

Beacon Bits

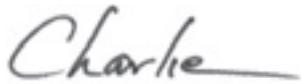
Welcome to the fourth issue of the *Beacon*. We've now weathered the usual start-up challenges (and two major holidays) without any significant blips. Donations continue to come in, along with gift and out-of-town subscriptions. Our team continues to grow. Thanks to the tremendous support of the community and a lot of hard work by our very dedicated team, it looks like 2005 will be a great year for the *Beacon*.

Signs of the *Beacon's* growing importance in the community are starting to appear. There are two on this page -- Jan Williams' wonderful poem about the *Beacon*, and the impressive Declaration from our New Hampshire House of Representatives recognizing the return of the *Beacon*. These accolades belong to the entire Andover community, near and far, because without your support and interest, none of this would be possible.

But perhaps the biggest honor to date appears on pages 4 and 5. The "Town Forum" is a big step forward for the *Beacon* in fulfilling its role as a way for us all, as a community, to explore the challenges we face. This has got to be the best use that two pages of newsprint could be put to. I want to personally thank Ed Becker and the Andover Conservation Commission, especially Tina Cotton, for the thought and effort they put into this valuable contribution.

The next two issues of the *Beacon*, February and March, are probably the two most important issues of the year. It's everyone's chance to help lay the groundwork for a productive, efficient Town Meeting in March. If you have issues that need to be aired or questions you'd like answered, please let me know as soon as possible. It takes time and planning to create each issue, and the less of it that happens in the second half of the month, the better the issue will be. And remember,

Everyone Works For The Beacon!



Letters

The ANDOVER BEACON
December, 2004

This paper is phenomenal!
Each article so-o complete!
I read a lotta' newspapers
but nothing can compete
In content and the coverage.
There's per-son-al-ity!
Each writer's in my living room
And talking just to me!
It's local stuff just for us
In this small but active town.
It's sheer delight to keep in touch
And know what's goin' 'round.
I say, "Hats off and plaudits to
our Editor-in-Chief!"
And all the staff he's put on board!
They share in his belief!
He picked up where friend Paul left off,
and it is going to sell!
With so much information it's
A veritable show and tell!
So, thank you, Charlie, you can be
A proud man, 'tis your right!
You saw a need and went to work,
You put up a brave fight!
Please know we're all behind you.
And if not enough, please say!
You're doing this town a service!
We're behind you all the way!

Jan Williams
Jan williams

On the afternoon of December 7, during the height of an ice storm, my very old, arthritic Labrador retriever wandered out onto the thin ice of "The Channel" on Highland Lake in East Andover and fell in.

I do not know all the details of the next 40 minutes, but my neighbors, including members of the Rescue Squad, responded with a boat, an ambulance, and enough caring to save her.

I'll make a contribution to the Rescue Squad, but I want to acknowledge, here, the gift I received (and it's not the dog's life). In a crazy world in which we spend billions to wage war and combat senseless crimes, a whole team of people I don't even know struggled in an ice storm to help an old dog that wanted nothing more than to keep her head above water, and was doomed to fail.

I want to thank all of those who responded.

Chuck Will

Corrections

In the December *Beacon*, in the Scouts article on page 19, we misspelled Michael Bowne's name. Sorry about that, Michael, and congratulations on advancing to Bobcats -- way to go!

BEACON MEMBERS WIN!

Every month the *Beacon* holds a random drawing among its members to give away valuable merchandise and gift certificates provided by area businesses. Become a member, support the *Beacon*, and join the fun!

This month's sponsors, prizes, and winners appear below. Thanks to all for your support!

Artisan's Workshop	Teddy Bear	\$16	Barbara & Ralph Doe
Blackwater Junct. Rest.	Breakfast for two		Sally & Wayne Nicoll
Christie's Indoor Garden	Gift Certificate	\$25	Judith Dionne
Curves of New London	1 Month Membership	\$36	Becky Dobretz
Forest Cone & Evergreen	Snowman Wall Hanging	\$20	Ken & Bonnie Coombs
Handknits By Judy	Handknit Scarf	\$25	Tim Frost
Jake's Of New London	Car Wash	\$7	Steve Miller
Jake's Of New London	Car Wash	\$7	Richard Brewster
New London Opticians	Sunglasses	\$80	Eric & Heide Johnson

Winners! Contact the *Beacon* at 735-5331 to collect your prize.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A DECLARATION

Let it be known that the New Hampshire House of Representatives, on this occasion, publicly does recognize and does grant its hearty and sincere congratulations to

The Andover Beacon and Publisher Charlie Darling

In Recognition of

the paper's successful return to the Andover community and the unrelenting effort of Mr. Darling in re-establishing the non-profit newspaper and its volunteer staff

And be it further known that the New Hampshire House of Representatives, by virtue of the Speaker's signature inscribed below, also does duly extend its highest accolades and plaudits.



Helen H. Chandler
Speaker of the House

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The *Beacon* is published monthly, as soon after the Planning Board's last meeting of the month as possible. As a community newspaper, the *Beacon* relies on volunteers for most of its stories, photos, ads, production, and distribution. When you have the time and the inclination, please help -- NO COMMITMENT REQUIRED!

The *Beacon* is mailed free to all Andover addresses. We ask for a minimum \$25 annual donation from out-of-town or seasonal subscribers who would like the paper mailed to them. We welcome donations from the community and depend on your financial support for a large part of our operating budget.

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Seasonal Out of Town or Gift	Local	Here's my donation of \$ _____ for (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Town (\$25 min) <input type="checkbox"/> Gift (\$25 min)
		Your Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____
		Other Name _____ Other Address _____ City, State, Zip _____ Phone or E-mail _____
		Seasonal: which months are you at the "other" address? _____

Andover Beacon • PO Box 149 • Andover NH 03216 • Thank you!