

AE/MS Student Rides For A Cause

By Maddy Pfeifer
AE/MS Grade 5

Meredith Cline, a sixth grade student at AE/MS, was honored for her outstanding commitment to the American Diabetes Association and the fight against diabetes. Meredith received the New Hampshire Champions for Diabetes Award on January 20 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Meredith raised over \$2,000 for the 2004 Tour de Cure by gathering pledges for the 50-mile bicycle ride, which took place last May on the Seacoast. Meredith became interested in raising

funds for diabetes research shortly after her older sister was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

When asked how she felt upon completing the Tour de Cure, Meredith said, "I felt really good that I was able to help my sister and others this way."

The Tour de Cure is a series of cycling events held in over 80 cities nationwide. The Tour is a ride, not a race, with routes designed for everyone from the occasional rider to the experienced cyclist.

Meredith recommends the ride to and around Pleasant Lake as part of a

training regimen for interested Andover riders. She also took advantage of visits to New Jersey where she could do lots of riding on a flatter landscape.

Thousands of individual riders and teams have participated to support the Association's mission: *To prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.*

Meredith and her sister plan to ride in the 2005 Tour de Cure, which takes place on May 1, 2005, and are asking for donations. They are also looking to form a team to ride with them to help raise even more money for the cause.



Meredith Cline receives her award. Photo by Lorraine Cline

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Grange Hall Could Serve Community Once Again

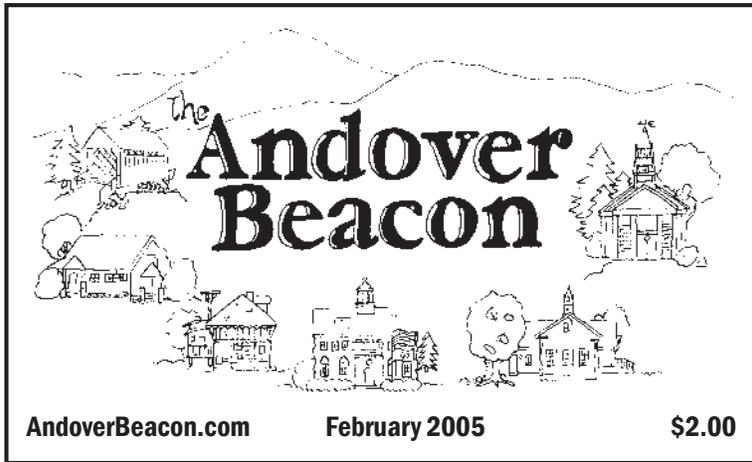
By Irene Jewett
Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration Committee

The Highland Lake Grange Hall is in need of repair. A committee has been formed to investigate how it could best serve the town.

The Highland Lake Grange Hall is the center of a group of three buildings, built in the 1800s on a single lot of land in the center of East Andover. This photogenic group of buildings – church, grange, school – is on the Federal Register of Historic Buildings and Places and is often seen in photos of typical New England villages.

Over the centuries the Grange Hall has served as the social center. The other buildings met worship and educational needs of the area.

The original Highland Lake Institute section at the front of the building is quite sound. It is the 20' by 29' section added
See Hall on page 3



This Month In Andover

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- Kids' Ice Fishing Derby** – Big day on Elbow Pond thanks to Andover Fish & Game Page 13
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2005 Tax Bills Could Rise 20%

By Ed Hiller
Budget Committee Chairman

The Andover Budget Committee has completed its review of the budget proposals for 2005 and will present its recommendations to the voters at the annual meetings to be held this March.

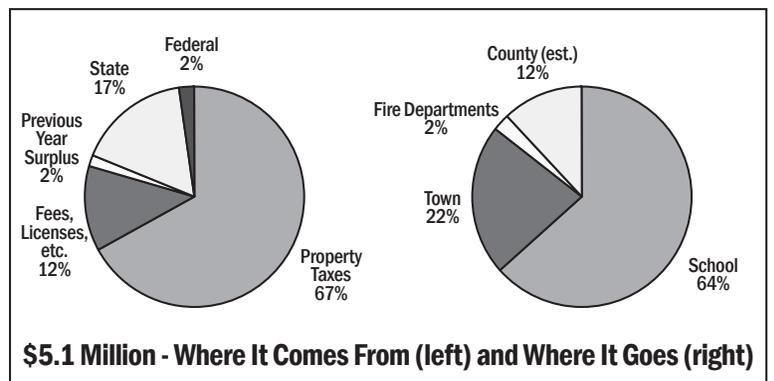
The recommended budgets for all of Andover's departments total about \$5.1 million. A large fraction (about 64%) goes to funding Andover schools. Lesser amounts go to Town operations, the Fire Departments, and the County assessment to support Andover's share of County operations.

Andover real estate taxes provide 67% of the total revenue required. The remainder comes from other revenue sources including the State and Federal governments, local licenses and fees (such as automobile registration, timber harvest taxes, Current Use land change penalties, etc.), and unexpended funds from the previous year's appropriations.

Andover School District Budget

The proposed budget for the Andover School District for 2005 is \$3,234,093. This is \$223,338 (7.4%) higher than the appropriated amount of \$3,010,755 for 2004. The major components of this increase are as follows.

- **Salary increases** (\$52,379) are a result of the negotiated agreement with the



Andover teachers union, as discussed in the previous issue of the *Beacon*.

- **Health insurance cost increases** (\$64,238) continue to be a challenge not just for our school district but in all industries and all areas of the country.

- **Special Education cost increases** (\$67,800) are expected as a result of (1) an increase in the estimated number of students in Special Education programs and (2) the increased cost of providing the required services.

- **High school tuition cost increases** (\$37,920) are a result of (1) an increase in the number of high school students from 73 at present to an estimated 80 for next year and (2) an increase in the contracted tuition cost per student from the present \$6,640 to \$7,280 for next year.

The School District's proposed \$3.2

million budget is partially offset by estimated revenues of \$903,965, including an Adequate Education Grant from the State of \$764,965 (slightly more than last year) and Federal funds of \$104,000. This reduces the amount to be collected by real estate taxes for 2005 to \$2,330,128, up over 22% from the corresponding 2004 figure.

The large increase this year is not caused by a jump in expenses, which overall are up only 7% over 2004. The other 15% of the increase comes from the absence of any unexpended surplus from the prior year.

At the end of 2003 there was an unexpended surplus of \$272,483. This was used in the 2004 budget to reduce the net school tax bill for 2004 from
See Budget on page 3

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