

## Mario Ratzki Reports from Concord: July 2013

### Bipartisan budget passes, Medicaid expansion fails

By Mario Ratzki, NH House Representative

The 2014-2015 budget passed the New Hampshire House with 346 votes for and 12 against; it passed unanimously in the Senate. Everyone from Governor Hassan to former speaker Bill O'Brien claimed credit for the bipartisan vote, but the credit, no doubt, resides with New Hampshire voters who told us to stop bickering, avoid political grandstanding, and get to work. If only officials in Washington could do the same.

The budget restored funding to our university and community colleges, to LCHIP and CHINS, as well as to our mental health system. We were pleasantly surprised when revenues came in stronger than expected and made agreement between the Senate and the House easier. If revenues continue their upward trends, we will be able to avoid layoffs of state workers, most departments having been decimated by the previous budget already.

Unfortunately, the Senate and the House failed to implement Medicaid expansion which would have covered about 58,000 New Hampshire residents (the numbers vary) and brought \$2.5 billion into the New Hampshire economy, federal money that would otherwise go to other states. The Senate was concerned that this would become an unfunded mandate in the future, while the House argued that we should try it for the first three years, when the feds

would cover costs at 100%.

If one feels, as I do, that this is a worthwhile program which would introduce preventative health care and thus reduce the number of gravely ill uninsured people going to our emergency rooms (increasing everyone's premiums), one should get in touch with Republican senators and convince them that Medicaid expansion is the right thing to do, both morally and economically.

The Senate did the right thing, however, in restoring 100% funding for towns affected by the non-payment of flood control money owed by Massachusetts. Salisbury, for instance, will get approximately \$85,000 out of these funds.

Renewable energy funds, to the tune of \$16.5 million, were unfortunately raided in this budget. We will work hard to restore them in the future.

Speaking of the future, we can expect reintroduction of the gas tax bill and the casino bill in year two of this legislative session. This year's session is about over, except for Medicaid expansion.

I would like to welcome two new businesses to our area. Naughty Nellie's, already known for its fabulous ice cream, has now opened a cafe, and Audrey Pellegrino has done a great job restoring the Country Store in Danbury.

Finally, I would like to congratulate *The Andover Beacon* on its 100th issue in June. The paper is always in need of volunteers.

I am available at 735-5440 and at [MarioRatzki@gmail.com](mailto:MarioRatzki@gmail.com).



Several window sashes at the Tucker Mountain School House have been restored. Special thanks to Arch Weathers for his restoration of the window sashes, and many thanks to Daryl and Holly Baker and Brad Hartwell for their support in the project. Photo and caption: Donna Baker-Hartwell

## Are You Smarter Than an 1860s Eighth Grader?

Find out on Sunday, August 11

By Donna Baker-Hartwell, Andover Historical Society

The Tucker Mountain School House will be open on Sunday, August 11, from 1 to 3 PM. Built in 1837, it served the Tucker Mountain community for 55 years. The School House sits where it was originally built, in near original condition. Many artifacts of the time will be on display, including school books.

Visitors may take home a copy of an 1860 "List of Questions to be answered by candidates for admission to the High School." In 1860, an eighth grade education was sufficient. Indi-

viduals wishing to go beyond eighth grade had to apply and demonstrate adequate preparation for high school. Individuals also had to finance their high school education.

If you would like a bit of a challenge, come and take the 1860 high school entrance exam! (Or get your copy online at [TinyURL.com/1860-Exam](http://TinyURL.com/1860-Exam).) Mary Lloyd Evans will correct your exam, and if anyone scores 100%, we'll announce their achievement in the *Beacon*.

The 2014 Andover Historical Society Calendar will be available to purchase, along with School House t-shirts and note cards. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 735-5586 or 735-5628.

## Donate or Subscribe Online!

We now accept credit cards online at [AndoverBeacon.com](http://AndoverBeacon.com).

## BEACON DEADLINE: THE 15TH!

### LAURIDSEN AUTO BODY

Collision Specialists  
Computerized 4-Wheel Alignment  
Windshield & Auto Glass Installation



7 AM to 4:30 PM Weekdays or by appointment  
728 King Hill Road, New London - at Exit 11 off I-89 526-6267

### NEW LONDON SEPTIC SERVICE

*We Go When You Can't*

Servicing the Lake Sunapee Region for over 25 years.



*Proper maintenance is the key to the life of your septic system. Your tank should be pumped every 2-3 years.*

*Servicing all of your septic system needs.*

- Residential & Commercial Pumping
- Grease Traps
- Camera Leach Field Inspections
- Pump Station Repairs
- Thaw Frozen Lines
- Repair and Replacement
- Fully licensed by State of NH & insured
- Certified Septic System Evaluator

24 Hour Year Round Service • SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

526-4163 • Toll Free 1-866-526-4163 • Fax 428-3015  
[NewLondonSeptic.com](http://NewLondonSeptic.com)

### Bring The Horses!

(Or anything else that wants SPACE)



Your Neighborhood Experts  
Art Urie and Associates  
603-735-5444  
[urie@tds.net](mailto:urie@tds.net)



35 Acres - including pond, field, apple trees, garden space, and asparagus beds.

House has three bedrooms, two baths, enclosed porch/sunroom, wood stove, and garage.

Everything is in excellent condition.

Includes separate heated garage and upstairs workshop, a driveway long enough for privacy, and lots of peace and quiet.

The Best Of Andover \$299,000