

# Town Plans For Predicted Pandemic

By Anne Hewitt  
For the Beacon

Avian flu, so much in the news of late, is not yet a problem... but its threat looms in the future. Epidemiologists feel that we're due for a pandemic, a global disease outbreak. It may be sooner or it may be later...it may be avian flu or it may be some other flu. The experts can't say exactly what or when, but they feel sure it will happen.

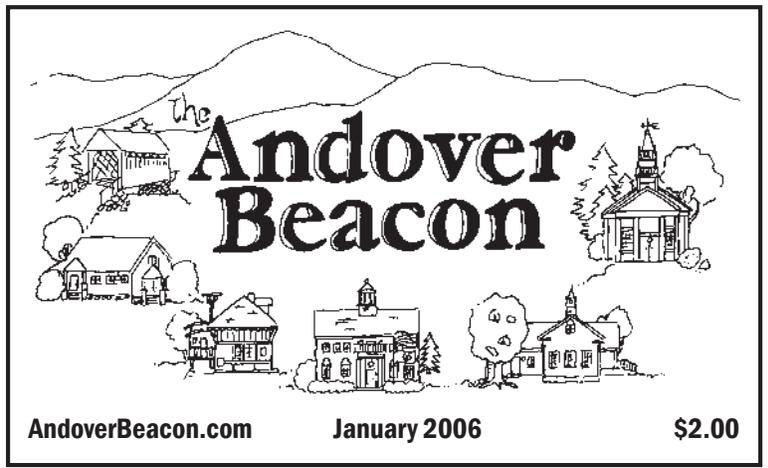
An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which there is little or no human immunity, begins to cause serious illness, and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.

Governmental agencies at all levels are preparing for the possibility of a pandemic. Prevention techniques can be helpful, but once an outbreak arrives an

action plan should already be in place. Pandemic preparedness involves government, healthcare providers, emergency response, agriculture, education, business, communication, community-based, and faith-based sectors, as well as private citizens.

Planning for such a catastrophe started after September 11, 2001 in anticipation of a smallpox outbreak. New Hampshire developed 29 regional plans coordinated around hospital services. Andover's Safety Committee is expanding its plan to address not just smallpox, but "all hazards."

East Andover Fire Chief and Andover Rescue Squad member Rene Lefebvre is involved in that process and attends training sessions that recently have focused on avian flu. He shared information from See Pandemic on page 6



AndoverBeacon.com

January 2006

\$2.00

## 2006 Property Taxes Likely Higher Than 2005

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon staff

Before you read this article, you might want to read Understanding The Town Budget on page 4. It should make this article easier to understand.

The property tax bills that we received in December for the 2005 tax year were about 16% higher than the tax bills for 2004. Unfortunately, the Budget Committee predicts that we will see another large increase in our tax bills next year as well.

### Budget Highlights

The proposed school budget for 2006 is up about 10%, but we won't know until the school year ends in June whether there will be any unexpended surplus from the current school year that can be used to lower the school tax portion of our 2006 tax bills.

For the town tax rate, the Board of Selectmen has committed to using funds from previous years' surplus to keep the 2006 town tax rate at \$1.44 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the same as it

was in 2005.

Both fire departments' tax rates are up slightly from last year. The impact of the 2006 Merrimack County budget on our 2006 tax bills is, at this point, unknown.

### Public Hearings

If you wish to comment or raise questions about the requested local budgets, please attend the public hearings at the Andover Town Hall, where all of the details of these budgets will be reviewed and discussed. The public hearings will be held on:

January 11, 2006 at 7 PM: Andover School Budget

January 18, 2006 at 7 PM: Town, Fire Departments, and Water District Budgets

### School District Budget

The Andover School Board has proposed a budget for 2006 of \$3,560,488, up \$326,395, or 10.1%, over the appropriated budget for 2005.

The major components of this budget See Budget on page 6



Rather than covering a cough or sneeze with your hands, health experts recommend using the crook of the elbow, as demonstrated by Ms. Hildebrand's second graders at AE/MS, to prevent spreading germs. Photo: Anne Hewitt

### A Challenge To The Andover Community:

## WILL UNCLE SAM PARADE FOUR MONTHS EARLY?

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon staff

In order to keep publishing the Beacon, we have to have the financial support of at least 300 households in our second year of publishing. Since last October, we've received 191 donations, gift subscriptions, and out-of-town subscriptions.

We thank everyone who has been so generous to date! It's thanks to you and to our wonderful advertisers that every household in Andover has a copy of this month's Beacon to read, to learn from, and to enjoy.

Now it's time to get serious about motivating at least another 109 people to write a check. To help us reach this vitally important goal, Uncle Sam from Andover's Fourth of July parade has issued this challenge:

"To the good citizens of Andover:

"WHEREAS The Andover Beacon is an important part of life in our small town, and

"WHEREAS the Beacon can't operate without the funds it raises in part through donations, gift subscriptions, and out-of-town subscriptions, and

"WHEREAS we could all use a little fun and excitement when winter starts to drag and it seems like spring will never come,

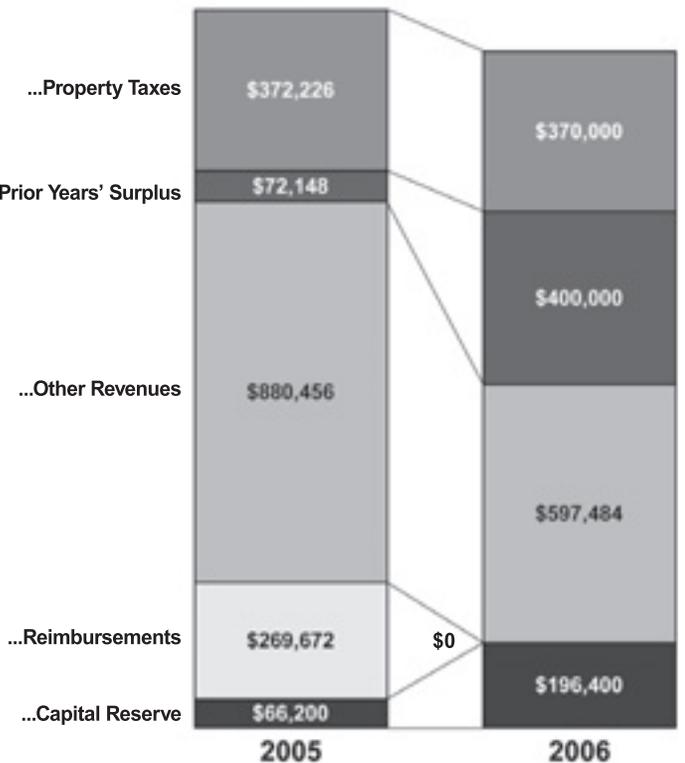
"THEREFORE,

"IF, by 5 PM on February 22 the Beacon has achieved its goal of 300 or more members in its second publishing year,

"THEN I, Uncle Sam, will march down Main Street in the Village of Andover at Noon on the Fourth of March, 2006. The good citizens of Andover and its many clubs and orga-

See Uncle Sam on page 2

### Town Revenue Estimates from... (before tax credits)



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