

# New urgent care facility opens in Alton

*ClearChoice MD strives to fill niche between primary care and the ER*

BY MARK FOYNES

Contributing Writer

ALTON — Residents who can't get a timely visit to a primary care doc but not needing the emergency attention accompanying an ER visit now have a new option right at the traffic circle.

ClearChoice M.D., which opened at the circle on April 11, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week that was attended by local officials and representatives from the Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.

A festoon of balloons decorated the new facility's lobby greeting attendees and patients alike.

Salmon Press wasn't able to catch the actual cutting of the ribbon, but manager Randal Hines was kind enough to take this reporter for a walkthrough of the new facility, discussing along the way the site's several services.

Hines said ClearChoice MD "strives to provide a level of service of the highest quality," which fills a "niche that's more urgent than what a primary care physician might deliver without needing to go to an actual emergency room."

He said cuts, cases of strep, and minor bone breaks represent areas of the facility's specialty.

ClearChoice MD's website states, "Urgent Care is a walk-in center equipped



MARK FOYNES

AMONG THE staffers on hand at last Thursday's ribbon-cutting ceremony for Clear Choice MD's ribbon-cutting ceremony included (l to r), Randal Hines, Sue Linares, Cindy Wood and Dr. Tom Scott. Clear Choice MD describes itself as an alternative provider when a primary care physician is not available in an urgent, non-emergency situation. Clear Choice MD operates about a dozen locations throughout Northern New England, with its Alton Circle office being its newest.

to treat all urgent, non-life-threatening medical needs. Located next to Hannaford off the traffic circle, our Alton, N.H. center is here when you need it, at your convenience. We provide high quality, efficient and affordable care to the community. With board-certified providers, a state-of-the-art facility and convenient hours, ClearChoice MD is your clear choice for urgent care."

Hines noted that the facility is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and that a doctor is always on duty, and that qualified nurses and assistants can also assist clients. ClearChoice is also authorized to prescribe scripts.

"We're the convenient alternative when your primary care doctor can't fit you in and you don't need the full services of an ER," said Hines, who is also a certified RN.

He added that all facility staffers, with the exception of the M.D.s themselves, put in time intaking patients

to instill a sense of empathy about clients' conditions as they walk through the door.

"Our goal is to have people in and out within an hour from when they walk through the door," Hines said, stressing that prompt, professional service is a cornerstone of ClearChoice's business plan.

Hines, who also manages the company's Belmont facility and serves as an EMT in Franklin, said, "Even though we're on that side of the desk, we know we could be walk-ins ourselves."

"We're all in need of help at some point, so we want to know how we can best serve people in their moment of need," Hines added.

"We looked at what we thought people in this area need for services and overall wellness, so it made sense for us to open up here," Hines said of the Alton Circle location, which is situated in Homestead Place between the Rusty Moose Restaurant and Hannaford.

Hines said ClearChoice MD at the circle is "serving a new niche that's emerged in maybe the past 20 years."

"Often you need to be seen soon right away, but your need might not require the

care at a lower expense than what emergency rooms charge," but stressed that the facility is "definitely not a replacement for an ER."

He urged that local patients experiencing a potentially life-threatening episode should seek out a full-service hospital.

ClearChoice's Alton location includes seven exam rooms. Six of them are identical, with the seventh - the Procedure Room - devoted to more acute matters such as broken bones.

There is also an on-site X-ray capability to help clients determine if they can be treated on-site or should seek more intensive procedures.

Hines described the photo-imaging equipment as "state-of-the-art," noting that clients leave the office with a disc containing digital files of their scans for use with follow-up appointments.

He added that the facility also features EKG capabilities, and that staff can handle short-term procedures requiring splinting and some matters requiring an IV.

"We are another option - really the more choices people have, the more proactive they can be, or have options in urgent situations," Hines said.

"We're an urgent care option - but our guiding concern is the wellness of the people who live here," Hines said.

The company's web site is available at <http://ccmdcenters.com/alton-nh.html>.

## Alton Community Services open house is Saturday

ALTON — Alton Community Services is celebrating the move to a new location with an open house and invites residents to visit Saturday, April 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. at 11C Village Centre in Alton (next to Subway).

Please stop by and check out the larger

and more accessible food pantry. Learn more about what ACS has to offer the community and enjoy some light refreshments.

Alton Community Services is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, volunteer organization committed to providing food items to

Alton residents in need regardless of religious affiliation. ACS provides emergency food resources to our residents in need as well as referrals to other agencies. For more information, please call 875-CARE or visit them on Facebook.

## Committee members sought to look into recreational facility

ALTON — The town of Alton is seeking volunteers to be part of a subcommittee of the board of selectmen to study the feasibility of a recreational type facility in the town of Alton. Various things to be looked into would be a location, structures, internal and external uses, cost and whether the project is feasible. The members of this subcommittee would be appointed by the board of selectmen and would report to the

board of selectmen as an ad hoc subcommittee, please drop off or mail a letter of interest to Town Administrator Elizabeth Dionne, PO Box

650, Alton, NH 03809 or via e-mail to [administrator@alton.nh.gov](mailto:administrator@alton.nh.gov). General questions may be directed to the town administrator at 875-2113.

**KELLEY'S TRUCK SERVICE**

3887 Route 25 Rumney, NH  
Mon-Fri 8am to 4pm  
(603)786-6103

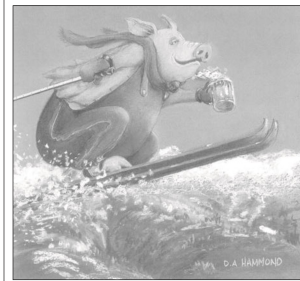
Paul Kelley  
Alex Kelley

Fleet, Truck, Equipment,  
Auto repair and service

[kelleystruckservice@yahoo.com](mailto:kelleystruckservice@yahoo.com)

## PIG OF THE WEEK by D.A. Hammond

[WWW.PIGSINAFORK.COM](http://WWW.PIGSINAFORK.COM)



Hog-high on skiing

**SCHWARTZBERG LAW**

Ora Schwartzberg John T. Katsirebas Jr.

603-536-2700 | [www.NHLawyer.net](http://www.NHLawyer.net)

**WATERMARK MARINE SUPPLY**

Life is better on the water!

**IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR BOAT READY FOR A TROUBLE FREE SEASON!**

Lakes Region's Full Line Ships Store!

603.293.4000  
1218 UNION AVE LACONIA NH  
PAUGUS BAY (Accessible by water)

Cleaning Supplies, Emergency Supplies, PFDs, Fire Extinguishers, Fuses, Electronics, Tie Lines, Mooring Supplies, and so much more!

[shorefrontproducts.com](http://shorefrontproducts.com)