

Three-Year Cycle Of Appraisal Inspections Begins This Year

By Mark Stetson
Andover Town Administrator

Andover just did a valuation update in 2004...why is someone coming to my home this spring?

New Hampshire state law now requires every municipality in the state to keep the overall level of property value assessments within approximately 10% of the actual market value of the property. This, and other statistics that reveal the level and quality of the Town's assessments, are reviewed annually by both the Town and the State.

Because of the importance of the relationship between assessments and market values, and because a property's assessment and market value are both affected by a great many of the property's characteristics, the accuracy of the Town's records for each property can-

not be overstressed.

To continue to improve the accuracy of the Town's records – its "assessment database" – the Selectmen have contracted with Avitar Associates of New England to conduct a physical inspection of a percentage of properties in town. The process begins this year with one-third of the properties in Andover selected at random. Over the next three years, every property in town will be inspected.

If yours is one of the properties selected for inspection this year, you should receive a letter in mid-April letting you know you've been selected. Then, during the month of May a representative from Avitar (wearing a picture ID) will visit you requesting information about your property. He or she will measure the exterior and will inspect the interior

See Inspections on page 4

Our Town Auditions April 2 and 3

By Mary Hiller
Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society, together with the Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theatre (SKIT) are sponsoring a production of *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, to be seen at the Wilmot Town Hall on May 12, 13, 19, 20, and 21. Auditions will be held at the same venue on April 2 from 3 PM to 5 PM and on April 3 from 7 PM to 10 PM.

Children as well as adults are needed for this lively local production which will focus on *Our Town*, pretending Andover is the locale, and will be directed by David Cleveland.

All who can audition, please do – no experience is necessary. Those who prefer a backstage role, please call Margie Leber at 735-5144 or Mary Hiller at 735-5690 to volunteer for backstage work, refreshments, tickets, or general factotum work.

Our Town tells the story of an ordinary New Hampshire town, called Grovers Corners, but this show will have an Andover slant, between 1901 and 1913.

The play revolves around two families: the family of Charles Webb, who edits the local paper, and that of Frank Gibbs, the local doctor. The children of these two families marry in the second act and face tragedy in the third.

The scenes are pulled together by the Stage Manager, who fills in details in the lives of the local families as time goes by, but the essence of the play reveals how vital and valuable life is, even in a small community such as ours. It is a lesson well worth being reminded of and well worth remembering.

Please join your local thespians – beginners, amateurs, or professionals, children, adults, and seniors – for some fun and excitement!

UNCLE SAM PARADES!

The Andover community, including friends and family all across the United States, have pulled together to exceed the *Beacon's* fundraising goal for 2006 by over 15%.

In appreciation, Uncle Sam braved gusty winds and biting cold for a quick parade along Main Street on March 4. Andover residents got a big kick out of the silly late-winter fun, waving and honking horns, but we can only imagine what the cars with Vermont plates thought of the spectacle!

With a big thanks to the 347 folks who "got a round tuit" and supported the *Beacon* this year, Uncle Sam has rolled back into bed to wait for the real Fourth – the Fourth of July!



Uncle Sam Photo: Mary Demers



Andover Beacon

AndoverBeacon.com
April 2006
\$2.00



View from the front - Selectmen Roger Godwin, Dennis Fenton, and Andy Guptill and Town Administrator Mark Stetson confer. Photo: Bob Bussey

TOWN MEETING 2006

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

The turnout for this year's Town Meeting, perhaps 150 people or so, was much higher than last year's. Folks didn't seem bothered by the light rain, especially with the memory of last year's blizzard conditions still fresh in many minds.

The weather was quiet outside, but there was still a moment or two of drama inside. But this year's Town Meeting was perhaps most notable for the efficiency and good humor that held sway during most of the evening. Here are the highlights.

Warrant Article 1

Election of Officers. In Town races, Roger Godwin won a three-year term as Selectman, his 186 votes beating Jim Delaney's 86 and Peter Zak's 78. Eileen Neville (226) and Diane Rice (203) were both elected as Library Trustees for three years over Jim Danforth (158). Howard Wilson will serve as Trustee of Trust Funds for three years, his 202 votes topping Bill Zimmerman's 68 write-in votes.

In uncontested Town races, the following were elected:

- John Thompson, Road Agent, two years
- Ed Becker, Moderator, two years
- Art Urie, Supervisor of the Checklist, six years

- Sharon Darling, Budget Committee, three years
- Carroll Gautreau, Budget Committee, three years
- Susan Schnare, Cemetery Trustee, three years

In the Andover School District, David Powers (247) and Robin Boynton (216) were elected over Renee Goodwin (171) to positions on the School Board for three years. In uncontested one-year School District races, the following were elected:

- Bill Bardsley, Moderator
- Christie Coll, Clerk
- Tay Clark, Treasurer

Since Town Meeting, Tay Clark – who has served the Andover community in many capacities for many years – has resigned from her current positions on the advice of her physician. Tay has resigned as Town Treasurer and as School District Treasurer effective March 15, and leaves her position as Director of the Andover Library as of April 1. The *Beacon* hopes to bring you more information about everything Tay has done for the community over the years. If you have stories or memories or pictures about Tay that you'd like to share, please be in touch right away.

Warrant Article 2

\$6,000 toward a new police cruiser.

With little or no discussion, the vote was

See Meeting on page 3

SUPPORT THE BEACON!

The *Andover Beacon* is mailed free to all Andover addresses thanks to the support of our volunteers, our members, and our advertisers. Have you done your part to support our community newspaper?

Andover Beacon
PO Box 149
Andover NH
03216-0149

Prsrt Std
ECRWSS
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Andover NH

POSTAL CUSTOMER