

Concord's roads had an extra infusion of cyclists this past Saturday as about 150 bikers pedaled their way from and to Concord District Courthouse, the base of operations for the sixth annual Bike MS: Minuteman Ride.

Presented by Biogen Idec, a manufacturer of multiple sclerosis products, the event raised about $170,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Leading fundraisers brought in tens of thousands of dollars in donations, according to event organizer Liz Strawn, the associate director of development for the Greater New England chapter of the society.

Participants could choose a 25- or 60-mile route that took them through 11 different area towns. Riders said both the route and the weather cooperated.

"It was a terrific ride. There weren't a lot of cars on the road," said Hayley Soffer, the associate director of public affairs at Biogen Idec and part of this year's company team.

Strawn estimated that about 60 percent of the riders take part as teams, which she said makes fundraising and training simpler.

Jenn McHenry was happy to make the trip down from Maine to join a team led by her friend Tyler Marcet, who organized students and staff from his lab to ride with him.

"I have MS, and I wanted to be more proactive," said Marcet, 26.

**Kenneth Barr, of Boston, chats with Professional Bicycle Technician Jeremy Vail as he gets a quick tune up before heading out on the Bike MS: Minuteman Ride Saturday morning. About 150 riders started at the Concord District Court and rode either the 25-mile course or 60-mile course through surrounding towns then back to the courthouse. The event raised about $170,000 for multiple sclerosis.**

"This seemed like a good place to start."

Marcet, a graduate student at Tufts University who was diagnosed at 19, had already done a few walks organized by the society but felt he ought to take better advantage of what his body is capable of. "I have more to lose than most people—or a higher potential for loss," he said. "I figure I should while I can."

He was pleasantly surprised at the number of

SEE RIDE, B9

# stirs concern

By April M. Crehan
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The Board of Selectmen experienced a surge of popularity at Monday night's meeting, where only a few chairs were left after the public filled the room, largely in preparation for the evening's citizen comments section.

Parking in the White Pond neighborhood was the chief issue. Complaints raised at the previous selectmen's meeting intimated that the town was not responsive to a citizen petition to instate resident-only parking. Even greater numbers arrived to emphasize the point on Monday.

"We need a comprehensive people management plan for White Pond Reservation," said Christine Gerzon of 77 Bolton St. She presented selectmen with a 12-page packet on "Misuse of Concord Conservation Land," in addition to photos of the trash (including beer cans) and fire sites she had found during a walk on the reservation lands.

Past and present members of the White Pond Advisory Committee noted that the group recommended permit parking on nearby streets several times since 2000.

"I was happy to hear that a petition had been signed," said Arra Avakian, one such member. "Frankly I was very disappointed," he said, referring to what he and other attendees perceived as silence from the town following the submission. "I came tonight to

SEE POND, B9

PUBLIC HEALTH

# One-third of tested Concord ticks harbor Lyme

By April M. Crehan
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Amid the flood of books and care packages that arrive via post at UMass Amherst are decidedly less appealing travelers: tiny ticks—some still crawling—on their way to a medical zoology lab where researchers examine even tinier microorganisms' DNA to determine if a particular tiny tick could cause big trouble.

Dr. Stephen Rich runs the lab, which tracks almost a dozen tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease and two slightly less common infections that commonly co-occur: babesiosis and anaplasmosis. "We spend nine million [state] dollars in mosquito surveillance," said Rich, comparing Massachusetts spending on vector-borne diseases. "We spent zero dollars on tick surveillance until this project."

The project is a coordinated effort of 32 towns, including Concord, to track tick-borne diseases across four counties. Spearheaded by public health directors of the Middlesex Tick Task Force, including Concord's Susan Rask and Bedford's Heidi Porter, the group applied

SEE TICKS, B9

### Tip prevention tips from TickSmart

- Dry clothes first, then wash.
- Spray shoes with tick repellent.
- Spray the inside surfaces of paints and shorts with repellent, too.
- Check "below the belt" for poppy-seed sized or smaller ticks while sitting on the toilet
- De-tick with duct tape.

**A deer tick nymph, left, and a female, right. Nymphs pose the greatest risk of disease transmission as they are very difficult to detect.** COURTESY PHOTO/CONCORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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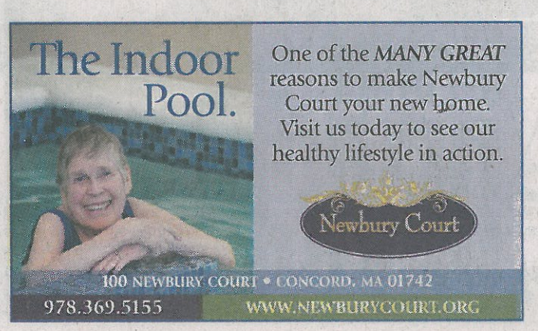
The **CONCORD JOURNAL** (USPS 127-760, ISSN 1081-8137) is published weekly by GateHouse Media New England, 150 Baker Avenue Ext., Suite 101, Concord, MA 01742. Periodicals postage paid at Concord, Mass., and additional mailing offices. Annual cost of home delivery via mail is $77 in-town, $85 out-of-town. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to Circulation Department, 400 Crown Colony Drive, Quincy, MA 02169.