

# Beacon Bits

All month I've had the feeling that the March issue of the *Beacon* is the most important one of the year. The Town Report and Town and District Meetings are vital steps our community takes every year in keeping Andover a great place to live. If this issue of the *Beacon* helps you understand, appreciate, and participate in the process more fully, then the *Beacon* team has contributed something valuable to our community.

That team continues to grow and continues to amaze me with its contributions. I'd like to shine the spotlight on our advertisers for a moment. Without these valuable members of the *Beacon* team, you wouldn't be holding this paper in your hands right now. Please make a point of patronizing our advertisers and, even more important, be sure to thank them for their support of our community and our newspaper.

And speaking of advertisers, have you noticed the "something extra" from some of our advertisers? Check out the "Beacon Members Win" box on page 3. *Beacon* members are entered in a random drawing every month for some great prizes. This month's winners will enjoy prizes from a car wash to dinner for two at New London Inn. And if you can find a drawing where your odds of winning are better, I want to know!

While we're shining spotlights, it's time to recognize all the people that write the *Beacon* every month. This paper is not just *about* our community – it's *by* our community. Dozens of organizations have been wonderfully patient and cooperative about writing the articles that keep you informed and entertained.

I'd especially like to thank Mark Stetson, Lisa Meier, and Peter Southworth, who have been supplying us with the minutes from our key Town bodies in a very timely fashion. It's one more thing on their already full plates, I know, but the value to the *Beacon*'s readers is enormous. It just goes to show,

Everyone Works For The *Beacon*!

*Charlie*

## SUPPORT THE ANDOVER BEACON!

<input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Town or Gift Local	<p>Here's my donation of \$_____ for (check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local   <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal (\$25 min)   <input type="checkbox"/> Out of Town (\$25 min)   <input type="checkbox"/> Gift (\$25 min)</p> <p>Your Name _____            Address _____            City, State, Zip _____            Phone or E-mail _____</p> <p>Other Name _____            Other Address _____            City, State, Zip _____            Phone or E-mail _____</p> <p>Seasonal: which months are you at the "other" address?            _____</p>
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Andover Beacon • PO Box 149 • Andover NH 03216 • Thank you!

Mail@AndoverBeacon.com

# MORE TOWN REPORTS

*The annual Town Report includes reports from all the Town committees, boards, commissions, and other entities that form our local government. It also includes reports from some agencies and organizations that serve our community.*

*To round out this annual update, the Beacon asked over 20 other organizations that serve our community for a short report on their activities in 2004. Here, in alphabetical order, is "the rest of the Town Report."*

### The Andover Beacon

After more than a year without a newspaper of its own, Andover welcomed *The Andover Beacon*'s first new issue in October 2004. The result of a year and a half of planning, organizing, and fund raising, the first issue received high marks from the community for its breadth of coverage and fresh, clean look.

The new *Beacon* is published by Community Publishing of Andover, Inc., a new corporation formed specifically for the purpose. The corporation is a New Hampshire non-profit corporation that seeks to serve the community. To that end, the *Beacon* is mailed free to all Andover addresses.

The *Beacon* is supported by advertising, by voluntary memberships from the community, by out-of-town and seasonal subscriptions, and by a large corps of volunteers. Our goals for 2005 include:

- Stabilize our finances. We need about 50% more advertising and about twice as many voluntary memberships to sustain the kind of paper we've been publishing since last October.

- Involve more of the community. The *Beacon* is published by the community, for the community. We need to spread the workload over many, many volunteers rather than depending on just a few people. We've got a good start on this challenge, but still need much more help from the community.

We hope you're enjoying the new *Beacon* and are finding it a valuable, informative addition to our community. Please use the coupon on this page to show your financial support, and con-

tact Charlie Darling at 735-6099 or Charlie@AndoverBeacon.com to volunteer or for more information.

### Andover Fish and Game Club

These are some of the things we do and provide for the community each year: We have a kids' ice fishing derby in February, and a kids' spring fishing derby in May. We also have a member-anyone ice fishing derby in February. We send three kids to the Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin for a week in the summer.

We have a rabies clinic in April. We have an adopt-a-highway stretch of road that we clean up on Route 11. We run a Deer Pool in the fall. We donate money to needy causes or people. We have informational speakers and seminars about a wide range of topics, such as learning to fish and hunt; how wild game and fish are faring in our state; safe hunting; and changes in New Hampshire and Federal laws and regulations.

We have assisted the local game wardens in a variety of ways, such as planting small trees for food and cover for animals, fish stocking, and boat landings.

We have use of the Elkins Fish & Game Club's shooting and archery ranges, if you belong to our club.

Each year we have various fund raisers, specifically a Beef Barbecue and Chinese Auction in August, a Turkey Raffle in October, a gun raffle and sometimes other types of raffles.

In 2004 we installed all new replacement windows for the clubhouse in East Andover, fixed a broken water pipe coming from our pump house, and put a lot of new gravel on our driveway. We want to put in a new furnace and paint the clubhouse next year.

Money we raise is needed for general expenses, upkeep, and improvements to the clubhouse as well as for the fish derbies, sending the kids to camp, seminars, and various other things. It is a never-ending battle to stay ahead of the game.

Our meetings are the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the club-

house in East Andover. Any questions, call Steve Smith at 735-5717.

### Andover Five Alive Program &

### Andover After School Program

The Andover Five Alive Program (for kindergarteners) and The Andover After School Program (for children 5 to 13) are available to the children of Andover in need of after school care in a supportive, caring, and fun environment.

Our operating dates follow the school calendar, with the addition of teacher workshop days and school year vacations.

The AASP has been in operation since 1994, with the addition of the AFAP in 2000. We are located next to the school at the Hamp House, which is leased from the Andover School District. We are non-profit organizations and are helped tremendously by monetary and material donations.

Our programs' philosophies recognize the uniqueness of each child. We provide a wide variety of experiences and interactions to enhance children's growth and sense of community. Value is placed on honesty, generosity, fairness, self-respect, and respect for others.

We encourage and enjoy involvement from the community with monthly visits and local field trips. Everyone has something to share!

Please contact us anytime at 735-6566 to find out how you could help or if you'd like to spend time with the children.

### Andover Historical Society

Your Historical Society had over 500 visitors to the Potter Place Railroad Station Museum and to the Tucker Mountain School House during the summer opening hours of the museums. Besides the regular hours, both facilities have been opened for special visitors, such as the Cub Scouts and the John Hayes Garden Club.

Our two general meetings with speakers were extremely successful. In June, R. Stuart Wallace spoke to us on the "History of Railroads in New

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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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